

Guinea

224 / POP 11.8 MILLION

Includes ➔

Conakry.....	218
Fouta Djallon.....	222
Mamou.....	222
Dalaba.....	223
Mali-Yemberem.....	224
Forest Region.....	225
Parc National du Haut Niger.....	226

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Restaurant Îles des Joies (p221)
- ➔ Hotel SIB (p224)
- ➔ Le Sogue Hôtel (p222)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Pension Les Palmiers (p218)
- ➔ Hotel M'lys (p218)
- ➔ Hotel SIB (p224)
- ➔ Hôtel Tata (p223)
- ➔ Le Sogue Hôtel (p222)

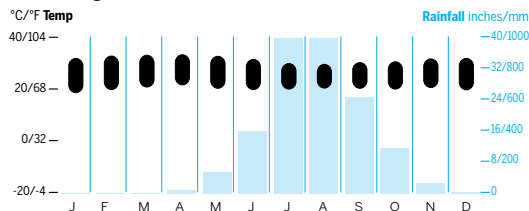
Why Go?

Imagine you're travelling on smooth highways, and then get tempted by a dusty turn-off signed Adventure. Well, that turn-off is Guinea. Little known to most of the world, this is a land of surprising beauty, from the rolling mountain plateau of Fouta Djallon to wide Sahelian lands and thick forests. Overland drivers have long been drawn here for the challenge of steering their vehicles over rocks and washed-out paths. Nature lovers lose themselves on long hikes past plunging waterfalls, proud hills and tiny villages; or by tracking chimpanzees through sticky rainforest. But the best thing about Guinea is that almost nobody else bothers to take this turn-off – meaning you'll likely have the country to yourself.

Devastatingly, the country was caught up in the West Africa Ebola outbreak in 2014. The country was officially declared Ebola-free in June 2016, and related travel restrictions were lifted, meaning now is the time to explore.

When to Go

Conakry



Nov & Dec Best time to visit, after the rains and before the dusty harmattan winds.

Apr Very hot everywhere and not a pleasant month to travel.

Jun–Sep Rainy season. Roads turn into mud rivers and are almost impassable. Avoid!

CONAKRY

📶4 / POP 1.6 MILLION

Conakry doesn't try to please its guests, and yet, slowly, many are eventually won over by its charms. There aren't many sights in this dusty (and/or muddy, depending on time of year) mess of crumbling buildings, pollution, rubbish and traffic jams, but there is plenty of buzz. From the pungent fishing port of Boulbinet and the street kitchens of Coronihie to the containers-turned-shops of Taouyah, this city goes about its business noisily and with ingenuity, proud and unruffled by the visitor's gaze.

👁 Sights

★ Centre d'Art Acrobatique

Keita Fodeba

CULTURAL CENTRE

(📍 624 789059; Dixinn Stadium; ☀️ 10am-2pm Mon-Fri) **FREE** The Centre d'Art Acrobatique Keita Fodeba is perhaps the single most amazing experience in Guinea. Every weekday morning scores of acrobats spin, twirl and flip through routines that have made them the envy of circuses the world over. As good as the acrobats are, it's the contortionists who steal the show. When they bend themselves 180 degrees the wrong way you can only wonder if they actually have backbones or if they are in fact jellyfish.

Musée National

MUSEUM

(7th Blvd, Sandervalia; GFr10,000; ☀️ 9am-6pm Tue-Fri, 10am-5.30pm Sat & Sun) The Musée National has a modest collection of masks, statues and musical instruments, many of which are used in religious or mystical ceremonies.

🛏 Sleeping

Maison d'Accueil

HOTEL \$

(📍 621 752 939; Rte du Niger, Kaloum; r with/without air-con GFr160,000/130,000; 📶📶) Essentially the only real budget accommodation in the city that foreigners are likely to be able to stay at. Conakry's Catholic Mission has clean, simple rooms in a peaceful setting on the edge of the central Kaloum district. However, being such good value for money (for Conakry) means that it's often fully booked.

★ Hotel M'lys

HOTEL \$\$

(📍 624 299 369; www.hotelmlys.com; Quartier Almamy, Kaloum; r from GFr705,000; 📶📶) This small, central place is turning the Conakry hotel scene on its head. Gone are drowsy overpriced rooms and lacklustre service. In

are business smart rooms in soothing whites and browns, back-and-white photographic art, warm and welcoming staff, a cool delicious lipstick-red cafe-restaurant and an outdoor garden bar. All for a price that can't be knocked.

★ Pension Les Palmiers

GUESTHOUSE \$\$

(Chez Ghussein; 📍 622 352 500; www.pension-lespalmiers.com; Rte de Donka, Ratoma; s/d €70/75; 📶📶📶) The doily-adorned couches, cute living room and caring owners make this one a five-heart guesthouse, if not a five-star hotel, and as such it seems to attract a diverse collection of business people, aid workers and the occasional tourist. The rooms are modern, and polished, with comfortable beds, reliable electricity, internet connections and plenty of hot water.

★ Noom Conakry

DESIGN HOTEL \$\$\$

(📍 626 333 333; www.conakry.noomhotels.com; Quartier Ignace Deen, Kaloum; s/d from GFr2,050,000/2,190,000; 📶📶📶) The brand-new, boat-shaped, Noom Conakry is where the city puts on its most sophisticated face. It's a face that comes with an infinity pool overlooking the ocean, several top-quality bars and restaurants, tree sculpture art and huge black-and-white photos mounted on the walls. And all that's before you've even entered one of the very swish rooms...

Riviera Royal

HOTEL \$\$\$

(📍 664 223 302; www.rivieraroyalhotel.com; off Corniche Nord; r from €156; 📶📶📶) More affordable than many of the city's top-end hotels, the Riviera Royal has a tropical-garden vibe with rooms in small blocks scattered under the palm trees. There's a huge pool, bar, restaurant, nightclub and various sporting facilities.

🍴 Eating

Conakry isn't blessed with a diverse restaurant scene. For good street food, try **Marché du Niger** (Rte du Niger, Kaloum; ☀️ 6am-5pm) or **Marché Taouyah** (☀️ 6am-4pm), where bowls of rice costs around GFr20,000.

Le Waffou

AFRICAN \$

(📍 664 337 547; off Rte de Donka, Kipé; mains GFr25,000-40,000; ☀️ noon-midnight) You can buy Ivorian *attiéké* (grated cassava) on many a Conakry street corner, but this thatch-roof eatery prepares it fresh and does it better than most. Occasional live bands at weekends.