

AGOA Forum 2017

Information for U.S. Citizens traveling to Lome, Togo

U.S. Embassy Lome Contacts

For emergencies:

U.S. Embassy Post One +228-2261-5470, then dial 0 or x4403

U.S. Embassy Duty Officer cell +228-9025-8478

U.S. Embassy switchboard during business hours: +228-2261-5470

Public website: <https://tg.usembassy.gov>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/togo.usembassy>

The U.S. Department of State encourages U.S. citizens to enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP) prior to traveling overseas.

Getting to Lome

Lome (LFW) is served by daily flights from Paris on Air France; four times weekly from Brussels on Brussels Airlines; four times weekly from Newark and daily from Addis Ababa on Ethiopian Airlines. Royal Air Maroc provides service from Casablanca and TAP Portugal from Lisbon. Lome-based regional carrier Asky Airlines connects from 22 destinations in West and Central Africa.

Visas/Airport arrival

Washington, DC-based travelers may wish to obtain a visa from the Togolese Embassy before departing. For those who are not able to obtain a visa before traveling, visas for U.S. passport holders are available on arrival at the airport in Lome. The Government of Togo has declared that it will give “courtesy” visas to all AGOA Forum participants, both for visas issued at its embassies and upon arrival in Lome. You should bring a copy of your AGOA Forum registration confirmation e-mail to show the immigration agent. Air travel to or from Lome will require proof of yellow fever immunization to board a flight.

AGOA Forum participants arriving in Lome on scheduled flights will find Government of Togo protocol officers stationed in the airport immigration area who will be available to provide assistance if needed.

There is no departure tax when leaving Togo.

Accommodation

The Government of Togo has designated 27 hotels in Lome as AGOA Forum “partner” hotels. The hotels cover a range of quality and price. You may find the list of hotels on the AGOA Forum 2017 website <http://www.agoa-togo.tg/> and the AGOA Forum Accreditation website <http://www.agoa-togo.tg/index.php/en/useful-information>

The Government of Togo will operate regular shuttle buses between the AGOA Forum partner hotels and the conference site at the Radisson Blu 2 Fevrier Hotel.

Conference Site/Local Transportation

All AGOA Forum sessions will take place at the Radisson Blu and in buildings adjacent to the Radisson compound. All venues are within a 5 minute walk from the hotel.

Radisson Blu 2 Fevrier Hotel

Place de L'indépendance

BP 131, Lomé, Togo

Phone: +228 22 23 86 00

<https://www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-lome>

The Government of Togo will run regular shuttle buses to and from the “Made in Togo” Fair, an exhibition of local products that will take place concurrently with the AGOA Forum. The Fair will take place at the “Lome 2000” fairground, approximately 20 minutes by bus from the Radisson.

Health

Yellow fever: Togo requires all travelers to present proof of yellow fever vaccine upon arrival at the airport.

Malaria: According to the CDC, a high risk of malaria exists in all parts of Togo. Travelers should talk to their doctor about medicines they can take to minimize the risk, and other steps they can take to prevent malaria. More information about malaria and other travel health concerns can be found on the CDC website:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/togo>

Travelers should bring with them any prescription medicines they may need. Outside of the U.S., the formulation and dosage of prescription drugs can differ significantly, and some medicines cannot be found in any formulation. Expired, counterfeit and mislabeled medicines are prevalent in Togo. The best advice for any traveler is bring what you will need.

Visitors sometimes experience “Togo tummy”-- diarrhea, vomiting, etc. To avoid it, drink only bottled water. Don't consume food from street vendors. Avoid unpasteurized milk and dairy products (including ice cream), raw or undercooked meat, shellfish, moist food at room temperature such as sauces and buffet offerings. Bring Imodium and oral rehydration salts to treat symptoms.

Safety and Security

The U.S. Department of State ranks Lome critical for crime, but the area around the Radisson is safe for walking in daylight. Travelers should use the same precautions as in any large city to stay safe: dress down in public, do not flash cash or wear expensive jewelry on the street, avoid dark streets.

Visitors should avoid walking along the beach and the beach road in the city, where muggings and purse snatchings have been known to occur. (Beach resorts outside of town are safe). Visitor should also avoid the area around the Ghana border on the beach road, which is a high crime area. Be mindful of pickpockets if you visit the central market (“grand marché”) and go with a friend or colleague. Some vendors can be aggressive.

Taxis are unregulated and are frequently in poor mechanical condition. It is a good idea to go with a colleague in a taxi and to negotiate the fare before departing. Visitors should not ride motorcycle taxis.

Cell phones and Internet

Togo has two mobile phone operators, Togocel and Moov. Travelers can access voice and text via roaming. E-mail can be accessed via wifi. The Government of Togo will offer free wifi throughout the AGOA Forum venues.

Language

French is the official language of Togo. Some Togolese speak a little English, but are seldom comfortable using it.

Restaurants

Lome is well known for its many excellent restaurants, and Togolese have a well-deserved reputation across West Africa as excellent chefs. You can find many reviews and photos on Google at <https://www.google.com/#q=restaurants+in+lome+togo> and TripAdvisor at https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g293839-Lome_Maritime_Region.html

Credentials

Participants in the AGOA Private Sector and Civil Society Forums can collect their credentials at the Togo Ministry of Foreign Affairs office beginning August 4, 2017. (see map location below).

Togo Ministry of Foreign Affairs (AGOA Forum credential pick-up point): Located on the Place des Martyrs, across from the Ministry of Commerce and the railway station, approximately 3 blocks east of the Radisson Blu hotel (AGOA Forum conference site)

