

READ OUR UGANDA FAQs

The information provided below is to help all Conference participants better prepare and to make the most out of your ICT4D Conference experience. Should you require any more assistance, please do not hesitate to email admin@ict4dconference.org.

ACCOMMODATION

All standards of accommodation are available in Uganda.

ICT4D Conference participants must book and pay for their own accommodation by submitting a request to their chosen hotel. A list of recommended hotels local to the Conference venue will be available to view shortly. The accommodation listed will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

ATM MACHINES

In Uganda, ATM machines are not readily available. Machines accepting VISA cards can be found at Entebbe International Airport and in Kampala. Please be aware that these may be out of services and usually only pay out Uganda Shillings.

One ATM machine is located at the Speke Resort Munyonyo.

Separately, please note there is a 5% surcharge on each transaction when using a credit or visit card at the resort.

CLIMATE

Uganda is on the equator which gives it an ideal climate with little variation. Mean temperatures are between 21°C and 31°C all year round. There are two rainy seasons from March to April and October to November.

The following measurements indicate the average temperature during the month of May:

Average lowest temperature: 23°C

Average temperature: 25°C

Average highest temperature: 28°C

ELECTRICITY

The standard voltage used in Uganda is 240 volts. The type of plug commonly used is the 3-pin (square). We would recommend you bring your own adapters.

ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (EBB)

Entebbe International Airport is the main gateway to Kampala and the rest of Uganda. The airport is located near the town of Entebbe which is situated on the shores of Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa. In addition to that, Entebbe International Airport is located at a distance of 38kms to Speke Resort Munyonyo and 35kms from Kampala.

Taxis services at Entebbe International Airport provide transportation leaving from the exit terminal. The service is available 24 hours and the payment is in cash only. The transport fare ranges from \$40 - 75 US Dollars one way.

FOOD & WATER

Meat and chicken stews are popular in Uganda served with rice and matoke (cooked plantain/banana mash). With Uganda's many lakes and rivers, fish is an important food. Local fish include the Nile perch, and tilapia. One of the favorite recipes is tilapia served with a peanut sauce.

Though many Ugandans grow coffee beans for a living, chai or tea is the favored hot drink. It is recommended that you drink bottled or boiled water only.

GEOGRAPHY

Uganda is a land-linked country, located in the East African region, neighboring Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan and The Democratic Republic of Congo.

HEALTH & VACCINATIONS

An international certificate of vaccination against yellow fever is compulsory and will be checked on arrival at Entebbe International Airport or any land border crossing.

We recommend you check with your medical practitioner prior to departure to ensure you have received the necessary vaccinations and been advised on any additional requirements or alternatively you can visit the website of the Centres for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>.

INTERNET

Internet services are widely available in hotels, although the quality and speed of the connection varies.

LANGUAGES

The official language is English and Swahili, although many other language are spoken in Uganda.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

There are private hospitals and clinics which provide 24-hour emergency and ambulance services. Check with your hotel or travel agent for current recommendations.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Most parts of Uganda can be safely visited by tourists. Take common-sense precautions (not walking alone in deserted areas at night). Valuable should be kept out of sight and vehicles locked. Don't carry your important and portable items unless necessary.

In case of emergencies, contact the nearest police station or telephone 999.

TIME

Uganda is located in the EAT (Eastern Africa Time) UTC/GMT +3 hours' time zone.

TAXATION

VAT is currently at 18% and levied on most items. For more taxation information, visit Uganda Revenue Authority www.ura.go.ug.

TELEPHONE

International telephone communication is generally good but more difficult in some rural areas. Uganda has a good mobile phone network and local SIM cards can be purchased throughout the country. International roaming facilities are available.

The prefix for dialing from abroad to Uganda is + 256.

UGANDAN CURRENCY

The Uganda Shilling (UGX) is the official currency of Uganda, however US Dollars (USD) are also accepted in certain places across East Africa. For the most part Uganda is a cash based economy, however you will be able to use your VISA or MasterCard in certain hotels and restaurants. It is advised that you carry both USD and UGX whilst travelling around Uganda.

UGX is a controlled currency and is only available from within East Africa. Therefore it is advised that you carry \$100 or \$50 US Dollar bills to be exchanged at official Forex Bureaus upon arrival. US Dollar bills must be printed 2003 or newer and unmarked.

VISA INFORMATION

Obtaining a visa to enter Uganda is very easy, as the government has created an online application. Once you have registered for the Conference, you will receive an invitation letter, which you will need to attach to your online visa application. To learn more, visit <http://www.immigration.go.ug/content/visas-and-passes>.

To contact a Ugandan Foreign Mission, please visit <http://www.mofa.go.ug>

If your question has not been answered, please email admin@ict4dconference.org.

**Dates and details are subject to change. This FAQ will be updated with the most recent information. Last update: October 2, 2018.*