



## Essential Tips Eco Tur Angolan tours

- **Personal and medical**

- **Angolan visas can take time (up to 4 weeks)**, and as they are only issued by the Angolan Embassy in the country of origin are to the responsibility and cost of the customer. As such, the costs for this service (which varies from Embassy to Embassy) are not included. However, following tour confirmation and payment, Eco Tur will supply an invitation letter which the issuing Angolan Embassy will require. We can offer VISA advice pertinent to the country of origin in question. Eco Tur cannot be held responsible for the issuing of or delays in issuing of visas.
- Angola does have Malaria and it is essential to take appropriate medical advice and Prophylaxis against this mosquito borne and transmitted disease. Please see your doctor for advice as each there are different varieties of medication available. Also ensure that sufficient insect repellent is carried. We recommend that long sleeve shirts and long trousers are worn early morning and in late afternoon / evening.
- Yellow Fever inoculation is compulsory in Angola and the Certificate must be shown at entry before Immigration control at the airport.
- Make sure you pack all and any personal medication needs that may be necessary as well as a comprehensive personal first aid kit. Doctors and hospitals in Angola are often far from where we travel and pharmacies will probably not carry the specific medication you may need. Ensure you bring your medical insurance details with you.
- Temperatures are typically quite high in Angola, they do vary from location to location, but can often reach the high 30's. Protection from the sun is essential, using hats, sunglasses and high factor protective sun creams. Keep up your intake of water throughout the day.
- Dress code is essentially casual in Angola (shorts, sandals, short sleeve shirts) and the clothes you bring should be practical and versatile. Hard wearing boots or shoes are worthwhile considering for remote trips. You will probably not need to make use of jumpers or coats whilst rain is a remote possibility between September and May (only). Rain is more prevalent in the east and north of the country.
- Credit cards are not used widely in Angola, USD currency (rather than Euro) is the preferred currency. Your Eco Tur guide will be happy to advise you on the exchange regulations and conditions in force at the time of your visit.
- Communications; some international Cellular Telephone operators have roaming agreements with their Angolan counterparts, Eco Tur can also make special arrangements to hire local cell phones and also provide Satellite communication equipment when out side of Cellular range.
- Internet access is available at several locations within major cities.
- The Angolan electricity system is 220V with Euro plug, please bring adaptors if needed.

- Remember to bring chargers, spare film, batteries, memory cards etc. etc. for your electronic equipment.
- Curios and souvenirs etc. There are many available, either in shops or at local markets. However, in regards to carvings, painting and the like, please do ensure that you ask your EcoTur guide to get the article stamped by the Ministry of Culture prior to departure otherwise customs at the airport may well confiscate the item.

### Security

- Despite the recent history of war, Angola is one of the safer African countries. The Angolan people are typically friendly and welcoming. However, the major Angolan cities are like any other urban environment in the world and petty crime (particularly stealing) is a fact of life and not uncommon. Keep all valuables out of sight and your personal documents, air tickets, passport and money securely held in a money belt / pouch or similar. Special care should be exercised with regards to security of wallets, telephones, cameras and electronic goods.
- Mines, - FACT - Angola does have many thousands of unexploded mines. Typically these mined areas are marked BUT NOT ALWAYS. Normal marking is skull and cross bones, and use of red and white stakes and tape to mark off the danger area, however, sometimes this marking is as basic and simple as dabs of red paint, or bits of red tape tied on tree branches or similar. The major routes normally taken with Eco Tur are typically (repeat typically) mine cleared / free. HOWEVER, please take extreme care when considering walking off the beaten track (when going to the loo for example, ask first) and take particular care around bridges etc. which whilst often offer attractive and interesting river views, are also HIGH on the list of strategic targets and therefore sometimes heavily mined..
- Angolan authorities are still getting used to peace. Use of cameras / photography and videos, please exercise care when taking photographs and video film as there are some sensitive areas where this is not welcomed by the authorities. Typical examples would be border posts, airports, police, state and military installations etc. etc. Your Eco Tur guide will happily advise you on this (if in doubt, please ask before you use the equipment). Care should also be exercised when taking pictures of people, again, ask your Eco Tur guide for advice.
- Bring photocopies of your passport with you and keep them in a secure and separate place to the original. Make a note of these details as well as your travel documents (air ticket etc) also in a separate place. Always travel within Angola with your passport.
- Road travel can be quite challenging and “exciting” in Angola, seat belts must be worn at all times. Be prepared for a bumpy ride on some routes.

Read and acknowledged (sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_