

## WELCOME TO CONGO (DRC)

Ever dreamt of a place where the rhythm of drums merges with the pulse of bustling markets? Welcome to Congo—an untamed adventure waiting at the heart of *Africa*. Whether you're paddling the mighty Congo River or feeling the beats of vibrant Kinshasa, you're about to experience travel like never before.

## FAST FACTS

• Language: French & Lingala

Currency: Congolese Franc (cash highly recommended!)

• Capital: Kinshasa

• Best Time: Dry Season (June to September)

Population: ~109 million as of 2025

Time Zone: West Africa Standard Time (GMT+1)



## **MUST-VISIT DESTINATIONS**

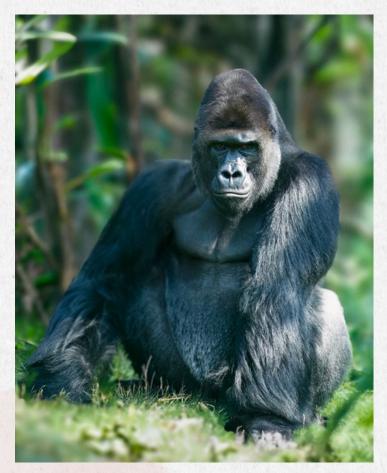
## KINSHASA

Immerse yourself in Kinshasa's bustling energy at Marché des Artistes, where authentic souvenirs and live Congolese rumba performances captivate. Savor grilled fish by the Congo River at sunset.



## VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK

Explore Virunga National
Park, a realm of majestic
volcanoes, rare gorillas,
and lush forests. Witness
the mesmerizing glow of
an active volcano at night
and let Nyiragongo inspire
your adventure.





#### GOMA

Discover Goma, a city defined by its volcanic heritage and optimism. Wander through markets offering colorful fabrics and enjoy local street-food alleys brimming with authentic Congolese flavors daily.



#### LUBUMBASHI

Experience Lubumbashi's blend of colonial charm and modern artistry. Stroll past historic architecture and immerse yourself in galleries that showcase the contemporary art scene of the Congo today.

## **CONGO'S CULINARY SCENE**

Try "Brochettes," meat skewers grilled right on the roadside, offering a taste that is both smoky and bold. Sample "Makemba," fried plantains enjoyed as a quick snack any time of day.





Visit local markets to find an assortment of fruits, including passion fruit and mangoes, each delivering a fresh burst of

flavor. Every bite reveals a slice of Congo's rich food culture and simple traditions. Discover a deep connection to cherished local heritage.

Savor beverages like freshly squeezed sugarcane juice and locally brewed palm wine, while vendors serve spicy peanut sauces with cassava bread, enriching your culinary adventure.

#### TRANSPORT TIPS

Congo's roads promise breathtaking scenery and cultural exchanges, though they often test your patience. For covering long distances quickly, internal flights can be a real time-saver. On the other hand, shared taxis and minibuses provide an affordable way to travel, offering opportunities to interact with locals and gather unique travel stories.





## ACCOMMODATION INSIGHTS

In Kinshasa, travelers can enjoy the elegance of boutique hotels with modern amenities or choose budget-friendly guesthouses that provide genuine, locally-rooted hospitality. Staying in smaller, locally-owned accommodations can offer a deeper understanding of Congolese customs and traditions.

## BUDGETING & MONEY MATTERS

Allocate around \$30 to \$50 per day for meals, transport, lodging, and entertainment. Exchange money only at authorized vendors, and use local SIM cards for reliable communication. Check our travel blogs and forums for updated tips and hidden gems to enhance your journey.



#### MOBILE NETWORKS

In cities like Kinshasa, Goma, and Lubumbashi, you'll find widespread 3G and some 4G coverage. Free Wi-Fi in hotels or cafés can be unpredictable, so securing a local SIM card is recommended.



A prepaid tourist SIM with a few gigabytes of data usually costs between 10,000 and 25,000 CDF (approximately \$5 to \$12 USD).

Providers such as Vodacom, Airtel, Orange, and Africell offer competitive packages. Stay connected, navigate easily, and share your adventure seamlessly.

## UNIQUE CONGO EXPERIENCES

## ENGAGE & IMMERSE

Experience Congo's vibrant culture with hands-on activities that bring its heritage to life. In *Traditional Dance Workshops*, learn rhythmic steps from local instructors and move with energy and passion.



Join River Expeditions to paddle down the mighty Congo River, where each turn offers a glimpse into history and nature.

In Art & Craft Sessions, design your own Congolese fabric souvenirs or paintings using techniques shared by skilled artisans.



These activities foster genuine community connections, uncover local treasures, and offer a dynamic way to explore Congo's traditions. They leave you with lasting memories and clear insights into the region's artistic spirit, enriching your travel with authentic cultural encounters.

## **ECO-TOURISM & CONSERVATION**

Congo is not only stunning but vital for the planet. The rainforests in the Congo Basin absorb more carbon dioxide than the Amazon. Visiting Virunga or Kahuzi-Biega National Parks supports wildlife conservation, empowers local communities, and protects rare species like mountain gorillas, chimpanzees, and elephants.



## MEET THE ECO-WARRIORS

Local guides and wildlife rangers tirelessly defend Congo's biodiversity. Join eco-friendly treks led by these passionate protectors to support their crucial work.

## RESPONSIBLE TRAVELER TIPS

- Choose eco-certified lodges
- Minimize waste with reusable bottles and bags
- Respect wildlife habitats safely
- Buy souvenirs from local artisans

## **BEST TIME TO TRAVEL TO CONGO**

Here's a friendly table to plan your trip perfectly, packed with quick info:

Month	Avg. Temp (°C)	Weather Description			Travel Suggestion
January	27-32	Hot 🥓	Humid 🌢	Rainy 🧓	Good, pack rain gear!
February	26-31	Warm 🔅		sional ers 🚙	Festival fun in pleasant conditions.
March	26-31	Rainy Season 🚂			Great for lush green landscapes!
April	26-30	Wet	Hum	nid 🌢	Ideal for rainforest adventures.
May	25-30	End of Rainy Season 🚣			Good balance of sun and showers.
June	23-28	Dry 🔅	Pleasant	tly Warm	Perfect for outdoor explorations!
July	22-27	Coolest *	Dry	/ ☀	Excellent for all activities!
August	22-28	Dry <b>☀</b>	Suni	ny 🐣	Prime month for travel!
September	24-29	Warm 🔅	Mostly	Dry 🐣	Great conditions for river festivals.
October	25-30	Warm 🔅		creasing	Good, slightly wet towards end.
November	25-31	Rainy 🧀	Hum	nid 🌢	Beautiful but pack rain essentials.
December	26-31	Warm 😕	Rair	ny 🤲	Festive season with occasional rains.

Quick Tip: July & August are the ideal months—pleasant, sunny, and perfect for exploring Congo's vibrant culture and nature!

#### **CONGO ORDINARY FLYING E-VISA**

The **Congo Ordinary Flying eVisa** is your all-rounder choice for tourism, business trips or a bit of both. And if you are just passing through? It is also optimal for quick transit stops. Quite simple, isn't it.

#### EASY CONGO EVISA STEPS

Fill the <u>Congo eVisa Application Form</u> → Pay securely → Download your confirmed eVisa.

A **Single-entry 90-day eVisa** is available swiftly online. Skip embassy hassles and start your Congo adventure faster!

#### EXPERIENCE RAPID TURNAROUND

Select from **Standard** (11-13 work days), **Rush** (8-11 work days), or **Super Rush** (5-8 work days) processing to suit your schedule.



# HEALTH & SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR CONGO ADVENTURE

Traveling to Congo? Keep these tips handy and travel worry-free!

#### Mosquito Smart

Pack insect repellent and wear lightweight long-sleeves during evenings—easy steps for a comfortable, bite-free journey.

#### Travel Insurance

Secure comprehensive travel insurance before your trip—peace of mind is priceless!

#### Local Insights

Ask locals—they're friendly and ready with insider tips on safe, delightful spots around town.

#### Sun Protection

Pack sunscreen, sunglasses, and hats—Congo's sun can be strong but easily manageable.

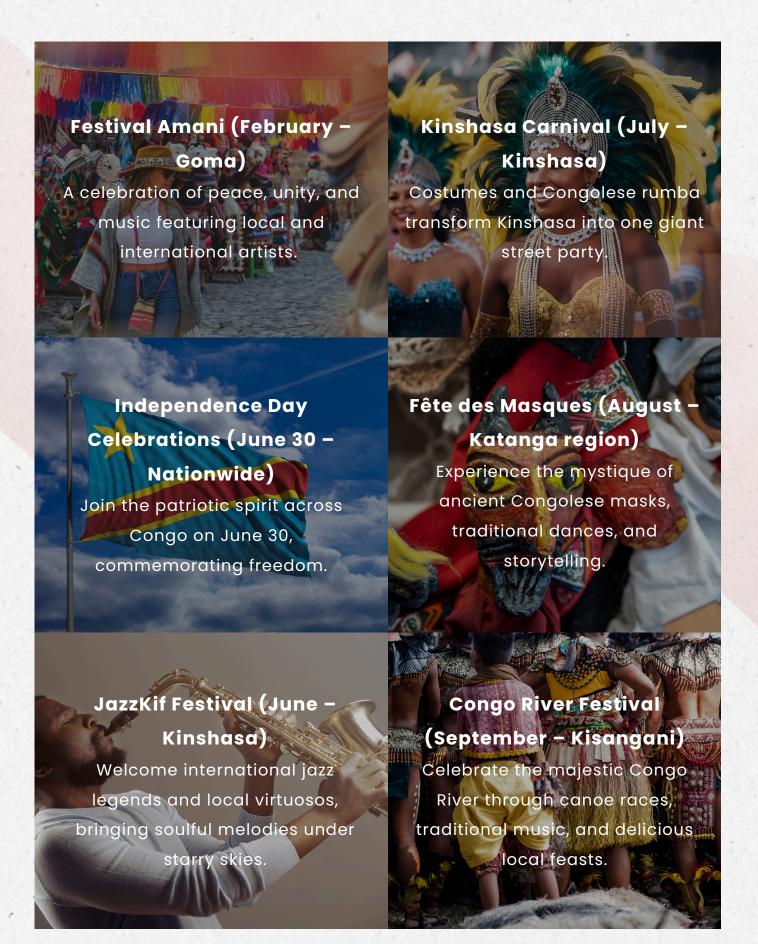
#### Fresh Foods & Fruits

Indulge safely in freshly cooked local cuisine and peel fruits yourself—delicious and worry-free.

#### Respect Wildlife

Admire Congo's wildlife safely from a respectful distance—keep yourself and animals happy!

## **VIBRANT FESTIVALS OF CONGO**



#### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

Remember, Congo thrives on connection and warmth. Be open, respectful, and curious—and you'll leave with more than memories.

#### **Handy Phrases:**

- Mbote! (Hello!)
- Matondi mingi! (Thanks a lot!)
- Nakeyi wapi? (Where am I going?)
- Kitoko! (Beautiful/Great!)

#### **YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS**

The DRC is not your typical getaway—and that's the magic. Pack light, but don't forget rain gear and bug spray. Stay open to surprises, whether it's a spontaneous roadside feast or a breathtaking rainforest sunrise. Ready to write your own epic story? The DRC is flipping open the first chapter.



