

# Burkina Faso

**Continent:** Africa

**Languages Spoken:** French (official), Mooré, Dioula, Fula

**Population:** 22,100,000

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

**Area:** 272,967

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Ruins of Loropéni', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site, these ancient stone ruins date back over a thousand years and are linked to the trans-Saharan gold trade.'}
- {'name': 'Ouagadougou Grand Mosque', 'writeup': 'A prominent religious site in the capital city, showcasing Sudano-Sahelian architectural style.'}
- {'name': 'Sindou Peaks', 'writeup': 'A striking natural rock formation offering scenic views and hiking opportunities.'}
- {'name': 'National Museum of Burkina Faso', 'writeup': '"Located in Ouagadougou, it exhibits the country's cultural heritage and traditional artifacts."}

## Head of State / Government:

President Ibrahim Traoré

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'FESPACO (Panafrican Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou)', 'writeup': 'The largest African film festival held biennially, celebrating African cinema and culture.'}
- {'name': 'Festival International des Masques et des Arts (FESTIMA)', 'writeup': 'A festival dedicated to traditional masks and cultural performances from various ethnic groups.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Burkinabé cuisine features staple foods like millet, sorghum, rice, and maize, often served with sauces made from peanuts, okra, or leafy greens. Popular dishes include tô (a millet porridge) and riz gras (a flavorful rice dish).

## Brief History:

Burkina Faso, formerly Upper Volta, gained independence from France in 1960. It has experienced several coups and political changes, with a history marked by efforts to promote national unity and development.

## Important People:

- Thomas Sankara - Revolutionary leader and former president known for progressive reforms.
- Blaise Compaoré - Former president who ruled for 27 years before being ousted in 2014.
- Sophie Bouda - Noted Burkinabé politician and diplomat.

## Current Conflicts:

Burkina Faso faces ongoing security challenges due to jihadist insurgencies and inter-communal violence, particularly in the northern and eastern regions.

**Youtube Links:**

- Burkina Faso: A Country Overview
- Exploring Ouagadougou - Capital of Burkina Faso
- FESPACO Film Festival Highlights
- Traditional Music and Dance of Burkina Faso
- Security Challenges in Burkina Faso Explained