

Mauritania

Information for applicants

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Mauritania is a country in northwest Africa on the Atlantic coast. It is almost three times the size of Germany and consists mostly of desert. Mauritania is a majority Muslim country that is renowned for its significant cultural heritage. The capital of Nouakchott is surrounded by enormous sand dunes, the Port de l'Amité – the Port of Friendship – and the beach, which is within easy reach.

Climate and sights

For the most part, Mauritania has a hot, arid desert climate which is cooled on the coast by the cold Canary Current. In the northern half of the country, rains fall in winter, although seldom more than 100 mm per year. In the extreme south, it rains a little more, mostly from July to October. Average temperatures in January are between 20–24°C. In July they reach 30–34°C. Maximum temperatures are around 50°C.

Mauritania's larger cities boast a number of attractions dating back to traditional Mauritanian and French epochs, for example the old town of Atar with buildings from the 11th and 12th centuries. Located in the centre of Nouakchott, the modern National Museum houses the national library, the archaeology collection and the ethnographic displays of Moorish culture.

Mauritania boasts a number of World Heritage Sites, including the caravan cities of Ouadane, Chinguetti, Tichitt and Oualata.

Medical care

Some of the private hospitals in the capital are very well equipped. However, the public healthcare system is not up to European standards. Completed in 2001, the largest and most modern hospital is the *Centre Hospitalier National de Nouakchott*. Overall, there are a number of general and specialist medical service providers. However, emergency medical care is not guaranteed in rural areas.

Accommodation and quality of life

Nouakchott's varied housing market offers furnished and unfurnished apartments and houses in all price categories. The Tevragh Zeina residential quarter is very popular with European and US Americans. The range of leisure activities for children and adults is expanding and includes horse riding, golf, fitness clubs and dance courses.

Shopping and services

The capital's well assorted supermarkets stock European food items, although these are considerably more expensive than in Germany. Lively markets and small shops offer a wide range of favourably priced daily commodities. The markets sell inexpensive seasonal fruit and vegetables as well as fresh fish and seafood.

Accompanying partners and children

Generally speaking, accompanying partners are usually able to work in Mauritania. In such cases, the respective employer applies for a work permit from the Labour Department. The process is relatively lengthy and permits are only issued for six months at a time and have to be extended after that.

Schools: There are several international schools in Nouakchott. The French school also has a primary branch and the two American schools (AISN on the embassy grounds and TLC International School) both offer a high school programme.

Childcare: There are numerous pre-school and childcare options.

Find out more

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

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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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