

Congo, Democratic Republic of the

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.

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

Passport/Visa Requirements

For the latest passport and visa requirements for this country, please consult the U.S. State Department's "Learn About Your Destination" search tool, available through the link below.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages.html>

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

Disabled Travelers

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

LGBTQ+ Travelers

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

Women Travelers

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

Telephone Code

243

Local Emergency Phone

Police 112, Fire 118

Vaccinations

The CDC and WHO recommend the following vaccinations for Democratic Republic of Congo: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, cholera, yellow fever, rabies, meningitis, polio, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), chickenpox, shingles, pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19. <http://www.who.int/>

Climate

Largely equatorial climate. Generally, the country is hot and humid in the north and west, an area located within a significant portion of the Congo River Basin.

Currency (Code)

Congolese francs (CDF)

Electricity/Voltage/Plug Type(s)

220 V / 50 Hz / plug types: C, E



Type C



Type E

Major Languages

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

Major Religions

Roman Catholic, Protestant, Kimbanguist, other Christian, Muslim

Time Difference

UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Potable Water

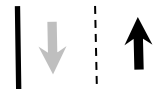
Opt for bottled water

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

Whenever you enter a room of people, shake hands and offer a greeting, such as, "Bonjour" or "Jambo." African culture tends to be formal, and it is important to take the time to appreciate and be thankful for one another.

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

March 2024

