

Benin

Information for applicants

Benin

Benin occupies a 120-kilometre stretch of the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa.

The state is considered the cradle of voodoo, one of the world's most ancient mythical religions. With an area of just under 112,000 km² and a population of approximately nine million people, Benin is a relatively small nation. The political capital is Porto-Novo, which has a population of around 270,000, while Cotonou, which is home to some two million people, serves as the seat of government and the economic capital. Cotonou has an international airport with daily flights to Europe. The language of communication in Benin is French and the national currency is the CFA franc (XOF), which is pegged to the euro at a fixed exchange rate of XOF 655.957 to EUR 1.00.

Climate and sights

Benin has a tropical climate due to its location on the equator. It is warm all year round, with temperatures ranging between 18°C and 35°C and fluctuating little over the course of the day. There are two rainy seasons and humidity levels are constantly high.

Benin boasts spectacular tourist sights and national parks throughout its territory. The state tourism authority provides useful information in this regard. Pendjari National Park offers safaris, giving visitors a chance to see elephants, hippos and lions.

Medical care

The country offers basic medical services. Beninese doctors have excellent knowledge of local risks and diseases, and there are a number of European physicians who have settled in the country. A course of malaria tablets is recommended, given the high, year-round malaria risk.

Accommodation and quality of life

Benin offers a wide range of accommodation, from simple huts to luxury villas. Property prices in Cotonou are high and rising constantly. Drinking water and electricity supplies can fail on a regular basis for several hours at a time, but this can be mitigated easily by having a rooftop tank and a generator. Bottled water is available everywhere, though it is always advisable to keep spare containers of drinking water at home.

The range of available leisure activities is growing all the time, offering something for all tastes and ages. The international community is relatively large and includes many Germans, and the Beninese are very welcoming of newcomers too.

Shops and services

There are several supermarkets, restaurants and shops meeting European standards and you can find virtually anything you could want in the major cities. The bustling markets sell tropical fruit, vegetables and lettuce all year round.

Accompanying partners and children

Accompanying partners are permitted to take up employment in Benin if their potential employer can demonstrate that there are no Beninese nationals suitably qualified for the advertised position. This procedure takes between three and six months, and social security and tax are payable in Benin. Work permits can be obtained for a period of up to 12 months, with the option to extend.

Schools: There are several international, English- and French-language schools (e.g. École Montaigne, English International School) in Cotonou.

Childcare: There are a wide range of childcare options, from kindergartens and weekend playgroups to private nannies.

Find out more

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/benin-node>

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Eschborn 2017

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