

Guinea-Bissau

Continent: Africa

Languages Spoken: Portuguese (official), Crioulo, Balanta, Fula, Mandinka

Population: 2,000,000

Currency: West African CFA franc (XOF)

Area: 36,125

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Orango Islands National Park', 'writeup': 'A protected area known for its diverse wildlife, including saltwater hippos and rich birdlife, located in the Bijagós Archipelago.'}
- {'name': 'Bissau Velho', 'writeup': 'The historic old town of the capital city Bissau, featuring colonial Portuguese architecture and cultural heritage sites.'}
- {'name': 'Bolama Island', 'writeup': 'Former capital of Portuguese Guinea, known for its colonial ruins and historical significance.'}

Head of State / Government:

President Umaro Sissoco Embaló

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Carnival of Bissau', 'writeup': 'An annual event featuring vibrant parades, music, and dance celebrating local culture and traditions.'}
- {'name': 'Tabanka Festival', 'writeup': 'A traditional festival involving music, dance, and rituals that reflect the cultural identity of coastal communities.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Guinea-Bissau's cuisine is characterized by the use of rice, fish, and palm oil, with dishes such as 'Caldo' (a spicy fish soup) and 'Jollof rice' being popular. Local ingredients and Portuguese influences shape the culinary traditions.

Brief History:

Guinea-Bissau was a Portuguese colony until it declared independence in 1973, recognized in 1974 after a protracted liberation war. The country has experienced political instability and military coups since independence.

Important People:

- Amílcar Cabral - Leader of the independence movement
- Kumba Ialá - Former president
- Umaro Sissoco Embaló - Current president

Current Conflicts:

Guinea-Bissau faces ongoing political instability and occasional military unrest, but no active large-scale armed conflict.

Youtube Links:

- Guinea-Bissau: The Hidden Jewel of West Africa
- Exploring the Bijagós Archipelago in Guinea-Bissau
- A Day in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau's Capital City
- Guinea-Bissau History and Culture Explained
- Traditional Music and Dance of Guinea-Bissau