



Djibouti

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Time Out (p314)
- ➔ Mukbassa Central – Chez Youssouf (p314)
- ➔ Café de la Gare (p316)
- ➔ Le Pizzaiolo (p315)
- ➔ Hôtel-Restaurant Le Golfe (p321)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Le Héron Auberge (p312)
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Why Go?

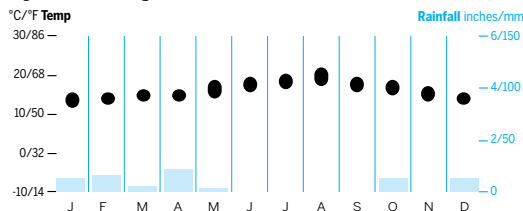
This tiny speck of a country packs a big punch. What it lacks in size, it more than makes up for in beauty. Few countries in the world, with the possible exception of Iceland, offer such weird landscapes – think salt lakes, extinct volcanoes, sunken plains, limestone chimneys belching out puffs of steam, basaltic plateaus and majestic canyons. Outdoorsy types will enjoy a good mix of land and water activities, including hiking, diving and whale-shark spotting in the Gulf of Tadjoura.

Barring Djibouti City, the country is refreshingly devoid of large-scale development. It's all about ecotourism, with some sustainable stays in the hinterland that provide a fascinating glimpse into the life of nomadic tribes.

Travelling independently around Djibouti may not come cheap, but despite the high cost of living, you'll surely leave this little corner of Africa with new experiences and wonderful memories.

When to Go

Djibouti City



May–Sep Some like it hot...some like it *hot*.

Oct & Feb–Apr Shoulder seasons are not a bad time to visit. Calm waters for diving.

Nov–Jan Coolest months; perfect for outdoor activities. Whale sharks make their annual visit.



Djibouti Highlights

- 1 Djibouti City** (p308) Catching local vibes while wandering through the animated streets of the capital and enjoying its culinary delights.
- 2 Lac Assal** (p318) Descending to the lowest point on the African continent.
- 3 Lac Abbé** (p318) Wandering flabbergasted in a Martian landscape,
- with hundreds of spikelike limestone chimneys.
- 4 Whale-shark spotting** (p309) Sighting and swimming with whale sharks from November to January in the Gulf of Tadjoura.
- 5 Plage des Sables Blancs** (p321) Unwinding on Djibouti's best beach.
- 6 Diving** (p309) Exploring some superb
- shipwrecks in the Gulf of Tadjoura.
- 7 Goda Mountains** (p319) Taking a guided walk amid spectacular mountain scenery and spending a night in a traditional *campement touristique* (tourist camp).
- 8 Abourma Rock Art Site** (p322) Looking for some well-preserved petroglyphs.