

TOURISM AND TOURIST VISA TO NIGERIA



INTRODUCTION

As the year draws to a close, global travel activity is set to increase significantly, and Nigeria stands as an appealing destination within this trend. With its rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and vibrant cities, Nigeria is ready to welcome a surge of international visitors seeking unique experiences. This article delves into everything you need to know about obtaining a tourist visa for Nigeria, outlining the application processes and requirements in detail. By offering a comprehensive understanding of Nigeria's tourist visa options, prospective travelers can navigate the entry process more smoothly and fully enjoy the myriad of attractions this dynamic nation has to offer. Notably, in September 2024, the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) reduced the Visa on Arrival biometric fees for African nationals from \$170 to \$120, a move aimed at encouraging more visitors to the country.

UNDERSTANDING TOURISM AND TOURIST VISA TO NIGERIA

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), tourism is a social, cultural, and economic phenomenon that involves the movement of people to destinations outside their usual environment for leisure, business, or professional purposes. These individuals, referred to as visitors, engage in activities that often entail tourism-related expenditure.

The Nigeria Tourist Visa (F5A) is a short visit visa specifically designed for travelers who wish to explore Nigeria for tourism-related activities. This visa permits a stay of up to 90 days and is classified as a single-entry visa. Under the Short Visit Visa category includes various specific classes, encompassing a total of twenty-four types of visas tailored for different purposes, all aimed at visits lasting less than 90 days. The F5A Tourist Visa can be obtained through Nigerian missions abroad, the eVisa system, or the Visa on Arrival program, and is ideal for tourists, nature photographers, sightseers, birdwatchers, and adventurers looking to experience the country's diverse attractions.

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The Tourist Visa is available to all passport holders, except ECOWAS¹/CEDEAO nationals and citizens of countries such as Cameroon and Chad, with which Nigeria has visa abolition agreements. These citizens do not require visas to enter Nigeria.

1. Economic Community of West African States

NIGERIA TOURIST VISA REQUIREMENTS

To apply for the F5A Tourist Visa, applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. A valid passport with at least six months of validity and two blank pages.
2. Booked return air tickets to Nigeria.
3. Evidence of sufficient funds for the duration of the stay.
4. Address of a host in Nigeria or evidence of hotel reservations.
5. Printouts of the completed online visa application form.
6. Printouts of the online payment acknowledgment slip.
7. Two recent passport-sized photographs (35mm x 40mm).

Additional requirements may vary depending on the visa application channel.

WHY VISIT NIGERIA?

Nigeria is a premier tourist destination, celebrated for its stunning landscapes and rich cultural diversity. Visitors can engage in a multitude of activities, from safaris and sightseeing to exploring historical sites and enjoying vibrant nightlife. The country's tropical climate makes it particularly attractive for travelers from colder regions looking to escape winter.

Some of Nigeria's breathtaking attractions include the Makoko floating community, various art galleries, and historically significant slave trade locations in Badagry, Osun Osogbo Grove, and the Lekki Conservation Centre. The country also boasts numerous UNESCO² World Heritage Sites, such as the ancient Kano City walls and the Old Oyo National Park. For those seeking modern attractions, Lagos offers a bustling scene filled with shopping, nightlife, art galleries, and museums.

Beyond these highlights, Nigeria is known for its warm hospitality, with locals often eager to share their traditions and stories. Culinary enthusiasts will find delight in Nigeria's diverse cuisine, featuring delicious dishes like jollof rice, Fufu, Amala, and suya, which reflect the



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².United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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Nature lovers can explore the vast array of national parks, such as the Gashaka-Gumti National Park and Kamuku National Park, which offer opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, and wildlife spotting. Additionally, the country's festivals, such as the Osun-Osogbo Festival and the Calabar Carnival, provide vibrant cultural experiences filled with music, dance, and traditional rituals.

For adventure seekers, Nigeria offers opportunities for activities like canopy walkway at the Lekki Conservation Centre, kayaking at Lagos Lagoon, and trekking through the scenic Mambilla Plateau. The country's vibrant art scene, showcased in its numerous galleries and markets, presents a perfect blend of traditional and contemporary creativity.

Furthermore, the processing time for a F5A Tourism Visa is typically 2 to 3 working days, making it a quick and hassle-free process for foreigners wishing to visit Nigeria. With its blend of culture, adventure, history, and hospitality, Nigeria promises an unforgettable experience for every traveler.



CONCLUSION

Nigeria presents a wealth of opportunities for tourists, from its vibrant culture to its diverse landscapes and historical significance. The country's commitment to enhancing its visa policies makes it increasingly accessible to international travelers. With the introduction of the F5A Tourist Visa and reduced fees for the Visa on Arrival program, Nigeria is well-positioned to attract more tourists. Whether you're seeking adventure, cultural experiences, or simply a warm escape, Nigeria is ready to welcome you with open arms.

Should you require further assistance or clarification on the above, please feel free to contact pamilerin.akabunwa@famsvillesolicitors.com or uzochukwu.kpaduwa@famsvillesolicitors.com



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