

Algeria

Information for applicants

Algeria

Situated at the heart of the Maghreb, Algeria is the largest country in Africa. The nation consists of desert in the south (85% of the land area), rocky high plateaus in the centre, and fertile and, in some cases, highly mountainous regions, as well as 1,200 km of Mediterranean coastline in the north. Algeria has a total population of 45,61 million, over three million of whom live in the capital, Algiers. The country borders on Tunisia, Libya, Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Western Sahara and Morocco.

Climate and sights

The Algerian climate is similar to that of the Mediterranean coast, but more arid the further inland you travel. Finally, a desert climate predominates in the south.

Algiers is the cultural and industrial centre of Algeria. The main sites of interest include the old quarter and the downtown of Algiers, which are home to several stunning Turkish houses and palaces as well as buildings from the late 19th and early 20th century. Other sights include the Basilique Notre Dame d'Afrique, Le Jardin d'Essai du Hamma and the Memorial du Martyr. Algeria has a well-preserved cultural heritage of Roman sites, including those in Tipaza, Djemila and Timgad, and attractive coastal cities such as the Spanish-influenced Oran and Annaba, the city where Saint Augustine was ordained. It is also worth taking low-cost flights to visit the oasis towns of Djanet, Timimoun and Taghit.

Medical care

The standard of medical care is sufficient, with several private hospitals and practices for every specialism, some offering a wide range of expertise. There is also a network of public medical institutions of various sizes, including university hospitals, outside the capital. Most of these facilities are in good condition. Standards at district and regional hospitals are more basic. Issues can arise with the supply of medicines and vaccines at times, which can make it necessary to obtain them from abroad.

You do not need to have the yellow fever vaccination if you are travelling to Algeria directly from Germany. Additionally, the Health Service of the German Federal Foreign Office recommends reviewing and completing the standard course of vaccinations specified in the Robert Koch Institute's current immunisation schedule.

Accommodation and quality of life

The residential market for foreigners in Algeria and Algiers especially is a seller's market. While there are a large number of suitable, middle- to high-quality properties, foreigners pay far higher rents than their Algerian neighbours, who benefit from the state's social housing policy.

Hydra, Ben Aknoun and El Biar are three safe neighbourhoods whose hillside location also makes them eventually cooler and airier. Rents can vary greatly depending on what you are looking for. Families with children who are looking for a house with its own garden can expect to pay monthly rents of between EUR 1,500 and EUR 3,000. Individuals with more modest requirements should be able to find properties for approx. EUR 1,000 per month.

Shops and services

There are plenty of small supermarkets (so-called superettes) offering both local and imported goods from Europe. The selection of imported goods has decreased as a result of recently introduced import restrictions. You can buy fresh fruit and vegetables at low cost from any of the numerous local markets, which also sometimes sell good quality fresh fish. There are usually no hygiene issues with purchasing meat in the city's wealthier neighbourhoods. You should only drink bottled water, never tap water.

Accompanying partners and children

Accompanying partners can work under Algerian employment contracts for the few international organisations in the country, with these organisations arranging the necessary work permits. However, the selection and job offers are very limited. Partners cannot work under an Algerian employment contract for an Algerian employer, as most Algerian state employers are not permitted to hire foreign staff members. Self-employed work, for example as a consultant, is a restricted option. Those wishing to set up a company should observe the investment legislation. In this case, it is necessary to find an Algerian investor. 51% of the company would then be owned by the Algerian investor and 49% by the foreign investor.

Schools and childcare: Algiers has several international schools and a number of French-speaking kindergartens. For example, there is a French school (according to the French school system) and an American school. There is no German school (e.g. Goethe School) in Algiers.

Find out more

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