

— Africa Country Guide —

SIERRA LEONE

The Country Built for People Coming Home



Note Before We Begin

This guide was built the way everything at Ria's Colony is built: to close the gap between being curious about a country and actually understanding it. Nothing here is guesswork. Every figure, fee, rule and route is sourced from an official body, a recognised institution, or a currently published reference, and every source is linked at the end of the guide so you can verify it yourself, follow up, or check for updates before you act on it.

Two honest caveats, up front, because we make zero assumptions about what you already know and we'd rather you go in prepared than surprised:

- Fees, exchange rates and rules change. Sierra Leone's immigration and visa fee schedules in particular vary by source, by nationality and by year, sometimes by tens of dollars for what should be the same product. Where sources disagreed, we've shown you the range and told you which is the official one to trust.
- This is not legal, immigration, medical or financial advice. It is a well-researched starting point. For anything with money, a visa stamp, or your health attached to it, confirm directly with the Sierra Leone Immigration Department, the nearest Sierra Leonean embassy or consulate, or a licensed relocation professional before you commit.

About Ria's Colony

Africa is one continent. Moving across it should be easier.

Ria's Colony is a trade and tourism company that helps people understand other African countries, travel between them, and do business across their markets — because right now, all three are often harder than they should be. People across Africa, and around the world, still know surprisingly little about many parts of the continent. There are travellers who could be visiting places they know almost nothing about, businesses that could be selling into markets they've never considered, and destinations that could be reaching people who would genuinely value what they offer. The information is scattered, the access points aren't obvious, and the gap between interest and understanding is where most opportunity quietly gets lost.

Ria's Colony works across that gap using media, travel information, learning, research, business development and connections. In practice, that looks like: original stories that help someone understand a country, its culture, its people and its economy; practical travel information that tells someone what to expect before they go; courses that teach something useful; and market research, introductions or local representation for organisations entering a new African market.

What we're built on

- Equip — Style Vault: practical courses and resources that help people build useful skills and participate confidently in opportunities across Africa.
- Reflect — Style Mirror: original stories that help people understand Africa's countries, cultures, economies and the issues that matter there.
- Explore — Aerial View: travel information, destination stories and selected experiences that help people know what to expect and find support once they arrive.
- Connect — Aerial Connect: help for businesses entering and expanding across African markets, connected to the customers, partners and local knowledge they need.

What Ria's Colony is not

- Not a general travel agency — we don't book your flights or hotels; we make sure you understand the place and the process well enough to act with confidence.
- Not only a media company, and not only a business consultancy — the work spans trade, tourism, media, learning and cross-border connection.
- Not here to tell Africa's story from the outside — we build with the people and organisations shaping the continent's future.

Learn more or start a conversation: riacolony.org/about · riacolony.org/inquire

Sierra Leone at a Glance

Category	Detail
Official name	Republic of Sierra Leone
Capital	Freetown
Government type	Presidential representative democratic republic; the President is both head of state and head of government
Head of state (2026)	President Julius Maada Bio (Sierra Leone People's Party), in office since 4 April 2018, re-elected 2023
Legislature	Unicameral Parliament of Sierra Leone, 149 seats (135 elected + 14 paramount chiefs), elected by party-list proportional representation
Independence	27 April 1961, from the United Kingdom
Currency	Sierra Leonean Leone (SLE) — the "New Leone," introduced 1 July 2022
Main languages	English (official); Krio (principal lingua franca, understood by the large majority of the population); Temne, Mende, Limba and other indigenous languages
Main religions	Islam (majority, roughly three-quarters of adults per the 2019 DHS); Christianity (substantial minority, especially strong among the Krio)
Major ethnic groups	Temne (~31%) and Mende (~32%) together make up roughly two-thirds of the population; Limba, Kono, Loko, Fullah, Mandingo, Krio, Sherbro and others make up the rest — 15 groups recorded in the 2015 census

Category	Detail
Neighbours	Guinea (north/northeast), Liberia (south/southeast); Atlantic Ocean to the west
US State Dept advisory	Level 2 — "Exercise Increased Caution," citing crime, civil unrest and inadequate health infrastructure

History & Culture: Where It All Comes From

Sierra Leone's founding story is unlike almost anywhere else shaped by European colonialism. In 1787, a group of formerly enslaved Black Britons landed on the coast and founded the Province of Freedom. That first settlement didn't survive, but the effort was repeated: Black Loyalists who had fought for Britain in the American Revolution and been resettled in Nova Scotia founded Freetown in 1792; Jamaican Maroons who had fought a guerrilla war against slavery arrived in 1800; and after Britain outlawed the transatlantic slave trade in 1807, tens of thousands of "recaptives" — Africans pulled from illegal slave ships by the Royal Navy — were released into the settlement rather than sent back into slavery. The interaction among these groups, and with the indigenous Temne, Mende, Limba, Loko and Kono communities already living in the region, produced the Krio people and Krio, an English-based creole language that later became the country's principal interethnic lingua franca — understood, by one Oxford estimate, by as much as 95% of the population, despite being the first language of a much smaller share of it.

Britain formalised colonial control over the interior far later than over the coastal Colony, proclaiming a Protectorate over most of present-day Sierra Leone in 1896. The resulting Colony–Protectorate divide, plus post-independence governance failures, corruption and the pull of the country's diamond wealth, fed into the civil war that ran from 1991 to 2002 — a conflict marked by widespread atrocities, child soldiers, and deliberate amputation campaigns, and one of the clearest global examples of "conflict diamonds." That war is also why the Kimberley Process, the international scheme to keep rough diamonds from financing armed conflict, exists in its current form. Sierra Leone has since rebuilt through repeated multiparty elections and peaceful transfers of power, alongside ongoing work by survivor and amputee advocacy groups and the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

People, faith and everyday life

The Temne (north and west) and Mende (south and east) each make up roughly a third of the population and have historically anchored the country's two dominant political parties, though neither party is confined to one ethnic group. Sierra Leone is majority Muslim, with Christianity strong among the Krio and in Freetown, and the two communities are known for deep coexistence — interfaith families, intermarriage, and shared participation in each other's celebrations are common. Beneath both religions, the Poro (men's) and Sande/Bondo/Bundu (women's) secret societies continue to play real roles in initiation, education and community life in many areas, predating the modern state itself.

Rice anchors the plate almost everywhere: cassava-leaf stew, groundnut stew, plassas and fufu are everyday staples, and coastal cooking leans on fresh and smoked fish with pepper and spice. Poyo (palm wine) and ginger beer are traditional drinks, and poyo bars double as informal social hubs. Musically, gumbe (brought by the Jamaican Maroons), Milo jazz, palm-wine guitar music and Temne bubu drumming trace a direct line from the country's mixed Atlantic and West African roots — and the carved sowei masks used in Sande/Bondo ceremonies remain among West Africa's most recognisable ceremonial art forms.

Read the full cultural deep-dive on this: [Sierra Leone: The Country Built for People Coming Home](#) — part of [the Africa Culture Series \(54 countries\)](#) on riascolony.org.

Government & Political System

Sierra Leone is a unitary, presidential, multi-party republic. Under the 1991 Constitution, the President is both head of state and head of government, is elected by universal suffrage for up to two five-year terms, and appoints a cabinet (including the Vice President) subject to parliamentary approval. Legislative power sits with the unicameral Parliament of Sierra Leone — 149 seats, 135 of them elected by party-list proportional representation and 14 reserved for paramount chiefs — and the judiciary is constitutionally independent of both.

Julius Maada Bio of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) has been President since 4 April 2018 and was re-elected in 2023 with 56% of the vote in a result the opposition All People's Congress (APC) contested, citing irregularities. A coup attempt against Bio's government failed in September 2023. Civil rights and freedom of religion are constitutionally protected and a critical press continues to operate, though the government has at times invoked the 1965 Public Order Act — which criminalises libel — against journalists and outlets.

Quick civic facts

Independence Day: 27 April (from the United Kingdom, 1961).

Two dominant parties: SLPP and APC, each drawing disproportionate — but not exclusive — support from particular regions and ethnic communities.

Next scheduled general election: 2028.

Getting In: Entry Requirements & Visa Routes

Sierra Leone's entry system has three lanes, and which one applies to you depends entirely on your passport.

Lane 1 — Visa-free entry (ECOWAS citizens)

Citizens of the other Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) member countries — Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo — can enter Sierra Leone without a visa, under the ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in force since 30 April 1980.

Lane 2 — Visa on arrival

Sierra Leone began issuing visas on arrival on 5 September 2019. Depending on your citizenship, you'll fall into one of these groups at the airport or at the land borders of Jendema (Liberia) and Gbalamuya (Guinea):

- Free visa on arrival: citizens of Botswana, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi and Mauritius.
- Visa on arrival for a fee: most other African Union member states pay roughly USD 25; citizens of BRICS, Commonwealth and European Union countries, Gulf Cooperation Council states, and a further list including Japan, the UK, the US, South Korea, Singapore, Turkey and others pay around USD 80 for a visa valid for up to one month.

Lane 3 — eVisa (recommended for most non-African travellers)

Everyone else must apply for an eVisa before travelling, through the Government of Sierra Leone's official portal. Citizens who are eligible for visa on arrival may also use the eVisa portal in advance if they'd rather not queue at the airport.

Apply only through the official portal

Official Sierra Leone eVisa system: evisa.sl — this is the address cited by Sierra Leone's own immigration authorities and by Wikipedia's sourced visa-policy page.

Third-party "visa concierge" sites (several turned up in our research) charge additional "service fees" of USD 50–60 on top of the government fee for doing nothing you can't do yourself directly on the official portal. There is nothing wrong with using one if you want the hand-holding — just know the markup exists and is optional.

Typical costs you'll see quoted

Multiple currently-published sources (visa facilitators, the U.S. embassy fee schedule, and destination-management sites) show fees in this range. Treat this as a planning estimate, not a guaranteed price, and confirm the exact figure for your nationality on evisa.sl or with your nearest Sierra Leonean embassy before paying anything:

Visa type	Indicative fee
Free visa on arrival (select AU states)	USD 0
Visa on arrival, most AU citizens	≈ USD 25
eVisa / visa on arrival, most other nationalities (30-day single entry)	≈ USD 80 (some sources show USD 80–120 depending on entry point and season)
Embassy-issued tourist/visitor visa, single entry (e.g., via the Sierra Leone Embassy, Washington D.C.)	USD 100
Embassy-issued tourist/visitor visa, multiple entry	USD 150
Embassy-issued transit visa (max 72 hours)	USD 30
Embassy-issued student visa	USD 75–100
Expedited processing add-on	+USD 50

What you'll be asked for

- A passport valid for at least six months beyond your arrival date.
- A recent passport-sized photograph.
- Proof of accommodation and a return/onward ticket (commonly requested, especially for eVisa and embassy applications).
- A valid International Certificate of Vaccination against yellow fever — required for entry, and one of the most commonly missed requirements by first-time visitors.
- For visa-on-arrival nationalities using the airport route: the fee in cash (USD), as card payment is not guaranteed to be available planeside.

Relocating, Working & Living in Sierra Leone

"Relocation" to Sierra Leone runs through a layered system: an entry visa gets you in, a Residence Permit lets you stay beyond the visa's validity, and a Work Permit is a separate authorisation required before you can legally take up employment or self-employment. Understand these as three distinct steps, not one document.

Step 1 — Entry

Foreign nationals arriving for business or longer stays typically enter on a Landing Visa (the standard eVisa/visa-on-arrival product described above), priced at roughly USD 80 and valid for around 30 days.

Step 2 — Residence Permit

Anyone planning to stay beyond 90 days — to study, invest, or simply live in Sierra Leone — must register with the National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA) for a Non-National Identification Number (NIN) and card, then apply for a Residence Permit through the government's Unified Permit Portal before the Landing Visa expires (applications are generally expected within 30 days of arrival). The published steps are: register for your NIN, complete the online application and upload documents, pay the applicable fee, then collect the permit card at the designated location.

Step 3 — Work Permit

Any foreign national intending to work in Sierra Leone — as an employee or as someone self-employed — must hold a Work Permit before starting, regardless of the job's nature or duration. For employees, the employer applies on the worker's behalf to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, submitting the job description, salary, contract, the worker's CV and qualifications, and a justification that the role could not be filled locally. Independent contractors go through a separate process and don't need an employer sponsor. Government processing is commonly quoted at 1–7 days once a complete file is submitted, though more complex cases — or applications effectively seeking long-term/permanent residence — can take 6–12 months. Work permits must be renewed annually.

What it tends to cost

Ministry of Labour work-permit fee: commonly cited around Le 100 (new Leone) for the base application, with sector-specific schedules (private security, hospitality, manufacturing, agriculture, consultancy/research, water drilling, gaming/betting and CBOs, among others) carrying their own rates — confirm the current schedule directly with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

Landing Visa: ≈ USD 80.

Facilitation/agency service charges for handling the paperwork: quoted by private agents anywhere from roughly Le 500,000 to several hundred US dollars depending on scope — entirely optional, and not a government fee.

The investor / "buy your way in" route

Sierra Leone also runs an investment-linked residence and citizenship track sometimes marketed as the "Go for Gold" (GfG) program. As advertised by relocation-industry sources, a single applicant can obtain indefinite resident status by purchasing 1 kilogram of gold plus paying roughly USD 65,000 in additional fees (higher for a spouse and children, or a wider family group), with the investment required to be maintained for five years. A fast-track citizenship route is separately advertised at around USD 140,000, inclusive of program, legal and documentation costs, with a stated 90-day processing time. Treat marketing claims from private facilitators about "guaranteed" investment-citizenship timelines with real scepticism — verify current terms, legal standing and legitimacy directly with the Government of Sierra Leone before wiring any money, and get independent legal advice in your own country too.

Relocation checklist, practically speaking

- Confirm your visa lane (ECOWAS-free / visa on arrival / eVisa) before booking flights.
- Get the yellow fever vaccine at least 10 days before travel — it's required, not optional, for entry.
- Budget realistically for the whole chain: Landing Visa → NIN registration → Residence Permit → Work Permit — not just the flight and the first visa fee.

- If you're being sponsored by an employer, confirm in writing who is paying which fee and who is filing which form — the process runs across two separate government bodies (Immigration and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security).
- Arrange health insurance and, ideally, medical evacuation cover before you arrive; more on why under Safety & Health below.

Money, Currency & Cost of Living

Sierra Leone's currency is the Leone. In July 2022, the Bank of Sierra Leone redenominated it, removing three zeros: 1,000 old Leones (SLL) became 1 New Leone (SLE). The change was a redenomination, not a devaluation — a Le 12,000 item under the old currency simply became a Le 12 item under the new one, with the same real value. Old notes remained exchangeable at commercial banks until 31 March 2024, after which they lost legal value entirely.

The New Leone has continued to depreciate against the US dollar since the redenomination — one widely cited estimate put the exchange rate at roughly 1 USD ≈ 23 SLE as of late 2025, after a reported depreciation of around 60% against the dollar in the two years following the 2022 changeover. Exchange rates move; always check a live source (your bank, XE, or a licensed forex bureau in Freetown) rather than relying on a fixed number from any guide, including this one.

The wider economic picture

Indicator	Figure
Nominal GDP (2025)	≈ USD 8.39 billion
GDP per capita (nominal, 2025)	≈ USD 915
GDP growth (2025)	≈ 4.7%
Economy structure	Agriculture ≈ 51.5% of GDP, services ≈ 33.6%, industry ≈ 14.9% (latest available breakdown)
Population below the national poverty line	≈ 52.9%
Human Development Index (2024)	0.458 — classified "low" (181st globally)
Key trade memberships	African Union, AfCFTA, ECOWAS, Mano River Union, WTO, World Bank, IMF

Practically, this means Sierra Leone is a cash-and-mobile-money economy for most day-to-day spending outside upmarket Freetown hotels and restaurants, prices in Leones can move noticeably over the course of a year, and carrying and changing US dollars remains common practice for travellers, business visitors and new residents alike.

Safety, Health & Practical Realities

The most current, officially published advisory — from the U.S. Department of State — places Sierra Leone at Level 2: "Exercise Increased Caution," citing crime, civil unrest and inadequate health infrastructure. This is the second of four advisory levels (below "Reconsider Travel" and "Do Not Travel"), so it's a caution, not an alarm — but the specifics are worth knowing before you go.

Crime

Violent crime — armed robbery, mugging, assault, burglary — occurs frequently, especially in Freetown, and local police often lack the resources to respond effectively to serious incidents. U.S. government personnel are themselves barred from travelling outside Freetown after dark, and the U.S. Embassy cannot guarantee emergency assistance to citizens outside the capital at night. Standard precautions apply and matter more here than in many destinations: don't display visible wealth (watches, jewellery), don't resist a robbery physically, avoid walking or driving after dark outside the Freetown peninsula, and keep copies of your passport and visa separate from the originals.

Civil unrest

Demonstrations tied to political or economic grievances happen periodically and have turned violent in the past — including a violent protest against the government's economic handling in August 2022, and a failed coup attempt in September 2023. Avoid protests and demonstrations even if they look peaceful when you arrive, and follow local media for advance warning.

Health

- Yellow fever vaccination is a mandatory entry requirement, not a suggestion — carry your certificate.
- Malaria risk is present countrywide; discuss prophylaxis with a travel health provider before departure.
- Health infrastructure is limited outside — and even within — Freetown; serious medical evacuation coverage is strongly advised rather than optional.
- Locally available medications are flagged by U.S. authorities as not always reliable; travel with your own supply of any prescription medicine, in original packaging.

Practical day-to-day notes

- Emergency number: dial 900 for local emergency services (response capacity varies significantly by location).
- Sidewalks and road infrastructure are inconsistent outside central Freetown; night driving carries added risk beyond crime — poor lighting and road conditions.
- Enrol in your home country's traveller registration program (for U.S. citizens, the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program/STEP) so your embassy can reach you in an emergency.

Where to Go: Tourism & Places

Sierra Leone's tourism identity sits at the intersection of history, wildlife and genuinely under-visited Atlantic coastline. None of the country's attractions are mass-market yet, which is exactly the appeal for the kind of traveller Ria's Colony writes for.

Freetown

Start in the capital itself. The Cotton Tree, a 200-plus-year-old silk-cotton tree at the city's centre, is the national symbol marking where freed and resettled people gathered on arrival; the Sierra Leone National Museum and the National Railway Museum cover the country's colonial, independence-era and trading history; and the surviving Krio "board houses" — wooden, raised-foundation buildings with decorative fretwork in the older parts of the city — are a direct architectural link to the settlers who founded Freetown in 1792.

History & memory

- **Bunce Island** — a former British slave-trading fortress about an hour by boat from Freetown; its ruins are largely unrestored and stand as one of West Africa's most significant, and sobering, historical sites.

Wildlife & nature

- **Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary** — a rescue and rehabilitation sanctuary in the forested hills above Freetown, on the edge of the Western Area Peninsula National Park; a short hike from here reaches Leicester Peak for panoramic views over the capital.
- **Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary** — a small rainforest island in the Moa River in the south, known for primate diversity; access is limited, which is part of its appeal for serious wildlife travellers.
- **Outamba-Kilimi National Park and the Gola Rainforest** — larger protected areas in the north and southeast respectively, for travellers wanting deeper forest and savanna wildlife experiences.

Beaches & islands

- **The Freetown Peninsula beaches** — River Number Two Beach, Tokeh and Bureh Town — offer some of West Africa's most photogenic, least-crowded Atlantic coastline; Bureh in particular has a small local surf community.
- **The Banana Islands** — Dublin, Ricketts (connected by a stone causeway) and the smaller Mes-Meheux, reached by boat from Kent at the peninsula's tip — good for snorkelling, quiet beaches and small fishing communities.
- **The Turtle Islands** — a remote archipelago known for green sea turtles and rustic, bamboo-built fishing villages; note that the island of Hoong is closed to visitors as it's used for coming-of-age religious rites.

Ballpark trip costs

Multi-day organised tours combining Freetown, Tacugama, Bunce Island and the Banana or Tiwai Islands are commercially advertised from roughly USD 1,480 per person (based on two people sharing) for a 6-day itinerary — useful as an order-of-magnitude reference, not a fixed market rate. Independent travel on local transport, guesthouses and street food can run dramatically cheaper; a licensed local guide or tour operator is strongly recommended for Bunce Island, Tiwai Island and the Turtle Islands given limited signage and infrastructure.

The Good, the Bad & the Ugly — Straight Talk

The Good

- One of the most distinctive founding stories on the continent, still visible today in Krio language, architecture and naming — a genuinely rare cultural formation.
- Extensive, everyday Muslim-Christian coexistence that many visitors find remarkable in practice, not just in theory.
- Real, under-visited natural assets — Atlantic beaches, primate sanctuaries and rainforest — at a scale and price point that mass tourism hasn't reached yet.
- A functioning multi-party democracy with repeated peaceful transfers of power since the war ended, including surviving a 2023 coup attempt.

The Bad

- Genuine, frequent violent crime, concentrated in but not limited to Freetown, with limited police capacity to respond.
- A fragile, low-income economy (GDP per capita around USD 915) with a depreciating currency and roughly half the population below the national poverty line.
- Health infrastructure that is limited even in the capital, and unreliable outside it — meaning ordinary travel mishaps can become serious problems faster than they would elsewhere.
- A slow-moving, multi-agency bureaucracy for anyone relocating: separate applications, separate government bodies (Immigration vs. the Ministry of Labour), and fee schedules that are inconsistently published even by relocation professionals.

The Ugly

- The 1991–2002 civil war's legacy is not abstract history — deliberate amputation campaigns, widespread use of child soldiers, and conflict-diamond financing left generational scars that survivor and amputee communities are still organising around today.
- Female genital cutting remains widespread and is tied to Bondo/Sande initiation traditions in many communities, despite significant domestic and international human-rights concern and active campaigns against it — something worth knowing and being sensitive to as a visitor, particularly around any invitation to observe or participate in initiation-related ceremonies.

- Political tension between the two dominant parties runs deep enough that recent elections have drawn international concern over transparency, and the 2023 coup attempt is a reminder that the underlying stability, while real, isn't guaranteed.

Do I need a visa to visit Sierra Leone?

Almost certainly yes, unless you hold a passport from another ECOWAS country. Nearly everyone else needs either a visa on arrival or an eVisa obtained in advance, depending on nationality.

Can I just show up and get a visa at the airport?

If your nationality is on the visa-on-arrival list, yes, in cash (USD). If it isn't, you must arrange an eVisa before you fly — arriving without one and expecting to be processed on the spot is not a safe assumption to make.

Is Sierra Leone safe for tourists?

It's rated "Exercise Increased Caution" (Level 2 of 4) by the U.S. State Department — meaning it is regularly visited, but crime and limited emergency-response capacity are real, particularly after dark and outside Freetown. Sensible precautions go a long way.

What does it actually cost to relocate there?

At minimum: the Landing Visa fee ($\approx$ USD 80), Residence Permit registration and fees through the Unified Permit Portal, and — if you intend to work — a separate Work Permit application through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, plus your own travel, housing and insurance costs. There's also a much higher-cost investment-residency track ("Go for Gold") for people looking to fast-track status through a gold purchase, priced in the tens of thousands of US dollars.

What currency should I bring?

US dollars are the most useful backup currency for visa fees and larger transactions; day-to-day spending runs on the Sierra Leonean Leone (SLE). Check a live exchange rate before you travel — the Leone has moved substantially against the dollar since its 2022 redenomination.

Sources & Further Reading

Every claim, figure and fee above traces back to one of the sources below. Fees and travel-advisory levels change — treat the date you check these links as more current than the date this guide was written.

Ria's Colony

- Sierra Leone: The Country Built for People Coming Home (full culture, history and language deep-dive) — <https://riascolony.org/blog/sierra-leone-history-culture>
- Exploring the Cultures of Africa: 54 Countries, One Continent (full series) — <https://riascolony.org/blog/series/africa-culture-series-54-countries>
- About Ria's Colony — <https://riascolony.org/about>

Government, visas & immigration

- Visa policy of Sierra Leone — Wikipedia (sourced to Timatic/IATA, the Sierra Leone Immigration Department and evisa.sl) — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_Sierra_Leone
- Official Sierra Leone eVisa portal — <https://evisa.sl>
- Sierra Leone Unified Permit Portal (Residence & Work Permits) — <https://unifiedpermit.gov.sl/>
- Government of Sierra Leone — The Government (Office of the President) — <https://www.sierraleoneembassy.brussels/about-sierra-leone/the-government/>
- Government of Sierra Leone — Wikipedia — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Sierra_Leone
- Parliament of Sierra Leone — Wikipedia — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Sierra_Leone
- Julius Maada Bio — Wikipedia — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Maada_Bio
- Politics of Sierra Leone — Wikipedia (2023 election results) — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Sierra_Leone
- Embassy of Sierra Leone (Washington, D.C.) — Visa Services & Fee Schedule — <https://www.embassyofsierraleone.net/visa-services>
- Sierra Leone Work Permits & Visas: Employer Guide (Payroll) — <https://www.payroll.com/work-permit-visas/sierra-leone>

- Doing Business in Sierra Leone: Guide to Business Immigration (Gordon & Associates) — <https://gordonassociates-sl.com/doing-business-in-sierra-leone/>
- Applying for a Work Permit in Sierra Leone — fee schedule PDF (ELBA) — <https://elba-sl.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Applying-for-a-work-permit-in-Sierra-Leone.pdf>
- Sierra Leone Residence Permit & Citizenship-by-Investment ("Go for Gold") overview — <https://visitworld.today/blog/2578/sierra-leone-residence-permit-and-citizenship-by-investment-benefits-of-a-sierra-leonean-passport-requirements-investment-amount-and-features-of-the-go-for-gold-gfg-program>

Safety & health

- U.S. Department of State — Sierra Leone Travel Advisory (current level) — <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories/sierra-leone.html>
- OSAC — Sierra Leone Country Security Report — <https://www.osac.gov/Country/SierraLeone/Content/Detail/Report/4259b100-2d1e-4b49-ab97-1d166b775493>

Economy & currency

- Economy of Sierra Leone — Wikipedia (GDP, HDI, poverty and trade data) — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Sierra_Leone
- Bank of Sierra Leone / FBN Bank — Redenomination of the Leone FAQs — https://www.fbnbanksierraleone.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Curr_redenom_FAQs-final-2.pdf
- Sierra Leonean Leone (New) — currency reference — <https://currency.wiki/tools/currency-encyclopedia/sle>

Culture & history (background reading beyond the Ria's Colony feature)

- 2019 Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Survey — religion and FGM prevalence data —
<https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-fr365-dhs-final-reports.cfm>

Tourism & places

- Best Things to Do in Freetown — Silversea —
<https://www.silversea.com/blog/extra/others/best-things-to-do-in-freetown-sierra-leone>
- 15 Best Places to Visit in Sierra Leone — The Crazy Tourist —
<https://www.thecrazytourist.com/15-best-places-visit-sierra-leone/>
- Sierra Leone: 10 key experiences — Capmad tourism analysis —
<https://www.capmad.com/post/sierra-leone-10-key-experiences-from-beaches-and-islands-to-forests-show-tourisms-niche-potential>
- Sierra Leone Tours and Sample Itineraries — Africa Tour Operators —
<https://www.africatouroperators.org/sierra-leone/>

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