



# Democratic Republic of the CONGO (DRC)

**Capital:** Kinshasa

**President:** Joseph Kabila

**Population:** 82.24 million (2017)

**GDP (PPP):** 2017 estimate

**Currencies:** Congolese franc, Zairean zaire

**Official language:** French

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## Doing Business in Democratic Republic of Congo

Businesspeople should wear lightweight suits. Interpreter and translation services are available as business is mainly conducted in French. The best time to visit is in the cool season (which varies from one part of the country to another).

### Office Hours

Mon-Fri 0730-1500, Sat 0730-1200.

## Keeping in Touch in Democratic Republic of Congo

### Telephone

Internal telephone service is often unreliable and exists only in major towns. Satellite or cellular telephones are often used by international organisations.

### Mobile Phone

Roaming agreements exist with a few international mobile phone companies. Note: Using a handset in public can attract unwanted attention and make the user a target for robbery.

### Internet

Available, though power shortages may cause difficulties. There are Internet cafes in Kinshasa.

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## VISA INFO

**Note: visa information is not guaranteed. Kindly confirm details with the relevant authorities.**

[Important Note](#) - [Delay/Cost/Validity](#) - [Bank Details](#) - [Requirements](#) - [Days Closed](#) - [Office Hours](#) - [Contact Details](#)

### Important Note

South African passport holders require visas for the Democratic Republic of Congo (**Kinshasa**).  
**No cash payments.**

	The Embassy will not accept responsibility for any delays caused by inadequately documented applications.																		
	<p><b>Delay - 24 Hours</b></p> <p><b>Cost: NO Cash payments accepted</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Multiple entries</td> <td>30 days</td> <td>R1500</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>45 days</td> <td>R1875</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>60 days</td> <td>R2250</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>90 days</td> <td>R2625</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>180 days</td> <td>R5250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transit visa</td> <td>double entry</td> <td>R500</td> </tr> </table>	Multiple entries	30 days	R1500		45 days	R1875		60 days	R2250		90 days	R2625		180 days	R5250	Transit visa	double entry	R500
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<b>Delay/ Cost/ Validity</b>	<p>These registration fees are payable per passport and or document and are not refundable. Payment to be deposited into the Embassy's account. The Embassy will require the original deposit slip.</p> <p><b>N.B - Cheque payments will have to wait 7 working days for clearance and EFT 2 days for clearance.</b></p>																		
<b>Bank Details</b>	<p><b>Standard Bank</b>  <b>Account no.:</b> 011276886  <b>Branch:</b> Arcadia  <b>Branch Code:</b> 010845  <b>Holder:</b> Embassy of the DRC</p>																		
<b>Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passport valid at least 6 months (with 4 blank pages)</li> <li>• Completed visa form</li> <li>• 2 recent passport photos</li> <li>• Visa fee deposited into the DRC Embassy bank account</li> <li>• If in transit, produce air ticket</li> <li>• Your reason for visiting the DRC</li> </ul> <p><b>For Tourism:</b> Details of your intended tour itinerary.  <b>For Business:</b> Notarized letter of invitation from the host in DRC. Letter from the applicant's employer with details of your business contact  <b>For Visit:</b> Notarized letter of Invitation from the host in DRC with full address or confirmed hotel booking  Letter from the applicant's employer confirmed that he/she will return to employment after termination of the visit in the DRC  <b>For Officials/Diplomatic:</b> * Note Verbale</p>																		
<b>Days Closed</b>	<b>2017:</b> All South African Public Holidays																		
<b>Office Hours</b>	09h00-12h30: Mon to Fri (Submissions) 13h30-14h30: The following day (Collections)																		
<b>Contact Details</b>	<p><b>Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo- Kinshasa (Pretoria)</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Telephone No</td> <td>:</td> <td>(012) 343-2455/ 012 344 6476</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fax No</td> <td>:</td> <td>(012) 343 2633</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Street Address</td> <td>:</td> <td>791 Schoeman (Francis Baard) Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Postal Address</td> <td>:</td> <td>P.O. Box 28795 Sunnyside 0132</td> </tr> </table>	Telephone No	:	(012) 343-2455/ 012 344 6476	Fax No	:	(012) 343 2633	Street Address	:	791 Schoeman (Francis Baard) Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083	Postal Address	:	P.O. Box 28795 Sunnyside 0132						
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Email Address : [rdcongo@lantic.net](mailto:rdcongo@lantic.net)

## Health Care and Vaccinations

Yellow Fever	Yes*
Diphtheria	Yes
Hepatitis A	Yes
Malaria	Yes
Rabies	Sometimes
Tetanus	Yes
Typhoid	Yes
* A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required by travellers over one year of age.	

Government expenditure on health is low and the quality of hospitals is poor. It is advisable to take specific personal medicines as well as supplies such as syringes and drip needles, as medical facilities are available only in larger centres. Doctors and hospitals expect cash payment in full for health services. Health insurance is essential and it is advisable to include cover for emergency air evacuation.

### Food and drink

All water should be regarded as being a potential health risk. Water used for drinking, brushing teeth or making ice should have first been boiled or otherwise sterilised. Milk is unpasteurised and should be boiled. Powdered or tinned milk is available and is advised. Avoid dairy products that are likely to have been made from unboiled milk. Only eat well-cooked meat and fish. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled.

### Other Risks

Bilharzia (schistosomiasis) is present; avoid swimming and paddling in fresh water. Hepatitis B and E are present and meningococcal meningitis may occur. There is a very high risk of diarrhoeal diseases, the dysenteries and various parasitic worm infections. Ebola outbreaks have occurred. Avoid tick bites which spread African tick typhus. Wear shoes to avoid soil-borne parasites. Rabies is present. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten, seek medical advice without delay.

## Where to stay in Democratic Republic of Congo

### Hotels

The difficult terrain has resulted in relatively few settlements except along river banks. Accommodation is essentially restricted to the main cities, and is virtually non-existent in the interior. For further details, contact the embassy (see *Contact Addresses*). The few hotels that cater for visitors are expensive and generally booked up well in advance. The majority of hotels are in Kinshasa, with others in Boma, Bukavu, Kening, Kisangani, Kolwezi, Lubumbashi, Matadi, Mbandaka, Mbanzangu and Muanda.

## Getting Around Democratic Republic of Congo

### Side of the road

right

## **Road Quality**

Owing to poor maintenance, the roads are among the worst in Africa and only achieve a fair standard around the main towns. It is wise to check that bridges are safe before crossing. Vehicle thefts, including hijackings at gunpoint, occur.

## **Car Hire**

Available on a limited basis at the airport.

## **Taxis**

Available in Kinshasa but unreliable.

## **Documentation**

International Driving Permit required.

## **Towns and cities**

Conventional bus services in Kinshasa can be severely overcrowded. Minibuses and converted truck-buses also offer public transport, and are known as *fula fulas*. Pick-up trucks are known as 'taxibuses'. A better standard of transport is provided by shared taxis, which are widely available. There is little or no public transport in most other large centres.

## **Rail**

The main internal railway runs from Lubumbashi to Ilébo, with a branch to Kalemie and Kindu, and from Kinshasa to the port of Matadi. Rail services are generally subject to disruption. There is no air conditioning, but there are couchettes and dining cars on the principal trains.

## **Water**

Over 1,600km (1,000 miles) of the Congo River are navigable and there are sporadic services from Kinshasa to the upriver ports of Kisangani and Ilébo, but services are unreliable owing to political instability and fuel shortages.

## **Money and duty free for Democratic Republic of Congo**

### **Currency & Money**

#### **Currency information**

Franc Congolais (CDF) = 100 centimes. Owing to the precarious nature of the economy, the denominations of the currency are subject to rapid change.

#### **Credit cards**

The use of MasterCard and Visa is limited to Kinshasa's major hotels. Credit cards cannot be used to obtain cash advances at banks.

#### **ATM**

#### **Travellers cheques**

Not recommended. Commission fees are very high, and traveller's cheques are not accepted outside Kinshasa.

#### **Banking hours**

Mon-Fri 0800-1130.

## **Currency restriction**

## **Currency exchange**

Because of the parlous state of the economy, the only true repository of value is the US Dollar. Free circulation of foreign currencies is now allowed within the country. Note that purchase of airline tickets within the country can be made only with money exchanged officially.

## **Democratic Republic of Congo duty free**

The following items may be imported into Congo (Dem Rep) by travellers over 18 years of age without incurring customs duty:

- 100 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 227g of tobacco.
- 1 bottle of alcoholic beverage.
- A reasonable amount of perfume for personal use.
- Cameras if temporarily imported by tourists.

Radios, audio equipment and gifts are subject to duty.

## **Banned Imports**

An import licence is required for arms and ammunition.

***Contact our office for any information not supplied above***



### **ADDRESS**

First Floor Trinity Village  
65 Knoppiesdoring Street  
Randpark Ridge, Johannesburg 2196

**Email:** [info@travelbyarrangement.com](mailto:info@travelbyarrangement.com)

Phone: +27 (11) 794 4900

Fax: +27 (11) 794 4910

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday: 08h30am – 17h00pm

Weekends & Public Holidays: Closed

24 Hour after hours service available Contact your travel advisor for assistance