

# Overview of Angola

Situated in Central Africa, Angola is slowly realising its potential as a tourist destination after independence from Portugal in 1975 triggered decades of bloody civil war. A stunning coastline strung with beautiful sandy beaches, a mountainous interior that gives way to deep gorges and tumbling waterfalls, and a number of national parks and wildlife reserves throughout, Angola offers an array of opportunities for eco-tourism to visitors. Natural beauty aside, the country also boasts a rich traditional culture, culinary specialities and a people that are known for their hospitality and friendliness.

The picture is not entirely rosy, however, and the lack of infrastructure, the difficulties and dangers of overland transport, and poor health services are challenges travellers need to consider, particularly outside of the capital Luanda. But signs of economic recovery are evident, and the fact that Angola is rich in natural resources such as diamonds and gas, as well as being one of Africa's largest oil exporters, brings hope for development in the not too distant future.

---

## Key Facts

### **Language:**

The official language of Angola is Portuguese. Multiple other African languages are spoken including Umbundu and Chokwe. Some French is also spoken.

### **Passport/Visa:**

A valid passport and visa are required for travel to Angola. Applications for visas must be made in advance in the travellers' home country. Passengers with a confirmation of an approved visa before departure can obtain a visa upon arrival. A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is also essential for entry to Angola (the alternative is to face the risky mandatory immunisation at the airport). Passports must be valid for six months from date of arrival, and have at least three adjacent blank pages for Angolan visa stamps.

### **Currency:**

The unit of currency is the Kwanza (AOA). Credit cards are only accepted in a few hotels and restaurants, though the number is increasing. There have been reports of credit cards being cloned for fraudulent purposes so visitors should exercise caution when using them. The number of ATMs is growing in Luanda and other cities, but they're often empty. Visitors should ask their card issuers if their cards will be accepted, and they should bring enough cash for their needs. US dollars are widely used.

### **Electricity:**

Electrical current in Angola is 220 volts, 50Hz. Round two-pin plugs are in use.

# Travel to Angola

## Climate in Angola

Angola is a large country and the climate varies according to region. The north has a wet, hot, tropical climate that becomes dryer going south, with desert conditions prevailing in the southern strip between the central plateau and the border with Namibia. Luanda's climate is moderately tropical. The dry, cooler season runs from June to late September, while the rainy, hot summer season extends from October to May. Average temperatures are hot and humid.

## Health Notes when travelling to Angola

Yellow fever vaccinations are required for entry to Angola if visitors are coming from infected countries. Malaria, hepatitis A and B, rabies and polio are all prevalent in the country, which has poor medical facilities excluding those in Luanda.

Travellers should practise food and hygiene measures. Drinking water should be treated or bought in sealed bottles as the water supply is unsafe to drink (travellers should avoid ice cubes in drinks as well), and care should be taken with hygiene and food, particularly street food. Visitors should avoid eating unpeeled, unwashed fruit and vegetables and be wary of milk and milk products, as these items are often unpasteurised.

It is wise to take Malaria prophylaxis when travelling through Angola; comprehensive medical insurance is necessary, with provision for medical repatriation by air.

## Safety Notes when travelling to Angola

Most foreign governments warn against non-essential travel to parts of Angola due to civil unrest and threats to personal safety of travellers. However, visitors careful with personal security and travelling in a group should encounter few problems. Travel after dark is not recommended. The greatest risk for travellers is crime, particularly in the capital, Luanda, where muggings, car-jackings and armed hold-ups have been reported. Particularly dangerous are the Lunda Sul and Lunda Norte Provinces, where the police and armed forces have been actively expelling illegal immigrants and unlicensed diamond prospectors. Cabinda Province is also dangerous; kidnappings and attacks on foreigners have occurred. Travellers should be cautious due to the widespread poverty, disease and shattered infrastructure and the vast amount of unexploded ordnance still present throughout the country. There have been reports of scams by airport officials in Luanda who try to extort money from visitors without a yellow fever vaccination card.

## Customs in Angola

Visitors should not take photographs of government buildings, or use binoculars near them, as this could lead to arrest. Homosexual practices are frowned upon.

## Duty Free in Angola

Travellers to Angola over 18 years do not have to pay duty on 400 cigarettes or 500g cigars or other tobacco products; 250ml eau de toilette, 50ml perfume or aftershave; 2 litres wine or 1 litre spirits and gifts or souvenirs to the value of about US\$ 500. Prohibited and restricted items include firearms, ammunition or explosive materials; dangerous medicines, foodstuffs or drugs; pornographic material; plants originating from infected areas; gaming machines; pure alcohol; animals without corresponding certificates and stamps of value.

## Doing Business in Angola

Oil is the main industry in Angola, but diamond mining is also important. It is essential to develop personal, face-to-face relationships with local business contacts. Knowledge of Portuguese, the official language, is an advantage as there are limited translation services and outside the oil industry few people speak English fluently. Angolan business dress is usually casual; ties are not necessary for men. Office hours are Monday to Friday 7.30am to 6.30pm with a break from 12.30pm; many businesses close on Fridays while some offices will also be open on Saturday mornings from 8.30am.

## Communication in Angola

The international dialling code for Angola is +244. There are many more mobile telephones than fixed lines and the mobile coverage around Luanda and other main centres is much more reliable than fixed lines. Internet access is available at most major hotels.

## Tipping in Angola

**If a service charge is not included in the bill, a tip of 10 percent is acceptable, though tipping is not officially encouraged in Angola.**

Travel guide by wordtravels.com © Globe Media Ltd.  
By its very nature, information in this travel guide is subject to change at short notice and travellers are urged to verify information on which they're relying with the organizers that an event is happening before making travel arrangements. We cannot accept any responsibility for any loss or inconvenience to any person as a result of information contained above.

## Passport/Visa Note

A valid passport and visa are required for travel to Angola. Applications for visas must be made in advance in the travellers' home country. Passengers with a confirmation of an approved visa before departure can obtain a visa upon arrival. A valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is also essential for entry to Angola (the alternative is to face the risky mandatory immunisation at the airport). Passports must be valid for six months from date of arrival, and have at least three adjacent blank pages for Angolan visa stamps.

## Entry Requirements

### **Entry requirements for Americans:**

US citizens require a passport and a visa to enter Angola.

### **Entry requirements for Canadians:**

Canadians require a passport and a visa to enter Angola.

### **Entry requirements for UK nationals:**

UK citizens require a passport and a visa to enter Angola.

### **Entry requirements for Australians:**

Australians require a passport and a visa to enter Angola.

### **Entry requirements for Irish nationals:**

Irish citizens require a passport and a visa to enter Angola.

### **Entry requirements for New Zealanders:**

New Zealand nationals require a passport and a visa to enter Angola.

### **Entry requirements for South Africans:**

South African nationals require a passport to enter Angola. They are exempt from obtaining a visa for a stay of up to 30 days.

## **Tourist Offices**

National Tourist Agency, Luanda: +244 222 372 750.

## Angola Embassies

### **In the United States:**

Angolan Embassy, Washington DC, United States: +1 202 785 1156.

### **In the United Kingdom:**

Angolan Embassy, London, United Kingdom (also responsible for Ireland): +44 20 7299 9850.

### **In Australia:**

Angolan Embassy, Singapore (also responsible for Australia): +65 6341 9360.

### **In South Africa:**

Angolan Embassy, Pretoria, South Africa: +27 12 342 0049.

## Foreign Embassies in Angola

### **American Embassy**

United States Embassy, Luanda: +244 94 644 0977.

### **Canadian Embassy**

Honorary Consulate of Canada, Luanda: +244 222 448 371.

### **British Embassy**

British Embassy, Luanda: +244 222 334 583.

### **Australian Embassy**

Honorary Consulate of Australia, Luanda: +244 923 214 101.

### **Irish Embassy**

Irish Embassy, Maputo, Mozambique (also responsible for Angola): +258 21 491 440.

### **South African Embassy**

South African Embassy, Luanda: + 244 222 460 818.

## Currency

The unit of currency is the Kwanza (AOA). Credit cards are only accepted in a few hotels and restaurants, though the number is increasing. There have been reports of credit cards being cloned for fraudulent purposes so visitors should exercise caution when using them. The number of ATMs is growing in Luanda and other cities, but they're often empty. Visitors should ask their card issuers if their cards will be accepted, and they should bring enough cash for their needs. US dollars are widely used.

# Overview of the Attractions in Angola

## Public Holidays in Angola

	2020	2021
<b>New Year's Day</b>	Mon. January 1	Mon. January 1
<b>Beginning of Armed Uprising</b>	Sun. February 4	Sun. February 4
<b>International Women's Day</b>	Sat. March 9	Fri. March 8
<b>Day of Peace and Reconciliation</b>	Thu. April 4	Thu. April 4
<b>Easter Monday</b>	Sat. April 13	Fri. April 5
<b>Good Friday</b>	Wed. April 10	Tue. April 2
<b>Labour Day</b>	Wed. May 1	Wed. May 1
<b>National Heroes' Day</b>	Tue. September 17	Tue. September 17
<b>All Souls' Day</b>	Sat. November 2	Sat. November 2
<b>Christmas</b>	Wed. December 25	Wed. December 25
<b>Carnival</b>	Sun. February 25	Fri. February 16
<b>Independence Day</b>	Mon. November 11	Mon. November 11
<b>Colonial Repression Martyrs' Day</b>	Thu. January 4	Thu. January 4
<b>Victory Day</b>	Wed. March 27	Wed. March 27
<b>Africa Day</b>	Sat. May 25	Sat. May 25
<b>International Children's Day</b>	Sat. June 1	Sat. June 1