

Versatility in Hospitality Industry around the Globe A Case Study on Culture and Cuisine Benin

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Abstract: Benin, officially Republic of Benin, French République du Bénin, formerly (until 1975) Dahomey or (1975–90) People's Republic of Benin, country of western Africa. It consists of a narrow wedge of territory extending northward for about 420 miles (675 kilometers) from the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean, on which it has a 75-mile seacoast, to the Niger River, which forms part of Benin's northern border with Niger. Benin is bordered to the northwest by Burkina Faso, to the east by Nigeria, and to the west by Togo. The official capital is Porto-Novo, but Cotonou is Benin's largest city, its chief port, and its de facto administrative capital. Benin was a French colony from the late 19th century until 1960. Prior to colonial rule, part of the territory that is now Benin consisted of powerful, independent kingdoms, including various Bariba kingdoms in the north and in the south the kingdoms of Porto-Novo and Dahomey (Dan-ho-me, "on the belly of Dan;" Dan was a rival king on whose grave Dahomey royal compound was built). In the late 19th century French colonizers making inroads from the coastal region into the interior borrowed the name of the defeated Dahomey kingdom for the entire territory that is now Benin; the current name derives from the bight of Benin. The Voodoo Festival is celebrated annually in Ouidah on Jan. 10. This is an opportunity for the dignitaries and followers of voodoo to express their faith in their gods in the eyes of the public. This celebration of traditional religions is often marked by folk dances, colorful ceremonies. This day is also a national holiday in Benin.[2]

Keywords: Cuisine, Benin

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