



Duke, justice,  
work



## **BENIN**



### **GENERAL INFORMATIONS**

Benin is a small country in West Africa located in the Gulf of Guinea between Nigeria and Togo. Covering an area of about 112 622 km<sup>2</sup>, with a population of 5 932 000.

The country's capital is Porto-Novo. Benin is one of the first democratic countries in Africa; the president is elected by direct universal suffrage and for a term of 5 years. The national anthem is the new dawn (New dawn in English). Cradle of Vodoo, the country has many tourist attractions such as beaches, museums, lake, its fauna and flora. Benin today has 12 departments, more than twenty languages are spoken in Benin (Fon, Yoruba, Goun, Dendi ...) but the official language is French. The main cities of Benin are: Porto Novo political capital of the country; Cotonou - Port City is the largest economic center, Parakou crossroads city in the north is the 3rd largest city in the country; Abomey, that the city of the king and the historic capital of the kingdom Fon.

### **HISTORY**



Place Goho, Abomey

The Republic of Benin, formerly Dahomey, famous counter the coast of slaves, French colony established on 22 June 1894, at the time called the Latin Quarter of Africa, has a rich history. It derives its name from original cultures whose synthesis is part of the brilliant civilization of Benin. The country gained independence on 1 August 1960 under the name Republic of Dahomey. From 1975 to 1990, the country has a Marxist-Leninist experience. He then called People's Republic of Benin.

Benin is now set an example of the emergence of democracy in Africa.

### **CULTURE OF BENIN**



Ganvie, Lake city

Among the attractions of Benin can talk about: Museums, Music: The country is full of talented artists that will be in the field of traditional music as Eba or Wadé modern music as: Angélique Kidjo, Neil Oliver, Stan Tohon and others. Among the forms crafts in Benin can be distinguished: the craft of art. Rather oriented design (examples: wood carving, jewelry, the crafts or product for the production of goods in common use (basketry, pottery, weaving items, forge, canned food etc. ...).

### **CLIMATE**

The climate is tropical, hot and humid throughout with nuances imposed seasonal and geographic extension of the country in latitude, topography and the alternation of the seasons.

### **RELIGIONS**

African animist religions predominate. One can not speak of Benin without mentioning the part of voodoo in Benin society. However a significant proportion of the population is Christian (Catholic and Protestant) and Muslim> Animism(65%), Christianity (20%), Islam (10 to 15%)



Religion Vodoo

## During a camp



## OVERVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT

In 1963, the Girl Guides of Benin joined "the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) as" associate members ". During the revolutionary period (1972 to 1989) all the scouts were forced to merge into a single Scout Association. Guiding / Girl Scouting then experienced a serious decline.

With the advent of democratic renewal in 1990, the associations have separated to regain their autonomy. The "Association of Girl Guides of Benin", since June 2005, became a member of the WAGGGS.

The "Association of Girl Guides of Benin" has the task of promoting the girl child, girls and young women by allowing them to develop their full potential to assume their responsibilities within the family and the community.

The Association of Girl Guides of Benin is divided into 4 parts: The Brownies (6 to 12 years) or yellow branch; Guides (13 to 16 years) or green branch; Guides older (17 to 25 years) or branch red (fire); The Leaders (more than 20 years).

We conduct several activities such as crafts, games, songs, activities, discussions, research on all levels, informal debates, and cooking during camps usually in the end of the year. Each year we celebrate Thinking Day in different ways.

## RECIPE: Atchonmon

**Ingredients:** 1kg of wheat flour, 1 teaspoon salt, 2 cups of sugar, 100g butter, 10 eggs, 2 teaspoons of baking powder, nutmeg, flavoring (vanilla), oil for frying, 125ml water.

**Preparation:** Pour water into a container, add salt, sugar, butter, eggs, and mix it with a mixer. Add nutmeg, flavor, baking powder, flour and mix together. Then knead, form patties and fry until brown.

**Good taste!**

## CRAFT

Making badges with beads and pins using the colors of Benin's flag.



## CHANTS

### **Sourire**

Sourire, C'est le mot que j'aime  
Sourire, c'est le mot charmant  
Pour etre charmante, charmante  
Soyons souriantes!!!!

### **Taps**

C'est la nuit, tout se tait,  
Sur les plaines, les collines et  
les monts  
C'est la nuit, tout est bien  
Et Dieu vient!!!

## SONGS

### **Smile**

Smile, It is the word that I love  
Smile, the word charming  
To be charming, charming  
Let us be smiling!!

### **Taps – literal translation**

That night, everything was  
silent,  
On the plains, hills and  
mountains  
That night, all is well  
And God comes!

## MAP

