

TOGO

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++228**

Office National Togolais du Tourisme: BP 1289, Route d'Aného, Lomé, Togo
Tel: 215 662 or 214 313 Fax: 218 927

Capital: Lomé **Time:** GMT

Background: French Togoland became Togo in 1960. Despite the facade of multiparty rule instituted in the early 1990s, the government continues to be dominated by the military, which has maintained its power almost continuously since 1967.

Location: Western Africa, bordering the Bight of Benin, between Benin and Ghana

Map References: Africa

Area: total: 56,785 sq km, land: 54,385 sq km, water: 2,400 sq km

Climate: tropical; hot, humid in south; semiarid in north

Terrain: gently rolling savanna in north; central hills; southern plateau; low coastal plain with extensive lagoons and marshes

Natural Resources: phosphates, limestone, marble, arable land

Population: 5,018,502 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Togolese (singular and plural), adjective: Togolese

Ethnic Groups: native African (37 tribes; largest and most important are Ewe, Mina, and Kabre) 99%, European and Syrian-Lebanese less than 1%

Religions: indigenous beliefs 70%, Christian 20%, Muslim 10%

Languages: French (official and the language of commerce), Ewe and Mina (the two major African languages in the south), Kabye (sometimes spelled Kabiye) and Dagomba (the two major African languages in the north)

Economy: This small sub-Saharan economy is heavily dependent on both commercial and subsistence agriculture, which provides employment for 65% of the labor force. Cocoa, coffee, and cotton together generate about 30% of export earnings. Togo is self-sufficient in basic foodstuffs when harvests are normal, with occasional regional supply difficulties. In the industrial sector, phosphate mining is by far the most important activity, although it has suffered from the collapse of world phosphate prices and increased foreign competition. Togo serves as a regional commercial and trade center. The government's decade-long effort, supported by the World Bank and the IMF, to implement economic reform measures, encourage foreign investment, and bring revenues in line with expenditures has stalled. Political unrest, including private and public sector strikes throughout 1992 and 1993, jeopardized the reform program, shrunk the tax base, and disrupted vital economic activity. The 12 January 1994 devaluation of the currency by 50% provided an important impetus to renewed structural adjustment; these efforts were facilitated by the end of strife in 1994 and a return to overt political calm. Progress depends on following through on privatization, increased openness in government financial operations (to accommodate increased social service outlays), and possible downsizing of the military, on which the regime has depended to stay in place. Lack of aid, along with depressed cocoa prices, generated a 1% fall in GDP in 1998, with growth resuming in 1999. Assuming no deterioration of the political atmosphere, growth should rise to 5% a year in 2000-01.

Industries: phosphate mining, agricultural processing, cement; handicrafts, textiles, beverages

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

Railways: total: 525 km (1995), narrow gauge: 525 km 1,000-m gauge

Highways: total: 7,520 km, paved: 2,376 km, unpaved: 5,144 km (1996 est.)

Waterways: 50 km Mono river

Ports and Harbors: Kpeme, Lome

Airports: 9 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 2, 2,438 to 3,047 m: 2 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 7, 914 to 1,523 m: 5, under 914 m: 2 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all except the following nationals of other ECOWAS countries (Economic Community of West African States): Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Gana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

Duty Free: permitted goods: 100 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 100g of tobacco; 1 bottle of spirits and 1 bottle of wine; 500ml of eau de toilette and 250ml of perfume.

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers arriving from infected areas. Malaria risk exists all year throughout the country. All water should be regarded as being potentially contaminated.

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