

## The Angolares of Sao Tome and Principe



representative photo by [Jonas Banhos](#) cropped CC

Sao Tome is an equatorial island off the west coast of Africa in the country of Sao Tome and Principe. The climate is humid and hot, just a mile north of the equator. Most Angolares live in their traditional homeland. Others move to the capital in search of a new life.

The recent discovery of petroleum has opened up new economic opportunities. Agriculture and fishing continue to be main sources of income.

Speakers of the related Forro language look down on the Angolares, often discouraging them from using their native tongue in the city.

Angolares follow traditional religious beliefs that came from a variety of worldviews brought to the island by settlers. Worship of ancestral spirits characterizes a deep and widely held animism. Individuals can seek out a ritual specialist to obtain protection from enemies, restore their health or even gain the attention of a potential lover.

About 80 percent of the people claim Catholicism. The annual church calendar features festivals organized around patron saints of towns. People may travel from distant parts of the island to attend. Much of Christianity is in-name-only. It is not based on a genuine birth-from-above experience rooted in a sound faith in Jesus.

**Primary Religion:**

Christian; traditional

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**

Unknown

**Churches:**

Yes

**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**

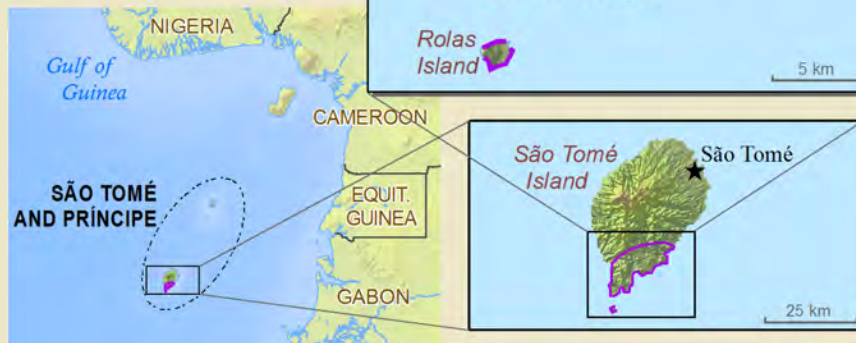
None

**Population (date):**

5,000 (1998)



**ANGOLAR HOMELAND**



## The Angolar of Sao Tome and Principe

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### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Response to the Gospel	80% claim to be Catholic; most are Christian in name only but some are true believers.
Is the Word of God Translated?	Not yet but soon to begin: Gospel of Luke and 20-40 oral stories.
Comment	The Department of Education is supportive of the project.
Other Forms of Gospel Presentations Recordings:	None yet
Hindrances to Scripture Use	The Angolar project may be overshadowed by the nearby translation in the larger Forro language.
Bilingualism	Most Angolars speak Saotomense [cri]
Language of Wider Communication or Trade Language	Portuguese

## The Angolar of Sao Tome and Principe

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### Group Description

#### Population all countries

World Population	5,000
World Population (Date)	1998

#### Geography & Environment

Location	Sao Tome Province, São Tomé island: south tip, São João dos Angolares area; some south of Caué area.
Climate	Hot and humid

#### Language

Alternate Names	Ngola
Dialects	None known
Other Mother Tongues	Portuguese [por]; Saotomense [cri]
Linguistically Related	Portuguese based; Foro; Crioulo, Upper Guinea [pov] (A language of Guinea-Bissau); Fa d'Ambu [fab] (A language of Equatorial Guinea); Kabuverdianu [kea] (A language of Cape Verde); Principense [pre] (A language of São Tomé and Príncipe); Sãotomense [cri] (A language of São Tomé and Príncipe)
Neighboring Languages	Saotomense [cri]

#### Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	50% in Portuguese [por]
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#### Economics

Subsistence Type	Agricultural; fishermen
Income Sources	Agricultural produce; fish
Comment	The recent discovery of petroleum has opened up new economic opportunities.

#### Education

Language Of Instruction	Portuguese
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## **The Angolar of Sao Tome and Principe**

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### **Religion**

Religion and percent of population

1. Catholic 80%
2. Traditional

Religious Practices/Ceremonies

Annual church events are organized around patron saints of towns. People may travel from distant parts of the island to attend.

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### **Status of Christianity**

#### **Religion and Response**

Translation status

Soon to begin

Spiritual Climate and Openness:

Church leaders and laypeople will use the recorded stories and printed Book of Luke in evangelism and discipleship. One way this can be done is by airing audio recorded Scriptures over the radio.

Attitude toward Christianity

True believers among the Angolares witness about their Christian faith to people on a daily basis.