

Travel Facts



US State Dept Travel Advisory

The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens Reconsider Travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo due to crime and civil unrest. Some areas have increased risk. Consult its website via the link below for updates to travel advisories and statements on safety, security, local laws, and special circumstances in this country.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

Passport/Visa Requirements

US citizens should make sure their passport will not expire for at least 6 months after they enter the country even if they do not intend to stay that long. They should also make sure they have at least 1 blank page in their passport for any entry stamp and or visa that will be required. A visa is required. US citizens will need to get in touch with the country's embassy or nearest consulate to obtain a visa prior to visiting the country.

US Embassy/Consulate

[243] 081 556-0151; US Embassy in Kinshasa, 310 Avenue des Aviateurs, Kinshasa, Gombe, Democratic Republic of the Congo; <https://cd.usembassy.gov/>; ACSKinshasa@state.gov

LGBTQ+ Travelers

When venturing abroad, LGBTQ+ travelers can face unique challenges since laws, attitudes, and legal protections vary from country to country. Consult the website via the link below to learn what precautions to take before and during your trip.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations/lgbtqi.html>

Telephone Code

243

Local Emergency Phone

Local numbers only

Vaccinations

An International Certificate of Vaccination for yellow fever is required for travelers arriving from countries with a risk of yellow fever transmission and for travelers having transited through the airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Travel Health Notice for an Ebola outbreak in the South Kivu (Kivu Sud), North Kivu (Kivu Nord), and Ituri provinces in the northeastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is currently considered a high risk to travelers for polio. See WHO recommendations. <http://www.who.int/>

Climate

Tropical; hot and humid in equatorial river basin; cooler and drier in southern highlands; cooler and wetter in eastern highlands

Currency (Code)

Congolese francs (CDF)

Electricity/Voltage/Plug Type(s)

220 V / 50 Hz / plug types(s): C, D, E



Major Languages

French, Lingala (a lingua franca trade language), Kingwana (a dialect of Kiswahili or Swahili), Kikongo, Tshiluba

Major Religions

Roman Catholic 29.9%, Protestant 26.7%, Kimbanguist 2.8%, other Christian 36.5%, Muslim 1.3%

Time Difference

UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time); note: the DRC has 2 time zones

Potable Water

Opt for bottled water

International Driving Permit

Suggested

Road Driving Side

Right



Tourist Destinations

Kinshasa; Lola Ya Bonobo; Kahuzi Biega National Park; Nyiragongo Volcano; Virunga National Park; Lake Kivu

Major Sports

Soccer, basketball, rugby

Cultural Practices

Eat with your right hand and avoid holding bowls or utensils with the left. When eating from a shared bowl only, use the part of the bowl directly in front of you. It is very impolite to start eating before the oldest man has been served and has started eating.

Tipping Guidelines

Tipping 7% is expected in restaurants frequented by Westerners and at fancier eating establishments. Taxis do not typically expect tips.

Souvenirs

Precious stone and seed jewelry, woven baskets, hand-carved wood furniture, ebony statues, bronze sculptures, native pottery, natural perfumes and cosmetics

Traditional Cuisine

Poulet à la moambe — a savory chicken dish made by combining chicken, spices, and palm butter to create a stew-like consistency

