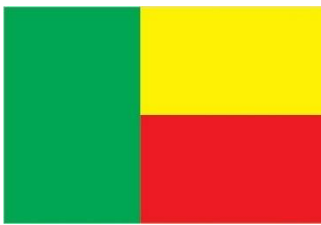


Benin

Travel Facts



US State Department Travel Advisory

The US State Department 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 US 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

LGBTQIA+, Women, and Special Needs Travelers

Additional travel considerations can be found on the US State Department's International Travel page.

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

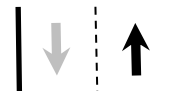
Opt for bottled water

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

May 2024

