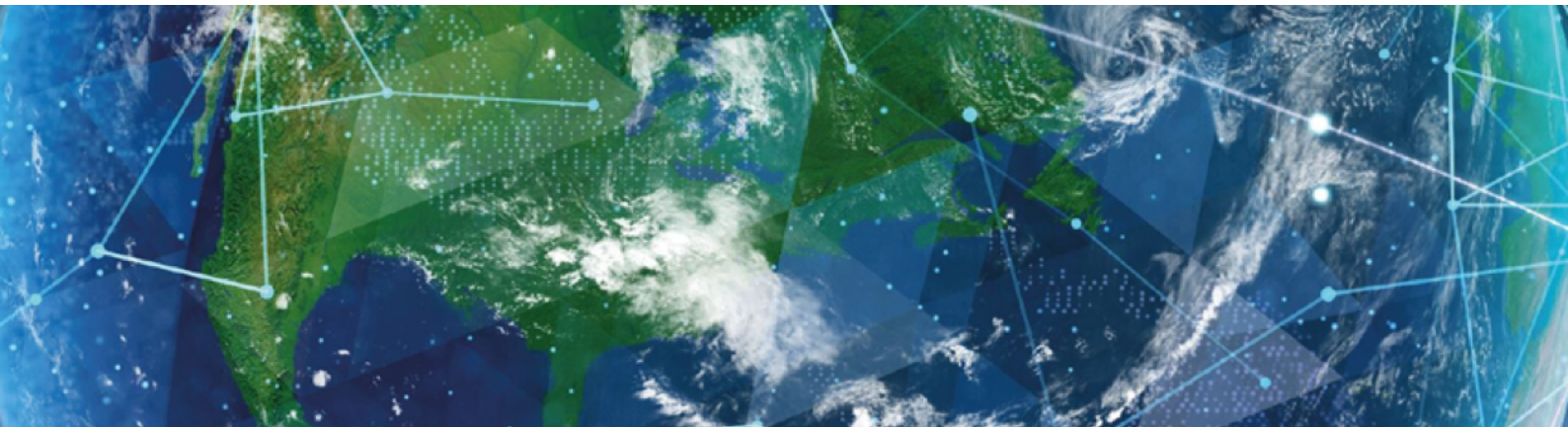


Country Travel Advice Report

Ghana

Overall Risk Rating: **Low - Moderate | 2.50**



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Country Risk Rating Breakdown

Country Overall Risk Rating				Low - Moderate 2.50
Security	Environmental	Infrastructural	Political	Medical
Low - Moderate 2.75	Low - Moderate 2.50	Moderate 3.00	Low 2.25	High 4.25

Country Overview

Low - Moderate | 2.50

Ghana has often been cited as a bastion of stability in the historically volatile West African region, and a model for political reform on the continent. Since the end of military rule in 1992, successive elections have been held and transfers of power have been largely peaceful. Ghana has enjoyed sustained economic growth fuelled by its wealth of natural resources, and the government actively promotes foreign investment, although corruption, while less prevalent than many other African countries, is present and is an impediment to business interests and economic growth. The government is popular both domestically and internationally and does not face any serious internal or external threats to its existence. The primary threats to foreign visitors are from health hazards and road traffic accidents. Opportunistic criminal activity is a concern in Accra and other urban areas, while there is a perceived growing threat from terrorism following deadly attacks in other West African nations in early 2016. Ghana's infrastructure is adequate in major urban areas such as Accra, Kumasi and Tamale, and the main arterial routes are in reasonable condition, although infrastructure remains underdeveloped in many rural parts of the country.

Security

Low - Moderate | 2.75

Overview

Ghana has not experienced any terrorist attacks, but there is a growing threat from extremist militant groups in the region. Crime is a serious problem in the country, with the main threat to foreigners being opportunistic street crime, especially in large urban centers. Civil and labor unrest occurs occasionally, but is peaceful for the most part.

Political

Low | 2.25

Overview

Ghana is politically stable, and has been free of the conflict and violence witnessed in the historically volatile West African region. Corruption levels in Ghana are lower compared to other countries in the region, but remains present in public institutions.

Infrastructural

Moderate | 3.00

Overview

Overland travel in Ghana is complicated by varying road conditions and poor driving standards, contributing to frequent traffic accidents.

Ghana has experienced recurrent power outages in recent years.

Internet-based fraud and scams are prevalent in Ghana, which has one of the highest internet penetration rates on the continent.

Environmental

Low - Moderate | 2.50

Overview

Flooding is common during the rainy season between May and October, especially in August and September. From January to March, Ghana experiences the northeastern Harmattan winds that blow sand and dust from the Sahara into the Gulf of Guinea.

Medical

High | 4.25

Overview

Malaria is prevalent throughout Ghana. Standards of medical care and facilities in urban centers are adequate in Ghana, but limited outside of the capital.

Fact Box

Government Type	Presidential Republic
Population	27,409,893 (2015)
Currency	Ghanaian Cedi
Languages	English (official) Asante, Ewe, Fante, Boron (Brong), Other, including Dagomba, Dangme, Dagarte (Dagaba), Kokomba, Akyem, Ga,
Time Zone	UTC
Religions	Christian 71%, Muslim 18%, traditional 5%, other including none 6%
Traffic	Drives on the right
Plug Types	Type D, Type G
Ethnicities	Akan 48%, Mole-Dagbon 17%, Ewe 14%, Ga-Dangme 7%, Gurma 6%, Other, including Guan and Grusi, 8%
Drinking Water	Not Safe to Drink
Additional Information	<p>Significant Dates:</p> <p>January 1 - New Year's Day January 7 - Constitution Day March 6 - Independence Day April 10 - Good Friday April 13 - Easter Monday May 1 - May Day May 24 - End of Ramadan (Eid Al Fitr) July 31 - Eid ul Adha August 4 - Founders' Day September 21 - Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Day December 4 - National Farmers' Day December 25 - Christmas Day December 26/28 - Boxing Day</p>
International Country Code	+233

Travel Risk Advice

Vaccinations and Key Health Risks

You should visit a health care professional at least four to six weeks prior to the trip. Travellers should ensure that they have routine vaccination courses and boosters. Routine vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, varicella (chickenpox), polio, and annual flu vaccine.

Most travellers will require vaccines from:

- Hepatitis A
- Malaria
- Typhoid
- Yellow Fever

Dependent on work, reason for travel, or underlying health conditions, some travellers may require vaccines from:

- Cholera
- Hepatitis B
- Meningitis
- Rabies

Pre-departure

- Crime is a serious problem, and there is a growing threat from extremist militant groups. A risk assessment should have been completed against the travel itinerary before travelling. Travellers should further undertake a pre-travel security brief on the associated threats and operating environment, and are recommended to have undertaken annual travel security training. Corruption is problematic, and business travellers should undertake bribery and corruption training before travelling.
- Standards of medical care are limited outside of urban centres, and travellers' personal medical information should be recorded, travellers should receive a detailed medical brief including appropriate vaccinations, and should ensure they have sufficient supplies of prescriptions or medicines to cover delays or lack of availability. Travellers should identify possible sources of medical support in country, such as the availability of hotel provided doctor for minor ailments. Dependent upon task and travel plans, specific medical support may be required.
- Travellers should have adequate travel insurance in place to enable rapid medical treatment or emergency extraction from country, and should review contingency operations, business continuity and crisis management plans.
- Unrest occurs occasionally, and travellers should conduct research into the current stability in-country. If the travel dates coincide with planned elections, anniversaries or significant dates, additional measures may need to be taken.
- Travellers should provide friends and family a copy of their travel itinerary, make a copy of important travel and identification documents, and if applicable, obtain their visa prior to arrival. Travellers should also have information on their meeting host, accommodation, relevant embassies and trusted local contacts easily accessible.

On Arrival

- Arriving in Kotoka International Airport in Accra can be chaotic, and travellers should arrange a meet and greet service. Travellers should proceed through arrivals in a timely manner, and depart as soon as practicably possible.
- Travellers should carry a copy of their travel documents at all times.

In Transit

- Travellers should avoid using street taxis, but should utilise low-profile locally vetted transport providers which have emergency equipment appropriate to the local geography and climatic conditions. Fuel levels in the vehicles should be at least half-full. Travel routes should avoid isolated areas and potential choke points where practical. Travellers should establish the formal identification of the driver before commencing any trip.

- Travellers should only travel with minimal non-essential valuable items, and valuables should not be displayed publicly.
- Travellers should minimise travel at night and vehicles should hold a disaster supplies kit.

At Your Hotel

- Travellers should stay at reputable hotel with good standards of international-level security, and should avoid hotels that have scheduled high-profile conferences during the stay. Hotels should be located in areas of town that have not previously witnessed protests or demonstrations, or are not marred by ethnic or political tensions.
- On arrival at the hotel, ensure the driver stays on site until your check-in has been confirmed. Similarly before departing to the airport when leaving the hotel, ensure your driver waits until your flight check-in is confirmed.

In the Street

- Travellers should avoid leaving the hotel alone after dark.
- Travellers should be aware of the national culture and behavioural expectations. Same-sex relations are criminalised in Ghana. There have been occasional arrests and attempted extortions of LGBT individuals, although actual prosecution is rare. Nonetheless, travellers should carefully weigh the risks of attending related rallies and events, as well as displaying overt signs of their sexual orientation in public, such as holding hands.
- Travellers should keep a low profile, and should not become involved in local political issues and avoid discussing politically sensitive topics in public. Photographing government buildings or military facilities may result in detention by authorities
- Travellers should avoid any demonstrations, protests and rallies, which may attract security forces and law enforcement officers and present a dynamic and volatile environment.
- Travellers should avoid overt displays of wealth and dress discreetly and appropriately to environment. Do not display money, jewellery or valuables and keep a low profile. Travellers should use only small denominations of the local currency, and keep large amounts of cash and cards in a separate place on your person. Reduce the contents of your wallet or purse contents, particularly cards which may denote affiliations, memberships and accounts. Do not use credit or debit cards unless absolutely necessary and then only at respected, well-known retail and service establishments.
- Travellers should ensure that their mobile phone is carried with sufficient battery life and programmed with appropriate emergency numbers. Travellers should also carry an ID card or passport and emergency medical information.
- Travellers should be aware of their location and surroundings. Avoid high-crime areas and of walking through dimly lit streets after dark. Travellers should know routes and carry a map if necessary, but keep it concealed.
- In crowded situations, travellers should be aware of jostling as this may be a ploy for pick-pockets. Travellers should also be aware of people loitering, and also that attackers may first pass their victim to attack from behind.
- Travellers should ignore verbal 'bait' from passers-by, do not get into an argument and avoid eye contact with strangers.

COVID-19 Information

Total Cases (ECDC) (Updated on Monday): 161,157

Weekly percentage increase in cases:0.03%

Travel Restrictions: Internal Restrictions Authorities in Ghana are lifting the majority of COVID-19-related domestic measures and travel restrictions as of March 28, citing a decline in the number of infections recorded.

The wearing of facemasks is no longer required, while churches, mosques, conferences, workshops, private parties and events, cinemas, theatres, sporting events, political gatherings, and funerals may resume at full capacity; participants must be fully vaccinated. It remains unclear whether bars and nightclubs may operate.

International Travel Restrictions Fully vaccinated travelers can enter without restriction, while unvaccinated Ghanaians and foreign residents must present a negative PCR test result not older than 48 hours and will be tested on arrival. In addition, land and sea borders have reopened to passenger traffic.

Prior to the announcement, all arriving passengers had to complete a Health Declaration Form and create an account on a dedicated website to upload a negative PCR test result. Passengers had to pay for the arrival test before travel.

All Ghanaians leaving the country must be vaccinated.

Authorities have banned travelers from Malta from entering the country, citing health concerns due to the spread of the Omicron COVID-19 variant. In addition, officials said that the COVID-19 vaccination certificate issued in Malta are not recognized. Exemptions exist for travels involving humanitarian reasons and official duties under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration approval.

Additional Information: <https://gh.usembassy.gov/ghana-covid-19-information/>

Threat Scale Reference

Threat Rating	Implication
1 - Negligible	The operating environment is benign and there are only isolated threats to business and/or travel.
2 – Low	The operating environment is generally permissive, although there are a limited number of threats to business and/or travel that requires basic mitigations.
3 – Moderate	The operating environment is challenging and there are serious threats to business and/or travel that requires some mitigations.
4 – High	The operating environment is hostile and there are significant threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring comprehensive mitigations and planning.
5 – Extreme	The operating environment is characterised by pervasive direct threats to business, personal safety and/or travel, requiring strict risk management procedures.

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