

Ghana visas for all African Union members

15th March, 2016



Ghana's president, John Dramani Mahama, has announced that his country will issue visas to citizens of African Union member states from July. Anyone arriving at

a port in Ghana bearing a passport from an African Union nation will be granted a visa, which could be for up to 30 days. President Mahama said his new initiative was aimed at bridging the gap between African citizens on the continent. He said: "With effect from July this year, we will be allowing citizens of AU member states to enter our country and obtain visas on arrival with the option to stay for up to 30 days and experience what our country has to offer. This measure, with time, should stimulate air travel, trade, investment and tourism."

The African Union Commission chairperson commended Ghana's efforts in helping to bring Africa closer together and reducing barriers to travel. She said: "After Ghana, I am convinced that many other African countries will follow suit, in the interest of achieving an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa." She added that the new visa policy would greatly benefit Ghana in its relations with other African countries. She said more countries needed to follow Ghana's example. Only 25 per cent of countries in Africa offer visas on arrival to other African nationals. This means it is actually easier for U.S. citizens to travel to and within Africa than it is for Africans to visit each other's countries.

Sources: AfricaNews.com / NewsGhana.com / afkInsider.com

Writing

We shouldn't need visas to enter countries. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Ghana / president / citizens / passport / initiative / continent / air travel / trade / barriers / convinced / integrated / prosperous / visa policy / visa policy / Africa

True / False

- Ghana's vice-president announced his country's new visa policy. T / F
- Citizens of African Union countries will get a visa for up to 30 days. T / F
- Ghana's president said the visas would help bridge a gap in Africa. T / F
- The president said the visas would be good for air travel. T / F
- An AU spokeswoman doubted that other countries would copy Ghana. T / F
- The spokeswoman said more countries needed to copy Ghana. T / F
- Half of African countries give visas on arrival to other Africans. T / F
- It is easier for Africans to travel in Africa than it is for Americans. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. announced | a. nationals |
| 2. issue | b. encourage |
| 3. initiative | c. obstacles |
| 4. allowing | d. measure |
| 5. stimulate | e. made it known |
| 6. commended | f. wealthy |
| 7. barriers | g. lead |
| 8. prosperous | h. provide |
| 9. example | i. praised |
| 10. citizens | j. letting |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What are visas for?
- What do you think of applying for visas?
- Should all of Africa be visa-free for Africans?
- What is the best passport to have?
- What do you think of your passport?
- What experiences have you had of applying for visas?
- What benefits will the free visas have for Ghana?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. his country will issue | a. peaceful Africa |
| 2. bearing a passport | b. from July this year |
| 3. With effect | c. follow Ghana's example |
| 4. stimulate air | d. and tourism |
| 5. trade, investment | e. to travel |
| 6. Ghana's efforts in helping to | f. visas |
| 7. reducing barriers | g. bring Africa closer together |
| 8. an integrated, prosperous and | h. travel |
| 9. more countries needed to | i. and within Africa |
| 10. travel to | j. from an African Union nation |

Discussion – Student B

- What are the disadvantages of this new initiative?
- Should the world be visa-free?
- How would visa-free travel help Africa?
- What strange questions have you seen on visa forms?
- What's the most you would pay for a visa?
- Who will benefit most from Ghana's new visa initiative?
- Why is it easier for U.S. citizens to travel to and in Africa?
- What questions would you like to ask Ghana's president?

Spelling

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- trade, investment and tmorsui
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- reducing srabrrie to travel
- I am ivonncedc
- an integrated, persrsooup and peaceful Africa
- greatly inefetb
- other African santlaoin

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. d	4. j	5. b
6. i	7. c	8. f	9. g	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Stimulate air travel

You think stimulating air travel is the biggest benefit of visas. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their benefits aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): immigration control, tourism or security.

Role B – Immigration control

You think immigration control is the biggest benefit of visas. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their benefits aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): stimulating air travel, tourism or security.

Role C – Tourism

You think tourism is the biggest benefit of visas. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their benefits aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): immigration control, stimulating air travel or security.

Role D – Security

You think security is the biggest benefit of visas. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their benefits aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): immigration control, tourism or stimulating air travel.

Speaking – Benefits

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest benefits of visas at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| • tourism | • stimulate air travel |
| • investment | • trade |
| • security | • cultural understanding |
| • revenue | • immigration control |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.