



Gä nzönî – Bienvenue – Welcome

Dear guest,

A warm welcome to the Central African Republic.

We are honored to have you with us and we hope your visit will be both productive and insightful, offering meaningful engagement with key stakeholders and a comprehensive understanding of the progress, challenges, and priorities of the Central African Government.

The UN Team in CAR is fully committed to ensuring your stay is smooth and well-facilitated. The information provided in this welcome note is intended to assist you throughout your visit. Should you require any additional support, please feel free to reach out – we will do our utmost to find suitable and timely solutions together.

Wishing you a successful and impactful stay,

*****The CAR UN Team*****

About the Central African Republic

The Central African Republic (CAR), a sparsely populated country with 6.1 million inhabitants, is a landlocked nation in the heart of the continent, covering 623,000 km². The country is characterized by a dry and rainy season. Highest temperatures are typically observed in March and the lowest in July during the rainy season.

Despite its wealth of natural resources (470 mining indices, with petroleum, gold, and diamonds as the main potential resources), CAR remains one of the world's poorest and most fragile countries. It has endured over two decades of crises, with peaks in violence in 2013 and December 2020.

CAR ranked 191st out of 193 countries in the 2022 Human Capital and Development Index. While the country boasts significant agricultural potential and vast forests, its population has yet to fully benefit from these resources.

About MINUSCA

In response to the political, security and humanitarian crisis in CAR and its regional implications, the UN Security Council authorized, on 10 April 2014, the deployment of a multidimensional peacekeeping operation – MINUSCA – with the protection of civilians as its utmost priority.

MINUSCA aims to create the political, security, and institutional conditions necessary for national reconciliation, to strengthen State capacity to fully exercise its sovereign functions, and to support durable peace through the implementation of the 2019 Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR-CAR) and the Luanda Roadmap.

Today, MINUSCA has approximately 18,000 personnel deployed across the country, including 13,418 troops and 3,029 police officers.



Under the leadership of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), the security situation has improved, and CAR has made effective progress in strengthening state authority, promoting reconciliation, and advancing the implementation of key peace agreements. However, despite these gains, the situation remains fragile, with persistent threats to civilians, particularly in the northeast (Fertit Region), east (Haut-Oubangui Region), and west (Equateur and Yadé Regions). Key threats include deliberate attacks on civilians, conflict-related sexual violence, abductions, displacement, the presence of explosive ordnance, and the recruitment of children by armed groups.

In resolution 2800 (2025) extending the mandate of MINUSCA, the UN Security Council reaffirmed the Mission's strategic priority tasks, namely: (i) the protection of civilians; (ii) support to the extension and restoration of State authority; (iii) the use of good offices and support to the political process and peace agreements; (iv) facilitation of the safe, immediate and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance, and; (v) the protection of United Nations personnel, facilities and assets.

About the UN Country Team (UNCT)

In the CAR, the UNCT comprises 16 resident entities and 9 non-resident entities. All these entities are signatories to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), with the exception of OCHA. They support the CAR Government in delivering development, humanitarian and Nexus programs.

Prior to arriving in Bangui

- **Language:** French is the official language in the CAR, and Sango is widely spoken.
- **Travel:** UNHQ will arrange your travel to Bangui. Please do not make your own travel arrangements.
- **Baggage:** Although uncommon, delays in the delivery of checked luggage may occur due to airline handling constraints and transfer schedules. To mitigate any inconvenience, it is recommended that the traveler prepare a “72-hour essentials kit” using their carry-on bag. This kit should include essential clothing, toiletries, medications, and any mission-critical items required for the first three days at the destination.
- **Visas:** A visa exemption letter will be provided by MINUSCA. These letters will also be issued to external guests.
- **Trip Clearance:** For UN staff, completing security clearance before travel is mandatory. This can be done by logging into trip.dss.un.org. External guests will be included in the system by the inviting office.
- **Vaccinations:** Yellow fever vaccination is a mandatory entry requirement, and border control will check vaccination records. Other recommended vaccines include hepatitis A and B, typhoid, tetanus, and meningococcal vaccine. Booster doses may be available at MINUSCA medical facilities.
- **Malaria:** The Central African Republic is an endemic malaria zone. You may wish to consult your physician regarding anti-malarial prophylaxis, which is typically taken starting seven days before travel.



- **Special Diets or Other Needs:** If you have specific dietary requirements or other important needs, please inform our team in advance so we can make the necessary arrangements for your visit.

Essential Information for Your Stay in Bangui

- **Cost of Living:** While the CAR remains one of the poorest countries in the world, it is ranked among the most expensive for expatriates. Therefore, we advise you to bring sufficient funds before your arrival. **Approximately \$100 per day** could cover your daily expenses, including breakfast and lunch. This does not cover hotel accommodation costs.
- **Accommodation:** You will be accommodated at the Ledger hotel (+236 71 61 00 11, ledgerplaza-bangui.com). The MINUSCA rate of the Ledger Hotel is XAF 105,240 (~€162 / ~\$175) and includes breakfast and access to the spa (upon reservation: +236 72 41 05 63).
- **Money:** Bank cards are accepted in some hotels and supermarkets but are not widely used. Staff and visitors traveling to Bangui are encouraged to carry sufficient cash. Money can be safely exchanged or withdrawn from ATMs at MINUSCA sites. USD (~XAF 650) and EUR (~XAF 670) are accepted at some restaurants and supermarkets, though often at unfavorable rates.
- **Dress code:** The visit falls in the warm, dry season, so light, breathable clothing is suitable. In Bangui, for meetings with senior national and UN authorities, business attire is recommended. Overall, it is important to ensure that shoulders and knees are covered, in line with cultural expectations for formal settings. In the field, business-casual and/or modest, lightweight long sleeves and long clothing are advised for comfort, protection, and cultural respect.

On arrival

- **At the Airport:** Protocol colleagues will welcome you and arrange your transfer.

Security

- **Briefing:** You will attend a security briefing on your arrival day after checking in. Moving on foot around Bangui is generally discouraged, as petty crime remains a concern despite overall improvements in the security situation.
- **Movement Restrictions:** You should coordinate all movements with MINUSCA security and follow security advisories.
- Although the security situation has improved, certain security measures remain in place:
 - **Curfew:** A curfew is in effect **from 22:00 to 05:00** for all UN personnel.
 - **Movement Restrictions:** If you plan to go out, particularly for dinner in the evening, please inform the protection officers, drivers, or your designated focal points, who can provide guidance. Transport will be arranged and embedded within the official mission itinerary.
 - **Prohibited Transport:** Taking taxis is strictly discouraged under all circumstances.



Shops and other amenities

- **Supermarkets:** Rayan and Bangui Mall, among others, offer a broad selection of goods. There is also a duty-free shop at MINUSCA LogBase with a more limited selection.
- **Local souvenirs:** (i) Ndara (avenue de la Victoire), and ; (ii) Rock club (boulevard du général de Gaulle).
- **Restaurants:** Popular local restaurants include: (i) Relais des Chasses (Grill/French and African, +236 70 97 97 97); (ii) Chinese Restaurant (+236 75 50 32 63); (iii) Cuisine A (+236 72 60 10 00); (iv) Restaurant M (+236 72 05 34 34); (v) Thaonhi (Vietnamese/French, +236 72 37 84 84), (v) L'Avenue (Lebanese) and; (vi) 5 Fourchettes (Indian, +236 75 74 74 74).

In case of emergency

- MINUSCA Medical Hotlines: English: +236 75 99 48 88; French: +236 75 99 48 87
- UNDSS (Security): +236 74 99 62 62 / +236 75 99 62 62. For urgent security concerns, please notify your MINUSCA security escort immediately.

Departure

- **At the Airport:** Prior to your departure, Protocol colleagues will facilitate your hotel check-out and arrange your transfer to the airport.

Finally, we hope this welcome note will be helpful to you.

We remain at your disposal and wish you a productive stay with us.

All the best,

*****The CAR UN Team*****