

Botswana

Information for applicants

Botswana

The Republic of Botswana, a parliamentary democracy, covers a total area of around 600,000 km², making it roughly the size of France. The landlocked nation is located in southern Africa, where it borders on Namibia to the west, South Africa to the south, Zimbabwe to the east and Namibia and Zambia to the north. The population speaks English and Setswana. The country's name is derived from 'Tswana', the name of a people. In 2014, Botswana ranked the highest of any southern African state on the UN's Human Development Index and, according to Transparency International, was the nation least susceptible to corruption in Africa.

Climate and sights

Botswana has a semi-arid, semi-desert/savannah climate. What little rain does fall usually evaporates immediately. The summer months are the wettest. A distinctive feature of the country's landscape is the Kalahari Desert.

The Okavango Delta, which is transformed into a habitat with lush vegetation for animals during the seasonal floods, is an extremely popular tourist attraction. The Delta, Chobe National Park and the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, the latter with its fossilised river valleys and gently undulating grasslands, are home to numerous wild animals, including the big five. Mokolodi Nature Reserve is located close to Gaborone, on the South African side of the Madikwe Game Reserve.

Medical care

State hospitals are found throughout the country, but their technical equipment is modest. Medical care is not always guaranteed outside of Gaborone and Francistown. While private hospitals are better equipped, they may require advance payment or a financial guarantee before treating patients, even in emergencies. There are two private hospitals in Gaborone. Planned surgery can also be carried out in nearby South Africa (e.g. Pretoria).

Accommodation and quality of life

While the cities do offer suitable apartments and houses, it can take a while to find something suitable. A professional estate agent or GIZ contact can help you to find accommodation.

Property prices in some parts of Gaborone, Francistown and Palapye are comparable with those in Germany. Rental agreements typically include a five per cent increase per year.

Shops and services

Day-to-day items are almost as readily available as in Europe. There are several malls and an adequate range of South African products.

You should be prepared at the end of each month for long queues at banks and ATM machines and, in some cases, cash shortages.

It is also important to note the shorter opening hours on Saturdays. The national currency is the Botswana pula.

Accompanying partners and children

Accompanying partners can take up employment in Botswana under two different scenarios:

The first involves positions with international employers, who must apply for a work and residence permit for their potential employee. This permit is usually granted regardless of (co-)seconded status, provided there are framework agreements in place. In the second scenario, Botswana employers also apply for a work and residence permit, but in order for the permit to be granted must be able to demonstrate that the position in question cannot be filled by a national expert. However, in Botswana it is generally easy to provide the corresponding evidence.

Schools: There are several international primary schools: Northside, Thornhill, Westwood and Broadhurst Primary. The children start out in reception class when they are between four and five years of age. Because there are waiting lists in some cases, children should be registered as soon as possible after arriving in the country. The range of secondary schools on offer is limited.

Childcare: In Botswana, as in all African countries, great importance is attached to the family. This is a particularly ideal situation for families with young children, as childcare is available around the clock. While there are international kindergartens in Gaborone, they have long holiday periods. During

these periods, a half-day holiday programme is usually offered.

Good to know

Botswana adopted the left-hand-drive system from the UK. The road network has developed well in the five decades since independence, but you still need to be prepared to encounter cattle and other animals when out driving.

Find out more

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

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/331.html>

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