NIGER



Country Dialing Code (Tel/Fax): ++227

Centre Nigerien de Promotion du Tourisme (National Tourist Office): BP 612, avenue du President H Luebke, Niamey, Niger Tel/Fax: 733 940

Capital: Niamey Time: GMT + 1

Background: Not until 1993, 33 years after independence from France, did Niger hold its first free and open elections. A 1995 peace accord ended a five-year Tuareg insurgency in the north. Coups in 1996 and 1999 were followed by the creation of a National Reconciliation Council that effected a transition to civilian rule in December 1999.

Location: Western Africa, southeast of Algeria

Map References: Africa

Area: total: 1.267 million sq km land: 1,266,700 sq km water: 300 sq km Climate: desert; mostly hot, dry, dusty; tropical in extreme south

Terrain: predominately desert plains and sand dunes; flat to rolling plains in south; hills in north

Natural Resources: uranium, coal, iron ore, tin, phosphates, gold, petroleum Population: 10,075,511 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Nigerien(s) adjective: Nigerien

Ethnic Groups: Hausa 56%, Djerma 22%, Fula 8.5%, Tuareg 8%, Beri Beri (Kanouri) 4.3%, Arab, Toubou, and Gourmantche 1.2%, about 1,200 French expatriates

Religions: Muslim 80%, remainder indigenous beliefs and Christians

Languages: French (official), Hausa, Djerma

Economy: Niger is a poor, landlocked Sub-Saharan nation, whose economy centers on subsistence agriculture, animal husbandry, reexport trade, and increasingly less on uranium, its major export since the 1970s. The 50% devaluation of the West African franc in January 1994 boosted exports of livestock, cowpeas, onions, and the products of Niger's small cotton industry. The government relies on bilateral and multilateral aid - which was suspended following the April 1999 coup d'etat - for operating expenses and public investment. Short-term prospects depend on upcoming negotiations with the World Bank and the IMF on debt relief and extended aid. Industries: food processing, wood and paper products, textiles, machinery, transportation equipment, banking and insurance, tourism, mining

Currency: 1 Communaute Financiere Africaine franc (CFAF) = 100 centimes Railways: 0 km

Highways: total: 10,100 km paved: 798 km unpaved: 9,302 km (1996 est.)

Waterways: the Niger is navigable 300 km from Niamey to Gaya on the Benin frontier from mid-December through March

Ports and Harbors: none

Airports: 27 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 9 2,438 to 3,047 m: 2 1,524 to 2,437 m: 6 under 914 m: 1 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 18 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1 914 to 1,523 m: 15 under 914 m: 2 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all except nationals of: Denmark and Finland, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Tunisia

Duty Free: 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 25 cigars or 250g of tobacco; 1 bottle of spirits and 1 bottle of wine; 500 ml of eau de toilette and 250 ml of perfume.

Health: A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required of all travelers over one year of age arriving from all countries: it is also recommended for all travelers leaving Niger. Malaria risk, predominantly in the malignant falciparum form, exists all year throughout the country. All water should be regarded as potentially contaminated.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

NIAMEY

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