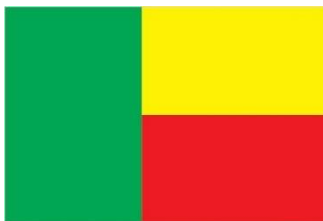


# Benin

## Travel Facts



### US State Dept Travel Advisory

The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens exercise increased caution in Benin due to crime, kidnapping, terrorism, and maritime crime. Some areas have increased risk.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

### Passport/Visa Requirements

For the latest passport and visa requirements for this country, please consult the U.S. State Department's "Learn About Your Destination" search tool, available through the link below.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html>

### US Embassy/Consulate

[229] 21-30-06-50; US Embassy Cotonou, Marina Avenue, 01 BP 2012, Cotonou, Benin; <https://bj.usembassy.gov/>;

[ACSCotonou@state.gov](mailto:ACSCotonou@state.gov)

### Disabled Travelers

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/traveling-with-disabilities.html>

### LGBTQ+ Travelers

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/lgbtqi.html>

### Women Travelers

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/women-travelers.html>

### Telephone Code

229

### Local Emergency Phone

Local numbers only

### Vaccinations

The CDC and WHO recommend the following vaccinations for Benin: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, yellow fever, rabies, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19.

<http://www.who.int/>

### Climate

Tropical; hot, humid in south; semiarid in north

### Currency (Code)

Communaute Financiere Africaine francs (Western African CFA francs, XOF)

### Electricity/Voltage/Plug Type(s)

220 V / 50 Hz / plug types(s): A, B, G



Type A



Type B



Type G

### Major Languages

French, Fon, Yoruba

### Major Religions

Muslim, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Vodoun, other Christian, other traditional religions, other, none

### Time Difference

UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

### Potable Water

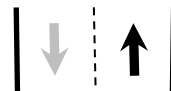
Opt for bottled water

### International Driving Permit

Suggested

### Road Driving Side

Right



### Tourist Destinations

Cotonou; Ouidah; Porto Novo; Royal Palaces at Abomey

### Major Sports

Soccer, tennis, track and field

### Cultural Practices

Many people in Benin eat using the fingers of the right hand; eating or offering food to others with the left hand is considered rude.

### Tipping Guidelines

Tipping in restaurants is appreciated; round up the bill in smaller establishments or tip up to 10%. Tipping at bars is unexpected. When taking a taxi, round up the fare. Tipping in hotels is not required, but if you enjoyed your stay you could tip the bellboy 200 francs per bag and the maid 200 francs per night.

### Souvenirs

Tribal masks, basketware, pottery, handwoven textiles, brassware

### Traditional Cuisine

Kuli-kuli — ground, smashed peanuts mixed with salt, pepper, and other spices shaped into balls or biscuits and deep-fried

March 2024

