



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ Driving is on the right.
- ❑ Drivers are required to carry a valid national license, 1949 version of an International Driving Permit (IDP), visa, passport, vehicle documents and proof of insurance. An IDP is good for up to 12 months.
- ❑ Passports must be valid for a minimum of six months from arrival date and have at least three blank pages. There are frequent identity checks. Carry passport or color copy at all times and do not hand over passport as a form of security, or allow it out of your sight if being photocopied.
- ❑ The Ghanaian Cedi (GHS) is the national currency. Credit cards, except Mastercard, are generally accepted in city hotels and shops.
- ❑ Hiring a professional local driver from a reputable agency is recommended.
- ❑ Drive during the day in convoys of at least two vehicles; keep windows up and doors locked due to high crime rates. Check with local police regarding safety issues along planned route.
- ❑ Women drivers and women traveling alone may be subject to harassment and verbal abuse.
- ❑ Do not visit beaches or walk alone, especially after dark. Violent crimes, including rape, occur and may affect visitors.
- ❑ Night travel is hazardous and not advised. Road lighting is poor; pedestrians and loose animals are difficult to see.
- ❑ Pedestrians account for high numbers of traffic fatalities.
- ❑ Legal blood alcohol limit is below 0.08 g/dl for all drivers. Despite legal limits, drink driving and intoxicated pedestrians are a factor in many crashes. Drug use among motorists, including commercial drivers, adds to road risks.
- ❑ There are 25.9 road deaths per 100,000 people in Ghana, compared to 2.1 in Sweden and 1.5 in Norway.



Source: CIA Factbook

ROAD CULTURE

- **Driving standards** are generally poor. Drivers often disregard traffic and safety laws. Aggressive road behavior is common.
- **Many drivers** operate vehicles in poor repair and lacking standard safety features, including working headlights, taillights, brakes, turn signals, windshield wipers, seat belts and roadworthy tires.
- **Motorists** frequently drive overloaded vehicles.
- **School children** without helmets or protective gear are often transported via motorbikes; many children may be on a single motorbike.
- **Public transport** drivers are often reckless, speed and cross multiple lanes without signaling.
- **Drivers may** spread leaves and grass in roads to warn other road users of a crash or other hazard ahead.
- **Pedestrians and bicyclists** often behave unpredictably, and may step or swerve into traffic.
- **Road scams** are common, especially in crowded city areas. These include: Persons on foot bumping into or banging on vehicles and pretending to be hit. Motorists may deliberately cause minor crashes. Do not pull over to assist persons attempting to stop your vehicle.

ROAD CONDITIONS

- **Of the** 65,725 km (40,840 miles) of roads, 14,948 km (9,288 miles) are paved and 50,777 km (31,551 miles) are unpaved; in urban areas, an estimated 27% are paved and 73% are unpaved.
- **Roads** are classified as “trunk roads” (overseen by the Ghana Highway Authority); and “non-trunk roads.”
- **Main** city roads are generally paved and well-maintained.
- **Outside of** major cities, roads including non-trunk roads are usually in poor condition with deep potholes.
- **Toll roads** include most National Routes/trunk roads connecting major urban areas. Roads are identified by the letter “N” followed by route number. Fees are paid in cash at toll booths.
- **Travel at night** is not recommended. Road lighting is inadequate or non-existent.
- **Street** and traffic lights do not function during frequent power outages, which often occur after dark.
- **Internet** and mobile phone services are subject to interruptions. Carry an up-to-date map.
- **Demonstrations are** common. Avoid all gatherings, which may suddenly turn confrontational and disrupt road travel and public transportation.
- **Disputes** between chieftains of local tribes occur in rural areas, especially in the Upper East, Upper West and Volta regions. Tensions may lead to localized violence.
- **Police checkpoints** are common. Drivers, passengers and vehicles may be searched.



Road Conditions, continued

- **In large** urban areas, pedestrians and motorists stopped in traffic may be targeted by criminals. Persons posing as police officers may stop vehicles and demand money for alleged traffic infractions.
- **Document** theft is common, especially at hotels and airports. Keep documents nearby at all times.
- **Highway robberies** often occur, particularly at night. Cars leaving Kotoka International Airport are frequently targeted. Other high-risk areas include the highways from Bole to Wa and Kintampo to Tamale; and minor roads in sections of the Upper West, Upper East, Northern, Eastern, Bono, Bono East and Ahafo regions.
- **Attacks** on vehicles, including taxis, are increasing. Criminals often focus on vehicles in busy city areas. Keep doors locked and windows up, even in taxis.
- **Attacks regularly occur** in Accra on the Graphic Road, George Walker Bush Highway, Accra Mall Roundabout, Awudome Cemetery Road, Pokuase-Amasaman Road, Teshie-Nungua Road, the beach areas of Labadi and Kokrobite; and GIMPA (Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration) road and surrounding areas.
- **Criminally motivated** kidnappings may target visitors and have been reported in Accra, Takoradi and Kumasi.
- **Avoid all travel** to Bawku Municipality in the Upper East region due to high rates of violent crime. Curfews may be imposed with little notice. There are frequent roadblocks and security checks.
- **Do not** travel to the border with Burkina Faso. There is a high risk of kidnapping and attack.
- **Persons** pretending to be police or other officials, including airport personnel, may attempt to detain visitors or extort money. Legitimate officials wear up-to-date ID cards showing name and photo.
- **Pedestrian** infrastructure is underdeveloped. Few streets have sidewalks. Drivers and motorcyclists generally disregard pedestrians.
- **In many** towns, street vendor stalls block sidewalks, forcing pedestrians to walk in roadways.
- **Bike paths** and cycling infrastructure are lacking. Motorists may disregard the presence of cyclists.
- **There are** many loose animals, including large livestock, on roads in rural areas.
- **The following roads** may present particular challenges to motorists:
 - » **N1 Highway from Aflao to Elubo** is regarded as dangerous. High-risk sections include the Accra-Tema Motorway, Achimota Interchange from Mallam Junction to Weija, and Kasoa to Cape Coast. High numbers of serious and fatal crashes are common, and are attributed to speeding and driver behavior.
 - » **N6 Highway linking Accra to Kumasi** is the location of frequent serious crashes. Many involve large transport trucks. Reckless road behavior is a factor.
 - » **N10 Highway from Kumasi** through Techiman and Kintampo to Tamale has many serious road crashes. Contributing factors include speeding, reckless driving and poor road discipline.

REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS










- **Ghana is subject to** flooding, droughts, seasonal winds and earthquakes.
- **During rainy** season from March to November, flooding regularly occurs in the Upper West, North East, Northern and Savannah regions. Roads with dirt surfaces often wash away.
- **Flooding** may result in blocked roads and damaged bridges. Do not step or drive into flood waters, which may contain strong currents and obscure potholes and debris.
- **Dry season** is generally from November to March. Running water may be scarce.

Maximum Speed Limits

Type of road	Maximum speed
Urban areas	50 kph (30 mph)
Rural roads	90 kph (56 mph)
Highways	100 kph (62 mph)

Always adjust speed according to signage, hazards and weather conditions.

Examples of road and highway signs in Ghana.

								
Road widens	No through road	No motorized vehicles	Example of national route sign	Example of interregional road sign	No overtaking	Divert to opposite lane	Ramp	Intersection



Regional and Seasonal Conditions, continued

- **From December** to March, seasonal winds called “harmattan” blow from the Sahara. Winds filled with sand and dust may disrupt road travel and obscure vision.
- **Earthquakes** and tremors may occur.
- **Be familiar with emergency procedures.** The Red Cross provides a website and free, downloadable emergency app: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

TRANSPORTATION

- **Transportation options** include cars, taxis, rideshares, buses, “tro-tros” (small privately-owned minibuses), tuk-tuks, motorbikes, motorcycle taxis (“okadas”), trains and boats.
- **Use only** official taxis. Do not hail vehicles on the street. Order registered taxis through a reputable hotel.
- **Taxi standards** are low. Drivers may have little training. Only use pre-booked taxis from trusted companies.
- **Taxis** are often in poor condition and lack seat belts.
- **Do not** enter a taxi occupied by others, and insist that driver not pick up additional passengers.
- **Taxis should** be avoided after dark. Passengers have been targeted by criminals and robbed by taxi drivers.
- **Taxi and rideshare** passengers should arrange to be picked up and dropped off as close as possible to their destination, especially at night.
- **Okadas/motorcycle taxis** are frequently involved in crashes. Drivers are generally unlicensed.
- **Rideshares** are available. Drivers may only accept cash. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- **All forms** of public transport are unregulated and regarded as dangerous.
- **Public** and long-distance buses linking cities are operated by the State Transport Corporation (STC).
- **Buses** are often poorly maintained.
- **Bus tickets** must be purchased in advance at stations. Additional fees are charged for luggage.
- **Passenger buses** on routes in the Upper West and Upper East regions have been attacked by gunmen, resulting in fatalities and serious injuries.
- **Tro-tros** are privately owned minibuses, and are often involved in serious and fatal crashes.
- **Tro-tro and** rideshare services, including app-based taxi hailing apps, are not regulated.

- **Tro-tros** are generally overcrowded, in poor condition and lack seat belts.
- **Tro-tros usually** have a driver and assistant who calls out stops. Fares are in cash; change is usually not made.
- **Tro-tros** are hailed on the street. Passengers tell driver or assistant where they wish to disembark.
- **Three-wheeled** tuk-tuks, also called “yellow yellows,” are available in some cities and should be avoided.
- **An updated** rail system, including two new state-of-the-art trains, is currently being introduced. The first route links Mpakadan through Kpong, Juapong and Doryumu to Tema port, with a connection to Accra. Trains were made in Poland. The new train has been involved in one rail crash as of this report’s release.
- **Ferries** provide coastal transport. Safety standards are poor. Many vessels are unseaworthy, overcrowded and lack lifesaving equipment, including adequate numbers of life jackets. If traveling by boat, check condition of vessel, bring your own life jacket and do not travel during inclement weather or rough seas.
- **The Gulf of Guinea** is subject to ongoing piracy, armed robbery of vessels and kidnapping for ransom.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- **Drivers must** be a minimum of 18 years of age, and at least 21 years old to rent a vehicle; many agencies have additional restrictions and may insist renters be at least 30 years of age. Some agencies require visitors to hire a local chauffeur as part of a rental agreement.
- **Seat belt use** is compulsory for drivers and passengers. There are no specific laws pertaining to child safety restraints. For safety, children should be seated in a child restraint or seat appropriate to age and size.
- **Children** under age five may not ride in front seats.
- **Helmet use** is mandatory for motorcycle drivers and passengers. Helmets must be fastened and meet national standards.
- **Children are not** restricted from being motorcycle or motorbike passengers.
- **Drivers** entering a main road must yield to existing traffic.
- **Do not** enter a box junction (intersections painted with crisscrossed yellow lines) unless there is space to exit before oncoming traffic enters.
- **All passenger** vehicles must be equipped with a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, warning triangle and up-to-date insurance sticker verifying that vehicle is roadworthy.
- **Police may** carry out random breath tests and issue on-the-spot fines for a variety of offenses.



Accra (Capital)

- » Transportation options include cars, taxis, rideshares, buses, “tro-tros” (small privately-owned minibuses), tuk-tuks, motorbikes, motorcycle taxis (“okadas”), trains and boats.
- » Driving is not recommended. Traffic is dense and chaotic; roads are poorly signed and lit.
- » Do not walk or drive into the Greater Accra neighborhoods of Agbogbloshie, Ashaiman, Avenor, Nima, Sowutuom or Sukura. Violence is common.
- » Use only official taxis ordered through a reputable hotel and do not hail vehicles on the street. Safety standards are poor; drivers may not be familiar with street addresses. Providing a landmark for reference is generally required. See “Transportation” section for details on taxi and okada/motorcycle taxi use and safety.
- » Rideshares are available. Drivers may only accept cash. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » Public transport, including buses, tro-tros and tuk-tuks, is unregulated and considered dangerous. See “Transportation” section for information on the use and safety of public transportation.
- » Accra Central Station is the main train station. Routes are limited.
- » Ferries provide coastal transport. Safety standards are poor. See “Transportation” section for details on boat use and safety protocols.
- » Kotoka International Airport is about 8.2 km (5.1 miles) from the city.
- » Transportation between the airport and city is by taxis, rental cars and limousines.
- » Official taxis are located outside of the arrivals terminal.
- » Major car rental agencies are represented at the airport. Cars may be hired with a professional driver.
- » If being met by a private or hotel driver, ask to see a photo identification and verify identity. Criminal imposters often work in the arrivals area and pretend to be airport officials, uniformed porters and drivers. Legitimate airport employees wear ID cards with names, photographs and other information.

Tamale

- » Second-largest city by area. Capital of Northern Ghana.
- » Transportation options include cars, taxis, rideshares, buses, “tro-tros” (small privately-owned minibuses), tuk-tuks, motorbikes and motorcycle taxis (“okadas”).
- » Use only official yellow-and-red taxis and do not hail vehicles on the streets. Order registered taxis or limousines through a reputable hotel. See “Transportation” section for details on taxi use and safety.
- » Okadas/motorcycle taxis are frequently involved in crashes. Drivers are generally unlicensed.
- » Rideshares are available. Drivers may only accept cash. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » All forms of public transport, including buses, tro-tros and tuk-tuks, are unregulated and considered dangerous. See “Transportation” section for information on the use and safety of public transportation.
- » There are regular bus connections to and from Accra. Travel time is about 11 hours.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND INCLUSIONS FOR MOBILITY CHALLENGED

- **Ghana’s** Persons with Disabilities Act (2006) prohibits discrimination against persons with physical, sensory or other challenges in transportation and accessibility to public buildings “as far as is practical.”
- **Despite laws**, most buildings and transportation are not accessible.
- **Streets** are often unpaved, have broken surfaces and lack sidewalks. Existing sidewalks may be uneven and poorly maintained, posing challenges for persons in wheelchairs or with other mobility constraints.
- **There is** a lack of designated parking for mobility-challenged drivers.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **Responders to emergency numbers** and medical staff in remote areas may not speak English.
- **Pre-program** emergency numbers into your phone before departure.
 - » Police: 191 or 18555
 - » Emergency services: 112
 - » Ambulance, coast guard and mountain rescue: 193 or 112
 - » Fire: 192
- **Ambulances** are not always available, or equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and adequate supplies. Training of ambulance staffs may be below western standards.
- **First responders** are often unable to access areas beyond major cities or provide urgent care; seriously injured or ill persons may wish to take a taxi or other transportation to the nearest major hospital.
- **Appropriate** medical care is generally available only in or near major cities. Medical facilities are limited beyond Accra. Public medical clinics lack basic supplies and resources. Medical evacuation to another country may be necessary for treatment.
- **Cash payment** is generally required prior to admission or the delivery of care at public and private hospitals and clinics. Credit cards may not be accepted.
- **Overnight staff** is limited in non-emergency hospital wards.
- **Some medicines** prescribed in other countries are illegal in Ghana. Check legality with the Ghana Food and Drugs Authority prior to travel. Carry all medications in their original packaging, accompanied by a written doctor's prescription.
- **Counterfeit medications** are common and may contain lethal ingredients. Purchase medication only from a reputable medical professional associated with a major hospital.
- **If involved in a crash:**
 - » Go directly to the nearest police station to report crash and notify car rental agency.
 - » Use caution: Crowds often gather at the scene of crashes and may become volatile.



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR SAFE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRAVEL (ASIRT)

ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey.

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