



# BENIN

**Capital:** Porto-Novo

**President:** Patrice Talon

**Population:** 10.87 million (2016) World Bank

**Currencies:** CFA franc, West African CFA franc

**Official language:** French

**Note: visa information is not guaranteed. Kindly confirm details with the relevant authorities.**

**[Important Note](#) - [Requirements](#) - [Days Closed](#) - [Office Hours](#) - [Contact details](#)**

<b>Important Note</b>	South African citizens are exempt from entry visa to Benin for a stay not exceeding (thirty) 30 days.												
<b>Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An original valid passport (valid for six (6) months) and must have at least 3 blank pages</li><li>• Two (2) ID photos</li><li>• Yellow fever vaccination card</li><li>• A letter of invitation and proof of accomodation.</li><li>• One (1) photocopy of information pages of passport</li><li>• Return ticket or flight itinerary from travel agency giving details of the ticket.</li><li>• Visa form, complete in full and in duplicate (available from Embassy website or Embassy)</li></ul>												
<b>Days Closed</b>	<b>2017:</b> All South African and Benin public holidays <b>Please note:</b> The days for Muslim celebration are not predictable: Maouloud, Eid UI Fitr, Eid UI Adha												
<b>Office Hours</b>	Visas : 09h00 - 14h00 Mon-Fri												
<b>Contact Details</b>	<b>Embassy of Benin</b> <table border="1"><tr><td>Telephone Number</td><td>: (012) 342 6978</td></tr><tr><td>Fax Number</td><td>: (012) 342 1823</td></tr><tr><td>Street Address</td><td>: 900 Park Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083</td></tr><tr><td>Postal Address</td><td>: PO Box 26484, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0007</td></tr><tr><td>Email Address</td><td>: <a href="mailto:pretoria@embbeninsa.org.za">pretoria@embbeninsa.org.za</a></td></tr><tr><td>Web Address</td><td>: <a href="http://www.embbeninsa.org.za">www.embbeninsa.org.za</a></td></tr></table>	Telephone Number	: (012) 342 6978	Fax Number	: (012) 342 1823	Street Address	: 900 Park Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083	Postal Address	: PO Box 26484, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0007	Email Address	: <a href="mailto:pretoria@embbeninsa.org.za">pretoria@embbeninsa.org.za</a>	Web Address	: <a href="http://www.embbeninsa.org.za">www.embbeninsa.org.za</a>
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## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Public demonstrations, political gatherings, student protests, and strikes are common throughout Benin, particularly on Friday afternoons.

Swimming conditions along Benin's coastline are dangerous due to strong tides, waves, and rip currents; several people drown each year.

**CRIME:** Street crime is a significant problem in Cotonou. Robbery and muggings occur along the Boulevard de France (the beach road by the Marina and Novotel Hotels), on the beaches near hotels frequented by international visitors, within the Haie Vive and Les Cocotiers neighborhoods (where popular bars and restaurants are located), and in other parts of the city. Most reported incidents involve the use of force, by armed persons, with minor injury to the victim. Travelers should avoid the Dantokpa market between the hours of dusk and dawn.

If you are a victim of crime, you should contact the Embassy immediately.

## HEALTH

Medical facilities in Benin are limited and not all medicines are available. Travelers should carry their own supplies of prescription drugs and preventive medicines.

**Medical Insurance:** If your health insurance plan does not provide coverage overseas, we strongly recommend supplemental medical insurance and medical evacuation plans. Carry prescription medication in original packaging, and a copy of your doctor's prescription.

### The following diseases are prevalent:

- Yellow Fever
- Malaria is highly prevalent. Malaria prophylactic meds are recommended for all travelers.
- Diarrheal Illnesses are very common. You should follow food safety precautions.

**Vaccinations:** Be up-to-date on all vaccinations.

## TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION

**Road Conditions and Safety:** With the exception of the road linking Cotonou in the south to Malanville on the border with Niger in the north, roads in Benin are generally in poor condition and are often impassable during the rainy season. During the rainy season from mid-June to mid-September, dirt roads become impassable. Four-wheel drive vehicles with full spare tires and emergency equipment are recommended.

Gasoline smuggled from Nigeria is widely available in glass bottles and jugs at informal roadside stands throughout Cotonou and much of the country. This gasoline is of unreliable quality, often containing water or other contaminants that can damage or disable your vehicle. Drivers should purchase fuel only from official service stations. There are periodic gas shortages, especially in the north of the country where there are few service stations.

There have been numerous carjackings and robberies on roads in Benin after dark, several of which resulted in murder when the driver refused to comply with the assailants' demands.

**Traffic Laws:** Traffic moves on the right. The national police periodically conduct vehicle checks at provisional roadblocks in an effort to improve road safety and reduce the increasing number of carjackings. When stopped at such a roadblock, you must have all of the vehicle's documentation available to present to the authorities.

**Public Transportation:** Cotonou has a limited public transportation system. Many Beninese people rely on bicycles, mopeds, and motorbikes for hire (known as "zemidjans"). Travelers using zemidjans, particularly at night, are much more vulnerable to being mugged, assaulted, or robbed. Buses and bush taxis offer service in the interior. U.S. Embassy personnel are required to wear safety helmets when on a motorcycle and are prohibited from using zemidjans.

## LAWS & SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

**Criminal Penalties:** You are subject to local laws. If you violate local laws, even unknowingly, you may be expelled, arrested, or imprisoned.

**Travelers Who Require Accessibility Assistance:** The condition of the sidewalks (when present) is often poor. Wheelchair accessibility is extremely limited.

## QUICK FACTS

- **PASSPORT VALIDITY:** Must be valid at time of entry
- **BLANK PASSPORT PAGES:** One page required for entry stamp
- **TOURIST VISA REQUIRED:** Yes
- **VACCINATIONS:** Yellow fever vaccine required
- **CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR ENTRY:** Not Applicable
- **CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR EXIT:** Not Applicable



### ADDRESS

First Floor Trinity Village  
65 Knoppiesdoring Street  
Randpark Ridge, Johannesburg 2196

**Email:** [info@travelbyarrangement.com](mailto:info@travelbyarrangement.com)

**Phone:** +27 (11) 794 4900

**Fax:** +27 (11) 794 4910

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday: 08h30am – 17h00pm

Weekends & Public Holidays: Closed

24 Hour after hours service available Contact your travel advisor for assistance