

SIERRA LEONE MISSION TRIP 2019

A group of children in Sierra Leone, with a young girl in an orange and white striped tank top smiling in the foreground. The background shows other children and a building.

inside: visas / immunization / what to bring / dress code / and
more.

GENERAL INFORMATION

VISAS

Individuals coming to Sierra Leone are required to apply for a tourist visa. You need to contact your nearest Sierra Leonean embassy to find out what that process entails and the costs involved for the visa.

PICK UP

We will arrange for you to be picked up from the airport from which you will be taken to where we are staying.

TRANSLATOR

Though English is the most common foreign language in Sierra Leone, it is not spoken by most Sierra Leoneans, especially in the villages. The Krio language is also a popular dialect spoken in the city and more developed areas but the Susu people speak their own language which is also called the Susu language. Therefore we will need to have a translator for most of your trip.



MONEY EXCHANGE

The money in Sierra Leone is called leones. The exchange rate varies but it is usually 5000 leones to US\$1. You can exchange dollars to leones at many shops on the street and in the markets or at a bank, however making preparation before going on the road is more favourable. Exchanging \$100 bills may be better as the return is usually higher than changing smaller notes like \$20 and \$50. However, the difference between the return of larger notes and smaller notes is not a very drastic one. There are some international ATMs at the Lungi International Airport where you will arrive and where you will be staying close to. It is recommended that you not change all your money at once but only a portion so that you may get an understanding of the currency.

IMMUNIZATION

Immunization information will vary greatly depending on which country you are traveling from. Please contact your local doctor to check which immunizations you already have and which they would recommend you get before coming to Sierra Leone. Some immunizations that we would recommend you checking on are

- Typhoid
- Hepatitis A / B
- Tetanus
- Yellow Fever

Generally, you will have to take malaria medication during your outreach to Sierra Leone, so find out what your doctor recommends for this process as well.

PHONES

The cellphone network in Sierra Leone is fairly good. While there, you can purchase a SIM card for your unlocked phone, or you can use your existing plan in the country. Make sure you check with your mobile provider in the country you are coming from to see what their charges are for talk, text and data. We will also have a team phone. We will get you that number so that someone can call you in case of emergency. Internet is available but not always reliable. You can connect by purchasing data for your SIM card. In the village however, that connection may be more difficult.

DRESS CODE GUIDELINES

Sierra Leone's culture is very modest about the style of clothing that people wear, because of this, we want teams to adapt to the culture which means that you may have to dress differently than you would at home. When doing ministry, we ask that women wear shirts or blouses that cover the shoulders, stomach, and that don't have a low-cut neckline. Women should wear dresses, skirts, capris, or pants that cover the knees. Guys also need to keep their shoulders and knees covered, so don't wear shorts that show your knees. Make sure that you bring clothes that are not in bad condition, such as holes, stains, etc. In teaching situations, team members should dress more formally. We ask that women wear shirts that cover the shoulders, stomach and that don't have a low-cut neckline. If a woman is wearing shorts, they need to cover the knees. For guys, this means slacks, and a shirt with buttons. Short sleeve is fine for this. Sandals/flip-flops are commonly worn in Sierra Leone and should be appropriate for most situations, unless it's a more formal setting. Make sure your shoes are comfortable for walking.

ABOUT THE SUSU PEOPLE

There are over a million Susu people found in five different countries in the world; Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Of that million, 156,000 are in Sierra Leone in several parts of the country. The village that we will work with has about 5000 individuals and is located in the Northern province. It is said, that of all the Susu people in Sierra Leone, this village is the oldest Susu village and the most traditional so to have an opening to come in and share the Gospel through evangelism and physical projects is a major blessing.

SOME STATS ABOUT THE SUSU PEOPLE

POPULATION: 6,018,888 (July 2016 est.)

LIFE EXPECTANCY: 58.2 years

INFANT MORTALITY: 70 deaths per 1,000 live births

ADULT LITERACY RATE: definition:

age 15 and over can read and write English, Mende, Temne, or Arabic

total population: 48.1%

male: 58.7%

female: 37.7% (2015 est.)

POPULATION BELOW POVERTY

LINE: 70.2% (2004 est.)

CHILD LABOR: children ages 5-14:

total number: 573,287

percentage: 48% (2005 est.)

[Read More Information Here](#)

A GLANCE AT THEIR RELIGION

Religion ^

Primary Religion: [Islam](#)

Major Religion ▲	Percent *
Buddhism	0.00 %
Christianity (Evangelical 0.01 %)	0.01 %
Ethnic Religions	10.00 %
Hinduism	0.00 %
Islam	89.99 %
Non-Religious	0.00 %
Other / Small	0.00 %
Unknown	0.00 %

*from the Joshua Project (last updated 2017)

THINGS TO BRING

This is a list of things you should bring with you to Sierra Leone. The most important stuff first:

- Your passport,
- Plane tickets,
- Insurance information,
- Two copies of the front two pages of your passport
- Two passport-sized photos for any emergency contact information or documents.
- Bible

OTHER STUFF TO BRING

- Flip Flops for showering
 - Towel and washcloth
 - Toiletries (you can buy these in Sierra Leone, but may not be the brands that you are familiar with.)
 - First Aid items (Antibiotic cream, band aids, Imodium, etc.)
 - Vitamins and prescription medicines to last throughout your stay in Sierra Leone.
 - “Wet Wipes”
 - Insect repellent
 - Gatorade packets or oral rehydration solution packets
 - Hat and Sunscreen (sunscreen is expensive in Sierra Leone)
 - Water Bottle (An insulated water bottle may be more ideal seeing that water will stay cool throughout the day when there is no electricity.)
 - Light daypack
 - Money belt
 - Phone/Small alarm clock
 - Light Sheet set (Cotton is recommended so that you may stay cool throughout the night)
 - Light raincoat or poncho
 - Journal and a reading book
 - Power converter/adaptor (You won't be able to use sockets without this. Highly recommended if you are charging electronics, like laptops, phones or camera batteries).
- NOTE:** Outlets in Sierra Leone use the 220V - 240V system (America and Canada uses 110V - 120V).

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

This is a sample schedule of the week.

Oct. 28 - Arrive in Sierra Leone & settle in.

Oct. 29 - Training & a cultural orientation

Oct. 30 - Nov. 2 - Travel to Kukuna & work on building remodeling in the day and rest and connect with villagers at night. Also, several showings of the Jesus film.

Nov. 2 - preparation for orphanage day in the afternoon.

Nov. 3 - orphanage fun day

Nov. 4 - breakfast with children and then return to Lungi.

Nov. 5 - church, sharing testimonies about trip, rest and debrief.

Nov. 6 - Day off

Nov. 7 - Go home or stay in Sierra Leone, if people are staying later.



Sierra Leone

OUTREACH GUIDE - 2019

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