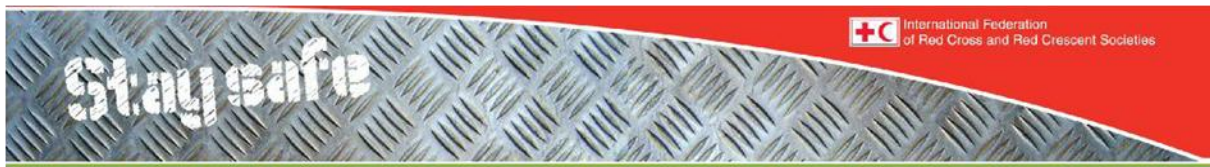


SAFETY & SECURITY BRIEF

GHANA



Updated 01 Jan, 2012



ADVISE:

- ***Normal travel can continue.***
- ***Take sensible precautions to mitigate the risk of petty and street crime.***
- ***Police roadblocks and stop-checks are common; carry photographic identification at all times including RC ID.***
- ***Be aware that occasional bouts of ethnic violence are possible in parts of northern Ghana. These are usually highly localised and do not pose a significant risk to travellers.***
- ***Public transport is not suitable for RC/RC travellers.***
- ***Road conditions and driving standards are generally poor, emergency and recovery services negligible and foreign drivers are usually blamed in the event of a traffic accident.***
- ***Be aware that carjacking occurs in both rural and urban areas; take precautions to mitigate this risk, these include driving with windows up and doors locked at all times, and not travelling unaccompanied.***
- ***If undertaking cross-country travel ensure your vehicle is in good condition and equipped with a full medical kit, adequate communication systems, spares and enough water and fuel to complete your journey.***
- ***Highway robbery poses a risk after dark in rural areas, particularly on southern coastal roads and border regions with Togo and Cote d'Ivoire. Overland travel outside the capital Accra should be undertaken in daylight hours only.***

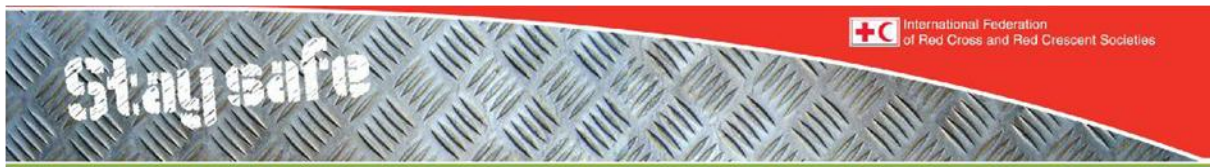
Overall Crime and Safety Situation

Ghana is a peaceful country in a region which is otherwise considered a hotbed of conflicts. All of Ghana's neighbours are either witnessing internal conflicts or experiencing some form of instability. However, Ghana is divided along ethnic lines and there have been sporadic incidents of violence in the three northern regions of the country. Although the conflict in the northern areas does not impact upon the overall security situation in the remainder of the country, it may influence travel to the northern areas since the issues, primarily pertaining to the election of tribal chiefs, remain unsolved and peace is only secured by the presence of government forces in the region.

The police's limited resources (including police vehicles) and poor infrastructure, such as limited mobile network coverage and insufficient street lighting, reduce the authorities' capacity to fight crime efficiently. Petty crime poses the main risk for RC/RC visitors. Pickpockets and bag-snatchers usually operate near crowded market areas, beaches, parks and tourist attractions. Standard security precautions will minimise the risk from crime.

While crime rates have historically been lower than in neighbouring countries, violent crime – and, notably, armed robberies – has increased in urban centres such as Accra. The Brong-Ahafo, Ashanti and Tema regions saw notable increases, in the first half of 2011, of armed robberies. Areas that are popular with expatriates are not immune to the threat of residential break-ins and, in some cases, criminals resort to violence against victims that offer resistance.

Techniques employed by robbers can be relatively sophisticated, such as posing as police personnel or causing minor traffic accidents to force a vehicle to stop and rob its passengers. Carjacking is also becoming more frequent, as are highway robberies, though these tend to affect primarily buses. Highway robberies a cause of particular concern in areas located along the south-eastern border with Togo, and the western border with Côte d'Ivoire; arms smuggling from this country after the 2011 conflict is suspected of having contributed to weapons dissemination.



Road Safety

Primary roads are generally paved and well maintained. However, some side roads within major cities and many roads outside of major cities are in poor condition. The road from Accra to the tourist area of Cape Coast continues to be the site of many accidents. Travel in darkness, particularly outside the major cities, is extremely hazardous due to poor street lighting and the unpredictable behaviour of pedestrians, bicyclists, and farm animals, particularly goats and sheep. Aggressive drivers, poorly maintained vehicles, and overloaded vehicles pose serious threats to road safety.

Travellers are routinely stopped at police checkpoints throughout Ghana, and vehicles and passengers may be searched. Drivers must possess an international driver's license. Foreign visitors should carry documentation of their status, such as a passport and visa.

Risk Zones

South-eastern border with Togo, border with Cote d'Ivoire: MEDIUM

Highway robbery poses a risk after dark in rural areas, particularly those along the south-eastern border with Togo as well as the frontier with Cote d'Ivoire. Any travel outside the capital Accra should be undertaken during daylight hours only.

Areas around Gushiegu (Northern Region) and Bawku (Upper East Region): MEDIUM

Parts of northern Ghana experience periodic ethnic and communal conflict. RC visitors are advised to seek information on the latest situation before undertaking travel to the above areas via the National RC society, and to exercise additional caution.

Police Response

The Ghanaian Police Service (GPS) is almost solely a reactive force and demonstrates moderate proactive techniques or initiative to deter or investigate crime. Police often lack the equipment, resources, training, and personnel to respond to calls for assistance or other emergencies. The police have a poor record of investigating and solving serious crimes. There is a visible police presence in Accra, and the embassy receives adequate support from the GPS and the Special Police Units that protect U.S. government facilities.

Where to turn for assistance:

Central Police Headquarters: +233 0302-773-906.

Police Information Room: +233 0302-787-373 or via cell phone: +233 0244-313-820.

The emergency line in Ghana is 191.

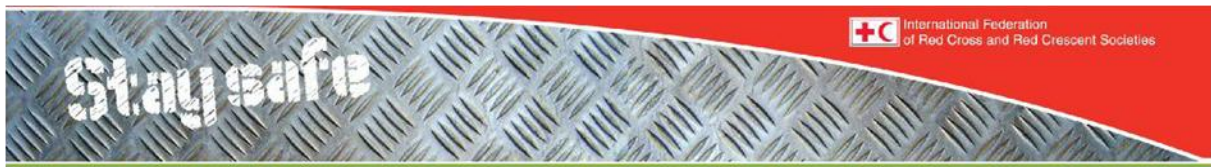
Roberto Christensen - Zone Security Coordinator: + 27 71 881 5434.

Zakari Izza - Security Focal Point: +225 44506719.

If you are the victim of a crime, you should contact the local police, the IFRC security coordinator and your respective Embassy.

Medical Emergencies

Medical facilities in Ghana are limited, particularly outside Accra. RC/RC personnel should carry adequate supplies of any needed prescription medicines, along with copies of their prescriptions, the generic name of the drugs, and a supply of preferred over-the-counter medications.



The following list is provided as a guide for medical facilities that enjoy a good reputation but are not to be considered a referral by IFRC.

37th Military Hospital, +233 0302-776-294

Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Cardio Thorasic Unit +233 0302-670-545

Lister Hospital +233 0302-812-325.

All travelers should be aware that documentation of Yellow fever vaccination is required upon arrival from all countries.

Further Information

Please contact the Zone Security Coordinator or the Security Focal Point.