

# Travel Information

## Visa Requirements and Entry Options

- **West African Travelers (ECOWAS):** Citizens of ECOWAS member states (e.g. Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, etc.) do **not** need a visa to enter Ghana for short visits. Ghana is part of ECOWAS, and nationals of fellow member countries are exempt from entry visa requirements (typically for stays up to ~90 days). Just carry a valid passport or ECOWAS travel document for entry.
- **Southern African Travelers:** Ghana has expanded visa-free access to several African countries. For example, Ghana and South Africa have agreed on reciprocal visa-free entry since late 2023. Other Southern African nationals (e.g. from **Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe**) also enjoy visa-free entry to Ghana due to bilateral agreements. Check if your country has a visa waiver deal with Ghana; many African passport holders can visit Ghana without a prior visa.
- **Visa on Arrival (African Union):** If you *do* require a visa, Ghana offers **visa on arrival** for citizens of **all African Union countries** that don't already have visa-free status. This on-arrival visa is typically valid for 30 days and costs around \$150 USD. It is issued at Kotoka International Airport and other entry points. (Nationals of some countries may need to show a pre-approval letter if no Ghanaian embassy exists in their country, but generally most African visitors can get the visa at the airport.)

## Flights from West & Southern Africa

Major airlines provide convenient connections to Accra (Kotoka International Airport) from key cities in West and Southern Africa:

- **From Nigeria (Lagos/Abuja):** There are frequent direct flights from Lagos (and Abuja) to Accra, typically around 1 hour flight time. Carriers like **Air Peace** and **Africa World Airlines** operate these routes. For example, Air Peace flies direct from Lagos to Accra, and Ghana's own Africa World Airlines has daily flights from Lagos and Abuja to Accra.
- **From Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan):** **Air Côte d'Ivoire** offers direct service from Abidjan to Accra, making it easy for attendees from Ivory Coast to reach Ghana. Flight time is about 1 hour. There are also connections via regional carriers if direct flights are full.
- **Other West African Cities:** Accra is linked to many West African capitals. For example, **ASKY Airlines** (a Togolese airline) connects Accra with cities like **Banjul, Freetown, Monrovia, and Lomé** (often via its hub in Lomé). **Kenya Airways** also operates multi-stop West African routes (e.g. linking Freetown and Monrovia to Accra). This means attendees from Sierra Leone, Liberia, The Gambia, etc., can find regional flights to Accra (sometimes with a short stopover in a neighboring country).
- **From South Africa (Johannesburg):** There is a direct route between Johannesburg and Accra. **South African Airways** operates non-stop flights from Johannesburg (OR Tambo) to Accra, with a flight time of about 5½–6 hours. This is a convenient option for

attendees coming from South Africa or neighboring Southern African countries. (SAA's flight sometimes continues onwards to Abidjan as part of a multi-leg route.)

- **Connections from Southern Africa:** For other Southern African nations (e.g. Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana), travelers typically connect via regional hubs. **Ethiopian Airlines** (via Addis Ababa) and **Kenya Airways** (via Nairobi) offer one-stop connections into Accra from many African cities. **RwandAir** also connects Johannesburg and some Southern African cities to Accra via Kigali. When booking, look for flights via these hubs if there's no direct service from your city.

## Arrival & Entry at Kotoka International Airport (Accra)

When you arrive in Accra's **Kotoka International Airport (ACC)** – the main gateway to Ghana – here's what to expect during the entry process:

1. **Health Screening:** Upon arrival, you will go through a health checkpoint. **Yellow Fever vaccination is required** for entry to Ghana, so **carry your Yellow Fever certificate** to show health officials. (Ghana requires proof of Yellow Fever vaccination for all travelers over 9 months old.) COVID-19 rules have eased in 2025, but it's wise to travel with your COVID vaccination card or a recent negative test if you are unvaccinated, in case authorities request it. (*As of the latest guidance, fully vaccinated travelers do **not** need COVID tests for entry, while unvaccinated travelers may need a pre-travel PCR test or could be offered vaccination on arrival.*) Expect thermal scanners or health officers to verify these documents before you proceed to immigration.
2. **Immigration Clearance:** After the health check, you'll line up for Immigration. Have your **passport** and **visa** ready. ECOWAS citizens will just get a passport stamp (no visa needed). If you obtained a Ghana visa in advance, present it to the officer. **Visa-on-Arrival:** if you're obtaining a visa on arrival (for those eligible, e.g. many African Union citizens), you will be directed to a visa-on-arrival desk **before** passport control to pay the fee and get the visa stamped in your passport. The visa-on-arrival fee is about USD \$150 (for 30-day entry), so have sufficient cash or a credit card available. Immigration officers will then stamp you in – typically visitors get up to 30 or 60 days stay granted, depending on visa type or reciprocity. Ensure you have filled out the arrival card (usually distributed on the plane) with your contact address in Ghana (e.g. hotel or GIMPA campus lodging).
3. **Baggage Claim & Customs:** After immigration, proceed to the baggage claim to retrieve your luggage, then pass through customs. Ghana has customs rules similar to most countries – if you have goods to declare, use the Red Channel, otherwise proceed through the Green Channel. Items for personal use are fine; if you carry more than \$10,000 in cash, you must declare it. Customs officers may do brief bag inspections. Have your conference invitation or travel itinerary handy in case you're asked about the purpose of your visit (standard procedure). Overall, this process is usually straightforward for conference travelers.
4. **Airport Transportation:** Once you exit into the arrivals hall, you have a few transportation options to get into the city or to GIMPA:
  - **Taxis:** Available 24/7 just outside the terminal. **Airport taxis do *not* use meters**, so **negotiate the fare *before*** starting the ride. Typical ride times from airport to central Accra or the GIMPA campus (which is in the north of the city) range from

15 to 40 minutes depending on traffic. (There are a few metered taxis operated by a company at the airport – they charge about GHC10 for the first kilometer and GHC0.10 per 100m after – these can be found at a designated taxi stand in the parking area if you prefer a metered ride.)

- **Ride-Hailing:** Ride-share services like **Uber** and **Bolt** operate in Accra and pickups at Kotoka Airport are allowed. You can use the app to request a ride to your hotel or to GIMPA. This can sometimes be cheaper than airport taxis (but be aware of surge pricing). The Uber meeting point at the airport is typically in the car park area; follow the app instructions. (*Uber is confirmed to be available in Accra, including at the airport.*)
- **Hotel Shuttles:** Many major hotels in Accra offer **complimentary airport shuttle** vans. If you're staying at a conference-designated hotel, check if they have a pickup service. They usually wait with a sign in the arrivals area. GIMPA or the conference organizers might also arrange group transport if a lot of attendees arrive around the same time.
- **Public Transport:** There is a city bus stop about 500 meters from Terminal 2 on Liberation Road. Public buses and tro-tro minibuses go into town, but these can be tricky if you're new and carrying luggage. They are very cheap but not typically used by arriving tourists or conference delegates. Unless you're familiar with Accra's bus system, it's recommended to take a taxi or arranged transport for convenience.
- **Car Rentals:** Major car rental companies (Avis, Hertz, local agencies) have desks at the airport if you plan to self-drive. Driving in Accra can be challenging due to traffic and differing road rules, so this is only advised if you're comfortable driving in African city conditions.

**Kotoka International Airport** is a modern facility and one of the busiest airports in West Africa. It has ATMs, currency exchange, SIM card vendors, restaurants and info desks in the arrivals area. English is the official language in Ghana, so signage and announcements at the airport are in English. Airport staff are generally helpful – you can ask at the information desk if you need directions or assistance. Once you have cleared formalities and secured transport, you'll find that GIMPA's campus is roughly a 15-20 minute drive from the airport in light traffic (it may take longer during rush hour). Plan your airport pickup accordingly, and welcome to Accra for the conference!