




# ANNUAL MEETINGS AND SIDE EVENTS 2024

1-2 JULY 2024

DJIBOUTI PALACE KEMPINSKI, DJIBOUTI



Organised by

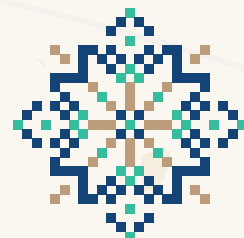


ISLAMIC FINANCIAL  
SERVICES BOARD

Hosted by



BANQUE CENTRALE DE DJIBOUTI  
البنك المركزي الجيبوتي



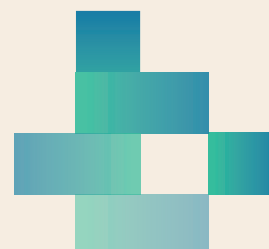
**DJIBOUTI 2024**  
ISLAMIC FINANCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
ANNUAL MEETINGS



## TABLE OF CONTENT

## PAGES

Message from the Chairman of the IFSB Council	3
Message from the Secretary-General of the IFSB	4
About the Islamic Financial Services Board Organisational Information Contact Us	5
Programme of Annual Meetings and Side Events	6
Speakers' Profiles	11
General Information	14
Venue Information	15
Administrative Information	
Information on Djibouti	
Directory Embassies and High Commissions	20





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE IFSB COUNCIL

**His Excellency Ahmed Osman Ali**

Governor

Banque Centrale de Djibouti

**In the Name of Allah  
The Most Compassionate, The Most Merciful**

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to the IFSB 2024 Annual Meetings and Side Events, proudly hosted by Banque Centrale de Djibouti (BCD).

Your presence here is a testament to our collective commitment to the growth and development of Islamic finance. We are deeply grateful for your participation, which not only elevates the stature of this event but also brings substantial benefits to Djibouti's economic and tourism sectors. Your involvement is crucial in driving forward the Islamic finance agenda, fostering a fertile ground for innovation and cooperation.

We at Banque Centrale de Djibouti are excited about the rich discussions and interactions that your expertise and perspectives will undoubtedly inspire. We are honoured to have you with us and look forward to a memorable and productive event.



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE IFSB

**Dr. Ghiath Shabsigh**  
Secretary-General  
Islamic Financial Services Board

### **In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful**

It is our pleasure and honour to welcome you to the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) 44th Annual Meeting, 22nd General Assembly, and the Side Events. This is the perfect setting for deep reflection on the developments and contributions of the IFSB to the industry and our direction moving forward.

On behalf of my colleagues, I extend my gratitude to our host, the Central Bank of Djibouti, the Chairman of the IFSB Council 2024 for making these annual meetings possible. A member since 2007, Djibouti's remarkable infrastructural development, and commitment to furthering the Islamic finance regulatory framework have positioned it as an exemplary nation in East Africa - an accomplishment IFSB is committed to supporting.

For over 20 years, the IFSB has dedicated our support to promoting the soundness and resilience of the Islamic financial services industry. In those years, our support and initiatives were accomplished by issuing and implementing global prudential standards and initiatives that foster knowledge sharing and cooperation. With 191 members, we have also seen substantial growth in membership and global presence – a trend we foresee will continue to climb as Islamic finance gains wider adoption.

These achievements have been made possible by the guidance of the IFSB Council, Executive Committee, Technical Committee, and the steadfast support of all members and stakeholders.

Once again, we express our appreciation to the Central Bank of Djibouti and all stakeholders for their support. We look forward to fruitful deliberations and elevating the IFSB's role in broadening the adoption of Islamic finance in new jurisdictions and practices.





Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB), which is based in Kuala Lumpur, was officially inaugurated on 3rd November 2002 and started operations on 10th March 2003. It serves as an international standard-setting body of regulatory and supervisory agencies that have vested interest in ensuring the soundness and stability of the Islamic financial services industry, which is defined broadly to include banking, capital market and insurance.

In advancing this mission, the IFSB promotes the development of a prudent and transparent Islamic financial services industry through introducing new, or adapting existing international standards consistent with Sharī'ah principles, and recommend them for adoption.

To this end, the work of the IFSB complements that of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS), International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS).

As of December 2023, the 191 members of the IFSB comprise 82 regulatory and supervisory authorities, 10 international inter-governmental organisations, and 99 market players (financial institutions, professional firms, industry associations and stock exchanges) operating in 58 jurisdictions.

Malaysia, the host country of the IFSB, has enacted a law known as the Islamic Financial Services Board Act 2002, which gives the IFSB the immunities and privileges that are usually granted to international organisations and diplomatic missions.

### CONTACT US

#### **Islamic Financial Services Board**

Level 5, Sasana Kijang, Bank Negara Malaysia,  
2, Jalan Dato' Onn, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tel: +6 03 9195 1400  
Email: [ifsb\\_sec@ifsb.org](mailto:ifsb_sec@ifsb.org)  
Website: [www.ifsb.org](http://www.ifsb.org)

## PROGRAMME OF ANNUAL MEETINGS & SIDE EVENTS

1-2 JULY 2024

DATE	PROGRAMME
Monday, 1 July 2024	<b>Members and Industry Engagement Session (MIES)</b> Hall: Nakheel 2
	<b>Launch of the IFSB Islamic Financial Stability Report 2024</b> Hall: Nakheel 2
	<b>16th Public Lecture</b> Hall: Nakheel 2
	<b>Public Hearing on IFSB Standard: ED-TN-6</b> Hall: Nakheel 2 (Hybrid)  This public hearing is to discuss the <b>Exposure Draft of the Technical Note on Macroprudential Tools for IIFS (Banking Segment) (ED-TN-6)</b> to improve the quality of the final Technical Note, as part of the 60-day public consultation process in IFSB's standard development due process.
	<b>CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR THE BANKING SECTOR IN DJIBOUTI</b> Hall: Nakheel 1  <b>Session 1: Guiding Principles on Risk Management for Islamic Financial Institutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding risks in Islamic Financial Institutions</li><li>• Credit and market risks</li><li>• Equity investment risk and rate of return risk</li><li>• Liquidity risk and liquidity risk management</li></ul> <b>Session 2: Shariah Governance Framework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shariah non-compliance risk</li><li>• Structure of the Shariah Governance System</li><li>• Components of the Shariah Governance System</li></ul>
	<b>DINNER AT SHERATON DJIBOUTI</b> Venue: Sheraton Djibouti For IFSB Council, Speakers, Full Members and Accompanying Officers only
Tuesday, 2 July 2024	<b>44th MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE IFSB</b> Hall: Nakheel 1 For IFSB Council, Full Members and Accompanying Officers only
	<b>22nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE IFSB</b> Hall: Nakheel 1 For all IFSB Members only

## 1 JULY 2024, MONDAY

ISLAMIC FINANCIAL SERVICES BOARD SIDE EVENTS 2024 HALL : NAKHEEL 2		CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR THE BANKING SECTOR HALL : NAKHEEL 1	
09:30 – 10:00	Registration	09:00 – 09:15	Welcoming/Opening remarks
10:00 – 10:45	<b>Members and Industry Engagement Session (MIES)</b>  Welcome Remarks from the Governor of Banque Centrale de Djibouti  Presentation by the Secretary-General of the IFSB	09:15 – 10:30	<b>Session 1: Guiding Principles on Risk Management for Islamic Financial Institutions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding risks in Islamic Financial Institutions</li> <li>• Credit and market risks</li> <li>• Equity investment risk and rate of return risk</li> <li>• Liquidity risk and liquidity risk management</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break	10:30 – 10:50	Break
11:00 – 11:30	<b>IFSB Side Events Opening Session</b>  Opening Remarks by Secretary-General, IFSB  Welcome Remarks by Governor, Banque Centrale de Djibouti  Keynote Address by Minister of Economy and Finance, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances, Charge de l'Industrie, Djibouti.	10:50 – 12:00	<b>Session 2: Shariah Governance Framework</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shariah non-compliance risk</li> <li>• Structure of the Shariah Governance System</li> <li>• Components of the Shariah Governance System</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
11:30 – 11:40	Launch of the IFSB Islamic Financial Stability Report 2024	12:00 – 12:30	Certificates giving ceremony <b>END OF WORKSHOP</b>

ISLAMIC FINANCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
SIDE EVENTS 2024  
HALL : NAKHEEL 2

11:40 – 12:20

**16th Public Lecture**

**Lecture 1**

**Mobilising Development Finance: Exploring the Growing Role of Islamic Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NBFIs)**

**Presentation by Dr. Slim Feriani**  
**Chief Executive Officer, Fonds Souverain de Djibouti**

In today's dynamic economic landscape, the mobilisation of development finance is a critical driver for sustainable growth and prosperity. The role of NBFIs in providing developmental finance is pivotal and multifaceted. NBFIs, which include a diverse range of institutions such as takaful companies, mutual funds, pension funds, microfinance institutions and development banks, play a crucial role in the financial system by complementing traditional banking services.

This session aims to provide a comprehensive exploration of the distinctive contributions, challenges, and potential presented by Islamic NBFIs in development finance.

**The objectives of the session are:**

- To look at the potential role of Islamic NBFIs in diversifying funding sources; providing support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs); and mobilising long-term financing.
- To discuss the regulatory environment in which Islamic NBFIs operate, identifying challenges;
- To look at potential opportunities to facilitate the role of NBFIs in driving economic growth and development.

12:20 – 13:00	<p>Lecture 2</p> <p><b>Financial Inclusion and Economic Empowerment: The Potential of Islamic Social Finance for Sustainable Development in Africa</b></p> <p>Presentation by Ripert BOSSOUKPE Secretary-General, Financial Markets Authority of the West African Monetary Union (AMF-UMOA)</p> <p>Islamic social finance holds significant potential for empowering communities and promoting sustainable development in Africa, leveraging principles rooted in Islamic finance to address socio-economic challenges.</p> <p>The session aims to explore of the role of Islamic social finance (ISF) in driving sustainable development initiatives across the African continent and discuss strategies for effective implementation of ISF instruments for the economic empowerment of communities.</p> <p>The session objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To look at how ISF instruments, such as waqf can help to bridge the funding gap for the sustainable development.</li> <li>• To explore the role and potential application of ISF (such as zakat, sadaqah and Islamic microfinance) in social welfare, poverty alleviation and economic and social empowerment.</li> <li>• The role of regulators and market participants in mobilising ISF instruments to improve financial inclusion and access to Islamic financial services for the underserved.</li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:00	<p><b>Public Hearing on IFSB Standard: ED-TN-6</b></p> <p>This public hearing is to discuss the <b>Exposure Draft of the Technical Note on Macroprudential Tools for IIFS (Banking Segment) (ED-TN-6)</b> to improve the quality of the final Technical Note, as part of the 60-day public consultation process in IFSB's standard development due process.</p>
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch
Open Networking   Free and Easy	
19:30 – 22:00	<p><b>Dinner at Sheraton Djibouti</b> For IFSB Members, Speakers, Accompanying Officers, and BCD's invitees only.</p> <p>Transportation will be provided and will depart from Djibouti Palace Kempinski (DPK) at 19:00. Please gather at the DPK main entrance latest by 19:00.</p>
END OF DAY 1	

**2 JULY 2024, TUESDAY**  
**44<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IFSB COUNCIL & 22<sup>nd</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE IFSB**  
 HALL: NAKHEEL 1

09:00 – 09:20	Arrival at Majlis
09:20 – 09:30	<b>Photo Session for Governors and Heads of Delegation</b> For IFSB Council, Full Members only
09:30 – 11:45	<b>44th Meeting of the IFSB Council</b> For IFSB Council, Full Members and Accompanying Officers only
11:45 – 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 – 12:10	<b>Photo Session for all members</b> For all IFSB Members only
12:10 – 14:00	<b>22nd General Assembly</b> For all IFSB Members only
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch & Prayer
END OF DAY 2	

**3 JULY 2024, WEDNESDAY**

08:00 – 16:00	Tourism-oriented activity by Banque Centrale de Djibouti Open to all
---------------	---

## SPEAKERS' PROFILES

### The Honourable Mr. Ilyas MOUSSA DAWALEH

Minister of Economy and Finance,  
in charge of Industry of Djibouti



Mr. Ilyas Moussa Dawaleh is a prominent figure in Djibouti's political and economic landscape. He holds a degree in Economic and Social Administration from the University François Rabelais in Tours, France, and a Master (DEA) in Marketing and Strategic Management.

In 1992, he returned to Djibouti to head the private sector within the Planning Department under the Presidency, where he contributed to drafting the Law on the Orientation of the Five-Year Plan. Joining the International Port of Djibouti in 1993, he quickly rose from project manager to Chief Operating Officer, serving until 2004, while also completing professional training at institutes in Washington, France, and London.

Transitioning to the private sector, Mr. Dawaleh founded and led several companies in Djibouti and abroad, negotiating key agreements such as the concession between Djibouti and Dubai Ports World. He co-founded the Club des Jeunes Entrepreneurs de Djibouti (CED) and held roles on the COMESA National Monitoring Committee, Ethiopia-Djibouti Joint Commission, and the National Commission for the Reform of the Chamber of Commerce, while chairing the BDMO Board of Directors.

Politically, Mr. Dawaleh was President Ismail Omar Guelleh's campaign manager for the 2011 election. Since September 2012, he has been the Secretary General of the ruling party, the Popular Rally for Progress (RPP), and led the Presidential Majority Coalition in the 2013 legislative elections.

As Minister of Economy and Finance, responsible for Industry since May 12, 2011, Mr. Dawaleh has significantly contributed to Djibouti's economic growth. Fluent in English, Arabic, and French, he continues to drive progress in both public and private sectors.

### H.E. Ahmed Osman Ali

Governor  
Banque Centrale de Djibouti



H.E. Ahmed Osman Ali, Governor of the Central Bank of Djibouti since January 2013, holds a Master's Degree in Economics and a Postgraduate Diploma in Banking Economics obtained in France.

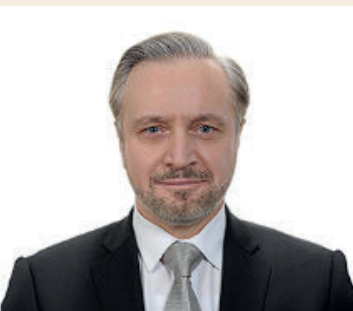
Before joining the Central Bank at the end of the 1980s, Governor Osman began his career in the field of tertiary education, where he, respectively, worked as a professor of economics at the high schools of Tours, at the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce, and at the Tours School of Management from 1985 to 1989.

He acquired a long and fruitful career at the Central Bank as Controller General of Operations and Head of Mission of the on-site Banking Supervision Department from 1989 to 1997. During this period, Governor Osman led the reform of the local financial system by introducing new regulations (Statutes of the Central Bank, Banking Law, Islamic Finance, Development of Microfinance), by reorganizing and strengthening the missions of the Central Bank (supervision, AML/FT, etc.), and conducting negotiations with Bretton Woods institutions.

Since 2013, Governor Osman has championed major reforms to transform the financial system, which includes modernization of the national payment system, improvement of the credit information system, introduction of leasing, creation of a guarantee fund for financing of SMEs, forming a national sharia committee, etc.

### Dr. Ghiath Shabsigh

Secretary-General,  
Islamic Financial Services Board



Dr. Shabsigh served as Assistant Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Monetary and Capital Markets Department where he played a pivotal role in driving IMF's central banking and fintech initiatives.

His illustrious career includes 25 years of experience in the area of Islamic finance, where he has been instrumental in shaping international institutions, formulating policies and standards, conducting analytical work, and providing technical assistance in Islamic banking regulatory frameworks, central banking operations, and sukuk markets for IMF member countries.

Dr. Shabsigh holds a PhD in Monetary and International Economics, an MA in Economic Development, a BSc. in Economics and Business, and several professional qualifications in banking and securities market operations.

## SPEAKERS' PROFILES

### Mr. Ripert BOSSOUKPE

Secretary-General  
Financial Markets Authority of the  
West African Monetary Union  
(AMF-UMOA)



Ripert BOSSOUKPE has been Secretary General of the Financial Markets Authority of the West African Monetary Union (AMF-UMOA) since July 2019. In this position, he participates alongside the Chairman of AMF-UMOA in strategic direction of the financial market and of the organization, and is in charge of the operational management of all the reform projects of the regional financial market of the WAMU.

He has twenty (20) years of professional experience in the financial sector in West Africa. His professional career began in the Benin office of the international audit and consulting firm Mazars. As Head of Mission, he supervised or directed, between 2003 and 2007, numerous missions of advice, audit, restructuring of companies in various sectors (telecommunications, industry, insurance, banking, aeronautics, development projects, etc.).

He continued his career at the AMF-UMOA where he was Director of Issuers for ten (10) years from 2009 to 2019, after a first experience of a few months as an Inspector in charge of market surveillance.

After a first course in public accounting, Mr. BOSSOUKPE is currently preparing a Doctorate of Business in strategic management at Georgetown University in the United States. He holds numerous certifications from Harvard Law School (Boston), the International Law Institute (Washington DC), the Toronto Centre and IESE.

At the international level, Mr. BOSSOUKPE was selected as an Expert, after a rigorous process, to participate in the work of the Working Group set up by the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) for the elaboration of the IFSB 24 standard devoted to the guidelines for the protection of investors in Islamic capital markets (IFSB 24) and published in December 2020.

### Dr. Slim Feriani

Chief Executive Officer  
Fonds Souverain de Djibouti



Dr. Slim Feriani is the CEO of the Fonds Souverain de Djibouti and Chairman of Djibouti Telecom.

He is the Former Minister of Industry, Energy, Mining, Renewable Energy, and SMEs of Tunisia (2017-2020).

Dr. Feriani worked at a number of financial services firms in the United Kingdom, such as investment bank Nomura International and asset management firms Martin Currie Investment Management (acquired by Franklin Templeton), Advance Emerging Capital (acquired by Aberdeen Asset Management), and GCA Asset Management (which then became Gulf Central Merchant Bank).

Dr. Feriani held senior positions, including those of Chairman, CEO, and Chief Investment Officer (CIO), as well as NED board roles in listed and privately owned companies.

Highly multicultural and holding dual British and Tunisian citizenship, Dr. Feriani lived and worked in the US, UK, and Tunisia. Covered and invested in nearly 100 countries and visited over 60 of them.

Fluent in English, French, and Arabic, Dr. Feriani holds an MBA and a Ph.D. in Finance, Investment, and International Finance from The George Washington University in Washington DC, where he taught courses in these areas of specialty and later sat on the Board of Advisors of its School of Business.



## SPEAKERS' PROFILES

**Mr. Suhail Issa Al Zadjali**  
Assistant Secretary-General,  
Membership, Engagement and  
Resources  
Islamic Financial Services Board



Suhail Al Zadjali currently serves as the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Membership Engagement and Resources at the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB), a prominent international standard-setting body of regulatory and supervisory authorities that have vested interest in ensuring the soundness and stability of the Islamic financial services industry, which is defined broadly to include banking, capital market and insurance.

In his current role, he is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the IFSB Standards and managing the core functions of the Secretariat, headquartered in Kuala Lumpur.

Suhail is seconded from the Central Bank of Oman (CBO), where he holds the position of Assistant Manager in the Banking Supervision Department. He has dedicated over 16 years of his career to the central bank. Prior to his tenure at the Central Bank of Oman, he gained experience in the Oil & Gas and Electricity sectors for more than four years.

Suhail holds a Bachelor's degree in Administration and Finance from Luton University (University of Bedfordshire) and a Master's degree in Islamic Banking and Finance from Bangor University, both located in the UK

**Dr. Abideen Adeyemi Adewale**  
Acting Assistant  
Secretary-General, Standard  
Implementation  
Islamic Financial Services Board



Dr. Abideen Adeyemi Adewale is the Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Standards Implementation at the IFSB. His journey at the IFSB began in April 2018 when he assumed the role of Lead Specialist for Research, Publications, and Statistics. In this capacity, he oversaw research activities, coordinated the publication of research papers, managed the flagship IFSB Islamic Financial Services Industry (IFSI) Stability Report, and maintained the Prudential and Structural Islamic Finance Indicators (PSIFIs) database, among other technical responsibilities.

Dr. Adewale brings to the IFSB a rich background in academia, boasting 18 years of professional experience. Of these, eight years were dedicated to serving as an Associate Professor of Finance at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). Prior to his academic tenure, he gained 10 years of valuable experience in Nigeria, which included a brief stint in a stock-broking firm, followed by a role as a Lecturer at the Department of Accounting and Finance at the University of Ilorin.

Dr. Adewale's academic journey culminated in a Ph.D. in Business Administration with a specialisation in Finance from IIUM, where he also completed a post-doctoral fellowship. He holds an M.Sc. in Finance from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and a B.Sc. in Finance from the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. In addition to his academic achievements, he possesses numerous professional qualifications that further enrich his diverse skill set.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### VENUE INFORMATION

All meetings and events held in conjunction with the IFSB Annual Meetings 2024 are held at Djibouti Palace Kempinski, Djibouti.



## THE HOTEL

Built in nine months by renown Japanese architects, Djibouti Palace Kempinski embodied a mix of African and Arabian culture in the Horn of Africa.

### REDEFINING LUXURY SERVICE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Rest like a sultan in the best hotel of the Horn of Africa, where elegance meets oriental luxury, in a destination full of wonders.

Awaken from our comfortable beds and enjoy an impeccable panoramic view of the beautiful Gulf of Tadjourah. Whether you are travelling for business or pleasure, our experienced team and personalised services invite you to a pleasant stay where not only experiences are made, but memories are created.

Kempinski White Glove Services has been implemented to ensure a healthy and safe environment for all our guests and employees worldwide, at all times.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

IFSB SECRETARIAT	DETAILS
Ms. Farhana Alhabshi	farhana@ifsb.org +603 9195 1439
Ms. Nurul Ashikin Alias	nurulashikin@ifsb.org +603 9195 1426
Mr. Ammar Khairi	ammar.khairi@ifsb.org +603 9195 1420
Ms. Nur Khairun Nissa Md Zawawi	khairun.nissa@ifsb.org +603 9195 1422

## INFORMATION ON DJIBOUTI

Dwarfed by Ethiopia to the north, west, south and everywhere in between, Djibouti is renowned as being one of Africa's smallest countries, yet equally one of its most fascinating. Situated along the seams of the Afar Triple Junction where three of the world's tectonic plates meet, the East African nation is a mashup of salt lakes, volcanic formations, expansive canyons and ceaseless plains, topped off by the stunning blue coastlines of the Gulf of Aden. Often described as the Iceland of Africa, Djibouti is somewhat a continental anomaly compared to many of its neighbours and remains relatively devoid of the waves of tourists to match. This is not to say that the country is unwelcoming, however.

It's not uncommon for travellers to be invited into locals' homes for a pot of tea, while ecotravel and activities such as hiking and diving are becoming increasingly popular. Further, other than pickpockets, crime rates affecting travellers remain low comparative to many other nations. Djibouti's stunning landscapes aside, Djibouti City remains the nation's epicentre. Home to well over half of the country's entire population, it is here that modernisation, progression and business travel are thriving, the capital dotted with high end hotels and varied restaurants – a far cry from its more remote corners.

### The Business End

Known as the 'Pearl of the Gulf of Tadjoura', Djibouti City is the main driver of the nation's economy. City port, for example, acts as the primary trade hub for not only Djibouti itself but equally for imports and exports to and from landlocked Ethiopia – a country 50 times its size. Combined with the coast of Yemen being situated just 800 kilometres from Djibouti as the crow flies, this makeup has dictated that the country's economy remains largely service driven, providing key transit and logistics solutions to the region while also acting as an international transshipment and refuelling station.

Owed to these tailwinds, accompanied by growing prosperity in many alternative industries such as construction, Djibouti saw a GDP growth rate of 6.7 percent through 2018. Further, incomes from tourism are both on the rise and becoming increasingly widespread. Key landmarks and historic buildings are traditionally found in populated urban areas, yet the nation's rising ecotourism is being shared amongst the country's more rural regions.

## Tourism Insights from Djibouti National Tourism Office

Djibouti has considerable potential due to its geographical position. Located at the crossroads between East Africa, the Arabic Peninsula, the Asian continent and Europe, Djibouti serves as a gateway to the Suez Canal. In terms of business, Djibouti was ranked 99th in the Doing Business Report 2019, gaining 55 places compared to the previous year. This highlights the country's positive economic climate and that Djibouti offers great investment opportunities, particularly in tourism and hospitality via the National Investment Promotion Agency which gives special incentives.

Further, the government has invested heavily in domestic infrastructure such as the reboot of Air Djibouti passenger flights in 2016, the inauguration of the new Addis-Ababa-Djibouti railway, the ongoing construction of two new international airports and the modernisation of the current airport.

Djibouti is one of the most fascinating destinations of Africa. As a trading post where different cultures have historically collided, Djibouti is home to a heady mix of African, Arabic and French influences, giving it an exotic atmosphere. The country offers diversified products, from diving to fishing, geological exploration to bird watching, and trekking to excursions. In addition, Djibouti was named as the "World Capital of Tourism and Culture" in 2018 by the European Council of Tourism and Trade and was also recommended by Lonely Planet as the fourth best destination.

The Republic of Djibouti has numerous sites such as Lake Assal, one of the most unique places in Africa. This meets an even rarer geological curiosity – the famous open-air fault where one can observe the meeting of two tectonic plates.

Also, you'll never forget your first glimpse of Lake Abbé. The scenery is sensational, and the plain is dotted with hundreds of limestone chimneys, some standing as high as 50 metres, often described as 'a slice of moon on the crust of the earth'. Djibouti is equally one of the few places to swim with whale sharks, while other popular tourist attractions include the Ardoukoba volcano and the forest of Balho.

In 2018, Djibouti initiated a new strategy for sustainable tourism to boost the industry through ecotourism and environmentally sustainable solutions. It is recommended that industry operators now plan their priorities around socially and environmentally responsible tourism while creating income-generating activities for local communities.

In the way of perseverance, the National Tourism Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment implemented a plan to make terrestrial and marine areas protected. As part of Djibouti Vision 2035, the National Tourism Office has expressed that it hopes to attract 500,000 visitors by 2030.

The National Tourism office of Djibouti is planning to increase its participation at tourism fairs and launched a campaign under the slogan 'Djibouti – a destination in the heart of adventures'. Djibouti is working to attract more tourists from Ethiopia which appears a significant potential market for Djibouti, cooperating with the Ethiopian Tourism Organization to promote joint packages. Further, the construction of new hotels is planned, as is the transformation of the old port of Djibouti into a cruise port.

## Out and About

While Djibouti City itself offers a mixture of westernised comforts and cultural phenomena, whether it be beautiful beaches or historic buildings, many of the country's true wonders can be found outside of the capital. This in mind, it is highly recommended to set aside some time for travel around the nation during your visit.

From shimmering lakes to the Goda Mountains, there are a range of natural marvels present, the most famous being Lac Assal. Renowned as the third lowest point on the earth's surface at 155 metres below sea level, this stunning crater lake can be found right in the heart of the country, home to waters that are 10 times saltier than the sea.

The islands of Moucha and Maskali are also worth a visit, both reachable via a 45-minute boat ride from the port of Djibouti town. The waters surrounding these enclaves are idyllic for divers, providing the opportunity to see manta rays, sharks and other exotic marine life.

Tadjoura Bay is equally recommended for not only its fantastic beaches but also its diverse aquatic flora and fauna, famed for unrivalled snorkelling and fascinating, relatively untouched reefs. Coastal fishing, as you might expect, is a key life source for the country. As such, both markets and restaurants can be found in an abundance, offering the chance to taste many local delicacies such as grilled Yemeni fish.

## Getting There and Around

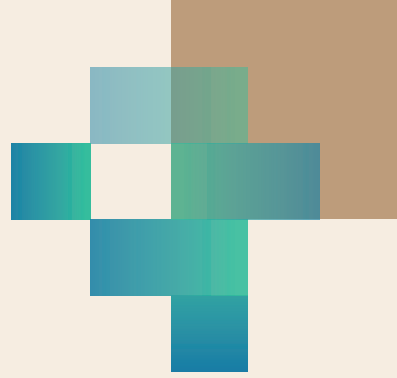
Prior to French colonialism, owed to Djibouti's history as a nomadic nation, the only real method of transport was via camel. Times have moved on since then, however, with the country home to a thriving international transportation centre – the Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport.

Situated roughly six kilometres from the centre of Djibouti City, it is well-equipped to serve hundreds of thousands of passengers a year and will be the primary method of entrance into the country for most.

From the airport, the easiest method of transport is taxi. All state owned and easy to spot with their bright green paint, these are easily found in and around the airport and the country's other urban areas. If you find a driver that you like, however, then it's relatively common practice to offer them repeat business. Just make sure that you always negotiate and agree a price before hopping in.

Other ways of navigating the country include water taxis such as the daily ferry services available to and from Obock, Tadjoura, Djibouti City, Moucha and Maskali. Land-borne public transport is less reliable. No rail services are in operation and buses and minibuses, being privately owned, aren't timetabled.

Drivers don't often speak English either, but fares can be as low as \$0.25, making this a cheap and relatively attractive option of travel.



# Visa requirements

## Passport validity

Like many countries, if you want to travel to Djibouti, you'll need to hold a passport with a minimum validity period of 6 months. This means that if you're planning to travel to Djibouti on the 1st of February 2024, your passport shouldn't expire before the 2nd of July 2024. Also, the local authorities require that your passport contains at least two blank pages.

## Visas

No matter your country of origin, you'll need a visa to enter Djibouti. To apply for your eVisa, you'll need to follow strict Djibouti visa requirements. You'll need a passport with at least six months of validity from the planned date of stay, your flight reservation, an invitation letter, an accommodation address and a credit card.

E-Visa application here: [Djibouti e-Visa Application](#)

## Visa-Exempt Countries

Citizens of Singapore holding ordinary passports can enter Djibouti without a visa and stay for an unlimited period. Similarly, nationals of China with passports endorsed "for public affairs" can also enter Djibouti without a visa and stay for an unlimited period.

## Health insurance

When planning a trip to Djibouti, it is essential to obtain comprehensive health insurance that covers any medical expenses incurred while abroad. The quality of healthcare facilities in Djibouti may vary, and private hospitals can be expensive, particularly for foreign nationals. Therefore, having reliable health insurance is crucial to avoid the burden of substantial medical bills or being denied treatment due to inadequate funds in case of an emergency.

Additionally, the risk of illness or accidents during travel is always present, and being prepared with a valid health insurance policy ensures access to sufficient medical care. Traveling without health insurance is not advisable as it can lead to unforeseen financial difficulties during an already stressful situation.

In Djibouti, severe medical conditions may necessitate medical evacuation to neighboring countries, which can be financially challenging. With reliable health insurance in place, travelers can have peace of mind, knowing that they can receive necessary medical treatment without significant financial strain. Thus, comprehensive health insurance is essential for a safe and worry-free trip to Djibouti, allowing visitors to fully enjoy their vacation without worrying about unexpected medical expenses or disruptions.

## Currency

Djibouti's currency is the Djiboutian Franc (DJF). Exchanging foreign currency is relatively easy in Djibouti, and you can do so at banks, exchange bureaus, and authorized Forex dealers in tourist areas, major towns, and cities. The Djiboutian Franc is the widely accepted currency throughout the country.

US Dollars and Euros are also commonly accepted in Djibouti, particularly at larger hotels, tour operators, and upscale establishments. However, it is advisable to carry smaller denomination notes, as larger bills may not always be accepted, or you might receive a lower exchange rate for them.

When using credit cards in Djibouti, it's best to have one with a Visa or Mastercard logo, as they are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and larger businesses. Nevertheless, it's essential to be aware that smaller establishments and businesses, especially in rural areas, may not accept credit card payments. Having some cash on hand is always a good idea, especially in remote areas where card payments might not be feasible.

For your trip to Djibouti, it is recommended to carry both the local currency (Djiboutian Franc) and some US Dollars or Euros in cash. You can exchange your foreign currency for Djiboutian Franc at banks and Forex bureaus or withdraw money from ATMs. Before traveling, inform your bank of your plans to ensure uninterrupted access to your funds while abroad. Being prepared with both cash and credit options will help you navigate various payment situations during your journey in Djibouti.

## Culture and Etiquette

Djibouti is a culturally rich and diverse country with various ethnic groups, and it is crucial to show respect for local customs and traditions while visiting. Djiboutians are generally warm and welcoming, appreciating visitors who express interest in their culture. When interacting with locals, it is customary to greet them with a handshake and use appropriate titles like Mr., Mrs., or Doctor when addressing someone.

Modest clothing is generally expected, particularly when visiting rural areas or religious sites. It is advisable for women to avoid wearing revealing attire, such as shorts or low-cut tops, as a sign of respect for local customs and to avoid unwanted attention. Public displays of affection should be limited, as they are generally not well-received in Djiboutian society.

When invited to someone's home or a local community, it is customary to remove your shoes before entering as a gesture of respect. It is also common to be offered food and drink during visits, and accepting these offers is considered polite, showing appreciation for local hospitality.

During meals, it is customary to eat with your right hand and avoid pointing your feet towards others, as it is considered disrespectful in Djiboutian culture.

By demonstrating respect for local customs and adhering to basic cultural etiquette, visitors can enrich their experience in Djibouti and foster positive interactions with the local population. Embracing and understanding the cultural diversity of the country will enhance your journey and lead to meaningful connections with the people you encounter.



## TELECOMMUNICATION

To call Djibouti from Djibouti, dial:

00 - 253 - Land Phone Number 00 - 253 - 8 Digit Mobile Number.

00 - Exit code for Djibouti, and is needed for making any international call from Djibouti.

253 - ISD Code or Country Code of Djibouti.

Area code - There are 0 area codes in Djibouti.

## PRAYER TIME

	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
25 Jun	04:29	05:48	12:12	15:39	18:37	19:51
26 Jun	04:30	05:48	12:12	15:39	18:37	19:51
27 Jun	04:30	05:48	12:13	15:39	18:37	19:51
28 Jun	04:30	05:49	12:13	15:39	18:37	19:51
29 Jun	04:30	05:49	12:13	15:40	18:38	19:51
30 Jun	04:31	05:49	12:13	15:40	18:38	19:51
1 Jul	04:31	05:49	12:13	15:40	18:38	19:51
2 Jul	04:31	05:50	12:14	15:40	18:38	19:51
3 Jul	04:32	05:50	12:14	15:40	18:38	19:51
4 Jul	04:32	05:50	12:14	15:40	18:38	19:52
5 Jul	04:32	05:50	12:14	15:40	18:38	19:52

## EMBASSIES & HIGH COMMISSIONS

There are about 30 diplomatic missions based in the city of Djibouti, including Embassies, Consulates, High Commissions of various countries.

### Africa

Country	Type of diplomatic missions	Phone number
Egypt	Embassy	(+253) 351231 (+253) 351232
Eritrea	Embassy	(+253) 77 44 10 59
Ethiopia	Embassy	(+253) 21 350 718 (+253) 21 353 519

### Asia

China	Embassy	(+253) 352247
India	Embassy	(+253) 21 350 142 (+253) 77 810927
Japan	Embassy	(+253) 2135 4981
Thailand	Honorary Consulate	(+253) 213 51332

### Central America and Caribbean

Cuba	Embassy	(+253) 340 671 (+253) 340 642
------	---------	----------------------------------



## Europe

Country	Type of diplomatic missions	Phone number
Austria	Consulate	(+253) 21 35 54 18
Belgium	Honorary Consulate	(+253) 21 351 065
Czech Republic	Consulate General	(+253) 213 531 65
Denmark	Honorary Consulate	(+253) 213 510 65
France	Embassy	(+253) 35 09 63
Germany	Embassy	(+253) 21 34 40 24
Greece	Honorary Consulate	(+253) 21 346766
Hungary	Consulate General	(+253) 353-444 (+253) 354-347
Italy	Consulate General	(+00) 25321350011 (+00) 25321352741
Netherlands	Honorary Consulate	(+253) 21 32 94 00 (+253) 21 32 94 42
Norway	Honorary Consulate	(+253) 21810363
Russia	Embassy	(+253) 21 35 07 40
Sweden	Honorary Consulate	(+253) 21 351 065
Turkey	Embassy	(+253) 21351290
United Kingdom	Consulate General	(+253) 3 85007

## Middle East

Kuwait	Embassy	(+253) 2132 0770 (+253) 1367 7639
Qatar	Embassy	(+253) 213 50116
Saudi Arabia	Embassy	(+253)21351898
United Arab Emirates	Embassy	(+253)21323303
Yemen	Embassy	(+253) 352 975

## North America

Canada	Consulate General	(+253) 21 35 59 50 (+253) 77 81 58 50
United States	Embassy	(+253) 21 45 30 00

