

Burkina Faso

Information for applicants

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso means 'land of the upright', an allusion to the remarkable resilience of its people. The landlocked West African state is one of the world's poorest countries. While it does have gold, it lacks other mineral resources. Burkina Faso depends largely on agriculture, especially cotton exports, for its economic development. Around eight in ten individuals are engaged in subsistence agriculture and almost half of the country's population lives below the absolute poverty line, yet the people of Burkina Faso are famous throughout the surrounding region for their hospitality.

Climate and sights

Burkina Faso has a tropical wet and dry climate, with clearly defined dry and rainy seasons. March and April are the hottest months and January and December the coldest. Average temperatures range from 25°C to 30°C and, depending on the region, the rainy season can last between two and six months.

Burkina Faso boasts an impressive arts scene. For instance, it hosts two major biannual events – FESPACO, the largest film festival in Africa for African performers and producers, and SIAO, the largest African art and craft fair – on an alternating basis.

Medical care

While health centres can be found in the major cities, provision in rural areas is only basic. Specialist diagnostic services and emergency medical care are very rare.

Accommodation and quality of life

You will find a wide range of attractive houses and apartments to rent in Ouagadougou, Bobo-Dioulasso and other medium-sized cities. Rent prices for houses and apartments vary greatly (FCFA 200,000 to FCFA 800,000 per month).

There are clubs and training centres offering sports such as golf, tennis, horse-riding and dancing. Most foreign workers go swimming in the hotel pools. The French Institute and the liaison office of the Goethe-Institut organise many different cultural events. The city park, the largest of its kind in West Africa, is the ideal place to go for a stroll or to participate in sports activities.

Shops and services

You should not pass up the opportunity to visit the bustling traditional markets in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso. The two cities also have major supermarket chains of a standard similar to those in Europe. Goods imported from Europe are more expensive than in Germany, but you can purchase fresh regional fruit and vegetables at low cost. Burkina Faso is known for its wide variety of

seasonal fruit and vegetables, from cauliflowers to strawberries and mangos. Markets and shops in rural areas offer a smaller selection of regional and imported products.

Electricity and water supplies are relatively good in most cities, although there can be frequent power cuts in the rainy season especially.

Accompanying partners and children

Schools: You will find many good international and bilingual schools in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso offering internationally accredited qualifications.

Childcare: Some of the international schools also offer childcare for young children and those of preschool age.

Find out more

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

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/329.html>

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