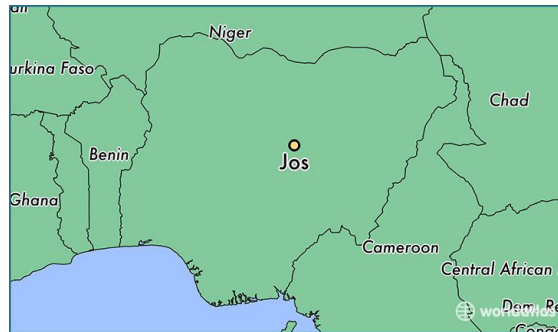


Nigeria: Culture, Tips, and Facts



About Jos, Nigeria

- Jos is the capital city of Plateau State in the country of Nigeria. It is in the "middle belt" of the country. The northern part of the country is primarily Muslim and the southern part is primarily Christian.
- Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with about 1 in 5 Africans being Nigerian.
- Most Nigerians speak English. In Jos, they also speak Hausa. Rukuba is spoken by the people Back2Back serves in the village.
- While nearly 60% of Nigerians live on less than two dollars a day and 68% are illiterate, Nigerians place high value on caring for and helping one another like family.
- Nigeria is a hierarchical society. Age is believed to confer wisdom, so elders are given much respect.
- Jos is typically cool during December-January. Rain coats are needed during the April-September rainy season. In the fall, the land is lush and green, and the temperatures are very comfortable.

Cultural and Travel Tips

- If you are lighter skinned or Caucasian, you might hear people call out to you as you walk through the market or in more bustling areas. Nigerians are vocal and in areas where white people are rarely seen, they may wave or say hello!
- The most common greeting is a handshake with a warm, welcoming smile. Close friends and family members often hug when meeting. A Nigerian generally waits for the woman to extend her hand.
- Nigerian food is a true representation of its people with a wide variety of options and a rich medley of flavors!
- Safe, filtered drinking water is always available on campus and during work projects.
- Electricity is 220V. If you plan on bringing appliances or electronics requiring charging, we recommend bringing a converter to reduce the power to 110V, and an outlet adapter for the plugs. However, many devices such as laptops and cameras can accept 220V.
- As the country's electrical supply is very unpredictable, bringing a small flashlight is highly recommended.

- Clothing: It is important to respect the Nigerian culture and the children we serve by dressing appropriately. We do not want to stand out negatively or offensively. Therefore, please follow these dress code guidelines:
 - For women: Head wrap or large scarf, long dresses/skirts, and capris/pants/jeans.
 - * To be culturally sensitive, women will be asked to wear skirts and head wraps at certain times during the trip, like at church. You will be shown how to wear head wraps once you arrive in Nigeria.
 - For men: T-shirts, Button, collared shirt or polo, work jeans, khakis or light dress pants, shorts (must be around knee length).
 - Nights and rainy days in Jos can be cool. Make sure to bring a jacket and a couple of sweatshirts.
 - You cannot wear camouflage in public.
- Do not take pictures in the Nigerian airport or any Government buildings.
- Avoid the temptation to point your camera at the poverty you will encounter. First, take it in and observe the world you've entered into. Second, remember these are people's homes and lives.
- \$100 cash recommended (bring only crisp \$50 or \$100 bills newer than 2007 to exchange)