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General

Djibouti (Jibuti), located in the NE part of Africa, has a coast, about 195 miles long, and extends for about 48 miles inland. It is bordered on the NW by Eritrea, on the W by Ethiopia, on the SE by Somalia, and on the E by the Gulf of Aden.

The country has a coastal plain and a plateau, separated by central mountains.

The climate is dry, with high temperatures and sparse rainfall.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Djibouti franc, consisting of 100 centimes.

Government

Djibouti, the former French Territory of the Afars and the Issas, achieved independence in 1977. In 1992, a referendum permitted the existence of up to four political parties.

Afar rebels in the N part of the country signed a Reconciliation Agreement in 1994 and formed a national coalition.

The President is directly elected for a 6-year renewable term and appoints a Council of Ministers. The Parliament is formed by a 65-member Chamber of Deputies elected for 5-year terms.

The country is divided into five districts.

The legal system is based on French civil law, Islamic law, and traditional practices.

The capital is Djibouti.



Flag of Djibouti

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
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Labor Day	May 1
Independence Day (2 days)	June 27
Christmas Day	December 25

Islamic holidays, which are subject to the appearance of the moon, include Eid-il-Fitr (End of Ramadan), Eid-il-Adha (End of Pilgrimage), Hijrah (Islamic New Year), Ashoora, and the Prophet's Birthday.

Industries

The country provides services as both a transit port for the region (free trade zone) and an international transshipment and refueling center. It has few natural resources and little industry.

Scanty rainfall limits crop production. The principal exports are hides, cattle, and coffee (in transit).

Languages

The official languages are French and Arabic. Several Somali and Afar dialects are also widely used.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is CHARLIE (-3). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Plateau du Serpent, Boulevard Marechal Joffre, Djibouti.

The mailing address is B.P. 185, Djibouti.