**APPLYING FOR THE NIGERIA VISA IN YOUR COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE**

*The following information has been compiled from past experience, from direct contact with various Embassies and Consulates, and from information via our previous Trans Africa trips. Some of the visa application process is new so we haven’t had anyone go through it before. We’ve had a lot of conversations with IOS Services in the UK so we’re pretty confident everything below is correct. Please be aware though that Oasis Overland supply the information below in good faith but cannot be held responsible when visa regulations change and information supplied becomes out of date.*

Different consulates have different procedures so you should contact them directly to find out what these are. Some Nigerian Consulates, including London, outsource the appointment process to an agency called Online Integrated Solutions (OIS).  They are the official partner of a number of diplomatic missions and a specialist Nigerian visa and passport application agency.

*Please see our previous update* ***Pre-Trip A2*** *for Nigeria consulates in various countries, a brief outline of the application process, contact details of visa agencies that may be able to apply on your behalf and visa costs.*

***IMPORTANT: Nigeria visas are usually valid for entry for 90 days from the date of issue. This means your visa must not be issued before 20th November 2023 or it may expire before we reach Nigeria.***

* **Filling in the Nigeria visa application form in the UK**

This is done online. Please note that you must have a Google or OpenID email account.

* **Application form:**
1. Go to <https://immigration.gov.ng/>
2. In the Visa box, click ‘Apply Now’
3. Click ‘Sign in’ on Step 1 Login box
4. Sign in using your Google or OpenID account.
5. Click ‘Create new application’
6. Start application

The following information will help you fill out the application form:

* Type: Single Entry
* No. of Entries: 1
* Visa Class: F5A – Tourism Visa
* Occupation: DO NOT write unemployed nor Military, Police, Journalist or Photographer or related roles. If retired, enter your previous occupation.
* You will need to upload an image – please note any specific requirements. Additionally, IOS state they must be less than 1 month old.
* Intended Date of Arrival: 12 Feb 2024
* Intended Date of Return: 27 Feb 2024
* Duration of Intended Stay: 16 days
* Type of Reference – Self
* Full Name of Inviting Person - Hassan Abdullahi Zakari
* Organization Name – Metro DMC Ltd
* Phone Number – +2348066060034
* Organization Street Address – 37b, Abba Johnson Crescent
* City/Town – Ikeja
* State – Lagos
* Postal Code – 101233

16. Check your form, submit and pay for your visa online.

17. Remember to make a note of any application or reference numbers.

18. Print off your application form. This should be printed in portrait and signed and dated by you.

19. Print off your Payment and Acknowledgement Slips – you can do this from this link: <https://portal.immigration.gov.ng/visa/OnlineQueryStatus>

* **Make your IOS appointment**

IOS state this must be within 45 days of your travel date. For example if you fly out on 28th January, then 16th December is the earliest appointment date.

Go to [http://apt.oisservices.com](http://apt.oisservices.com/) and follow the process to make your appointment.

* **Gather your documents – there are a lot!**

See the checklist here: <https://oisservices.com/visas-det.php?id=MTY=>

We will provide you with the following documents:

* TYPED LETTER OF PURPOSE: A formal typed letter stating the purpose of journey detailing plans for your visit, signed and dated. *See* ***pre-trip-ta-jan-24-a3.2***
* FULL ITINERARY: Full travel itinerary outlining your Arrival up until your Departure from Nigeria (*as before, this* *is in aid of your visa application and will not necessarily reflect your actual itinerary). See* ***pre-trip-ta-jan-24-a3.3***
* plus your return ticket *– as you do not have a flight ticket into and out of Nigeria, we will provide you with a copy of our vehicle documents to show we are travelling overland. See* ***pre-trip-ta-jan-24-a3.6*** *and* ***a3.7***

***IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:***

You are also required to provide the following at your appointment:

* HOTEL RESERVATION: Evidence of accommodation in Nigeria for the complete duration of your stay, copies of confirmed hotel, guesthouse or motel booking with the name of the applicants showing on the bookings.

*As we will be camping and will not have any hotel reservations, we advise that you make online hotel bookings which you can cancel at a later date at no cost. Last year’s travellers did this and successfully obtained their visa so although there are no guarantees, we feel this will give you the best chance of success.*

We suggest the following for making hotel bookings without any financial commitment:

Using the Nigeria Itinerary provided, use a hotel booking service such as Booking.com to book the correct number of nights in each city. E.g. 2 nights (12th and 13th February) in Abeokuta. Choose a hotel that **does not require Pre-payment** and has **no cancellation fees.**

Once your visa application has been processed, **return to your hotel bookings and cancel them.**

You will also need to provide the remaining documents on the checklist such as passport, photos, print outs of your application form and payments, bank statements and pre-paid special delivery envelope. *Please check the checklist carefully to ensure you have everything and that it complies with their rules – for example your bank statement must show all details including the balance, name and address during the week of the appointment. They will not accept online banking statements if they are not stamped or certified by your bank. The bank statement must show a minimum balance of £500.00 in credit, overdraft not included. Original must be shown at the time of appointment at the OIS Centre. In effect as most posted bank statements are monthly, unless you are lucky with the timing of your statement, this means you would need to get an online banking statement printed and then stamped by your bank during the week of the appointment. Or visit your bank and ask them to print and stamp a statement of your account from that week.*

* **Additional documents**

You can also show your flight ticket to Accra and if you have one, an onward flight ticket after the end of the trip and make a copy of these to hand over at your appointment. It is also a good idea to take a copy of your Oasis Booking Confirmation to prove you are booked on the trip and it is paid for.

* **Attend IOS appointment**

Previous travellers have commented that you need to make sure that OIS or the Nigeria Consulate know that you need the passport back by a particular date (i.e. comfortably before you are due to fly out) as some staff members will only take the date of entry into Nigeria into account when processing, and the application then gets delayed.

Please note you will need to pay a Document Handling and Filing Fee of £20 by bank card.

IOS state that the visa process takes 5 days minimum but please allow as long as you can within the 45 days in case of delays.