

Upon Arrival in Uganda

Purchasing a Ugandan SIM Card & Public Telephones

Depending upon your cell phone company and plan you may or may not have coverage in Uganda. If you will need to make calls, send text messages or use the internet during the Dream Big Conference, it is suggested that you purchase a SIM card and credits before traveling to the conference venue. There will not be internet access in the dormitories. When you arrive at the airport or the bus station you can purchase a Ugandan SIM card or if you are in need of help you can use a local public phone to call the official welcoming committee for assistance.

Purchasing a SIM Card

The most popular and preferred SIM card service providers are **Airtel-Uganda and MTN-Uganda**. There are many others telecom companies but these two are the most available. They also offer roaming network services to most countries in Africa where they operate, meaning that the East African Community can use their home country SIM cards here, although calling on a roaming network is much more expensive compared to purchasing a local SIM card in Uganda.



Where to Purchase a SIM Card

SIM cards can only be purchased, activated and registered at official telecom company service centers/kiosks.

Entebbe International Airport

Those arriving at the airport can purchase and register a SIM card from any designated MTN/Airtel telecom service kiosks located inside the arrivals area at the Entebbe airport.

Bus Stations in the City Center

There will also be official MTN and Airtel telecom shops in the vicinity of the main bus stations in the city center.

Tip: Only purchase SIM cards from official telecom shops. Before beginning the process ask if the retailer is an official vendor. An official telecom service provider requires that you fill out an application form for a new SIM card and makes photocopies or takes a photo of your passport/visa/national ID before issuing the SIM card.

Cost of Ugandan SIM Card

All the telecom companies charge **2,000 Uganda Shillings (\$0.55 USD)** for purchasing, registering and activating a SIM card.

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Internet Data Bundle Costs

You can purchase a weekly internet data bundle from as low as 500MB for **3,000 Uganda Shillings (\$0.83 USD)** and up to 5GB for **20,000 Uganda Shillings (\$5.55 USD)** valid for a week.

There are also much smaller bundle sizes tailored for hourly, daily and or monthly validity at affordable prices ranging from as low as **250 Uganda Shillings (\$0.06 USD)** for 15MB to **5,000 Uganda Shillings (\$1.38 USD)** for 1GB data per day.

Using Public Pay-to-Use Phones

There are pay-to-use phones at the Entebbe International Airport and at bus terminals. Some kiosks have a phone that you can use and then pay in cash for the minutes used. Other vendors will sell you a prepaid card to use on pay-to-use phone booths. Calling a local Uganda phone number costs around **400- 600 Uganda Shillings (\$0.11-0.16 USD)** per minute depending on which network is called.

