

Sample Article

Central African Republic Travel Advice

Central African Republic travel options are still quite limited. There is some capacity to host tourists, yet in many ways the Central African Republic is very much behind its neighboring countries. Other African countries are correcting their political policies and embracing capitalism; the Central African Republic is still struggling to move forward.

The Central African Republic is entirely landlocked; being bordered to the North by Chad, the East by Sudan, the South by Zaire and with Cameroon to the West. The geography of the Central African Republic is very flat; being mostly arid plains and savannah with a smattering of forests. The Central African Republic is not without natural beauty; some of the most stunning waterfalls in Africa can be found along the watercourse of the Zaire River. It should also be noted that wildlife tourists may well find this almost entirely unspoiled wilderness rather exciting. The Karre Mountains are of particular interest as they are thought to be one of the only remaining natural habitats of the Mountain Gorilla.

Culturally the Central African Republic is extremely diverse as it is home to over 80 separate ethnic groups. The largest ethnic group is the Baya who make up some 33% of the overall population. The Baya are closely followed by the Banda who account for another 27% of the national population. Smaller ethnic groups include the Mandjia, the Sara and the Mboum. Local arts and crafts are often good bargains. Due to the mix of cultures present a wide range of locally produced craft goods are available.

The main reason why the Central African Republic is still lagging behind its neighbors with regards to the tourist industry is undoubtedly the political situation. For several years now the Central African Republic has been struggling to peacefully hold elections.

Unfortunately for even the bravest of travellers, this has led to the Central African Republic being listed as one of the worlds no go zones. Indeed, the United States Bureau of Consular Affairs recommends delaying or cancelling travel plans until the civil problems have died down.

A nasty side effect of this civil unrest, aside from roving armed militia groups, is a rise in the number of bandits and poachers. These nefarious types roam the countryside causing problems for tourists and locals alike. The situation is so bad that the Central African Government have stated that they are unable to protect visitors in most parts of the country.

As far as health risks go, the Central African republic poses a whole host of very nasty problems due to the fact that healthcare within its borders is extremely limited. HIV/AIDS is a huge concern, with almost 5% of the adult population having the virus. This doesn't sound very high, yet consider 5% compared to the 0.2% in the USA and we see a huge difference.

The Central African Republic could become a world class vacation destination; but not in our lifetimes. The ongoing political struggle, national health problems and general lawlessness of the country will keep it down for decades to come. This is unfortunate, as on the whole the people from the Central African Republic can be very friendly towards visitors.