

Country Safety and Security Fact Sheet: Nigeria

Main Religion(s): Christianity and Muslim	Main Language(s): English
Average Income: Approx. \$5,900 USD	Dialing Code: + 234
Police Phone No: 112	Medical Phone No: 112
US Embassy: (234)-9-461-4000	Visa Required: Yes

Risk Factors

The following risks and cultural factors have been identified for this country:

Health and Safety Risks

- Polio and yellow fever vaccinations proof maybe be required on entry, recommended to ensure up to date with routine vaccinations and Hepatitis A, Malaria, Polio and typhoid.
- Roads are very poor and not well-lit. There have been reports of harassment and shakedowns at checkpoints
- Risk from mosquito-borne illnesses, including Malaria, Zika virus, dengue fever, and Schistosomiasis
- Lassa fever has been reported in several states
- There is a risk from rabies from dogs, bats and other mammals – seek immediate medical help if bitten
- Bush meat consumption carries potentially lethal medical risks
- The risk from leptospirosis increases from contaminated flood water
- Cutaneous Leishmaniasis occurs in forested and rural areas, mainly the north with Niger
- There is a high risk from wildfires, extreme heat, river, urban and coastal flooding
- Counter feint medications are present in country

Key Risk Periods

- Wet season begins late February in southern coastal areas and lasts until September, with particularly heavy rains in May, June and October. The north, the heaviest rains typically arrive in August
- December to February sees the ‘harmattan’ trade winds from the Sahara, carrying fine dust and sand, mainly in the dry season from December to February. Dust storms are common, normally in the north

US Embassy Website Link

- US Embassy website: ng.usembassy.gov

Security Risks

- Political demonstrations are common and can become violent, particularly in Abuja and other major cities
- Banditry is common including Fulani herdsman who have lost cattle forming gangs and resorting to crime, urban areas seeing street gangs or ‘area boys’, all can be well armed and willing to challenge law enforcement
- Organized crime is a concern throughout Nigeria, resulting in high levels of murder, robbery, extortion and trafficking of illicit goods – gun crime is common
- Presence and terrorist action by Boko Haram is common
- Kidnapping is a security concern across the country including foreign nationals some resulting in fatal outcomes. Political and financial motivation as well as short term ‘express’ type attacks occur, typically forcing the victim to withdrawal funds from their ATM account before being released
- Inter-communal clashes are frequent and violent

Legal Risks

- Corruption is prevalent in the government and judiciary, particularly affecting the oil sector
- Money laundering occurs throughout Nigeria
- The drinking age is 18 in Nigeria
- In Nigeria you are presumed guilty until proven innocent and will be taken to jail if accused of a crime – with court cases taking years to come to trial
- Nigeria has very strict laws on drug abuse

Cultural Considerations

- Nigeria has 527 different languages
- Family is a priority within the culture
- Same sex marriages are illegal with severe penalties for anyone involved in same sex activities
- Nigerian culture is a Muslim and Christian society with clashes between the predominately Muslim north and the Christian South