

**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT  
SOUTH AMERICA  
FRENCH GUIANA**

**Snapshots Section**

**Country Name:** French Guiana / *Guyane* / Department of Guiana

**Country Founded in:** March 19, 1946

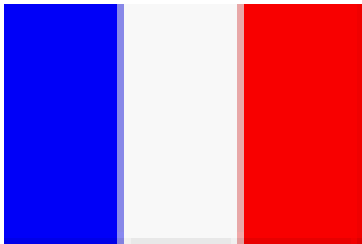
**Population:** 231,000 (2010 est.)

**Government Type: (national, regional and local)** N/A, Overseas Department of France

**Geography/location in the world:** Northern South America, East of Suriname, North of Brazil bordering Atlantic Ocean

**Number of people groups:** 26

**Picture of flag:**



**Religion Snapshot:**

**Major Religion and % of population:** Catholic (67.84%)

**All religions and % for each:**

Catholic (67.84%)

Protestant (10.12 %)

Protestant denominations (4.91%), Independent denominations (1.2%), Anglican (0.06%), Nominal (3.95%)

Traditional ethnic (2%)

Muslim (1.9%)

Baha'i (0.9%)

Chinese religions (3.5%)

Non-religious/other (13.73%)

**Government interaction with religion:** The colony of French Guiana has been under the French Constitution and as such promotes the freedom of religion along with its practice.

<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/samerica/gf.htm>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fr.html>

<http://www.umsl.edu/services/govdocs/wofact2006/geos/fg.html>

<http://www.iexplore.com/dmap/French+Guiana/History>

<http://esa.un.org/unpp/index.asp?panel=1>

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country\\_profiles/3516572.stm#facts](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles/3516572.stm#facts)

[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761569804/French\\_Guiana.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761569804/French_Guiana.html)

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php>

<http://www.peoplegroups.org/MapSearch.aspx?country=French+Guiana>

[http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country2.php?country\\_id=174#religion](http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country2.php?country_id=174#religion)

[http://www.adherents.com/adhloc/Wh\\_106.html#253](http://www.adherents.com/adhloc/Wh_106.html#253)

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108446.htm>

## Country Profile

### Basic Facts

**Country Name:** French Guiana/ *Guyane*/ Department of Guiana

### Demographics:

By 2010, the population of French Guiana is estimated to be about 231,000 people and the population density is set at 3 people for each square kilometer. This statistic is somewhat deceiving as more than 75% French Guianese currently live in urban areas which leaves the interior of the country sparsely populated.

In the year 2006 it was estimated that the population was growing by 2.4% a year. There were 25.2 births for every 1,000 people and about 3 children were born to each woman in French Guiana. There were slightly more males born than females.

The birth rate and population growth rate is tempered by 3.7 deaths for every 1,000 people in addition to a migration rate of 4 migrants for every 1,000 people. The death rate includes an infant mortality rate of 11.76 deaths for every 1,000 born. There are more male deaths than female deaths in infancy.

Only 6.3% of the population is over the age of 65 and 28.9% of the population is under the age of 14. The vast majority of the population of French Guiana is made up of those who are between the ages of 15-64 years of age (64.8%).

Overall, there are more males than females in every age group and the average age is 28.6 years of age. While the average life expectancy is 77.27 years, females have a life expectancy of almost 81 years compared to males who have a life expectancy of 73.95 years of age.

In all, there are 26 people groups living in French Guiana which can be divided into various ethnic groups. About 66% are Afro-Caribbean/mulatto, 12% are European and another 12% are Amerindian. Other ethnic groups would include Asian, East Indian, Brazilian, and Chinese.

<http://esa.un.org/unpp/index.asp?panel=1>

<http://www.umsi.edu/services/govdocs/wofact2006/geos/fg.html>

[http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country2.php?country\\_id=174#religion](http://operationworld.24-7prayer.com/country2.php?country_id=174#religion)

[http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator\\_detail.cfm?IndicatorID=30&Country=GF](http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator_detail.cfm?IndicatorID=30&Country=GF)

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/219071/French-Guiana>

<http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=French%20Guiana>

### Language:

Due to the fact that French Guiana is still a French Colony and is considered an Overseas Department of France, French is the official language of French Guiana. The language first made its appearance in the area when the region was colonized by the French in the early 1600s.

French is the language which is used in government and is the primary language taught in schools. It is also used for daily conversation and for conducting business. As such, the literacy rate of French in this country is as high as 82%.

While French is the official language of French Guiana, 9 other living languages are regularly spoken in French Guiana. These would include: Arawak, Carib, Hakka Chinese, Emerillon, Guianese Creole French, Caribbean Javanese, Palikur, Wayampi, and Wayana.

Guianese Creole French, also known as Patwa/Patois, is the second most spoken language in French Guiana with over 50,000 speakers. It is French based Creole which can also be understood if one knows Brazilian or St. Lucian Creole. This language, however, is mostly used in rural areas.

<http://www.umsl.edu/services/govdocs/wofact2006/geos/fg.html>  
[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=GF](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=GF)

### **Society/Culture:**

Since French Guiana was colonized by France and is an overseas department of France, it is highly influenced by France's culture in terms of politics, social norms, and customs. As it is a department of France and receives financial support, French Guiana is the richest nation of the Guianas. This prompts immigration from other neighboring countries which continues to diversify the culture of French Guiana.

French Guiana is a primarily urban nation, with over 75% of the population living in urban centers such as Cayenne and Kourou. Various groups continue to hold to their own traditional customs and those immigrating to French Guiana bring their own customs as well.

Those living in the interior of the county are usually found in simple houses constructed from the resources found in their environment. So it is not at all unusual for villages to be composed of simple huts with thatched roofs. On the other hand, the cities and urban areas are surprisingly modern and mirror the western world though colonial architecture can still be seen.

The influence of France can be seen in most aspects of daily life including the clothing that is worn on in French Guiana. Western-style clothing is normally worn in urban centers whose fashions are distinctly French. They do make some alterations to the clothing, however, as French Guiana has a different climate than would be found in France.

French influence can also be seen in gender roles and in the social stratification of French Guiana. Marriage laws are dictated by the French government and since the majority of those living in French Guiana are Catholic, most marriage ceremonies occur in churches.

Women are mostly in charge of the home while men are expected to provide for their respective families. However, there are some differences which appear in rural areas. Regardless, families tend to live close to one another even though the average number per household is decreasing.

Education is valued and is a sign of upper status regardless of gender. While women are allowed to work in the business world without discrimination, there are fewer women in the upper levels of any field.

[http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator\\_detail.cfm?IndicatorID=30&Country=GF](http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator_detail.cfm?IndicatorID=30&Country=GF)  
[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1117.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1117.html)  
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/the-guianas/french-guiana>  
<http://www.everyculture.com/wc/Costa-Rica-to-Georgia/French-Guianans.html>  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=VmIawS3SRcC&pg=PA84&lpg=PA84&dq=French+Guiana+Marriage&source=bl&ots=IKaLIDuHCF&sig=7ILyU2SeES-WMkk\\_E7yWcPjP7o&hl=en&ei=JLs7StiRL4qgMq2p1bcO&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=5](http://books.google.com/books?id=VmIawS3SRcC&pg=PA84&lpg=PA84&dq=French+Guiana+Marriage&source=bl&ots=IKaLIDuHCF&sig=7ILyU2SeES-WMkk_E7yWcPjP7o&hl=en&ei=JLs7StiRL4qgMq2p1bcO&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=5)

One of the things that French Guiana is most well known for is the French space center which is found in Kourou. This center helps with the tourism sector of the economy and also provides about 25% of the total economy revenue in French Guiana.

The site was approved in 1964 and the Center has cooperated with the European Space Agency since 1975. In addition, it is the center of French Guiana's industrial sector. Since the space center went operational, it has provided the French Guianese people with a stable source for employment. About 24% of the population is directly or indirectly connected to this center.

[http://www.esa.int/esaMI/Launchers\\_Europe\\_s\\_Spaceport/index.html](http://www.esa.int/esaMI/Launchers_Europe_s_Spaceport/index.html)  
<http://www.umsl.edu/services/govdocs/wofact2006/geos/fg.html>

Cuisine found in French Guiana is literally a melting pot of French, African, Amerindian, and East Asian influences. The cuisine of French Guiana is most well known for its stews. Spices such as nutmeg, chili peppers, cloves, cinnamon, ginger, and pepper are all staples found in most kitchens in French Guiana. Seafood is a major source of protein in the area and most dishes are served with rice.

French Guiana is well known for their various *Fricassees* which are stews that are made with red/white meat. Usually, these are served with rice and red beans. Another stew that is well known in French Guiana is the *Colombo* which is a spicy stew made with curry and vegetables.

Some stews, like the *Awara stock*, are usually eaten at festivals such as the celebration of Pentecost or Easter. This stew is made with the pulp from the fruit of the Awara palm tree along with chicken and fish. It is also a symbol which serves to welcome special or honored guests.

<http://www.tourisme-guyane.com/incroyable-guyane/tradition/gastronomie.html>  
<http://www.foodofsouthamerica.com/food-from-french-guiana.htm>  
<http://www.aftouch-cuisine.com/recipes-theme/french-guiana-food.htm>  
<http://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=FrenchGuiana>

As the history of slavery takes up a good portion of the former colony's history, much of the music and dance in French Guiana can be said to be afro-centric. Amerindian influences can be found in the addition of woodwinds and Maroon influences can be found in the drum beats of French Guiana's various music tastes. Despite its history and differences, the music and dance that is produced is a testament to the sharing of cultures and the crossing of cultural boundaries.

For example, *Aleke* music is derived from the sharing of French Guianese Creole and Maroon music which came about due to the search for gold in the interior of both French Guiana and Suriname. The Maroons provided the drums and the Creoles provided other instruments such as the clarinet. This style of drum-driven music finally came to its own in the 1950s and the first renowned band to play such music was *Salka* followed by *Bigi Ting*.

Other music, like *Bigi Pokoe* came from the neighboring influences of Suriname and developed in the 1930s. Mostly found in the west portions of the country, this type of music followed another type of music called *Kaseko* and was primarily a street version which included big drums. Now other instruments have been incorporated like the guitar and keyboard. However *Kaseko* is still popular in French Guiana.

French pop/rock music and ballads also have their place among the music tastes of French Guianese. This type of music continues to draw the younger generations into discos and clubs for entertainment. Each one of the music types above have their own dances and these dances vary by ethnicity and locale.

[http://www.experiencefestival.com/music\\_of\\_french\\_guiana](http://www.experiencefestival.com/music_of_french_guiana)  
<http://www.afromix.org/html/musique/pays/guyane/index.en.html> in French  
<http://dic.academic.ru/dic.nsf/enwiki/1042064>  
<http://www.imeem.com/people/da9T24/playlist/ZuPW1xvV/bigi-pokoekawina-music-playlist>  
<http://worldmusiccentral.org/article.php/20030414202502213>

There are a multitude of reasons to celebrate in French Guiana as every family occasion serves as a celebration. Family occasions would include the baptism of an infant, first communion, a marriage or birthday. Other family gatherings are more somber as in the case of a family death in which most relatives are obligated to come and comfort the family.

All French holidays are observed in French Guiana including Bastille Day which is celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. It commemorates the beginning of the French Revolution when Frenchmen stormed the Bastille prison in Paris. Other Non-religious holidays include Labor Day and Abolition Day which commemorates the abolition of slavery in French Guiana.

Other holidays which are celebrated are dependent upon the religion of the individual although most holidays are Catholic. These include observing Lent, Easter, Christmas, All Saints Day, and Ash Wednesday. There is a Pre-Lenten Carnival which takes place in which most of the population is involved in competitions involving costume design, music composition, and dance competitions.

<http://www.southtravels.com/america/frenchguiana/holidays.html>  
<http://gosouthamerica.about.com/cs/southamerica/a/FrGBastilleDay.htm>  
[http://www.worldtravelguide.net/country/93/top\\_things\\_to\\_see/South-America/French-Guiana.html](http://www.worldtravelguide.net/country/93/top_things_to_see/South-America/French-Guiana.html)

In terms of literature, the greatest contribution comes in the form of the French Guianese poet named Léon Damas (1912- 1978). Born in the capital of French Guiana, he sought further education in France and was the first Creole poet to have published a work from French Guiana.

His work, *Pigments* was published before the Second World War and can be described as a mix of French Surrealism, plain language and African American rhythms. He helped produce a literature movement in French Guiana during the 1920s which helped the development of his foundation for the “Black Student.”

[http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/hispanic/f\\_guiana/resources/f\\_guiana-language.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/hispanic/f_guiana/resources/f_guiana-language.html) all links in French  
<http://www.english.emory.edu/Bahri/Damas.html>  
[http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/ile.en.ile/paroles/damas.html&ei=XgBBSvqxKaG-NMLQ1MsI&sa=X&oi=translate&resnum=3&ct=result&prev=/search%3Fq%3DLeon%2BGontran%2BDamas%26hl%3Den%26safe%3Dactive%26rls%3Dcom.microsoft:\\*:IE-SearchBox%26rlz%3D117GGLG\\_en](http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/ile.en.ile/paroles/damas.html&ei=XgBBSvqxKaG-NMLQ1MsI&sa=X&oi=translate&resnum=3&ct=result&prev=/search%3Fq%3DLeon%2BGontran%2BDamas%26hl%3Den%26safe%3Dactive%26rls%3Dcom.microsoft:*:IE-SearchBox%26rlz%3D117GGLG_en)  
<http://www.krakemanto.gf/souzev2005.html>

Going to the cinema is one of the many things that people do in the cities as a form of entertainment. Overall, there are three theatres in the country and the theatres are somewhat large and even incorporate balconies in the seating arrangement for watching films. They are located in Cayenne, Kourou, and St. Laurent and mostly feature French films.

<http://www.worldtravelguide.net/country/93/entertainment/South-America/French-Guiana.html>  
<http://cinematreasures.org/theater/26754>  
<http://mintportal.bvdep.com/MintPortal-GJCKDIJIDIHIIIBIDIIIAI.urk>

A good portion of the Art to be found in French Guiana is folk art which is dependent upon ethnicity. Maroon, Amerindian, and some Vietnamese traditions have actually been incorporated into the production of cloth, wood carvings and pottery.

Lobie Cognac, who is an artist of French Guiana, is known for blending traditional themes with modern art techniques. Recognized since 1975 for her artistic abilities in sculpture and painting, Cognac bases her art on her perception of her environment while incorporating her Maroon heritage in reference to Maroon life along the rivers of French Guiana.

<http://www.absolutearts.com/portfolios/1/lobiecog>

The education system in French Guiana is modeled after the French education system and it is mandatory and free for all those between the ages of 6 and 16. The Guyane Educational Authority is located in the Cayenne and oversees primary, secondary and higher education. Everything is taught in French.

Primary education lasts for a period of 5 years and enrollment in urban areas is at 100%. Secondary education is broken down into two sectors which combined, make up 7 years. The first section is a four year program which ends with the Brevet de College exam. This is followed by a three year program which is ended by the student’s completion of the Baccalaureat exam.

After this, higher education is available to the students through the University Antilles-Guyane which further helps those who wish to be lawyers, teachers, administrators or farmers. There is one campus in Cayenne and another in Kourou. Together these two campuses serve over 1,500 students.

Since French Guiana is part of the European Union as an overseas department of France, all the privileges given to European students are found for the Guianese in Europe. Financial Aid has been made available to these students to help them acquire their education in Europe. As a result, many of those who seek higher education end up traveling to France or other European countries to further their education.

<http://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/488/French-Guiana.html>  
<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Americas/French-American-Dependencies-FRENCH-GUIANA.html>  
[http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=http://www.univ-ag.fr/&ei=4YdDStn-MI6-MMXvvLgC&sa=X&oi=translate&resnum=1&ct=result&prev=/search%3Fq%3DUniversity%2BAntilles-Guyane%26hl%3Den%26safe%3Dactive%26rls%3Dcom.microsoft:\\*:IE-SearchBox%26rlz%3D117GGLG\\_en](http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=http://www.univ-ag.fr/&ei=4YdDStn-MI6-MMXvvLgC&sa=X&oi=translate&resnum=1&ct=result&prev=/search%3Fq%3DUniversity%2BAntilles-Guyane%26hl%3Den%26safe%3Dactive%26rls%3Dcom.microsoft:*:IE-SearchBox%26rlz%3D117GGLG_en)

All health care is governed by the French State which works with other organizations in keeping the population healthy. This allows the local regions opportunity to be integrally involved in the health policies which are made and enforced. It is funded by tax dollars and everyone in the country is covered under this healthcare which is part of the Social Security system.

Due to the risk of some infectious diseases, vaccinations for tuberculosis, diphtheria, polio yellow fever, and mumps are mandatory and free to the public. In addition, there is a high level of incidence in terms of dengue fever and malaria which prompts the suggestion of vaccination before entering the country. Sexually transmitted diseases are also common in French Guiana and would include the HIV virus.

Almost 10% of all deaths in French Guiana can be attributed to AIDS. The beginning of the epidemic started in 2000 when 794 cases had been confirmed. On average, there are 2 males to every one female that is diagnosed with HIV. However, those who have contracted this virus are given adequate healthcare and the health care system is working on various issues in the area of prevention education.

On average there are 7 doctors available to every 1,000 people but most of these are found in the urban areas which leaves the rural areas without sufficient medical care. In addition, due to the stigma of being disabled, many of those who cannot care for themselves are turned away and do not get the care they need.

There are three public hospitals and three private clinics in French Guiana in addition to 21 centers and other health oriented posts. In addition, three centers are dedicated for the purpose of helping others with drug addiction and disease prevention. Most prescription medicines are imported from France.

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/french-guiana.aspx>  
[http://www.paho.org/english/dd/ais/cp\\_254.htm](http://www.paho.org/english/dd/ais/cp_254.htm)

Currently, French Guiana is known as the site from where Europe's first moon mission was launched from Kourou. A probe was sent into space to monitor and study the moon for a period of 30 months. The project cost the government a total of \$126 million.



There is also debate over the conservation of the many rainforests that cover the northern parts of South America which includes French Guiana. The forests of French Guiana belong to a part of the rainforest known as the Guyana Shield which is the largest span of unbroken forest in the world.

In terms of Foreign affairs, there is sometimes an issue as French Guiana's governmental status is questioned. Though it is an overseas department of France, there are still those who consider French Guiana as a simple colony of France because French Guiana is heavily dependent on France economically.

For more information in general or about the current events in French Guiana:

<http://www.tourisme-guyane.com> in French, click flags on right hand corner for translations  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/28/world/europe-s-1st-mission-to-moon-blasts-off-from-french-guiana.html>  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/03/31/opinion/foreign-affairs-saving-the-lost-world.html>  
<http://www.everyculture.com/wc/Costa-Rica-to-Georgia/French-Guianans.html>  
<http://www.everyculture.com/Cr-Ga/French-Guiana.html>  
<http://www.mapsofworld.com/country-profile/french-guiana-economy-people-culture-flag.html>  
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/219071/French-Guiana/2489/Government-and-social-conditions>  
<http://www.guyane-guide.com> in French  
[http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/french\\_guiana.htm](http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/french_guiana.htm)

### **Government:**

French Guiana is considered an Overseas Department of France. However, after a decentralization of government in 1982 the government gave local regions more authority to govern. This includes the Cayenne Prefecture, the Saint-Laurent du Maroni sub-prefecture along with 19 cantons and 22 communes which help to govern local areas.

The capital is Cayenne and French Guiana abides by the Constitution currently upheld in France. French Guiana still operates on three branches of government: the executive, the legislative and the judicial.

The executive branch is made up of the chief of state, the head of government and the cabinet which aids the head of government. The position of chief of state is currently held by President Nicolas Sarkozy, who is also the President of France as of May 2007, and will serve for a term of 5 years.

On the advice of the French Ministry of the Interior, the President appoints the Prefect in the colony of French Guiana who serves as a representative of the President of France. Prefect Jean-Pierre Lafaquiere has held this position since July of 2006.

The heads of government in French Guiana is made up of both the President of the General Council, as well as the President of the Regional Council. Both Presidents are voted to their position by their respective councils which also make up the Legislative branches. The President of the General Council is Pierre Desert and the President of the Regional Council is Antoine Karam. Both are appointed for 6 year terms and both will have upcoming elections by 2010.

The General Council is made up of 19 seats and the Regional Council is made up of 32 seats which are appointed on the basis of popular vote. Each member is appointed for a term of 6 years. These are charged with the legislative duties of the country and also send appointed persons to the French Senate and National Assembly for the purpose of representation.

By sending such persons, French Guiana is given the ability to be a part of the French legislature. For example, the Prime Minister is nominated by the National Assembly and is helped by his cabinet which is made up of a Council of Ministers. These are appointed by the President by suggestion from the Prime Minister. As of May 2007 Prime Minister Francois Fillon serves as the head of government of France.

The Judicial Branch is responsible for the enforcing of the laws which are passed by the legislature. Disputes are brought to local courts, but the highest court in French Guiana is the Court of Appeals which is located in Martinique. This specific court has jurisdiction over French Guiana, Martinique and Guadeloupe.

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Americas/French-Antilles-and-French-Guiana-POLITICS-GOVERNMENT-AND-TAXATION.html>

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/219071/French-Guiana>

<http://www.phrasebase.com/countries/french-guiana>

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country\\_profiles/3516572.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles/3516572.stm)

<http://www.umsl.edu/services/govdocs/wofact2006/geos/fg.html>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/FR.html>

### **Economy:**

The Euro has been used in French Guiana as the official form of currency since January 1, 1999. As a colony, French Guiana is still heavily dependent on the economy of France who is their largest importer and exporter.

In 2003, French Guiana was able to purchase up to \$1.667 billion a year and each person made about \$8,836 a year. About 25% of French Guiana's buying power comes from a French Space Station which was established at Kourou.

The budget allows for \$135.5 million to be spent which is also the amount of revenue which the government depends on for their expenditures. However, the national debt exceeds \$800 million.

Most of the economy of French Guiana is dependent on the services which are offered and 60.6% of the 58,800 people which make up the labor force work in this sector. Another 18.2% of the labor force is dedicated to the agricultural sector and 21.2% of the labor force works in the industrial sections. Almost 29.1% of the population is unemployed.

Agricultural products which are marketed in French Guiana would include corn, sugar, cocoa, vegetables, various meats, and fruits. Construction, gold, and forestry industries also help to compose the economy which allows French Guiana to trade with other countries.

French Guiana exports a total of \$137.5 million annually and France receives 62% of all exports. Typically export products would include shrimp, timber, gold, clothing, rum, and other

commodities from the forests which cover 90% of the country. French Guiana also exports to Switzerland and the United States.

France serves as the major importer for French Guiana and imports 63% of all its goods from France. Food, machinery, and fuel are usually imported into the country along with other transport equipment. \$625 million is usually imported in goods annually. French Guiana is also known to import goods from the United States, Trinidad, Tobago, and Italy.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/219071/French-Guiana>

<http://www.umsl.edu/services/govdocs/wofact2006/geos/fg.html>

[http://www.studentsoftheworld.info/country\\_information.php?Pays=GIA](http://www.studentsoftheworld.info/country_information.php?Pays=GIA)

<http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=French%20Guiana>

### **Literacy:**

Literacy is defined as those who are over the age of 15 who can read and write. Anywhere from 78-82% of the population of French Guiana is considered literate when this definition is employed.

There is not much difference between the genders in this general statistic, but males are slightly more literate than females in French Guiana. Differences in literacy between people groups which utilize different languages other than French vary according to the language that is used.

<http://www.umsl.edu/services/govdocs/wofact2006/geos/fg.html>

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=GF](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=GF)

### **Land/Geography:**

French Guiana is located in the northeastern part of South America. It is bordered to the south and east by Brazil, the Atlantic borders the north and Suriname borders the west. Covering an area of 91,000 sq km/ 35,135 sq mi, French Guiana is comparable to the size of the State of Indiana in the United States.

Overall, there are 89,150 sq km/ 34,421 sq mi of land mass and 1,850 sq km/ 714 sq mi of water in French Guiana. The coastline to the north accounts for a water boundary of 378 km/ 234 mi. Land boundaries total 805 k/ 499m which is made up of a 673 km/ 417 mi border with Brazil and a 510 km/ 316 mi border with Suriname.

Due to the position of French Guiana, which is just north of the equator, the climate is tropical and the weather is typically humid and hot. Though the average temperature is dependent on one's location in the country, averages range from the mid-80s to the low 90s (Fahrenheit). The humidity is usually moderated in the afternoon due to winds.

The amount of rainfall in an area is dependent of one's location in the country. The dry season is generally between the months of June and November. Heavy rains usually visit the area between the months of December through May. These storms pour out heavy rain very quickly which leads to some flooding problems.

A coastal plain makes up the coast of French Guiana in the north and the terrain gradually raises to the Tumac-Humac Mountains in the south which border Brazil. The lowest point is found at the coast where French Guiana borders the Atlantic Ocean which is at sea level. The highest point is found in the southern mountain ranges and the highest peak is Bellevue de l'Inini which is 851 m/ 2792 ft. above sea level.

Between the coastal plain and the mountain ranges is jungle and Amazonian Rainforest. There are many rivers which cross the area. The major rivers are the Maroni and the Lawa. The Lawa River borders Suriname and the Oyapok borders Brazil. These rivers flow from south to north due to the elevation changes.

More than 90% of the land in French Guiana is forested and due to the amount of forest coverage, only 0.13% of the land is considered arable. In addition only 0.04% of the land in French Guiana yields permanent crops. While the forest cover does not allow for much agriculture, the forest does allow for the abundance of natural resources such as timber, clay, niobium, bauxite, and gold.

The forests of French Guiana are also home to many plants and animals that are endangered and protected. One animal which is critically endangered and endemic to French Guiana is the Small-footed Water Rat. Other endangered species would include the Giant Armadillo, the Giant Otter and the Oyapock's Fish-eating Rat (native to French Guiana). Toucans, parrots, and other varieties of lizards, snakes, and butterflies can be found in these forests.

In reference to plant life, the forests of French Guiana are known for their tropical plants like paradise birds, tiger claws, and butterfly orchids. Other plants such as flower trees like the tulip tree or flamboyants are littered around the forests.

These forested areas are home to more than 1,064 species of animals and over 5,625 species of plants. About 15.4% of the forests are protected by law. French Guiana is not known to have any critical environmental issues at the moment, although there are signs that there may be a struggle in the future due to mining and clearing of forest for arable land.

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<http://rainforests.mongabay.com/20frenchg.htm>

[http://www.animalinfo.org/country/fr\\_guian.htm](http://www.animalinfo.org/country/fr_guian.htm)

<http://www.espace-amazonie.com/french.htm>

## History

Though Christopher Columbus had made the coasts of French Guiana known to the Western world in 1492 there were already a number of people living in the area. Three major groups which were found to inhabit French Guiana were the *Arawak*, *the Carib*, and the *Tupi Galibi* Indians. Though many believe there have been people living in French Guiana since 4,000 BC,

the earliest known group to have lived in the area was the Tupi Guarani Indians who were followed by the Arawak.

After some attempts to settle by Spaniards, the area was deemed uninhabitable due to the terrain and its inhabitants. The French did not attempt to settle in the area until 1604 when the first settlers came from France. The first settlement attempted by the French was named Wiapoca and was located near present day Cayenne.

Like the Spaniards before them, the French had fallen into skirmishes with the local Amerindians and the settlement was destroyed by 1609. Other attempts were made in the area near present day Cayenne in 1613 and in 1625. These failed due to Portuguese and Amerindian attacks.

Another area which the French chose to settle was in Suramaco where a settlement was attempted twice. Both attempts in 1626 and 1639 met with disaster and were destroyed. However, in 1635, Fort Louis was built in order to help protect the settlers from attack and also to help further the slave trade in French Guiana.

In 1643, the French established their first permanent settlement named La Ravardière, which was located in present day Cayenne. Another wave of settlers was sent from France in 1651 to continue to colonize the area of French Guiana. This attempt also ended badly and another group was sent in 1663.

Unfortunately, the settlement was again destroyed by Amerindian groups in 1664 and the French colony was taken over by the neighboring Dutch Guiana. The colony was handed back to the French in 1667 at the Treaty of Breda and La Ravardière was once again occupied by the French. Those who were sent in 1663 also helped in the reclaiming of French Guiana.

The Dutch came back to conquer the area in 1676, but were driven out that same year. Skirmishes continued between British Guiana, Dutch Guiana, and French Guiana for some time. The Dutch returned again to claim the land for the Dutch in 1676. Once again the land was returned to France in 1678 in the Peace of Nymegen.

<http://www.learn-french-help.com/history-of-french-guiana.html>

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[PA32&dq=French+Guiana+Indians&lr=&as\\_brr=3](http://books.google.com/books?id=CjUYAAAAMA AJ&pg=RA1-PA32&dq=French+Guiana+Indians&lr=&as_brr=3)

[http://books.google.com/books?id=JOhRUWqZiMMC&pg=PA183&lp=PA183&dq=Tupi+Guarani+Indians&source=bl&ots=LHXgjRi4Jy&sig=hZZpJFEMqnTzqKGOO2w0FHqKSA&hl=en&ei=gJdDStGJD4HgMYeM5bQC&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=5](http://books.google.com/books?id=JOhRUWqZiMMC&pg=PA183&lp=PA183&dq=Tupi+Guarani+Indians&source=bl&ots=LHXgjRi4Jy&sig=hZZpJFEMqnTzqKGOO2w0FHqKSA&hl=en&ei=gJdDStGJD4HgMYeM5bQC&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=5)

[http://books.google.com/books?id=wrJmCvFY6ocC&pg=PA88&dq=French+Settlement+Cayenne&as\\_brr=3](http://books.google.com/books?id=wrJmCvFY6ocC&pg=PA88&dq=French+Settlement+Cayenne&as_brr=3)

[http://books.google.com/books?id=7eRaAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA237&dq=French+Guiana+Indians&lr=&as\\_brr=3](http://books.google.com/books?id=7eRaAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA237&dq=French+Guiana+Indians&lr=&as_brr=3)

A new century brought with it new wars in Europe as 1700 marked the beginning of the Spanish Succession and a war between Spain and Portugal. As Portugal occupied the Brazilian Region south of French Guiana they both agreed to a treaty in which a neutral boundary was set between the two colonies.

A year later, Portugal ceded some territory to French Guiana, but when Portugal signed a treaty with England in 1703, foreign relations with French Guiana were strained. The French took over Rio de Janeiro in 1704. In addition, the French also attacked the Dutch colonies surrounding it and remained in power from 1708-1712.

A truce between Portugal and the French was signed in 1711 and in 1713 the Peace of Utrecht was signed. This returned all the land lost to Portugal in 1701 and also gave Brazil the southern half of French Guiana. The war between the two nations ended in 1716 and in 1718 France changed their political outline of French Guiana to “the Emergence of Council of Policy and Justice.”

After this time, the economy of French Guiana started to grow as sugar, cotton, and coffee became profitable exports. However, land disputes began over coffee lands between Dutch and French Guiana around 1727. Brazil was asked to help in the mediation of the issue and while helping in the land disputes, Brazil whisked away coffee seedlings which helped their own economy.

In 1777, La Ravardière was declared as the capital of French Guiana and was renamed Cayenne in order to commemorate an Amerindian Chief of that century. Meanwhile, skirmishes between the natives and the Maroons were continuing to have their effects on the political atmosphere of the colony.

Later, in 1781 the English conquered all three of the Guiana colonies including French Guiana. Their control only lasted for two years until the French conquered the area and regained control of all three. This lasted until 1796 when the English colony once again took control of the area.

It was around this time that the French Revolution had taken its toll in Europe and was thus affecting the governance it held over its colonies. The late 1700s were marked by numerous changes in political leadership between the three territories and also inside of the French colony.

<http://www.galenfrysinger.com/cayenne.htm>

[http://books.google.com/books?id=wqUNAAAIAAJ&pg=PA484&dq=French+Guiana+History&lr=&as\\_brr=3](http://books.google.com/books?id=wqUNAAAIAAJ&pg=PA484&dq=French+Guiana+History&lr=&as_brr=3)

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<http://books.google.com/books?id=wqUNAAAIAAJ&pg=PA484&sig=IFY-xtjbBH52Ie2ihOEUtJsiw>

Skirmishes inside and outside the country resulted in power struggles and many changes in legislature. After a period of English rule, the colony was handed over to Portugal in 1809. French Guiana finally came into the hands of the French in 1817 which was during the time of Napoleon’s reign in France and after the Treaty of Vienna was signed in 1815.

In addition to the various changes in rule, French Guiana was also going through its abolitionist movement which began the process for the abolition of slavery. Victor Schoelcher and Marquis de Lafayette are two of the most well known abolitionists in French Guiana and helped to end the slave trade to the region in 1848.

This recognized the emancipated slaves as completely free and new citizens of the French colony. However, it was a blow to the colony's economy as these newly freed citizens moved to more coastal towns where they were more able to enjoy their freedom. They were replaced by other laborers imported from other areas of the world.

However, in 1852 Napoleon III decided to establish French Guiana as a penal colony and eventually sent more than 70,000 to suffer on islands and in prisons in French Guiana. The first governor, Sarda Garriga even allowed for corporate punishments which amounted to torture of the prisoners. By 1854, all criminals in France with three sentences to serve were shipped to French Guiana. Conditions in these prisons did rise due to philanthropic efforts in the mid-1800s.

In addition, there were prisons made just for the purpose of holding the prisoners in the unhealthiest of climates and situations. The most famous island known for this is Devil's Island which is home to the prison named *Le Bagne*. Only 20,000 of the prisoners survived their ordeal and those that survived were compelled to live in the area for an equal amount of time as their sentence in prison.

The most famous prisoner held in French Guiana was Alfred Dreyfuss who was a Jewish army captain and was the only prisoner on the island for a number of months. He had been convicted of spying for Germany in 1894, but was given pardon in 1899. He later became one of the governors of French Guiana.

Gold was found in the region in 1853 and because of this, border disputes began to flare up between Brazil, French Guiana, and Dutch Guiana. These disputes were put to rest before 1915. A formal land border was determined between French Guiana and Brazil in 1900, although there were still some border disputes between French Guiana and Suriname.

<http://www.ohio.edu/chastain/rz/schoel.htm>

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[http://www.experiencefestival.com/a/History\\_of\\_French\\_Guiana\\_-\\_1800s\\_and\\_the\\_penal\\_era/id/5129674](http://www.experiencefestival.com/a/History_of_French_Guiana_-_1800s_and_the_penal_era/id/5129674)

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[http://books.google.com/books?id=7\\_ERAAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA1-PA67&sig=bKeaqTt2fvPf4a2TBt1B5PmyvWg](http://books.google.com/books?id=7_ERAAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA1-PA67&sig=bKeaqTt2fvPf4a2TBt1B5PmyvWg)  
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French Guiana continued to function as a penal colony until 1938 when France stopped the practice of sending criminals to France to finish out their sentences. The actual prisons, however were not closed until 1953.

French Guiana then became a French overseas Department in March of 1946 despite their neighbors clamor for independence. As a result they were and still are economically supported by France and enjoy the highest standard of living in the Guiana regions today. In addition, France decided to place a Space Centre in Kourou which continues to feed the economy.

France maintained its governmental role until the 1970s when civil unrest resulted in the decentralization of government in 1982. This involved giving local governments more responsibilities under their respective Regional Councils.

[http://www.archive.org/stream/modernfranceanin010417mbp/modernfranceanin010417mbp\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/modernfranceanin010417mbp/modernfranceanin010417mbp_djvu.txt)  
<http://ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article573>  
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<http://worldinfozone.com/facts.php?country=FrenchGuiana>  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/pgc.asp?page=mod/1595raleigh-guiana.html>  
<http://www.tourisme-guyane.com>  
[http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Fr\\_Guiana.html](http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Fr_Guiana.html)  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=pWRjGZ9H7hYC&pg=PA683&dq=French+Guiana+Indians&lr=&as\\_brr=3](http://books.google.com/books?id=pWRjGZ9H7hYC&pg=PA683&dq=French+Guiana+Indians&lr=&as_brr=3)  
<http://www.iexplore.com/dmap/French+Guiana/History>

## **Christian History**

Since the primary religion of France during colonial times was Roman Catholicism, it is no surprise that the Roman Catholic Church was the first Church to minister to those in French Guiana. However, the first Catholic missionary, a Dominican Father named Sala, was from Spain! His mission did not last long, however, as he was martyred shortly after his arrival.

The first church from France to minister to those in French Guiana arrived in 1624 and was actually a Protestant Church. However, after Roman Catholicism was established by both the French and the Spanish in 1636, the Protestant Church had little support and grew very little.

Centuries later, in 1905, France signed a law which separated the church from the state and prohibited the discrimination of persons based on their religious preferences. As French Guiana was a colony of France, and under the authority of France, French Guiana was bound by this law which allowed for more Protestant missions to take place in the country.

The first Protestant group to enter the country after the law was signed was the Christian Brethren, also known as the Open Plymouth Brethren, who came in the early 1900s. Seventh-day Adventists, Baptists, and other evangelical churches followed within the century.



Interestingly, although the first Protestant group entered the country in 1624, they were not officially recognized as a church until 1997. The group is now thought of as the predecessors of the Evangelical Church of French Guiana. In addition, there are seminaries which are supported by protestant churches, which help to equip leaders for ministry in the country.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=gn9WhwjceZIC&pg=PA489&sig=oimO8r6AT\\_bN7dC-dHGZZPlee-M](http://books.google.com/books?id=gn9WhwjceZIC&pg=PA489&sig=oimO8r6AT_bN7dC-dHGZZPlee-M)  
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[http://www.reformiert-online.net/weltweit/49\\_eng.php](http://www.reformiert-online.net/weltweit/49_eng.php)  
<http://www.prolades.com/historical/fgu-chron.htm>  
<http://www.state.gov/drl/rls/irf/2008/108446.htm>

## Religion

### Non Christian

#### *Islam*

Most believe that Islam was introduced into French Guiana after the emancipation of the slaves in 1848. However, there is evidence that some of the slaves which were brought from Africa were Muslim.

Muslims are allowed to practice their religion and they account for about 1.9% of the total population. There is also an Islamic cultural center in Cayenne which is a member of the Latino American Dawah Organization.

[http://74.125.95.132/search?q=cache:087p5xSYodkJ:web.wm.edu/middlepassage/scholarship/documents/MBA\\_Diof.pdf+African+muslims+French+Guiana&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us](http://74.125.95.132/search?q=cache:087p5xSYodkJ:web.wm.edu/middlepassage/scholarship/documents/MBA_Diof.pdf+African+muslims+French+Guiana&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us)  
[http://www.adherents.com/adhloc/Wh\\_106.html#253](http://www.adherents.com/adhloc/Wh_106.html#253)  
<http://books.google.com/books?id=FN0OAAAQAAJ&pg=PA15&dq=Islam+in+French+Guiana>  
[http://www.latinodawah.org/links/links2.html#FR\\_GUIANA](http://www.latinodawah.org/links/links2.html#FR_GUIANA)

#### *Hinduism*

Like Islam, Hinduism made its way to French Guiana through indentured laborers from India. These were those who were hired to take the place of slaves on plantations after 1848.

Those who believe in the Hindu faith are free to practice and congregate if they wish to do so. Currently, 1.6% of the total population is estimated to practice Hinduism.

[http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Fr\\_Guiana.html](http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Fr_Guiana.html)  
[http://www.guyanajournal.com/hinduism\\_caribbean.html](http://www.guyanajournal.com/hinduism_caribbean.html)  
<http://indiandiaspora.nic.in/diasporapdf/chapter19.pdf>

## *Buddhism*

While it is uncertain as to when Buddhism was introduced into the country, the freedom of practice and meeting is still allowed to those who put their faith in Buddhism. The Hakka Chinese is the ethnic group most closely associated with Buddhism.

The *Soka Gakkai* International group has a small following in the country and they organize events for their members. Currently, at least 0.8% of the population can be considered Buddhist.

<http://www.sgi.org/events050521b.html?pv=28>

<http://www.sgi.org/events060407.html?pv=28>

[http://books.google.com/books?id=OzEOKNPsV2EC&pg=RA1-PA72&lpg=RA1-PA72&dq=Buddhist+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=uYh1ojwJED&sig=xoIa9dqjZEVqzJQ9bcWG1yzFERs&hl=en&ei=C91MSuGvEIfYNrjz9OQD&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=5](http://books.google.com/books?id=OzEOKNPsV2EC&pg=RA1-PA72&lpg=RA1-PA72&dq=Buddhist+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=uYh1ojwJED&sig=xoIa9dqjZEVqzJQ9bcWG1yzFERs&hl=en&ei=C91MSuGvEIfYNrjz9OQD&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=5)

## *Baha'i*

The Baha'i teachings first made their appearance in French Guiana in 1953 and have grown to incorporate administrative councils in local communities. Overall, they can be found in almost 50 areas in French Guiana. About 0.9% of the total population follows the Baha'i faith.

<http://www.bahai.org/worldwide-community/national-communities/french-guiana>

## *Jehovah's Witness*

It is not known when the Jehovah's Witness group came to French Guiana although they did have a gathering of about 1,000 by 1983. They are allowed to practice and congregate and they currently boast 1,950 members which amount to about 0.85% of the total population. These members are ministered to by the 34 congregations found in the country.

[http://www.watchtower.org/e/statistics/worldwide\\_report.htm](http://www.watchtower.org/e/statistics/worldwide_report.htm)

[http://www.adherents.com/adhloc/Wh\\_106.html](http://www.adherents.com/adhloc/Wh_106.html)

## *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)*

The LDS Church started to appear in French Guiana in 1980 after Charles Fortin was baptized into the Church in France and then returned to his homeland of French Guiana. Others came from France and an organized group was formed in 1988.

The first missionaries were then sent in 1989 and a chapel was erected in 1999. The Church has grown very slowly as members have moved to France. Currently, there are two units which serve 200 people which accounts for 0.12% of the total population.

<http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/contact-us/french-guiana>

## *Indigenous/ Non-religious/other*

About 13.73% of the total population falls into this category as they practice traditional/ indigenous religions which are mainly based on spiritism and animism. Some of these have been practiced before the discovery of French Guiana by the west and some of these were brought to French Guiana by way of the slave trade.

Regardless, those that practice these religions are free to do so under the law. It is also important to keep in mind that some people are dually aligned and practice their traditional religions alongside other established ones.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=c1uNAcafWV0C&pg=PA317&dq=French+Guiana+Indians&lr=&as\\_brr=3](http://books.google.com/books?id=c1uNAcafWV0C&pg=PA317&dq=French+Guiana+Indians&lr=&as_brr=3)

### *Catholic/Orthodox*

The first effective Catholic missionary presence in French Guiana came by way of the Jesuits who attempted to evangelize the Tupi-Galibi tribe. Though this indigenous people were known to be violent, the missionaries appeased them with their charity and wisdom.

Others were not quite as fortunate as the first Jesuits. For example, the French Capuchin friars attempted to minister to the indigenous peoples on the coast, but were soon martyred. The Dominican Father Sala was also martyred followed by other Fathers and friars of the Catholic faith.

By 1651, the Catholic Church had established the Apostolic Prefecture of French Guiana in Cayenne. In 1674, Fathers Grillet and Bechamel decided to start an important mission which would lead to the founding of the first Church in French Guiana. The church was built at the mouth of the Kourou River and was only accomplished after 23 years of labor with the indigenous tribes found in the interior.

The following century was marked with the arrival of the four Sisters of Saint Paul which ministered to the poor and the criminals which were sent to the area. Another Catholic female presence came in the early 1800s with the arrival of Sisters from the Order of Saint Joseph of Cluny. Of these, the most famous is Anne Marie Javouhey, and is spoken of in many heroic legends and myths in French Guiana.

By 1933, The Apostolic Prefecture of French Guiana had been promoted to an Apostolic Vicariate. It was not until 1956 that the Diocese of Cayenne was established. The Bishop now serving the Catholic Church in Cayenne is Bishop Emmanuel Marie Philippe Louis Lafont.

Currently, 67.84% of the population of French Guiana is considered to be Catholic. The main cathedral found in Cayenne is the Cathedral of Saint-Sauveur. Catholics are free to congregate and worship as they please in accordance with the laws which protect religious freedoms.

<http://faithofthefatherssaints.blogspot.com/2006/08/blessed-anne-marie-javouhey.html>

<http://www.paulchartres.org/eng/where/world.php>

[http://books.google.com/books?id=o96ZuocvjQsC&pg=PA93&dq=French+Guiana+Indians&lr=&as\\_brr=3](http://books.google.com/books?id=o96ZuocvjQsC&pg=PA93&dq=French+Guiana+Indians&lr=&as_brr=3)

<http://books.google.com/books?id=y-MCAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA71&sig=KazPVSP2Qlq2Ks3O3nH5yaLGpWU>

<http://www.gcatholic.com/dioceses/diocese/caye0.htm>

<http://www.capuchin.com/who/history-capuchins.php>

## **Christian/Evangelical**

### *Christian Brethren/ Open Plymouth Brethren*

The Christian Brethren first made their appearance in French Guiana during the early 1900s. They currently have a following of 300 persons which are served by the 12 congregations established in French Guiana. There are no foreign missionaries of this denomination in the country and this church goes by the name *Frères Larges Mission Evangélique*.

<http://www.brethrenportal.com/PlymouthBrethren/PlymouthBrethrenStatistics.html>

### *Baptists*

The first Baptist missionaries were sent to French Guiana in 1982. Their work was fruitful and in 1984 a congregation had been established in the missionary's home. Although there is only one recognized pastor, there have been four churches established since then.

These congregations serve about 450 persons which make up about 0.2% of the total population. They are allowed to congregate and their churches are located in Cayenne and Kourou. There is even a Theological Education extension center.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=gn9WhwicezIC&pg=PA489&sig=oimO8r6AT\\_bN7dC-dHGZZPlee-M](http://books.google.com/books?id=gn9WhwicezIC&pg=PA489&sig=oimO8r6AT_bN7dC-dHGZZPlee-M)

### *Evangelical Church of French Guiana*

This church claims to be the end product of the first French Protestants which arrived in French Guiana in 1624. However, the church itself was not established until 1997. It currently serves 100 members and has one ordained minister.

This church has been known to work with other Protestant denominations and also holds services on the military base in Cayenne. As such, the church has close ties with the military and its minister maintains Chaplaincy status with France.

<http://www.reformiert-online.net/adressen/detail.php?id=12190&lg=deb>

### *Seventh- Day Adventists*

Reverend T. Colthurst was the first Seventh Day Adventist minister in French Guiana and arrived in 1940 in order to do door-to-door evangelism. He was followed by other ministers and by the late 1940s a church had been established. Missions were then started for indigenous peoples and the first Caribs were baptized in 1958.

In 2003 it was estimated that the Seventh Day Adventist Church had over 1,700 members which were served by 6 churches. Like other denominations, they are free to congregate without discrimination by the government. They currently have 2,087 members which accounts for 0.9% of the total population.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=fYFLksIywcC&pg=PA105&lpg=PA105&dq=Seventh+Days+Adventists+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=WKmb4twC2Z&sig=uAbtOaYI3KpEfuLl4-ES4bz2qF0&hl=en&ei=cLlTSqrDFJHANS\\_Sle0l&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=3](http://books.google.com/books?id=fYFLksIywcC&pg=PA105&lpg=PA105&dq=Seventh+Days+Adventists+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=WKmb4twC2Z&sig=uAbtOaYI3KpEfuLl4-ES4bz2qF0&hl=en&ei=cLlTSqrDFJHANS_Sle0l&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=3)

### *Assemblies of God*

While it is not known as to the exact date of the arrival of the Assemblies of God Church to French Guiana, there is evidence that Pentecostal churches started to minister to the country as early as 1976. By 1979 there was an Assemblies of God Church with almost 200 members and currently the membership is at over 900 members which accounts for 0.3% of total population.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=-D13WcSnGnIC&pg=PA140&dq=Pentecostal+French+Guiana&as\\_brr=3](http://books.google.com/books?id=-D13WcSnGnIC&pg=PA140&dq=Pentecostal+French+Guiana&as_brr=3)

### *Salvation Army*

The history of the Salvation Army in French Guiana began in 1933 with their witnessing to those who had been sent to the penal colony. They continued to work there until 1952 when the colony shut down the system used to send criminals to French Guiana.

The Salvation Army returned again in 1980 and have since founded churches which serve about 250 people in the country. This new mission to French Guiana sprouted out of the mission which was stationed in Jamaica and is the current headquarters of the church.

[http://www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/www\\_sa.nsf/vw-local/Caribbean](http://www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/www_sa.nsf/vw-local/Caribbean)  
[http://www.salvationarmy.org/ihq%5Cwww\\_sa.nsf/vw-sublinks/B3A5335DE083697E802573C400544826?openDocument](http://www.salvationarmy.org/ihq%5Cwww_sa.nsf/vw-sublinks/B3A5335DE083697E802573C400544826?openDocument)

### *Church of the Nazarene*

The Church of the Nazarene began its work in French Guiana with the arrival of Pastor Elisois Maignan in 1988. However, he did not join his efforts with the Church of the Nazarene until after he had planted a church. The church started and has stayed in Cayenne and currently ministers to at least 600 persons.

<http://www.caribbeannazarene.org/wmcaribbean/Countries/FrenchGuiana/tabid/76/Default.aspx>

For more general information:

<http://www.prolades.com/historical/fgu-chron.htm>  
<http://www.religiousintelligence.co.uk/country/?CountryID=69>  
[http://www.adherents.com/adhloc/Wh\\_106.html](http://www.adherents.com/adhloc/Wh_106.html)

## **People Groups**

**22282**

**Aluku (6,871)**

During the period of slavery in French Guiana, there were groups of slaves who would run away from their plantations and form their own tribes in the interior of the country. These groups of people were named Maroons or Bush Negroes. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, however, all the Maroon groups which had originally formed in French Guiana were wiped out and Maroon groups from Suriname immigrated to French Guiana.

The Aluku people group is one of the Maroon groups from Suriname now living in French Guiana that also goes by the names of Boni, Aukan, or Ndjuka. Most are found in the coastal lowlands and the tropical rainforests of French Guiana's northwestern border along the Maroni River.

Currently, they have a sedentary lifestyle and participate in gold mining, agriculture, and fishing. Their primary language is Aukan, but there are various dialects which are used that are dependent on location.

The majority of the Aluku people are known to be Roman Catholic with about 6.67% of their number being evangelical Christian. Currently, work is being done among this people group in order to foster a church movement. Both the Scriptures and the *Jesus* film are available in their primary language.

<http://www.culturalsurvival.org/ourpublications/csq/article/the-aluku-and-communes-french-guiana>  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=egFN2PG0oQIC&pg=PA127&lpg=PA127&dq=Aluku+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=H20u3elQZw&sig=oTNxUmg7ah8VWh-V4xlZtBVzFXk&hl=en&ei=MgJWStqrJpDUMoH9-JOI&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=8](http://books.google.com/books?id=egFN2PG0oQIC&pg=PA127&lpg=PA127&dq=Aluku+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=H20u3elQZw&sig=oTNxUmg7ah8VWh-V4xlZtBVzFXk&hl=en&ei=MgJWStqrJpDUMoH9-JOI&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=8)  
<http://www.mona.uwi.edu/dllp/jlu/ciel/pages/boni.htm>  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=LuiP2SC3OacC&pg=PA16&lpg=PA16&dq=British+Guiana+Maroon&source=bl&ots=6GNgHM0\\_m3&sig=gpGlh7JXnkU1DeZwAs87YIg7IHw&hl=en&ei=V3aJSpeVO43SMq3dhdIE&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=10#v=onepage&q=British%20Guiana%20&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=LuiP2SC3OacC&pg=PA16&lpg=PA16&dq=British+Guiana+Maroon&source=bl&ots=6GNgHM0_m3&sig=gpGlh7JXnkU1DeZwAs87YIg7IHw&hl=en&ei=V3aJSpeVO43SMq3dhdIE&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=10#v=onepage&q=British%20Guiana%20&f=false)

## **16328**

### **Arawak (598)**

Also known as the Lokono people, the Arawak are an indigenous people who are found among the northwestern coastal areas of French Guiana. They are also known to live in the northern coastal areas of Cayenne.

In comparison with other groups, the Arawak are traditional in that they make their living from fishing, hunting, and agriculture and are considered to be sedentary. Their primary language is Arawak.

While it is unknown how many are evangelical Christian, estimates range from 5-10%. The *Jesus* film is not available for use in this language, but there are Biblical portions which have been translated. Regardless, ministerial resources are available to this people group in the official language of the country (French).

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/southamerica/arawak.html>  
[http://www.native-languages.org/arawak\\_culture.htm](http://www.native-languages.org/arawak_culture.htm)

**16329**

**Brazilian (18,231)**

Since Brazil is a country that borders French Guiana, it should come as no surprise that Brazilians can be found in French Guiana. Depending on their ancestral heritage, the Brazilian people have divided themselves into two sub-groups: white and mulatto. A major influx of immigration from Brazil started in the 1960s for those that were attracted to the more stable economy.

Regardless, Brazilians in general speak Portuguese as their primary language and a variety of ministry tools are available to them in Portuguese including both the Scriptures and the *Jesus* film. This availability of materials has helped in ministering to the people to the effect that over 10% of this people group's population is Evangelical Christian. In addition, the people in these churches are also known to send out missionaries.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=NR1upOe8KKMC&pg=PA107&lpg=PA107&dq=Brazilians+in+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=iqB0Ck4seO&sig=0ERIMDtmsZ5qXmZZjnedjxuFd8Q&hl=en&ei=PvRVStviO4aeMbjdgJ4I&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=3](http://books.google.com/books?id=NR1upOe8KKMC&pg=PA107&lpg=PA107&dq=Brazilians+in+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=iqB0Ck4seO&sig=0ERIMDtmsZ5qXmZZjnedjxuFd8Q&hl=en&ei=PvRVStviO4aeMbjdgJ4I&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=3)

**16332**

**Carib (2,390)**

Also known as the Kalina/Galibi, the Caribs are an indigenous people who continue to live in traditional settings and rely on fishing, farming, and paid labor. They dwell in the coastal northwestern regions of French Guiana and alongside the Maroni River. The Caribs also live in the Awala-Yalimapo, Iracoubo and Kourou regions.

While most of the Carib people are Roman Catholic, about 25% are known to be evangelical Christian and work is being done with this people group in order to produce a church movement in the region. Their primary language is the Tyrewuju dialect of Carib and both the Bible and the *Jesus* film are available in this language for ministry use.

<http://www.cariblanguage.org/galibi.html>

<http://www.emusic.com/album/The-Kalina-Amerindians-French-Guiana-Songs-Of-The-Kalina-Amerindians-MP3-Download/10607221.html>

**22284**

**Caribbean Hindi (1,793)**

The Caribbean Hindi, also known as East Indians, came to French Guiana after the abolition of slavery in 1848 as indentured labor to replace the slaves on the plantations. Interestingly, while they brought Hinduism to the region, their primary religion is actually Protestant Christianity.

In fact, 13.7% are evangelical Christian and there is a group of churches ministering to this people. This is possible due to the many resources that are available to this people group in their primary language of Caribbean Hindustani. These resources would include the scriptures as well as the *Jesus* film.

<http://indiandiaspora.nic.in/diasporapdf/chapter19.pdf>

**16333**

### **Caribbean Javanese (980)**

The Javanese made their way to French Guiana between 1891- 1939 when they were contracted for labor in the Guianas. They have retained a good part of their culture despite their changed surroundings. This would include retaining their primary language of Javanese.

Though their primary religion is Sunni Islam, about 11% are considered to be evangelical Christian. There is at least one known church in the area which ministers to the people and many resources have been made available to them. These would include the Bible and the *Jesus* film.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=NR1upOe8KKMC&pg=PA27&lpg=PA27&dq=Javanese+in+Guianas&source=bl&ots=iqB0ClZugR&sig=af8fEFCF0KL2HoMfuiLt1ICAKK2I&hl=en&ei=1gBWSvC3JI6CMeenvZ0I&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=1](http://books.google.com/books?id=NR1upOe8KKMC&pg=PA27&lpg=PA27&dq=Javanese+in+Guianas&source=bl&ots=iqB0ClZugR&sig=af8fEFCF0KL2HoMfuiLt1ICAKK2I&hl=en&ei=1gBWSvC3JI6CMeenvZ0I&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1)  
[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=jvn](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=jvn)

**44757**

### **Deaf (965)**

While the Deaf in French Guiana have their own culture, it is important to remember that they are also part of other people groups. There is no official record of what their primary dialect of Sign Language is and there is little evidence of schools which are available to them.

As such, ministry among the deaf of French Guiana should be individually tailored dependent on the ethnicity of the person. This may require the teaching of Sign Language before witnessing if the individual does not know how to read. Translation of materials, such as the French Bible and *Jesus* film, would also be of help alongside visual tools.

**22288**

### **Dominican (1,195)**

The Dominican people group consists of those who have immigrated to French Guiana from the Dominican Republic. Most of them are Roman Catholic and it is unknown how many are evangelical Christian. However, written scripture, the *Jesus* film and other audio recordings are available to Dominicans in their primary language of Spanish.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

**16334**

### **Emerillon (478)**

Also known as Emerilon/Teko/Emerenon, the Emerillon are an indigenous people that have been living in French Guiana before the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Though they were once known for being a nomadic people, they are now sedentary and live near the southern borders of French Guiana along the Maroni and Oiapoque Rivers. They still survive on agriculture, farming, and fishing.



Their primary religion is animism, which is a traditional religion. There are no known evangelical Christians among them. Neither the Bible nor the Jesus film has been translated into their primary language of Emerillon but there is a gospel recording available for ministerial use. The Bible and the Jesus Film are both available to this people group in the official language of the country.

<http://www.everyculture.com/South-America/Emerillon.html>

**22281**

**French (16, 648)**

The French found in French Guiana are the descendants of those who came and colonized the country. These would include persons from France during the colonial time, those who were sent as punishment during the time French Guiana was a penal colony, French Jews, and those who came to colonize the area after attempts in Canada.

Their primary religion is Roman Catholicism and less than 1% of the French population in French Guiana is evangelical Christian. However, there are agencies which are at work to minister to this people group and are attempting to produce a church movement in the area.

Ministerial tools are available to them in their primary language (French) which includes both the Bible and the *Jesus* film along with worship music and gospel recordings.

<http://www.acadian-cajun.com/exfr.htm>

[http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/french\\_guiana.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/vjw/french_guiana.html)

**22287**

**Guadeloupian (1,195)**

Those who are Guadeloupian in French Guiana are the descendants of those who immigrated to French Guiana from the Overseas Department of Guadeloupe. The majority of Guadeloupians are Roman Catholic and it is unknown how many are evangelical Christian. Regardless, the written Scripture, the *Jesus* film and Gospel recordings are available to them in their primary language of Guadeloupian Creole French.

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Americas/French-Antilles-and-French-Guiana.html>

**16335**

**Guianese (79,177)**

The Guianese people group consists of those who are born in French Guiana which would include the descendents of plantation owners, the descendants of slaves, and the descendants of those who intermingled with these groups. Currently, they divide themselves into three sub-groups dependent on their ethnicity: White, Mulato, and Guyanese. Language and religious data vary according to the respective sub-group.

Those who are White Guianese account for 15,000 of this collective people group and primarily speak a French Guianese Creole. Their main religion is Roman Catholicism, but it is estimated that at least 5% of this population is evangelical Christian. While neither the Scriptures nor the *Jesus* film are available in this language, it is available to this population in the official language of the country. There are multiple people involved in reaching out to this specific group.

Those who are Guianese Mulatto, 61,189 people in the Guianese people group, primarily speak French Guianese Creole. Their primary religion is also Roman Catholic, but only 2 % of them are evangelical Christian. The Bible and the *Jesus* film are not available to them in their primary language, but these resources are available to them in the country's official language. Though there has been no active church planting in reference to this group there are agencies which are working to produce a church movement among this people.

The Guyanese, 2,988 of the people in this group, primarily speak a Guyanese Creole English. The majority of this group are Roman Catholic and it is unknown how many are evangelical Christians. Like the other groups, there are no ministry tools available to this group in their primary language, but resources are available in the country's official language.

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>  
<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php>

### **16336**

#### **Haitian (36,749)**

As Haiti was also once a French colony, there have been ties with French Guiana for quite some time. Mass immigration to French Guiana from Haiti began in the 1980s as the Haitian people looked for work in a more stable economy.

Their primary language is Haitian or a type of Haitian Creole French and the Bible and the *Jesus* film are both available to them in these languages. Most are Roman Catholic. It is estimated that over 10% of the Haitian population is evangelical Christian. A church has been established to reach this people group.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=4AJRE8zf2EoC&pg=PA90&lpg=PA90&dq=Haitians+in+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=r3ftu7HkMg&sig=Cpi35sFmtoxO-qAfYyQXpRjaWiw&hl=en&ei=pNcSpOGBZWENpC6\\_L8C&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=5](http://books.google.com/books?id=4AJRE8zf2EoC&pg=PA90&lpg=PA90&dq=Haitians+in+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=r3ftu7HkMg&sig=Cpi35sFmtoxO-qAfYyQXpRjaWiw&hl=en&ei=pNcSpOGBZWENpC6_L8C&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=5)  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=EswJ7t1B0XgC&pg=PA161&lpg=PA161&dq=Haitians+in+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=E380BHh5-i&sig=IntHKFDj15FqMD\\_KUUuEzaFyGcs&hl=en&ei=wJRcSrufMYWaMJasa4C&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=1](http://books.google.com/books?id=EswJ7t1B0XgC&pg=PA161&lpg=PA161&dq=Haitians+in+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=E380BHh5-i&sig=IntHKFDj15FqMD_KUUuEzaFyGcs&hl=en&ei=wJRcSrufMYWaMJasa4C&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1)

### **16338**

#### **Han Chinese/Hakka (14,628)**

The Chinese first made their appearance in French Guiana in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as laborers to work the plantations. The first wave came from other Caribbean countries like Trinidad, where the Chinese were already present. Later, the French hired Chinese from Indochina directly to work the land.

The majority in this people group practice an ethnic religion, however, this people group is also closely associated with Buddhism. It is unknown how many are evangelical Christian, but there are estimates that the number is more than 5%. Both the Bible and the *Jesus* film are available to the Chinese in their primary language of Hakka Chinese.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=VV9khhBOrlUC&pg=PA185&lpg=PA185&dq=Chinese+in+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=gN7xhoPA-&sig=NtaCArYaZ2oAJjnPczgoq-DK4iQ&hl=en&ei=iZ5cSvSUJ4v4NcG6uK4C&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=10](http://books.google.com/books?id=VV9khhBOrlUC&pg=PA185&lpg=PA185&dq=Chinese+in+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=gN7xhoPA-&sig=NtaCArYaZ2oAJjnPczgoq-DK4iQ&hl=en&ei=iZ5cSvSUJ4v4NcG6uK4C&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=10)

## **16339**

### **Hmong (4,780)**

The Hmong of Laos started immigrating to French Guiana in 1977 following the Secret War in Laos. Although they came to the country as refugees, they now control about 80% of the fruit and vegetable production in French Guiana.

Their primary religion is Roman Catholicism, but about 8.93% is evangelical Christian. While the Bible is available to them in their primary language of Hmong Njua, the *Jesus* film is not. There is a group of evangelical churches which are reaching out to this people group and the *Jesus* film is available to them in French.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/22/world/americas/22guiana.html>

<http://74.125.95.132/search?q=cache:nZub3->

[IECt0J:www.hmongstudies.org/ClarkinHSJ6.pdf+Urban+French+Guiana&cd=13&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us](http://www.hmongstudies.org/ClarkinHSJ6.pdf+Urban+French+Guiana&cd=13&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us)

## **22280**

### **Lebanese Arab (837)**

It is unknown exactly when the Arab people group first came to French Guiana. They are primarily Islam and speak a dialect of North Levantine Arabic. 0.56% of this population is known to be evangelical Christian and there is a group of churches which are reaching out to this people group. The Bible and other various recordings are available to them in their primary language, but the *Jesus* film is not. Other ministry resources are available in the country's official language.

<http://www.wehaitians.com/french%20benefits%20migrants%20find%20help%20south%20of%20us%20border.html>

## **22290**

### **Martiniquan (3,585)**

The Martiniquan who live in French Guiana are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants who came to French Guiana from Martinique, which is another Overseas Department of France. As such, these two colonies have a shared history.

Their primary religion is Roman Catholic and it is unknown how many are evangelical Christian. They primarily speak a Lesser Antilles Creole French and neither the Bible nor the *Jesus* film is available to them in this language. These materials are available to them in the country's official language.

[http://books.google.com/books?id=2c6ifbjx2wMC&pg=PA110&dq=Martinique+migrants+French+Guiana&lr=&as\\_brr=3](http://books.google.com/books?id=2c6ifbjx2wMC&pg=PA110&dq=Martinique+migrants+French+Guiana&lr=&as_brr=3)

**22291**

**North African Muslim (60)**

There has been evidence of African Muslims in the Caribbean since the slave trade began as some of the slaves that were brought to the new world were Islamic. Those in the North African Muslim people group are descendant of those who came from North African regions. Their primary religion is Islam and their primary language is the standard Arabic. It is unknown how many, if any, are evangelical Christian. Both the Bible and the *Jesus* film are available to them in their primary language.

[http://74.125.95.132/search?q=cache:087p5xSYodkJ:web.wm.edu/middlepassage/scholarship/documents/MBA\\_Diof.pdf+African+muslims+French+Guiana&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us](http://74.125.95.132/search?q=cache:087p5xSYodkJ:web.wm.edu/middlepassage/scholarship/documents/MBA_Diof.pdf+African+muslims+French+Guiana&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us)  
<http://webspace.webring.com/people/vu/umk00/Caribbean.html>

**16340**

**Palikur (1,793)**

Also known as the Paricuria/Paricores, the Palikur is an indigenous people group which lives on the eastern border of French Guiana and around the capital city of Cayenne. They are still considered semi-nomadic and traditional as they are a hunter/gatherer society.

The majority of this people group is Protestant Christian and it is estimated that over 5% of this population is evangelical Christian. Churches are being established within this people group.

The Scriptures and Gospel recordings are available to them in their primary language of Palikur even though the *Jesus* film is not. The film is available to them in the official language of the country.

**22289**

**Peruvian (598)**

Peruvians who live in French Guiana are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants who came from Peru. The majority of Peruvians in French Guiana are Roman Catholic and at least 2% of the population is known to be evangelical Christian.

There hasn't been any active church planting in reaching out to this people group, but materials are available to them in their primary language of Spanish. These materials would include the Bible, the *Jesus* film and worship music among other gospel recordings.

**16341**

**Saramaccan (5,975)**

Like the Aluku, the Saramaccan people are the descendents of the runaway slaves which escaped from Dutch plantations in Suriname during the colonization of the area. They are also referred to as a Maroon people group. Those who migrated to French Guiana, have had more influence from the Portuguese and the French, so dialects and some traditions are different from those who reside in Suriname.

Their primary religion is Animism and traditional religions, but 3% are known to be evangelical Christian. There are those who are working in order to produce a church movement among this people group and materials such as the Bible and the *Jesus* film are available in their primary language Saramaccan.

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=Suriname](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=Suriname)

<http://www.folklife.si.edu/resources/maroon/foodways/guiana.htm>

[http://www.worldmap.org/country.php?ROG3=NS&QryHead=Christian%20Religion&QryFld=CP\\_Religion\\_Christian](http://www.worldmap.org/country.php?ROG3=NS&QryHead=Christian%20Religion&QryFld=CP_Religion_Christian)

**22286**

**St. Lucian (1,195)**

Those that are St. Lucian come from the Island of St. Lucia which is another Overseas Department of France. Most are Roman Catholic and speak a dialect of English called St. Lucian English. It is unknown how many are evangelical Christian, but both the Bible and the *Jesus* film are available to them in their primary language along with other resources like Gospel recordings and music.

**16432/22285**

**Surinamers (19,194)**

The Surinamese are immigrants, or the descendants of immigrants, who came to French Guiana from Suriname to find work. A portion of these, about 598, are Suriname Hindi. These are the descendants of Indian laborers who the Dutch contracted. Another portion is made up of Surinamese Creole who makes up the majority of this group.

The Suriname Hindi people primarily speak Hindi and practice Hinduism. It is estimated that at least 2% is evangelical Christian. The Bible and the *Jesus* film are both available to them in their primary languages and there is a group of churches which are ministering to this people group in French Guiana.

Those who are Surinamese Creole speak Sranan and usually practice Animism or other traditional religions. Estimates claim that less than 2% of this population is evangelical Christian though there is work being done which reaches out to this people group. Both the Bible and the *Jesus* film are available to the Surinamese Creole in their primary language.

<http://www.wehaitians.com/french%20benefits%20migrants%20find%20help%20south%20of%20us%20border.html>

<http://www.ponline.org/docs/0971/237507.html>

**43717**

**Wayampi (792)**

The Wayampi, also known as the Amapari, is an indigenous people group which lives along the Amapari River and along the Oyapock River which border French Guiana and Brazil. Most practice traditional religions and Animism, but at least 2% are known to be evangelical Christian. The Bible and the *Jesus* film are both available to this people group in their primary language.

[http://alfred.med.yale.edu/alfred/recordinfo.asp?condition=populations.pop\\_uid='PO000132G](http://alfred.med.yale.edu/alfred/recordinfo.asp?condition=populations.pop_uid='PO000132G)

**16344**

### **Wayana (359)**

Also known as the Oayana or Aiana, the Wayana people are an indigenous people group of South America which dwell alongside the Maroni River. They mainly live in the following four villages: Cayode, Tuenke, Taluhen, and Antecume-pata. They have maintained their traditional culture and are a sedentary people which survive in a hunter/gatherer fashion. They also are known for selling handicrafts.

The majority of the Wayana practice Animism and ethnic religions and it is estimated that less than 2% of this population is evangelical Christian. The *Jesus* film is not available in their primary language of Wayana, but the Bible and other Gospel recordings are available in Wayana. The *Jesus* film is available to this people in French.

General:

[http://www.nativeplanet.org/indigenous/ethnicdiversity/indigenous\\_data\\_latinamerica.shtml](http://www.nativeplanet.org/indigenous/ethnicdiversity/indigenous_data_latinamerica.shtml)

<http://www.imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

[http://www.archive.org/stream/tomtom006255mbp/tomtom006255mbp\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/tomtom006255mbp/tomtom006255mbp_djvu.txt)

<http://www.umsl.edu/services/govdocs/wofact2006/geos/fg.html>

<http://www.peoplegroups.org/MapSearch.aspx?country=French+Guiana>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php>

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=GF](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=GF)

<http://books.google.com/books?id=q1a4j2HNmjUC&pg=RA1-PA782&dq=Martinique+French+Guiana>

### **Missiological Implications**

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should recognize the unique opportunities to evangelize the peoples of French Guiana. The presence of 13 % of the people who are non religious should be understood to mean primarily followers of traditional religions. The Palikur would be one group that evangelicals could target.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop means for sharing the Good News with Roman Catholics and train local believers to use these methods.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to provide Christian resources in the various languages of French Guiana.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should provide Christian films to meet the national pastime of enjoying films. These Christian films might find a ready place in the society of this area.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should strive to equip local believers to evangelize the peoples and start churches. This equipping should include the use of Bible Storying

and small group methods of sharing the Good News and gathering the saved into congregations.

6. Evangelical Christians and churches should consider direct evangelistic and church starting ministries among groups such as the Caribbean Javanese, the Han Chinese, and the Hmong who have sizable populations in this area. Christians from these peoples might be recruited to work among the peoples.

### **Pictures**

<http://www.tourisme-guyane.com/en/french-guiana-pictures/slide-shows.html>  
<http://www.ddbstock.com/frenchguiana1.html>  
[http://www.galenfrysinger.com/french\\_guiana.htm](http://www.galenfrysinger.com/french_guiana.htm)  
<http://www.southamericanpictures.com/archive/French%20Guiana/FGuiana3.htm>  
<http://www.picturesofplaces.com/CentralSouthAmerica/frenchguiana.html>  
<http://www.peterlanger.com/Countries/F/French-Guiana/index.htm>  
[http://www.pbase.com/world/french\\_guiana](http://www.pbase.com/world/french_guiana)  
[http://www.hansrossel.com/photos/french\\_guiana\\_pictures\\_images/index.htm](http://www.hansrossel.com/photos/french_guiana_pictures_images/index.htm)  
<http://www.travelpod.com/photos/0/French%20Guiana.html>  
<http://www.southamericanpictures.com/archive/French%20Guiana/FGuiana-index.htm>

### **Links**

[http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/hispanic/f\\_guiana/f\\_guiana.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/hispanic/f_guiana/f_guiana.html)  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=3mE04D9PMpAC&pg=PA1508&lpg=PA1508&dq=Javanese+in+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=6yMUwIj4D2&sig=lr1yP4DF-ftYxZOKMYoYB8LdKPo&hl=en&ei=EwBWS03cFpK4NvLL5Z0I&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=5](http://books.google.com/books?id=3mE04D9PMpAC&pg=PA1508&lpg=PA1508&dq=Javanese+in+French+Guiana&source=bl&ots=6yMUwIj4D2&sig=lr1yP4DF-ftYxZOKMYoYB8LdKPo&hl=en&ei=EwBWS03cFpK4NvLL5Z0I&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=5)  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fr.html>  
<http://www.umsl.edu/services/govdocs/wofact2006/geos/fg.html>  
<http://www.iexplore.com/dmap/French+Guiana/History>  
[http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761569804/French\\_Guiana.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761569804/French_Guiana.html)  
<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php>  
<http://www.peoplegroups.org/MapSearch.aspx?country=French+Guiana>  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/108446.htm>  
<http://www.tourisme-guyane.com> in French, click flags on right hand corner for translations  
<http://rainforests.mongabay.com/20frenchg.htm>  
<http://www.espace-amazonie.com/french.htm>