

# Congo, Democratic Republic of the

## Travel Facts



### US State Department Travel Advisory

The US State Department currently recommends US citizens reconsider travel to the Democratic Republic of the 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 US 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](mailto:ACSKinshasa@state.gov)

### LGBTQIA+, Women, and Special Needs Travelers

Additional travel considerations can be found on the US State Department's International Travel page.

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

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