

Mali

Information for applicants

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The Republic of Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa with a more than thousand year history. In the northwest Mali borders Mauritania, in the north Algeria, in the east Niger, in the southeast Burkina Faso, in the south Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea and in the west Senegal. Mali's ethnic diversity, cultural wealth and internationally renowned music scene are considered unique to this region.

Climate and sights

From November to February, it is dry in Mali and mostly warm. From March to May it is dry and very hot. In this period, heavy dust storms are likely to occur, especially in northern Mali. The damp, warm and humid time of the year kicks off in June and ends in October, bringing some heavy rains in places.

Mali has four UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the desert port in Timbuktu, the mosque and old town of Djenné, the Cliff of Bandiagara in the Land of the Dogons and the Tomb of Askia in Gao. For security reasons, GIZ staff are not able to visit these sites at present.

Medical care

Germany's Federal Foreign Office recommends that you check and update your standard vaccinations in line with the current immunisation schedule for children and adults issued by the Robert Koch Institute.

Medical care is available in Bamako but is not comparable with European standards. Several public hospitals and private clinics can perform operations and provide emergency internal and intensive care. French-speaking physicians are on hand for the most important medical specialties and some doctors, e.g. surgeons, general practitioners or gynaecologists, also speak German.

Accommodation and quality of life

The housing market in Bamako includes numerous high-standard properties. Particularly popular with Europeans and US Americans are the residential quarters of Badalabougou (which is where the German embassy is also located) and Faso Kanu. Bamako has a varied cityscape that includes some exclusive residential areas with plenty of green space along with numerous new administrative and office buildings. Outside the city, however, dusty streets and simple housing are the norm.

Finding housing that meets general European standards becomes more difficult on leaving Bamako.

Shopping and services

Bamako is a city full of life, colour and surprises, including myriad small streets in which all sorts of things are sold. Vegetable markets are found throughout Bamako. One of the biggest meat, fish and vegetable markets is the 'Dibida'. Lots of different

tropical fruits are sold, including pineapples, bananas, papayas, oranges, grapefruits, avocados, melons and seasonal mangos.

The organic market in Badalabougou Ouest (Diabé) is also worth visiting to purchase fresh milk, fresh bread and organically grown fruit and vegetables. On top of this, the big Lebanese supermarkets found all over the city sell everything the heart desires, from imported European goods, to household items.

Accompanying partners and children

Accompanying partners can enter into a national or international contract of employment at any time with GIZ, UN or NGOs. Getting a work visa is not a problem in Mali and GIZ is happy to help.

Schools: Bamako has two internationally recognised schools: one French-speaking and one English-speaking. The school year starts in August/September but it is advisable to register your children in May/June. *The Ecole Liberté* offers German as a second foreign language.

Childcare: Bamako has several private pre-schools, the best known being the kindergarten of the American International School of Bamako.

Find out more

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

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/334.html>

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Registered offices in
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Street address:
Post code, town/city, country
T +49 61 96 79-0
F +49 61 96 79-11 15
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

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Responsible/editor etc.:
Ulrich Heise, Eschborn

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