

GUINEA-BISSAU



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++245

Centro de Informacao e Turismo: CP 294 Bissau Tel: 213 905

Capital: Bissau **Time:** GMT

Background: In 1994, 20 years after independence from Portugal, the country's first multiparty legislative and presidential elections were held. An army uprising that triggered a bloody civil war in 1998, created hundreds of thousands of displaced persons. The president was ousted by a military junta in May 1999. An interim government turned over power in February 2000 when opposition leader Koumba YALLA took office following two rounds of transparent presidential elections. Guinea-Bissau's transition back to democracy will be complicated by a crippled economy devastated by civil war and the military's predilection for governmental meddling.

Location: Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Guinea and Senegal

Map References: Africa

Area: total: 36,120 sq km land: 28,000 sq km water: 8,120 sq km

Climate: tropical; generally hot and humid; monsoonal-type rainy season (June to November) with southwesterly winds; dry season (December to May) with northeasterly harmattan winds

Terrain: mostly low coastal plain rising to savanna in east

Natural Resources: fish, timber, phosphates, bauxite, unexploited deposits of petroleum

Population: 1,285,715 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Guinean (s) adjective: Guinean

Ethnic Groups: African 99% (Balanta 30%, Fula 20%, Manjaca 14%, Mandinga 13%, Papel 7%), European and mulatto less than 1%

Religions: indigenous beliefs 50%, Muslim 45%, Christian 5%

Languages: Portuguese (official), Crioulo, African languages

Economy: One of the 20 poorest countries in the world, Guinea-Bissau depends mainly on farming and fishing. Cashew crops have increased remarkably in recent years, and the country now ranks sixth in cashew production. Guinea-Bissau exports fish and seafood along with small amounts of peanuts, palm kernels, and timber. Rice is the major crop and staple food. However, intermittent fighting between Senegalese-backed government troops and a military junta destroyed much of the country's infrastructure and caused widespread damage to the economy in 1998; the civil war led to a 28% drop in GDP that year, with partial recovery in 1999. Before the war, trade reform and price liberalization were the most successful part of the country's structural adjustment program under IMF sponsorship. The tightening of monetary policy and the development of the private sector had also begun to reinvigorate the economy. Because of high costs, the development of petroleum, phosphate, and other mineral resources is not a near-term prospect. However, unexploited off-shore oil reserves could provide much-needed revenue in the long run.

Industries: agricultural products processing, beer, soft drinks

Currency: 1 Communauté Financière Africaine franc (CFAF) = 100 centimes

Railways: 0 km

Highways: total: 4,400 km paved: 453 km unpaved: 3,947 km (1996 est.)

Waterways: several rivers are accessible to coastal shipping

Ports and Harbors: Bissau, Buba, Cacheu, Farim

Airports: 30 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 3 over 3,047 m: 1 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1 914 to 1,523 m: 1 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 27 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1 914 to 1,523 m: 4 under 914 m: 22 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all.

Duty Free: goods permitted: a reasonable quantity of tobacco products, 2.5 litres of alcoholic beverages, and perfume in opened bottles.

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travellers over one year of age coming from infected areas. Bilharzia and malaria risk. All water should be regarded as potentially contaminated.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

BISSAU

24 SETEMBRO, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, Tel: +245 221034, Fax: +245 221002

APARTHOTEL SOLMAR, Rep. Guiné-Bissau-Bissau, Tel: 00245 20 60 04,

Fax: 00245 20 60 05, info@aparthotelsolmar.com, <http://www.hotelancar.com>

HOTEL ANCAR, Tel: 00245 320 76 33/34, Fax: 00245 320 76 35, Rep. Guiné-

Bissau-Bissau, info@hotelancar.com, <http://www.hotelancar.com>

HOTEL DIARAMA BISSAU, Tel: 00245 671 6000, Fax: 00245 320 7591,

jamal.safieddine@hotmail.fr, contact@bissau-hoteldiarama.com, <http://www.bissau-hoteldiarama.com>

HOTEL KASA AFRICANA, Tel: 00 245 724 33 05, Guinee - Bissau,

gilles@kasa-afrikana.com, <http://www.kasa-afrikana.com>

HOTTI BISSAU HOTEL, Avenida 14 De Novembro, BP 107 Bissau 1602,

Tel: +(245) 25 12 25, Fax: +(245) 25 11 52

ORANGO PARQUE HOTEL, Tel: 34 602 173 709, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau,

info@orangohotel.com, communication@orangohotel.com, <http://www.orangohotel.com>

SHERATON BISSAU HOTEL, Avenida 14 de Novembro, Bissau, Guinea-

Bissau, Tel: +245 251251, Fax: +245 251152

BUBAQUE

HOTEL CASA DORA, Bubaque, Guinea-Bissau, Tel: 245 955967714,

casadorabubaque@gmail.com

RESTAURANTS & BARS

BISSAU

ALMAGUI RESIDENCIAL RESTAURANTE, Tel: 00245 5814970, 00245

6611094, Cuisines: Saladas, Sopas, Pizzas, Pasta, <http://almagui.com>

LA PADARI AFRICANA, Rue Marien N'Gouabi, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau,

Cuisines: European Portuguese, Tel: 002456681577

O BISTRO, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, Tel: 245 3206000, Cuisines: African

RESTAURANTE PAPA LOCA, Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, Cuisines: Pizza

Cafe International European, Tel: 245 689 2222, adodestino@gmail.com

BUBAQUE

LES DAUPHINS LODGE, Bubaque, Guinea-Bissau, Tel: 33 0 4 78 33 48 70,

Cuisines: French, jmg@lodgesdauphins.org, <http://www.lodgelesdauphins.com>

SALDOMAR, Bubaque, Guinea-Bissau, Tel: 5496826, Saldomar@gmx.es

AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

BISSAU - OSVALDO VIEIRA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Guinea

Bissau, Aptado Postal 10527, Bissau Codex, 1501, Tel: +245 215272, Fax:

+245 215090

TAP-AIR PORTUGAL, Bissau, Tel: +245 201353, Fax: +245 201361,

Website: www.tap-airportugal.com

