

# Cameroon

## Information for applicants

### Cameroon

Afrique en miniature – Africa in Miniature. Cameroon gets this name from its impressive diversity of landscapes: plateaus, mountains and even volcanoes, alongside savannah grasslands, lakes and rain forests. Cameroon is situated in central Africa and shares borders with Nigeria, Chad, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. Some 475,410 km<sup>2</sup> in size, Cameroon has a population of around 20 million. It also has a diverse mix of languages and cultures. The official languages are French (80% of the population) and English (20% of the population). However, the ethnic diversity of the Cameroonian people means there are also a great many local languages.

### Climate and sights

The climate in Cameroon is as diverse as its inhabitants: in the south (Yaoundé, Douala), it is tropical with periods of heavy rains and high temperatures. The north of the country is humid with a dry period from October to April. In the highlands towards the south in the country's interior, the average annual temperature is 22°C. The area on the southern flank of Mount Cameroon, also known by its Bakweri name as Mount Fako, is one of the rainiest places in the world.

### Medical care

There are private hospitals and doctors' surgeries in Yaoundé and Douala, some of which provide European-standard treatment. Basic medical care is thus ensured. Nonetheless, it is advisable to seek treatment in Europe for serious illnesses and operations should only be performed in an emergency. Medical services for infants and small children are not widely available.

### Accommodation and quality of life

Houses and apartments are best found through GIZ contacts or through property renting agencies. Your colleagues will be happy to provide assistance. For security reasons, the German Embassy advises German nationals to seek housing in the Bastos area, so as to be able to react more swiftly in the event of a crisis. The German Embassy and the GIZ office are both located in Bastos.

### Shopping and services

Yaoundé and Douala sell everything the heart desires – European articles too, whereby quality and prices can vary.

In the north and east (Garoua, Bertoua), shopping is restricted to the lively local markets and retailers.

The currency is the Central African franc (FCFA/XAF) of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), which is tied to the Euro at a fixed rate.

Yaoundé and Douala have ATMs where FCFA can be withdrawn using VISA and Mastercard. It is not possible to use EC cards. For this reason, it is particularly advisable to use cash outside the capital.

## Accompanying partners and children

Accompanying spouses are issued a *carte de séjour* (this residency document is set to replace the visa in the long term) which also entitles them to work.

In principle, Cameroon only recognises married, heterosexual partners; there are no registered civil partnerships. Same-sex partnerships/homosexuality is illegal and heavily stigmatised in society. A certificate of marriage is required to issue a *carte de séjour*. In the case of unmarried couples, this might mean that accompanying partners will have to pay for their *carte de séjour* themselves.

**Schools:** Yaoundé has a French and an American school as well as several – in part very professional and in part also parent-run – private schools that teach in English or French. Depending on the school, a year's tuition costs between EUR 2,000 and EUR 20,000 per student.

**Childcare:** Pre-schools and childcare is available in Douala and Yaoundé for children up to school age.

## Things to look out for

There are many opportunities for learning a foreign language: private teachers, especially for French, and language schools, e.g. for English, Italian etc. German courses at the Goethe-Institut are also very popular with non-native speakers.

The Club Noah in Etoudi and the large hotels, like Mont Fébé and the Hilton, have tennis courts and pools that a lot of expats like to go to at the weekend, especially with their children.

On the grounds of the Greek-Orthodox church in the Bastos quarter, one-hourly sports courses are offered four times a week for FCFA 3,000 (Tae Bo, step aerobics, etc.). A volleyball team also meets here several times a week. There are also private dance and yoga instructors. Once you are on site, ask your colleagues for more information.

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Cameroonians are very sporty and there are plenty of opportunities to join in, be it at a public jogging session/workout, a walk along the fitness trail 'parcours vita' on Mont Fébé or by joining a football team or a fitness club nearby.

There is a golf club close to the American Embassy, while the Club Hippique offers riding lessons.

A French and a German cultural institute are located in Yaoundé, both of which offer a lively cultural programme.

## Find out more

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

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