



Togo

POP 6.9 MILLION

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Côte Jardin (p370)
- ➔ La Belle Époque (p370)
- ➔ Le Fermier (p373)
- ➔ Centre Grill (p374)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hôtel Napoléon Lagune (p367)
- ➔ Côte Sud (p367)
- ➔ Le Geyser (p372)
- ➔ Coco Beach (p371)
- ➔ La Douceur (p374)

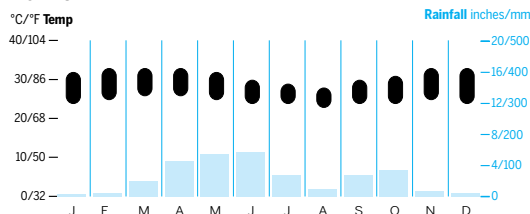
Why Go?

For those fond of travelling off the beaten track, Togo will prove a rewarding destination. It offers a great diversity of landscapes, from the lakes and palm-fringed beaches along the Atlantic coastline to the rolling forested hills in the centre. As you head further north, the landscape leaves its mantle of lush forest green for the light green and yellowy tinges of savannah land. The cherry on top is Lomé, the low-key yet elegant capital, with its large avenues, tasty restaurants and throbbing nightlife – not to mention the splendid beaches on its doorstep. Togo is also an excellent playground for hikers – there's no better ecofriendly way to experience the country's savage beauty than on foot.

Another highlight is the culture. Togo is a melting pot. The fortified compounds of Koutammakou are a reminder that the country's ethnically diverse population didn't always get along. Nowadays, however, voodoo, Muslim, Christian and traditional festivals crowd the calendar and are often colourful celebrations for all.

When to Go

Lomé



Nov–Feb The best time to visit, with pleasant temperatures. Perfect for outdoor activities.

Mid-Jul–mid-Sep There's a dry spell in the south, which makes transport less challenging.

Mar & Apr The hottest period throughout the country is best avoided.

Togo Highlights

- 1 Soaking up the the mellow vibes of **Lomé** (p367), the coastal capital.
- 2 Unwinding on blissful **Coco Beach** (p371).
- 3 Relaxing on the shores of **Lac Togo** (p371).
- 4 Hiking in lush forested hills and taking in the chilled vibe of **Kpalimé** (p372).
- 5 Tracking buffaloes and antelopes at **Parc Sarakawa** (p374), Togo's most underrated wildlife reserve.
- 6 Seeking out northern Togo's remote clay-and-straw fortresses, the *tata* compounds, around **Koutammakou** (p375).

