

Burkina Faso

POP 17 MILLION

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Best Places to Eat

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- ➔ Le Calypso (p68)
- ➔ Maquis Aboussouan (p61)
- ➔ Le Verdoyant (p61)
- ➔ Le Saint-Germain (p65)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Villa Bobo (p64)
- ➔ Le Pavillon Vert (p60)
- ➔ Le Calypso (p68)
- ➔ Les Jardins de Koulouba (p60)
- ➔ Campement de l'Éléphant (p71)

Why Go?

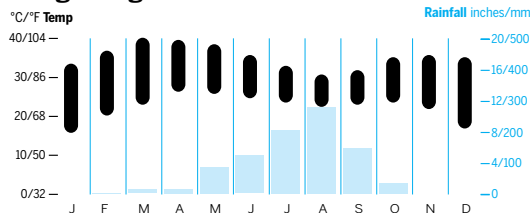
Burkina may not have many big-ticket attractions, yet it invariably wins the hearts of travellers for the warmth of its welcome. The Burkinabé are disarmingly charming and easygoing, and wherever you go you'll be greeted with a memorable *bonne arrivée* (welcome).

The country's other big draws are its enchanting landscapes – from atmospheric Sahelian plains, to rolling savannah and surprising geology – and the lively cultural scene. Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina's two largest and gloriously named cities, are famous for their musical traditions and beautiful handicrafts. Throw in Fespaco, Africa's premier film festival, held in the capital every odd-numbered year, and there's enough to engage your mind and senses for a couple of weeks or so.

Tourism infrastructure is fairly limited, but there is a handful of gems, especially in Ouaga, Bobo and Banfora, as well as family-run, simple *campements* (guesthouses) in more remote areas.

When to Go

Ouagadougou



Jan–Feb Perfect wildlife-viewing time; dusty harmattan winds can produce hazy skies.

Apr–Sep Hot season (Apr/May) best avoided; rainy season (Jun–Sep) can be challenging for transport.

Oct–Dec A lovely time of year, with green landscapes and pleasant temperatures.



Burkina Faso Highlights

1 Wander amid other-worldly rock formations and Burkina's lush landscapes at the **Sindou Peaks** (p69)

2 Sip a few beers to the sound of Bobo-Dioulasso's fantastic **live music scene** (p66)

3 Come face to face with elephants at **Réserve de Nazinga** (p70)