

Niger

Information for applicants

Niger

This landlocked country in western Africa is located in the Sahel region, which is characterised by an arid climate. The eponymous Niger River flows through the relatively densely populated south-west of the country. While the Republic of the Niger is rich in mineral resources, especially uranium, its economy is dominated by nomadic animal husbandry and arable farming.

Climate and sights

Niger's climate is tropical and arid. The hottest months are April and May. They are followed by the rainy season from July to August.

At present, GIZ employees abroad can only leave the city of Niamey under certain regulations. There are several interesting things to see and do in Niamey, such as the national museum with its zoo and the traditional crafts exhibition, a pirogue trip on the Niger or a visit to traditional markets. There is still the opportunity to go to swimming pools and fine restaurants with international cuisine, as well as to go to the French Cultural Institute. National visits and field trips to Agadez, Tahoua or Zinder can only be organised by plane.

Medical care

While French-speaking specialists in the most important medical fields can be found in Niamey, medical services are limited.

Scheduled operations should be undertaken in Europe only. Anyone reliant on specific medication should bring an adequate supply with them.

Pharmacies in Niamey stock an adequate selection of the most important standard medications, often sourced from France.

Accommodation and quality of life

Houses with gardens and a pool can be found in Niamey for between € 1,200 and € 1,600. There are many real estate agents who can help you find accommodation. The relevant expat forums are another source of information. Sports clubs and cultural centres offer a wide range of leisure activities.

Shops and services

Niamey has many supermarkets with an extensive selection of imported and local goods. There is also a wide range of furniture and electrical stores. Fruit and vegetables from local and regional producers can be found all-year round in Niamey. The supermarkets also sell imported fruit and vegetables.

Accompanying partners and children

As many development organisations are represented in the country and there are many GIZ projects, there are plenty of employment opportunities for accompanying partners as freelance consultants. Consulting contracts of this kind do not require work permits and can be arranged without too much red tape. Applications for permanent work permits for accompanying partners must be submitted to the Department of Labour Inspection and can take some time to process.

Schools: Niamey has one American and one French international school, both of which prepare students for final secondary school examinations (*Abitur* equivalent).

Childcare: Domestic staff (cooks, drivers, nannies etc.) are easy to find. Positions of that kind are highly sought-after by the national population.

Find out more

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

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/315.html>

GIZ Niamey can provide an information brochure for staff leaving on field assignments as well as the Medical Services Division's report on medical care in Niamey.

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