



**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION,
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION**

TRAVEL PACK SIERRA LEONE, WEST AFRICA



Visa & Entry Requirements for Sierra Leone

Visa Requirements:

General Requirement: All visitors to Sierra Leone must possess a valid passport and a visa. Citizens of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are exempt from this requirement and can enter without a visa.

<https://ipctravel.com/>

Obtaining a Visa

Visa on Arrival:

- **Eligibility:** Citizens from specific countries, including those from the European Union and the United States can obtain a visa upon arrival in Sierra Leone.
- **Procedure:** Upon arrival at Freetown International Airport or other designated entry points, travellers can obtain a visa. The fee is USD 80, payable in cash. It's advisable to carry the exact amount in US dollars to facilitate the process.

E-Visa:

- **Application:** Travelers can apply for an e-visa before departure. The application process involves submitting personal details, travel information, and payment online. Once approved, an e-visa confirmation is sent electronically, which should be presented upon arrival.

• <https://evisa.sl/>

Passport Validity

Ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your intended departure date from Sierra Leone. This is a standard requirement to avoid any entry issues.



Vaccination Requirements

Yellow Fever Vaccination: All travellers aged nine months or older must present a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate upon entry. This is mandatory and strictly enforced.

travel.state.gov

Steps to Receive a Yellow Fever Certificate

Additional Entry Information:

Airport Security Fee: A USD 25 airport security fee is levied on all passengers upon arrival and departure. Payment can be made in advance online using visa, mastercard or mobile payment platforms like Orange Money or AfriMoney. Alternatively, cash payments can be made at banks located in the airports upon arrival or before departure.. Proof of payment must be presented before proceeding through immigration.

• <https://securipass.pushkorpor.com/>

Recommendations:

Advance Planning: While visas can be obtained upon arrival, applying for an e-visa in advance can expedite the entry process and provide added assurance.

Documentation: Carry all necessary documents, including your passport, visa (or e-visa confirmation), Yellow Fever vaccination certificate, and proof of payment for the airport security fee, to ensure a hassle-free entry.

By adhering to these guidelines, travellers can look forward to a seamless entry into Sierra Leone, ready to explore the rich culture and beauty the country offers.



Local Information

Transportation

Taxi Services

Taxis are available at Lungi International Airport, which serves Freetown. The estimated fare from the airport to Freetown is approximately \$50 to \$70, depending on traffic and time of day. It's advisable to agree on the fare before starting the journey. This journey is usually longer and can take anywhere between 1:45-2hours depending on which part of the country you are staying in, but makes for a great scenic view- if you arrive during the day.

Boat Services

There is a boat transfer from the Airport to the city, which is approximately 45 minutes long. The cost for this is approximately \$50. We advise using this, it is quicker and safer and makes for a great experience. On arrival, you will have only about 10-15 minutes of travel (sometimes less) to all hotels.





Cultural and Travel Tips

Local Currency & Payment Methods

- **Currency:** Sierra Leonean Leone (SLE)
- **Exchange Rate:** Approx. 1 USD = SLE 22.7 (Recommend checking rates before travel)
- **ATMs & Card Payments:** While major hotels and businesses accept cards, cash is still widely used. ATMs are available but may have withdrawal limits.
- **Currency Exchange:** Available at the airport, banks, and major hotels.

Local Fintech Platforms



A secure way to transact online, deposit, withdraw, pay bills, send & receive money in multiple currencies – all in one place.

<https://vultme.io/>



Orange Money is the electronic wallet that the Orange Group offers to all its customers for carrying out various financial transactions.

<https://www.orange.sl/en/orange-money.html>



Afrimoney is a secure mobile money service linked to Africell SIM cards that allows users to store, transfer, and manage money, acting as a digital bank account.

<https://www.africell.sl/afrimoney/>



Safety & Security Tips

- **General Safety:** Sierra Leone is generally safe, but visitors should stay vigilant, especially in crowded areas. Exercise caution when using public transport and avoid isolated places after dark.
- **Emergency Contacts:**
 - *Police:* +232 76 771721
 - *Medical Services:* +232 30 428888
- **Local Scams to Avoid:** Be cautious of fake tour guides and taxi drivers who may overcharge. Always agree on fares beforehand.
- **Medical Facilities:**
 - **Emergency Medical Care:** Sierra Leone has several clinics, but *Lifecare Hospital* is a reliable option for emergency medical care.

Local Culture & Etiquette

- **Business Etiquette:** Handshakes and formal greetings are expected in both business and social settings. Business attire should be smart-casual. Punctuality is appreciated, but some delays may occur in more relaxed settings.
- **Language:** English is the official language, but Krio is widely spoken and may be used in informal settings.
- **Tippling:** Not mandatory, but a 5-10% tip is appreciated in restaurants, taxis, and for services such as hotel staff and porters.



Technology and Connectivity

- **Wi-Fi Access:** Many hotels and cafes offer WiFi, though speeds may vary. Consider getting a local SIM card with a data plan if you need consistent internet access
- **SIM Cards:** Available at the airport or local telecom shops. Recommended providers include:
 - Orange Sierra Leone – Best for coverage and data packages.
 - Africell Sierra Leone – Popular for affordability and widespread network access.
 - QCell Sierra Leone – Competitive data plans and good urban coverage.
- **eSIMs:** If you prefer a digital option, consider using an eSIM. Apps like Airalo offer eSIM plans for Sierra Leone, allowing you to get connected instantly without needing a physical SIM card.



Africell Sierra Leone



Orange Sierra Leone



Qcell Sierra Leone

- **Tip:** Purchasing a local SIM requires a passport for registration. Data bundles can be activated via USSD codes or mobile apps provided by each telecom operator.



Hotels

Top Recommended Hotels in Freetown

New Brookfields Hotel

- Rooms Starting at - **\$135**



Atlantic Lumley Hotel

- Rooms Starting at **\$157**



Swiss Hotel

- Rooms Starting at **\$120**



Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel

- Rooms starting at **\$240**





Hotels

Top Recommended Hotels in Freetown

Hotel Barmoi

- Rooms Starting at - **\$95**



Home Suites Hotel

- Rooms Starting at **\$220**



Mamba Point Hotel

- Rooms Starting at **\$130**





Dining and Entertainment

Top Restaurants in Freetown

Mamba Point Lagoonda Restaurant

- Specializing in Lebanese, Bar, Seafood, International, Mediterranean, Sushi, and Middle Eastern cuisines. Vegetarian-friendly options are available.



Gigibontà Ice Cream and Pizzeria

- Known for its Italian cuisine, offering a variety of pizzas and a wide selection of ice creams.



Home Suites Boutique Hotel Restaurant

- Offers a diverse menu with both local and international dishes in a cosy atmosphere.





Key Local Attractions

Beaches



River No. 2: A popular beach for relaxation, known for its clean sand and clear water.



Tokeh Beach: A serene beach ideal for swimming and picnicking, located



Lumley Beach

A popular spot for relaxation and local entertainment.

Nature & Wildlife



Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary:

A must-visit for nature lovers, where you can observe rescued chimpanzees in their natural habitat.

Historical Sites:



Bunce Island:

A UNESCO-listed site, historically significant as a former slave-trading post.



Sierra Leone National Museum

Offers insights into the country's history and culture through a diverse collection of artefacts.



Banana Island

Home to the ruins of a slave fortress used during the Transatlantic slave trade.



Contact & Support

For any questions or assistance, reach out to:

Mohamed Moumini Jalloh
mohamed.mjalloh@mocti.gov.sl

Sunah Keili
sunah.keili@mocti.gov.sl

Hafsatu Rakie Sesay
hafsatu.sesay@institute.global

