

Key Facts about Sierra Leone

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About Sierra Leone

- It is a **tropical country** in **West Africa**, on **the Atlantic coast**.
- **Borders:** It is bordered on the north and east by **Guinea**, on the south by **Liberia**, and on the west by the **Atlantic Ocean**.
- **Geography:** The nation is largely made up of **lightly wooded hills** with a concentration of **mangrove swamps** along the **coast**.
- **Rivers:** Some of the major ones include the **Rokel River, Taia River**, Moa River, and Sewa River.
- **History:**
 - Sierra Leone was **colonized in 1787** by formerly enslaved people arriving from **England**; other groups followed from Nova Scotia (1792) and Jamaica (1800).
 - They were sponsored and governed by the private Sierra Leone Company until 1808, when Britain made Sierra Leone a crown colony.
 - **In 1961**, Sierra Leone **became independent** of the UK.
- **Population:** It has a population of about 7.5 million people. It is home to **16 ethnic groups**. Each group has their **own language** and traditional **attire**.

- **Language:** **English** is the **official language**; however, **Krio** is the language that is **understood by most** of the population.
 - **Government:** It is a **constitutional republic** with a **directly elected president** and a **unicameral legislature**.
 - **Capital:** The capital, **Freetown**, commands one of the world's **largest natural harbours**.
 - **Economy:**
 - Although most of the population is engaged in **subsistence agriculture**, Sierra Leone is also a **mining centre**.
 - Its land yields **diamonds, gold, bauxite, and rutile** (titanium dioxide).
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Q1: What are mangrove swamps?

Mangrove swamps are coastal wetlands found in tropical and subtropical regions. They are characterized by halophytic (salt loving) trees, shrubs and other plants growing in brackish to saline tidal waters. These wetlands are often found in estuaries, where fresh water meets salt water and are infamous for their impenetrable maze of woody vegetation.

Source: [Sierra Leone declares national emergency on drug abuse](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/key-facts-about-sierra-leone/>

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