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**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++594**  
**Comite du Tourisme de la Guyane:** BP 801 12 rue Lalouette 97338 Cayenne Tel: 296 500 Fax: 296 501 E-mail: [ctginfo@tourisme-guyane.gf](mailto:ctginfo@tourisme-guyane.gf) Website: [www.tourisme-guyane.gf](http://www.tourisme-guyane.gf)  
**Capital:** Cayenne Time: GMT - 3  
**Background:** First settled by the French in 1604, French Guiana was the site of notorious penal settlements until 1951. The European Space Agency launches its communication satellites from Kourou.  
**Location:** Northern South America, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Brazil and Suriname  
**Map References:** South America  
**Area:** total: 91,000 sq km land: 89,150 sq km water: 1,850 sq km  
**Climate:** tropical; hot, humid; little seasonal temperature variation  
**Terrain:** low-lying coastal plains rising to hills and small mountains  
**Natural Resources:** bauxite, timber, gold (widely scattered), cinnabar, kaolin, fish  
**Population:** 172,605 (July 2000 est.)  
**Nationality:** noun: French Guianese (singular and plural) adjective: French Guianese  
**Ethnic Groups:** black or mulatto 66%, white 12%, East Indian, Chinese, Amerindian 12%, other 10%  
**Religions:** Roman Catholic  
**Languages:** French  
**Economy:** The economy is tied closely to that of FRANCE through subsidies and imports. Besides the French space center at Kourou, fishing and forestry are the most important economic activities. The large reserves of tropical hardwoods, not fully exploited, support an expanding sawmill industry which provides sawn logs for export. Cultivation of crops is limited to the coastal area, where the population is largely concentrated; rice and manioc are the major crops. French Guiana is heavily dependent on imports of food and energy. Unemployment is a serious problem, particularly among younger workers.  
**Industries:** construction, shrimp processing, forestry products, rum, gold mining  
**Currency:** 1 French franc (F) = 100 centimes  
**Railways:** 0 km (1995)  
**Highways:** total: 1,817 km paved: 727 km unpaved: 1,090 km (1995 est.)  
**Waterways:** 460 km, navigable by small oceangoing vessels and river and coastal steamers; 3,300 km navigable by native craft  
**Ports and Harbors:** Cayenne, Degrad des Cannes, Saint-Laurent du Maroni  
**Visa:** Subject to frequent changes, please contact the French Embassy.  
**Duty Free:** goods permitted: Same as FRANCE TEL: (see FRANCE TEL: section).  
**Health:** a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers over one year of age coming from infected areas.

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