

MALI

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++223****Ministry of Culture and Tourism:** BP 4075 Bamako Tel: 215725 Fax: 215727**Capital:** Bamako **Time:** GMT

Background: The Sudanese Republic and Senegal became independent of France in 1960 as the Mali Federation. When Senegal withdrew after only a few months, the Sudanese Republic was renamed Mali. Rule by dictatorship was brought to a close in 1991 with a transitional government, and in 1992 when Mali's first democratic presidential election was held. Since his reelection in 1997, President KONARE has continued to push through political and economic reforms and to fight corruption. In 1999 he indicated he would not run for a third term.

Location: Western Africa, southwest of Algeria**Map References:** Africa**Area:** total: 1.24 million sq km land: 1.22 million sq km water: 20,000 sq km**Climate:** subtropical to arid; hot and dry February to June; rainy, humid, and mild June to November; cool and dry November to February**Terrain:** mostly flat to rolling northern plains covered by sand; savanna in south, rugged hills in northeast**Natural Resources:** gold, phosphates, kaolin, salt, limestone, uranium, hydropower note: bauxite, iron ore, manganese, tin, and copper deposits are known but not exploited**Population:** 10,685,948 (July 2000 est.)**Nationality:** noun: Malian(s) adjective: Malian**Ethnic Groups:** Mande 50% (Bambara, Malinke, Soninke), Peul 17%, Voltaic 12%, Songhai 6%, Tuareg and Moor 10%, other 5%**Religions:** Muslim 90%, indigenous beliefs 9%, Christian 1%**Languages:** French (official), Bambara 80%, numerous African languages

Economy: Mali is among the poorest countries in the world, with 65% of its land area desert or semidesert. Economic activity is largely confined to the riverine area irrigated by the Niger. About 10% of the population is nomadic and some 80% of the labor force is engaged in farming and fishing. Industrial activity is concentrated on processing farm commodities. Mali is heavily dependent on foreign aid and vulnerable to fluctuations in world prices for cotton, its main export. In 1997, the government continued its successful implementation of an IMF-recommended structural adjustment program that is helping the economy grow, diversify, and attract foreign investment. Mali's adherence to economic reform, and the 50% devaluation of the African franc in January 1994, has pushed up economic growth. Several multinational corporations increased gold mining operations in 1996-98, and the government anticipates that Mali will become a major Sub-Saharan gold exporter in the next few years. Annual growth should remain in the 5-6% range in 2000-01, and inflation should drop under 3%.

Industries: minor local consumer goods production and food processing; construction; phosphate and gold mining**Currency:** 1 Communauté Financière Africaine franc (CFAF) = 100 centimes**Railways:** total: 729 km (linked to Senegal's rail system through Kayes) narrow gauge: 729 km 1,000-m gauge**Highways:** total: 15,100 km paved: 1,827 km unpaved: 13,273 km (1996 est.)**Waterways:** 1,815 km navigable**Ports and Harbors:** Koulikoro**Airports:** 28 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 6,243 to 3,047 m: 4 914 to 1,523 m: 2 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 22,243 to 3,047 m: 1 1,524 to 2,437 m: 3 914 to 1,523 m: 8 under 914 m: 10 (1999 est.)**Visa:** required by all**Duty Free:** goods permitted: 1000 cigarettes or 250 cigars or 2kg tobacco, 2 bottles of alcohol, a reasonable amount of personal perfume**Health:** a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travelers over one year of age coming from infected areas. Malaria is present throughout the year. All water should be regarded as potentially contaminated

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BAMAKO**AUBERGE DJAMILLA**, T: 223 79 48 56 36, aubergedjamilla@yahoo.fr, <http://www.aubergedjamilla.com>**AZALAI GRAND HOTEL**, BP 104 BAMAKO MALI, Tél: 223 20 22 12 00, azalaihotelsalam@azalaihotels.com, <http://www.azalaihotels.com/hotel-salam>**AZALAI HÔTEL NORD SUD BAMAKO MALI**, T: 223 20 29 69 00 01, nordsudcom@azalaihotels.com, <http://www.azalaihotels.com/nord-sud/contact-hotel-nordsud.html>**COMME CHEZ SOI**, T: 223 7 444-2222, info@chezsoibamako.com, <http://www.chezsoibamako.com>**HIPPODROME BAMAKO MALI**, T: 223 20 21 17 13, info@hotellacoccinelle.com, <http://hotellacoccinelle.com>**HOTEL DAFINA**, Adresse: NIARELA - RUE 461 PORTE 146 - BP E 1836 BAMAKO - MALI, +223 2210304, +223 2210366, dafina@afribone.net**HÔTEL LE LOFT DE BAMAKO**, 687 rue Achkabad, BPE 1520, Bamako, Mali, T: 223 20 21 66 90, leloft@orangemali.net, <http://www.leloftdebamako.com>**HOTEL MANDE**, <http://www.mandehotel.net>**HOTEL MIRABEAU**, <http://www.hotelmirabeau.net>**HOTEL NORD SUD**, Adresse: ACI 2000 - AVENUE DU MALI - BP 1060 BAMAKO - MALI, +223 2296900, +223 2296969, hotel.nordsud.mali@cefib.com, <http://www.hotel-nordsud.com>**HOTEL RESTAURANT LE CAMPAGNARD**, Adresse: NIARELA - BP E 486 BAMAKO - MALI, +223 2219296, +223 2212469**KEMPINSKI HOTEL EL FAROUK BAMAKO**, Boulevard du 22 Octobre 1946 / Quartier du Fleuve, BP: E 5063 Bamako, Mali, Tel: +223 222 30 30 / +223 223 18 30, Fax: +223 222 61 61, www.kempinski-bamako.com**LAICO EL FAROUK HOTEL**, Bamako, Mali, T: 223 20 70 36 50, reservations@laicohotels.com, <http://www.laicohotels.com/fr/hotel/mali/bamako/laico-el-farouk.html>**LAICO L'AMITIE HOTEL**, Bamako Mali, Phone: 223 44975300, reservations@laico-lamitie.com, <http://www.laico-hotels.com/en/hotel/mali/bamako/laico-lamitie.html>**L'HÔTEL PLAZA**, Niaréla - Derrière l'Ambassade de Russie, Tél. (223) 21 50 30 / 21 50 31 / 21 50 32, Fax (223) 21 50 34, E-mail: hotelplaza@cefib.com, www.cefib.com/hotelplaza**LE RELAIS**, TEL: (223) 221 02 29 FAX: (223) 221 00 19, EMAIL: resa@relaiscampa.com, BP. E 486-BAMAKO, www.relaiscampagnard.com**RADISSON BLU HOTEL BAMAKO**, Phone: 223 44 29 00 00, info.bamako@radissonblu.com, <http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-bamako>**SOFITEL L'AMITIÉ BAMAKO**, Avenue de la Marne B.P 1720 0 BAMAKO, MALI, (+223)221/4321 - (+223)221/4385, h0573@accor.com, www.sofitel.com

AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

AIR MALI SA, Region: Africa, Address: BP2690 Bamaku, Tel: 00223 22 9394, Fax: 00223 22 9403, Main Base: Bamako Airport, www.air-mali.com**BAMAKO - SENOU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**, Mali, BP 230, Senou, Bamako, Tel: +223 (0)20.46.26, Fax: +223 (0)20.65.62, Email: isis@malinet.ml, Website: www.adm.org.ml