

What to Know Before Visiting South Sudan?

Country Facts:

- The size of South Sudan is same as France.
- In spite of its oil wealth, the country suffers from a low GDP.
- South Sudan is currently experiencing a shaky economy with the value of the South Sudan currency on a constant decline.
- In June 2016, 309% inflation was recorded in South Sudan, which is one of the highest in the world.
- Due to poor infrastructure, business growth in the country is slow.
- A large portion of the population engages in subsistence farming and livestock keeping.
- The officially accepted language is English. However, people speak Arabic and more than 50 other languages.
- In South Sudan, the wealth is measured by the number of cattle that each family owns.
- In South Sudan, the greeting is an important part of the culture.
- The country suffers from poor infrastructure and a shaky security system.
- People live in thatched-roofed houses located in areas with poor sanitation.
- South Sudanese prefer oral communication to writing and other means.
- South Sudan is the youngest country in the world.
- The national anthem of the Republic of South Sudan came by as a result of a competition.
- The first child ever born in South Sudan was a boy and was given the name 'Independent'. However, the child died one year after his birth.
- The economy of South Sudan is one of the weakest worldwide.
- The country gained independence after it broke away from the mother country Sudan in 2011.

Source:

1. <https://facts.uk/23-salutary-facts-about-south-sudan/>
2. <https://thefactfile.org/south-sudan-facts/>



Country Flag:

Capital: Juba is the capital of South Sudan.

Government: Under the 2011 transitional constitution, South Sudan was a republic. Executive power was vested in the president and the vice president, who was appointed by the president. Upon independence, the directly elected incumbent president of the **southern Sudan** region became president of the country for a four-year term.

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/place/South-Sudan/Government-and-society>

President: Salva Kiir Mayardit is president of South Sudan since 2011.

Economy: The country's economy, as in many other developing countries, is heavily dependent on agriculture. Some of the agricultural produce include cotton, groundnuts (peanuts), sorghum, millet, wheat, gum arabic, sugarcane, cassava (tapioca), mangos, papaya, bananas, sweet potatoes, and sesame. For the 2019 estimate, GDP per capita in South Sudan will be \$1602 in PPP per capita and \$275 per nominal.

Population: The population of South Sudan was estimated to be 10.98 million in 2018.

Religion by Percentage: The most recent Pew Research Center on Religion and Public Life report from December 2012 estimated that in 2010, there were 6.010 million Christians (60.46%), 3.270 million followers of African Traditional Religion (32.9%), 610,000 Muslims (6.2%) and 50,000 unaffiliated (no known religion) of a total 9,940,000 people in south sudan.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_South_Sudan

Top South Sudan Foods: South Sudanese cuisine is based on grains (maize, sorghum). It uses yams, potatoes, vegetables, legumes (beans, lentil, peanuts), meat (goat, mutton, chicken and fish near the rivers and lakes), okra and fruit as well. Meat is boiled, grilled or dried. South South Sudanese cuisine was influenced by Arab cuisine. Below are top “must try” dishes for visitors to South Sudan:

- **Gorassa:** Goraasa is a South Sudanese pancake or a flatbread that is spongy, versatile, soft, and doughy. It is made with flour, water, salt, and (optionally) baking powder. The batter is shaped in the pan, so the final result looks like a thick tortilla. In South Sudan, it is eaten for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Locals often place it under various stews, then tear off pieces of the flatbread to scoop up the main dish instead of using utensils, but goraasa can also be enjoyed on its own.
- **Shaaria:** Shaaria is a traditional South Sudanese dessert made with a unique blend of ingredients. Pasta nets are first boiled, then fried and combined with sugar, melted butter, raisins or coconut, sesame oil, and a bit of salt. This flavorful dessert is typically prepared and served during Ramadan.
- **Baseema:** Baseema is a traditional South Sudanese cake made with eggs, yogurt, baking powder, flour, shredded coconut, oil, and vanilla extract. The mixture is typically spread into a wide pan, then baked. The cake is then glazed with a combination of granulated sugar, lemon juice, and water. When served, baseema is usually cut into squares. The name of this fluffy golden cake means *delicious*, and it's easy to see why.

- **Kamounia:** Kamounia is a traditional dish that's a part of Tunisian, Egyptian, and South Sudanese cuisine. This hearty stew is usually prepared with beef, liver, and cumin. Variations exist, so lamb is sometimes used instead of the beef, and there are also different spices used depending on the region. Some people like to add parsley, olive oil, and garlic to the stew. Once done, kamounia is often served with rice, either on top of it or on the side.
- **Kisra:** Kisra is a traditional spongy flatbread from South South Sudan, made with sorghum (millet) flour. It is often used for dipping into stews or as a spoon for scooping up other food. The bread can also be ripped into chunks and placed in soups or porridges, when it is traditionally accompanied by a vegetable and meat stew known as *mullah*.

Foods of south Sudan and Sudan are same.

Language: South Sudan is a multilingual country, with over 60 indigenous languages spoken. The official language of the country is English which was introduced in the region during the colonial era (see Anglo-Egyptian Sudan). Some of the indigenous languages with the most speakers include Dinka, Nuer, Bari, and Zande.

Dress for Men and Women: The local Sudanese men often wear Western business attire in the city or traditional robes and a length of cloth draped down under a skull cap in more rural areas. Women wear long dresses, similar to an Indian sari, along with an Islamic head covering.

Holidays: There are several national holidays in South Sudan such as:

- New Year's Day
- Good Friday
- Holy Saturday
- Easter Sunday
- Easter Monday
- Labour Day
- SPLA Day
- Eid al-Fitr
- Independence Day
- Martyrs' Day
- Eid al-Adha
- Christmas Day

Travel Tips:

- As South Sudan achieved independence only recently, the immigration rules are still subject to change.
- Citizens of Botswana, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda are eligible to obtain a visa on arrival costing between \$50 and \$100 USD.

- Most airlines flying into Juba depart from Cairo (Egypt), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Entebbe (Uganda) or Nairobi (Kenya) Khartoum (Sudan) to/from where you should be able to manage flights to Europe, Asia or the Americas. Flydubai has regular flights from Dubai to Juba.
- South Sudan has a rainy season which lasts from May to November. The rainy season massively limits roads and other transportation due to South Sudan's roads being dirt tracks and in the rainy season, they turn into mud tracks.
- The only paved roads South Sudan has are in major cities like Juba and Rumbek. The 190 Kilometers from Nimule on the Ugandan Border to Juba has recently been paved. Work is underway to upgrade the road from Juba to Bor.
- A Brewery has opened up in Juba, providing the country with Nile Beer. The drinking/purchasing age of alcoholic beverages is 18.
- Starting in August 2012, Sudan and South Sudan have been fighting along the border of the two countries and traveling to the Sudan-South Sudan border is very dangerous and highly discouraged!
- As with all countries a respect for the native culture is essential. Due to the multi-ethnic demography of South Sudan some people might take offense to being mistaken for others.
- It is best not to assume a person speaks a particular language or holds particular custom which is representative of another ethnic group.

Top 10 Attractions and places to visit:

1. Juba
2. Boma national park
3. Kodok
4. Rumbek
5. Bandiligo National Park
6. Torit
7. Wau
8. Malakal
9. Bentiu
10. Nimule

South Sudan Boys Name:

- Kariem
- Males
- Mohamed
- Mohammed
- Jean paul
- Kamal

Top Universities in South Sudan:

1. University of Juba

2. Catholic university of south Sudan
3. Upper Nile university
4. Rumbek University
5. Bahr el Ghazal University
6. University of northern Bahr el Ghazal
7. John Garang Memorial University
8. Yei Agriculture and Mechanical University
9. Akobo Heritage and Memorial University
10. The Bridge University

Top 10 Websites: *not available on alexa*

1. Sudantribune.com
2. Southsudanation.com
3. Ss.undp.org
4. Southsudanmedicaljournal.com
5. Waterforsouthsudan.com
6. Ukinsouthsudan.fco.gov.uk
7. Ss.usemabassy.gov
8. Southsudanmaps.com
9. norway-south-sudan.org
10. southsudaneseffriends.org

confirm it: <https://www.southsudan.biz/top-16-most-visited-websites-in-south-sudan-in-august-2019/>

Top 3 Search engines used:

1. Google
2. Bing
3. Yahoo

Top exports:

- Crude petroleum
- Scrap iron
- Aircraft parts
- Sawn wood
- Gas turbines

Top 5 Cars:

Top cars in South Sudan includes:

1. Toyota Kluger
2. Corolla Spacio
3. Caldina
4. Nissan Elgrand
5. Verdict

Natural Disasters:

Many types of natural disasters occur in South Sudan such as:

- Flash Flooding
- Drought

Home Designs / Architecture:

Traditional *homes* in both Uganda and *South Sudan* are constructed primarily out of natural, local resources. In *South Sudan*, for example, approximately 90% of *homes* are grass thatched mud huts. Materiality and construction methods are arguably the most significant aspect of the challenge to provide homes to refugees fleeing to Uganda refer to.

Deaths and Mortality:

In 2019, death rate for South Sudan was 10.3 per 1,000 people. Death rate of South Sudan fell gradually from 28.1 per 1,000 people in 1970 to 10.3 per 1,000 people in 2019.

Source: <https://knoema.com/atlas/South-Sudan/Death-rate>