

# El Salvador

## Information for applicants

### El Salvador

El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America. Approximately 1.7 million of its 7.5 million or so residents live in the region around the capital San Salvador. With around 315,000 inhabitants itself, the capital is relatively modest in size. The country has a similar area to the German federal state of Hesse. El Salvador borders the Pacific Ocean to the south, Guatemala to the north-west and Honduras to the north-east. The official language is Spanish.

### Climate and sights

El Salvador has a tropical climate with just two seasons (a dry season from November to April and a rainy season from May to October). Temperatures range from 25 to 30°C, sometimes falling to between 15 and 18°C at night and may even reach 36°C in the rainy season. The country is located in a highly active seismic zone and so can experience earthquakes and volcanic activity. Chaparrastique volcano, located near San Miguel in the east of El Salvador, remains active, having had its last ash eruption in March 2018.

### Medical care

In rural regions especially, medical and emergency care is unsatisfactory in that it does not meet European technological and hygiene standards in most cases. The situation is far better in San Salvador, where there are several well qualified specialists and hospitals operating around the clock.

### Accommodation and quality of life

Rents for houses and apartments are relatively cheap at between USD 700 and USD 1,200 per month. For security reasons, it is advisable to live in a *residencia*, where the entrances are monitored. Many apartments are let with a cooker, a fridge and a washing machine. There are several internet, landline-phone and TV service providers.

El Salvador offers a wide variety of leisure activities, including virtually every kind of sport, not least surfing. The ocean is just a 45-minute drive away and El Tunco and El Sunzal are some of the world's best surf spots. Runners are also extremely well catered for; barely a weekend goes by in El Salvador without a running event. There is also a large selection of gyms to choose from.

### Shops and services

You will find a full range of foods available in El Salvador's supermarkets, which offer virtually the same choice of products as German stores. Nonetheless, it should be noted that prices are higher than in Germany. It is cheaper to buy fruit and vegetables from the markets (such as the Saturday morning market in Antiguo Cuscatlán). You can purchase freshly caught fish at low cost from the jetty in La Libertad. Hygiene standards are good at the large malls and retail chains, coming very close to European quality.

### Accompanying partners and children

Under the TC General Agreement, accompanying partners can obtain a work permit.

**Schools:** The German School in San Salvador provides high quality education with internationally accredited qualifications that open up a wide range of options for obtaining further qualifications in Germany, El Salvador and the rest of the world.

The school offers the local secondary school leaving certificate (*Bachillerato General*) and year 10 students can decide whether they also wish to take the mixed-language International Baccalaureate in years 11 and 12 alongside the El Salvadorian programme. Additionally, the school admits children to its kindergarten from four years of age and has its own health centre with two doctors and one nurse.

**Childcare:** The German School in San Salvador has a kindergarten taking children from four years of age.

## Good to know

Please note that, if you are bringing electrical devices with you from Germany, you may require a voltage transformer and a travel adaptor. Electrical devices carrying the label 'INPUT: 100-240V, 50/60 Hz' are suitable for use in the country. Mains voltage is 115 V (230 V in Germany), with a frequency of 60 Hz (50 Hz in Germany).

## Find out more

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

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/391.html>

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