

# Niger

**Continent:** Africa

**Languages Spoken:** French (official), Hausa, Zarma, Tamajaq, Fulfulde

**Population:** 25,130,817

**Currency:** West African CFA franc (XOF)

**Area:** 1,267,000

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Air Mountains', 'writeup': 'A rugged mountain range in northern Niger known for its unique desert landscapes and prehistoric rock art.'}
- {'name': 'Tenere Desert', 'writeup': "Part of the Sahara, famous for its vast sand dunes and the 'Tree of Ténéré,' once considered the most isolated tree on Earth."}
- {'name': 'Niamey Grand Mosque', 'writeup': "The largest mosque in Niger's capital, an important religious and cultural site."}
- {'name': 'W National Park', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site shared with Benin and Burkina Faso, known for its biodiversity and wildlife.'}

## Head of State / Government:

President Mohamed Bazoum

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Cure Salée Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual gathering of Tuareg and Wodaabe nomads celebrating the end of the rainy season with music, dance, and camel races.'}
- {'name': 'Guérewol Festival', 'writeup': 'A traditional Wodaabe festival featuring elaborate male beauty contests and courtship dances.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Nigerien cuisine features staple foods like millet, sorghum, rice, and maize, often served with sauces made from peanuts, okra, or tomatoes. Popular dishes include 'Djerma' stew and grilled meats.

## Brief History:

Niger gained independence from France in 1960. It has a history marked by nomadic cultures, colonial rule, and post-independence political changes. The country faces challenges related to development and security.

## Important People:

- Hamani Diori - First President of Niger
- Mahamadou Issoufou - Former President
- Aïssa Maïga - Actress of Nigerien descent

## Current Conflicts:

Niger faces security challenges from militant groups in the Sahel region, including Boko Haram and ISIS affiliates, impacting stability and development.

**Youtube Links:**

- Discover Niger: Land of the Sahara and Sahel
- Niger Travel Guide - Top Places to Visit
- Cure Salée Festival - The Nomadic Gathering in Niger
- Wildlife of W National Park, Niger
- Niger: History, Culture, and Challenges