



Joint ICAO/AFCAC Regional Symposium for African States on the Economics of Airports and Air Navigation Services



Kampala, Uganda, 17 - 19 August 2009



GENERAL INFORMATION

WELCOME TO UGANDA – THE PEARL OF AFRICA

Uganda lies astride the equator with a geographical area of 242,000 sq kms, 20% of which is covered by water.

Uganda is bordered by Kenya to the East, Sudan to the North, Democratic Republic of Congo to the West, and Rwanda and Tanzania to the South.

COUNTRY FACTS:

1. **Population**

28 million (2007)

2. **Language**

English and Kiswahili are the official languages with the former more widely spoken and written.

3. **Getting there**

Uganda is served by a number of international airlines with direct or connecting flights to Entebbe International Airport, which include: British Airways, Brussels Airlines, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Egypt Air, Emirates, Ethiopian Airlines, South African Airways, Kenya Airways and Air Tanzania. There are also regional airlines that provide convenient flight connections to Uganda and these include Air Uganda, Rwanda Air Express, Air Burundi and Cetraca Aviation Service.

4. **Visa Requirements**

Entry visa requirements are flexible but are based on the principle of reciprocity. Citizens of some countries (especially Commonwealth and COMESA members) are exempted. For those nationals who need visas to enter Uganda, the visas are flexibly issued at Uganda's foreign missions, or at Entebbe International Airport, or any other entry point on payment of a fee as indicated below:

Visa fees:	Single entry	US\$ 50
	Multiple entry	US\$200
	Inland transit	US\$ 50

5. **Inland Travel**

Travel within the country is largely by road. One can take a bus, a public commuter commonly known as *Matatu*, or charter a flight to any of the more than 25 aerodromes of which 13 managed by Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA).

In the capital Kampala, "special hire" taxis are available and can be obtained from your hotel. Motorcycle "taxis" or *bodaboda* are a common feature in Kampala and often beat the traffic snarl-ups but may not be safe and therefore not recommended.

A taxi from Entebbe Airport to Kampala, 40 kms away, is about US\$25. Movement within the city will cost an average of US \$3-10 depending on the distance and duration.

However, Delegates to the Symposium will be met by receptionists and officials of CAA at Entebbe International Airport and transported to their respective hotels.

It is required to inform Uganda CAA 10 days prior to arrival for transportation from airport to hotel. □□

6. **Accommodation**

Kampala provides a wide range of choice hotels. The more up market hotels include Serena Kampala Hotel, Imperial Royale Hotel, Sheraton Kampala and the Golf Course Hotel. The complete list of recommended hotels in and around Kampala including their room rates, which include breakfast and taxes, are indicated in the Table attached.

7. **Weather**

The name tag, *Pearl of Africa* by wartime British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was derived from the country's equatorial climate moderated by altitude. Rains normally come between March to May and September to November. The coldest part of the country, Kabale, records lows of 15°C while Kampala temperatures range between 21°C and 28°C. During most months, warm clothing is not necessary.

8. **Communications**

Telephone and communication services are spread around the country with Internet and Blackberry widely available. Five mobile phone companies: **MTN-Uganda, Uganda Telecom, Orange, Warid** and **Zain** offer a wide range of services. They are connected to the global/international networks for roaming purposes. The Internet top level domain is **.ug**. The international telephone dialling code for Uganda is **+256**.

9. **Banking**

There is a variety of commercial and merchant banking services. Most Banks handle travellers' cheques and convert international currencies. Banking hours are from Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a number of Banks open on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Forex Bureaux are also available in Kampala and other towns. Visitors would however be advised to deal with Bureaux with a valid and displayed license.

10. **Currency**

The country's legal tender, the Uganda shilling (UGX), is based on the decimal system. Notes are in denominations of 1,000, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000 and 50,000. Coins most popularly used are in denominations of 100, 200 and 500 shillings. Approximate exchange rates: USD1 = UGX 2,100; EUR1 = 2,900; CFA1 = UGX 4.40.

11. **Safety**

The country is peaceful and one is secure almost all the time. As is common in other countries, however, petty theft can be encountered especially downtown Kampala. Expensive valuables like jewellery, electronic items, phones and money should not be conspicuously displayed. It is advisable to consult the Hotel concierge or the Symposium officials for information relating to night entertainment. In case of trouble, the Police can be reached on 999 or 112 for mobile phones.

12. **Health**

It is advisable to take malaria precautions as one travels to Uganda. Repellents may be useful. Most Hotels will provide a mosquito net. Bottled drinking water is safer to use than tap water and is available throughout the country. Pharmacies and licensed drug stores will provide over-the-counter drugs while some drugs may require prescription.

13. **Time Zone Differences**

Uganda's geographic coordinates are 10 00 N, 32 00 E. The country is within the East African time zone - i.e. 3 hours ahead of GMT.

14. **Business Hours**

Uganda's official business hours are: 8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday to Friday).

15. **Electricity**

230/245 volts at 50Hz. British-type three-pin plugs used.

16. **Key Towns**

Kampala (Capital city), Arua, Gulu, Jinja, Entebbe, Mbale, Masaka and Mbarara.

17. **Tourist Information**

The main tourist attractions are the Kasubi Tombs and Martyrs Shrine in Kampala. Source of the River Nile, Mountain Gorillas, the Rwenzori Mountain ranges, the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre and 10 National Parks spread around the country, provide memorable moments for a visitor. Most National Parks can be reached by air.

18. **Emergency Contacts**

- Police: 999 or 112
- Ambulance: International Air Ambulance (IAA) – 0312-200508
- Health services: (AAR) – 0312-263071/2
- Mulago Hospital: 0414-554009

19. **Contact Persons**

Mr. Sam Muneeza

Director Safety, Security and Economic
Regulation

E-mail: smuneeza@caa.co.ug / Alt:

dat@caa.co.ug

Tel: +256-414-321435 (office) / +256-772-
318181 (mobile)

Fax: +256-414-320375 / +256-414-321401

Mr. Ignie I. Igunduura

Manager Public Affairs

E-mail: iigunduura@caa.co.ug

Tel.: +256-752-721414 /

Fax: +256-414-321401

Mr. Kabbs Twijuke

Representative of the Republic of Uganda on the ICAO Council

E-mail: uganda@icao.int

Tel.: +1-514-954-5710

Fax: +1-514-954-5806

— END —