Angola
Flag & Coat of arms
National Identity

• There is no single national identity. The country is divided along many lines: Ethnic, religious, regional, racial, and other factors interact in the conflict.

• However, the notion of being Angolan is strong.

• The Portuguese language sets Angola apart from its neighboring countries and has created long-standing ties not only with Portugal but also with Brazil, Mozambique, and other Portuguese-speaking countries.
National Identity

- The word "Angola" derives from the title used by the rulers of the Ndongo state.
- The title "Angola" was first mentioned in Portuguese writings in the sixteenth century. A Portuguese colony founded on the coast in 1575 also came to be known as Angola.
- At the end of the nineteenth century, the name was given to a much larger territory that was envisaged to come under Portuguese influence. These plans materialized slowly; not until the beginning of the twentieth century did Portuguese colonialism reach the borders of present-day Angola.
- In 1975, this area became an independent country under the name República Popular de Angola (People's Republic of Angola). Later the "Popular" was dropped.
Angola may not classify as either a country or a culture. Since 1961, war has destroyed cultural institutions, forced people to flee, and divided the territory between the belligerent.

Angola is a country of 482,625 square miles (approximately 1.25 million square kilometers) in western Africa, south of the Equator.

There are great variations in climate and geography, including rain forests in the north, drier coastal lands, the fertile central highlands, sandy soils in the east, and desert zones in the Kunene (Cuene) and Kuando Kubango provinces.

Apart from large rivers such as the Zaire, Kwanza (Cuanza), Kunene, Kubango (Cubango), Zambezi, and Kuando, there are many smaller rivers, some of which are not perennial. The climate is characterized by a rainy season and a dry season whose timing and intensity differ in the various regions.
Facts

- **Angola**, officially: the Republic of Angola
- country in south-central Africa
- **bordering:**
  - Namibia to the south,
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north,
  - and Zambia to the east,
  - and with a west coast along the Atlantic Ocean.
- The exclave province Cabinda has a border with the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- A *former Portuguese colony*, it has considerable natural resources, most notably petroleum and diamonds. The country is nominally a democracy.
Facts

- **Capital**: Luanda
- **Inhabitants**: 12.127.100 (Apr. 2007)
- **Currency**: Kwanza
- **Languages**: Portuguese (official), Bantu and other African languages
- **Independence Day**: 11 November 1975 (from Portugal)
- **Constitution**: adopted by People's Assembly 25 August 1992
Facts

- **Administrative divisions**: 18 provinces
- **Ethnic groups**: Ovimbundu 37%, Kimbundu 25%, Bakongo 13%, mestico (mixed European and native African) 2%, European 1%, other 22%
- **Religions**: indigenous beliefs 47%, Roman Catholic 38%, Protestant 15% (1998 est.)
- **Literacy**: (definition: age 15 and over can read and write) total population: 67.4%
- **Legal system**: based on Portuguese civil law system and customary law; recently modified to accommodate political pluralism and increased use of free markets
Timeline

- **1300s** - Kongo kingdom consolidates in the north.
- **1483** - Portuguese arrive.
- **1575** - Portuguese found Luanda.
- 17th and 18th centuries - Angola becomes a major Portuguese trading arena for slaves. Between 1580 and 1680 a million plus are shipped to Brazil.
- **1836** - Slave trade officially abolished by the Portuguese government.
- **1885-1930** - Portugal consolidates colonial control over Angola, local resistance persists.
- **1951** - Angola's status changes from colony to overseas province.
- **1956** - The early beginnings of the socialist guerrilla independence movement, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), based in northern Congo.
- **1950s-1961** - Nationalist movement develops, guerrilla war begins.
Timeline: Angola

- **1975** - Angola gains independence but power struggle ensues between MPLA, backed by Cuba, and the FNLA plus Unita, backed by South Africa and the USA.
- **1976** - MPLA gains upper hand.
- **1979** - MPLA leader Agostinho Neto dies. Jose Eduardo dos Santos takes over as president.
- **1991** April - MPLA drops Marxism-Leninism in favour of social democracy.
- **1991** May - Dos Santos, Savimbi sign peace deal in Lisbon which results in a new multiparty constitution.
- **1992** September – elections- Presidential and parliamentary polls certified by UN monitors as generally free and fair. Dos Santo gains more votes than Savimbi, who rejects results and resumes guerrilla war.
- **2002**: Angolans celebrate peace deal
Timeline

- **2003** January - President Dos Santos appoints Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos, known as Nando, as prime minister. The post had been vacant for more than three years.

- **2004** April onwards - Tens of thousands of illegal foreign diamond miners are expelled in a crackdown on illegal mining and trafficking. In December the government says 300,000 foreign diamond dealers have been expelled.

- **2006**: Angola set to join Opec oil group

- **2007** February - President dos Santos says parliamentary elections will be held in 2008 and presidential polls in 2009.
Civil War

- Angola is rebuilding its country after the end of a 27-year civil war in 2002.

- Fighting between the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), led by Jose Eduardo DOS SANTOS, and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), led by Jonas SAVIMBI, followed independence from Portugal in 1975.

- Peace seemed imminent in 1992 when Angola held national elections, but UNITA renewed fighting after being beaten by the MPLA at the polls.

- Up to 1.5 million lives may have been lost - and 4 million people displaced - in the quarter century of fighting.

- SAVIMBI's death in 2002 ended UNITA's insurgency and strengthened the MPLA's hold on power.

- While President DOS SANTOS had pledged to hold legislative elections in 2007, he has since announced that legislative elections will be held in 2008, with Presidential elections planned for 2009. A specific election timetable has yet to be established.
Geographie
Angolans perform at a ceremony to mark the 30th anniversary of their nation's independence from Portugal.
National – System

• **Political System**: Restricted Democratic Practice

• **President**: José Eduardo dos Santos (MPLA) [since 21 September 1979; elected by the MPLA in 1979 following the death of Agostinho Neto]

  The President is elected by direct popular vote for a 5-year term. Electoral System: Two Round (Run-off). Note: No Presidential elections have been held since 1992.

• **Prime Minister**: Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos (MPLA) [since 6 December 2002] The Prime Minister is appointed by the President.

• **National Assembly** [unicameral] (220 Seats)
  
  ➔ Members are elected by direct popular vote in multi-member constituencies (130 from one national constituency and 90 from 18 provincial constituencies - 5 per province) using the party-list proportional representation system;

  ➔ members serve 4-year terms. ( No National Assembly elections have been held since 1992.)
Political Situation since Independence

- **1975-1991** One Party State (MPLA)
- **1991-1992** Multiparty Transition
- **1992-** Restricted Democratic Practice

- Next Scheduled Presidential Election: 2009
- Next Scheduled National Assembly Election: 2008
Ethnic groups

- There are over 100 distinct tribes and linguistic dialects in Angola.
- Although Portuguese is the official language, for many black Angolans it is a second or even third language.
- The three dominant ethnic groups are the Ovimbundu, Mbundu (Kimbundu) and the Bakongo.
- There are also small numbers of Mestico (mixed African and European descent) as well as various minority ethnic groups.
Cultural Values

* Angolan people generally trace their descent through their mothers, and lineages or extended families are important in social life.

* Angolans dance anywhere and everywhere, in joy, in grief, in life, in death, so music is inevitably the strongest element of local culture.

* Masks play an important role in cultural rituals, representing life and death, the passage from childhood to adulthood, the celebration of a new harvest and the marking of the hunting season.
Culture- language

- **Umbundu**


  Kua tukuluka omunu wa tumiwa la Suku, onduko yaye Yoano. Eye weyilila uvangi woku imbila Cinyi uvangi, okuti, eci va yeva uvangi waye, va kolela Cinyi. Yoano hayeko Cinyi, puãi weyilila oku imbila Cinyi uvangi.

- **English**

  In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life and his life brought light to people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

  God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light.
Warnings (Cabinda - Cholera - Landmine Warning)

- The northern province of Cabinda, separated from the rest of Angola by the Democratic Republic of Congo, remains a dangerous region, and should be avoided.

- A cholera outbreak affecting major cities in Angola occurred in 2006, enhanced by a lack of clean water and open sewer systems. It has not yet been fully eradicated.

- Crime is a big problem in Luanda - travellers should exercise a high degree of caution, especially at night.

- Angola is a high-risk malaria zone.

- Don't wander off-the-beaten track in rural areas - the threat of unexploded landmines is still a huge problem.
Weather

- Angola is dry from May/June, gets warm in October, then pretty soggy from November to April/May.

- The best time to visit Angola is during the cooler, dryer months in June to September. This is because travel is much easier, especially once you get off the main roads - dirt tracks become a sea of mud when it rains. And lounging on the beach in a downpour just doesn't cut the mustard.
Thank you for your attention!