



IAS 2025



Pre-departure guide



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Pre-departure checklist

Before leaving for Kigali, please make sure that you have the following items:

- ☐ Your passport (valid for at least six months from your return date) and all necessary travel documents
- ☐ Valid visa for Rwanda: Rwanda delivers visas upon arrival. However, we advise applying in advance via [IremboGov](#) to avoid any last-minute complications. Find more details [here](#).
- ☐ Photocopies of your passport and visa(s) in case replacements are needed
- ☐ Accommodation booking confirmation
- ☐ Essential **medication** and a note from your doctor for any prescription medication
- ☐ A yellow **fever vaccination certificate** is required for passengers coming from endemic areas. For more information, please visit [the RBC website](#)
- ☐ Your **mobile phone and headphones** if you plan to access simultaneous interpretation during sessions (free Wi-Fi will be available)

Please familiarize yourself with the IAS 2025 [code of conduct](#).

Important

Medication: If you are travelling with medication, please find relevant information [here](#). We strongly encourage you to consult this website carefully before leaving for Kigali.



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Transport

Shuttle services from the airport

Most hotels offer shuttle services. You will need to book this service in advance. We recommend contacting your hotel at least one week before your arrival to arrange this.

Getting around Kigali

Buses, taxis and motorbike taxis are the most common forms of public transport.

Although Uber does not operate in Rwanda, several other ride-sharing apps are available. Popular options include the taxi app, [Yego Moto](#), and [Move](#) by Volkswagen.

Note that the morning of Sunday, 13 July, will be car-free. Main roads will be closed to motorized traffic from 07:00 to 10:00. However, there are many alternative routes and there should not be any delays. Participants are encouraged to join in this community activity.

Free transfers to and from IAS 2025

Transfers between the IAS 2025 venue and official hotels are available – look for vehicles marked with the IAS 2025 logo. Pick-up locations are displayed in hotel lobbies and at the venue's parking area. Present your delegate badge or registration confirmation to use the service.

To access the bus routes and schedules, please visit: ias2025.org/transfers

The conference venue

Kigali Convention Centre (KCC)
Convention Centre Roundabout
KG 542 Street
Kigali, Rwanda

Find more information about KCC [here](#) and access the location directly via Google Maps [here](#).

Important to know:

- To ensure streamline entry, the IAS 2025 venue has implemented a bag policy. Only small handbags and laptop bags are permitted; **larger bags should be left at your hotel due to limited storage.**
- Please note that only venue-provided catering is allowed; outside food and beverages are prohibited. Water fountains are available on-site, so you can bring your own bottle.



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- No animals except guide dogs are permitted. Guide dogs must have approval documentation from the SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) and the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board.

The conference programme

Explore the full programme of IAS 2025, [the 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science](#), at [this link](#).

As the global response to HIV navigates new challenges and opportunities, this year's programme reflects the cutting-edge science, innovation and collaboration needed to move us forward.

It includes:

- Over 100 sessions, including plenary presentations, invited-speaker symposia, oral abstract sessions, pre-conferences and satellites
- Over 1,400 posters, with about 600 presented in person in Kigali
- A dynamic exhibition featuring organizations leading HIV research

Language interpretation services

All language interpretation and captioning will be available for key sessions, including opening and closing, plenary, special, rapporteur and symposia sessions. Some pre-conference sessions and satellite symposia may also offer these services.

Please bring your own headphones for live interpretation to ensure a pleasant experience for all participants.

For more information on language interpretation services, click [here](#).

Badge pick up and on-site registration

Where:

Kigali Convention Centre (KCC)

When:

Sunday, 13 July	08:00 – 17:00
Monday, 14 July	09:00 – 18:00
Tuesday, 15 July	07:00 – 18:30
Wednesday, 16 July	08:30 – 18:30
Thursday, 17 July	08:30 – 16:30



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We encourage you to finalize your registration in advance and **to bring the QR code confirmation you receive once your registration is finalized** to avoid unnecessary queues at the registration desks.

Payment

If you have paid by bank transfer but have not received an invoice or registration confirmation, please bring proof of payment or a bank transfer slip with you to the conference.

Payments on site can only be made by credit card. Cheques or cash will not be accepted.

Badge pick up process

- If your registration is confirmed, please have the QR code confirmation ready on your smartphone or as a printout from the email you received from the IAS 2025 Registration team. Go to the **badge self-printing desks** in the registration area and print your name badge.
- If your registration is pending, please proceed to the counters for **registered delegates** in the registration area to complete your registration.
- If your media registration is pending, please go to the **registered media** counters in the registration area to complete your registration. Any missing media credentials must be provided and approved by the IAS Media team before your media registration is completed. **Please note that we cannot guarantee approval of pending media registrations on site.**

Delegates registered as part of a group

If you are registered as part of a group, please check with your group manager about when and where you will receive your name badge.

The virtual platform

How to log in to the IAS 2025 virtual platform

You can access the conference platform through the [IAS 2025 website](#). To access the conference platform, you need a conference account, which is linked to the email address you used to register for IAS 2025.

We recommend that you check your [conference account](#) now to ensure that your registration status is shown as "registration confirmed". Without this confirmation, you will not be able to access the IAS 2025 virtual platform. You are also encouraged to access and make yourself familiar with the conference platform before the official start of IAS 2025.

The platform will be operational from 10 July. Please log in via your [conference account](#).

13 – 17 July · Kigali, Rwanda



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Local customs and norms

Car-free day

In Kigali, car-free days are held twice a month. This is a collaborative effort between the City of Kigali, the Ministry of Health and other partners. The event involves closing main roads to motorized vehicles from 07:00 to 10:00, allowing people to participate in activities like walking, jogging, cycling and group aerobics. It also incorporates free health screenings for non-communicable diseases.

There will be a car-free day on Sunday, 13 July. We encourage IAS attendees to join in this community activity and enjoy the beauty Kigali has to offer.

Smoking

Please note that there are designated smoking areas at the venue. The use of e-cigarettes, e-cigars and vape pens is not permitted in Rwanda.

Find more information here: [Smoking laws in Rwanda](#)

Plastic ban

Plastic bags have been banned since 2009 as part of Rwanda's environmental policy. Plastic bags must be discarded by passengers entering Kigali International Airport (KIA) or any border checkpoint. If you have plastic bags when you arrive in the country, they will be confiscated. Travellers are given a cost-effective, ecologically friendly alternative.

LGBTQIA+ travellers

Rwanda maintains a legal framework that protects individuals from all forms of discrimination and abuse. Although societal attitudes may be conservative regarding LGBTQIA+, the law does not criminalize same-sex sexual activity. Visitors are encouraged to respect local customs and cultural norms. Local institutions are expected to uphold the rights and dignity of all individuals in accordance with national laws. However, there are no specific anti-discrimination laws that protect LGBTQIA+ individuals in Rwanda.

Photography and videography

The use of drones requires a permit, which should be requested in advance through the Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority.

As is common in most countries, the use of cameras in some private buildings and areas is not permitted.



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Other useful information

Banks and currency

Currency exchange services are available at Kigali International Airport and at banks in the city. Banks are usually open from 09:00 to 18:00 on weekdays and from 09:00 to 12:00 on Saturday. Some branches open later on Saturdays and Sundays.

24/7 ATMs and foreign exchange bureaus can be found across the city, There are two ATMs inside the KCC.

Business and shopping hours

Monday – Friday: 09:00 – 18:00

Weekends: 09:00 – 22:00

Emergency telephone numbers in Rwanda

912 – Emergency services

112 – Medical emergencies

Harm reduction and medical services

For more information, please visit our website and download the [Kigali Harm Reduction Services guide](#).

Time zone

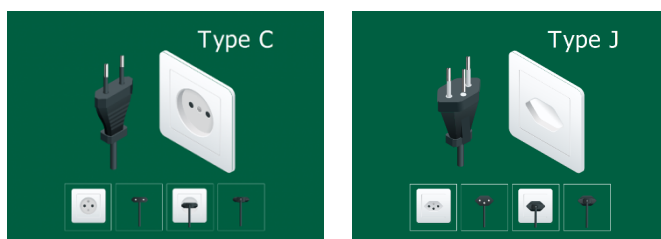
The time zone in Kigali is Central African Time (GMT+2).

Electrical outlets

Rwanda uses Type C (has two round pins) and J (has three round pins) electrical outlets with a voltage of 230V and a frequency of 50Hz. The Type C electrical socket is most common in Europe, except for Great Britain, Ireland, Cyprus and Malta; the Type J electrical socket is common in Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

If you're visiting from another country, you'll need a universal travel adaptor, which is a device that simply allows you to plug any electrical appliance into a foreign electrical socket.

Additionally, you might want to pack a portable charger (power bank) so that you don't need to worry about recharging your devices when you're out and about.





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Connectivity

Local SIM cards are readily available. Providers include MTN and Airtel Tigo.

Note that by Rwandan legislation, every user/buyer must be registered to activate the SIM, and it is easy to do. Upon arrival, you would be required to present a form of identity of one's your preference (ID card or passport). At the point of purchase, visitors can register.

There is high speed 4G LTE wireless broadband in Kigali.

Wifi will be provided at the Kigali Convention Center.

Tipping

Tipping is entirely voluntary.

Weather

It will be the dry season in Rwanda. July is traditionally the coldest month in Kigali, and has days with highs of 78°F (26°C) and lows of 55°F (13°C).

Tourism

Rwanda has with extraordinary biodiversity, with incredible wildlife throughout its volcanoes, mountain rainforests and sweeping plains. Travellers come from far and wide to catch a glimpse of the magnificent gorillas. Yet, there is so much more to see and experience.

[Visit Rwanda: Discover the Land of a Thousand Hills](#)

Please visit our website for the [Visit Rwanda Brochure](#) to explore the various offerings.



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Contacts

Abstracts	abstracts@ias2025.org
Accommodation	accommodation@ias2025.org
Accessibility	accessibility@ias2025.org
Affiliated Independent Events	affiliatedevents@ias2025.org
Continuing medical education	cme@ias2025.org
Educational tours	educationaltours@ias2025.org
Exhibition	exhibition@ias2025.org
Info box	info@ias2025.org
Media	media@iasociety.org
Pre-conferences	preconferences@ias2025.org
Registration	registration@ias2025.org
Satellites	satellites@ias2025.org
Scholarship Programme	scholarships@ias2025.org
Visa	visa@ias2025.org