UN Tourism

General Information Note

# Third UN Tourism Regional Forum on Gastronomy Tourism for Africa

**2-4 December 2026**
**Lungi, Republic of Sierra Leone**

Madrid, September 2026
Original: English

With the aim of promoting cultural heritage, celebrating diverse culinary traditions, and elevating the role of gastronomy in African tourism, the **3rd edition of the UN Tourism Regional Forum on Gastronomy Tourism for Africa** will be hosted by the **Republic of Sierra Leone, in Lungi from 2 to 4 December 2026**.

This event promises to be a confluence of flavours, traditions, and innovations, bringing together the finest minds in gastronomy, tourism, sustainability, and cultural preservation. As we gather to explore the intersection of culinary arts and sustainable tourism, the aim of the Forum will be to tantalize taste buds and to cultivate a deeper understanding of the integral role gastronomy plays in shaping the identity and prosperity of destinations.

This information note provides relevant information to facilitate your participation in this event. Please note that all details provided may be subject to change, and any updates will be promptly communicated.

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## 1. Venue of the regional forum

The event will be held at the

Julius Maada Bio International Conference Centre (JMBICC), Freetown, Republic of Sierra Leone

## 2. Contact information of the organizing committee

Governments and other dignitaries invited by the UN Tourism Secretary-General and the Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs of Sierra Leone are requested to send their replies to the following officials at the latest by **15 November 2026**, indicating as much as possible, the composition of their delegations.

**Ms. Elcia Grandcourt**
Director
Regional Department for Africa
UN Tourism
Calle del Poeta Joan Maragall 42
28020 Madrid, Spain

Tel.: +34 91 567 81 00
Email: rdaf@untourism.int

UN Tourism Gastronomy Tourism Secretariat
Email: gastronomyforum@untourism.int

**Mr. Sahr Philip Morsay**
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
Freetown, Republic of Sierra Leone

Tel: +23276810711
Email: sahrdain@yahoo.co.uk

## 3. Registration

Registration to the **3rd UN Tourism Regional Forum on Gastronomy Tourism for Africa** is mandatory. Online registration is open and available in the Forum's website: https://www.untourism.int/events/3-un-tourism-regional-forum-on-gastronomy-tourism-for-africa
Participants are requested to complete the registration form by **latest 15 November 2026**.

Participants interested in joining the event must request their invitation code by writing to gastronomyforum@untourism.int

Registrations are subject to approval by the organizers. Participants will receive a confirmation email once approval is granted. During registration, they will be asked to provide information on their travel schedule and accommodation to enable the host to make the necessary arrangements for local transfers. Should this information remain incomplete once the deadline for registration is reached, organizers reserve the right to cancel registrations to allow other participants to register.

A registration and information desk will be open **one day before** the start of the Forum at the venue of the event.

Accreditation and collection of badges will take place at the Forum's venue.

Please note:

i. Access to the venue of the event and other designated areas will be strictly limited to delegates with appropriate access cards. Delegates are always reminded to have their identity cards within the premises of events.
ii. An ID/Passport might be requested at the time of accreditation.
iii. Badges will only be handed out directly to the entitled personnel.
iv. dentity cards are important security credentials; misuse is subject to legal action. Loss of badges must be reported immediately at Registration Desk; and
v. Badges are for personal use only and cannot be transferred.

## 4. Status of participants

The Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone will take the necessary steps to facilitate the arrival and departure of participants invited by the Organization as well as their stay in Sierra Leone. Throughout their stay, participants will enjoy the privileges and immunities provided for in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations specialized agencies of 1947.

## 5. Entry formalities

**Arrival in Freetown:** All international travellers will arrive at **Freetown Lungi International Airport (FNA).**

A valid passport is required for all visitors to Sierra Leone. Free of charge entry visas may be obtained at Sierra Leone's diplomatic missions and consular representations abroad.

- For some countries, a visa exemption is in place. Kindly refer to the list of exempt countries:
  Sierra Leone Immigration eVisa Website
- For others, please follow the online visa application process through this link:
  Sierra Leone Immigration eVisa Website

A **Courtesy Visa** will be issued for international participants on arrival upon presentation of an accreditation letter or invitation letter from the organisers of the event for holders of Diplomatic, Service and UN Passports. However, to facilitate the coordination process, participants who received registration's approval are strongly advised to send the following details, at their earliest convenience:

- Full names of the traveller
- Valid passport number and nationality
- Scanned copy of the biodata page of the passport
- Date of arrival

To the attention of:

- **Ms. Fatmata Samura**
  Tel.: +23276300316
  Email: fatsam2007@yahoo.com

All passengers arriving in or departing from Sierra Leone must complete the Health Declaration Form, available through the following link:https://poe.mohs.gov.sl/

## 6. Transport

The Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone will arrange free transportation for all participants upon arrival **from 1 December 2026**, and departure from the **Freetown Lungi International Airport (FNA)** on **4 and 5 December 2026**, as well as return transport between their hotels (within the list recommended by the Ministry, see table below in section VIII) and the Forum's venue.

All participants are therefore requested to give the details of their arrival and departure when registering online, in order to allow organizers the coordination of free shuttles to be arranged from the recommended hotels to the venue, social programme and back.

Ethiopian Airlines, in agreement with the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, offers a special discounted airfare of 12% to all participants attending the Forum. The discount applies to travel between 25 November and 4 December 2026. Participants are invited to book their flights through the following link:
https://www.ethiopianairlines.com/events/the-3rd-un--tourism-regional-gastronomy-forum-for-africa

## 7. Reception at the airport

A reception and information desk will be open for delegates at the **Freetown Lungi International Airport (FNA)** one day prior to the starting date of the event on 1 December at the Arrival Hall, including VIP arrivals, with enough staff to welcome and assist participants and delegations with immigration formalities, baggage collection and coordination of transportation to the hotels.

## 8. Accommodation

Delegates are requested to make their own arrangements by contacting the hotels listed below. When booking, please specify that you will be attending the **3rd UN Tourism Regional Forum on Gastronomy Tourism for Africa** to be held in **Lungi, from 2 to 4 December 2026**.

A selection of hotels is provided by the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs of Sierra Leone. Participants are free to book outside this list. However, it should be noted that transportation will need to be managed autonomously at their own expense.

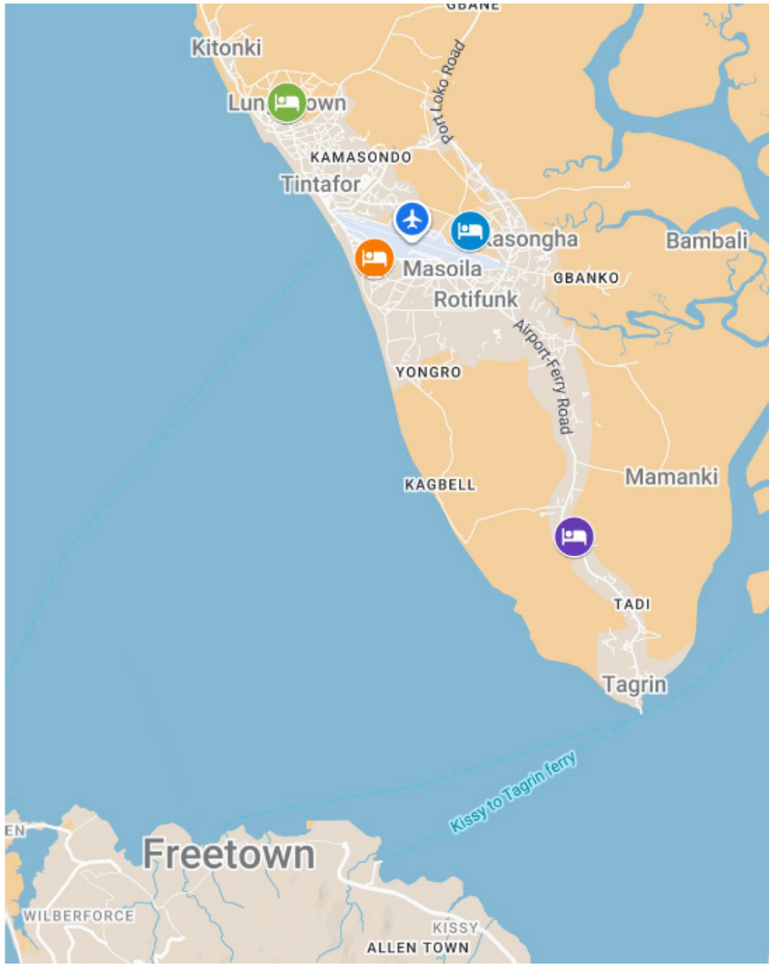
| N° | Hotel | Room type | Price range (in usd) | Reservation code | Contact details | Distance from the venue |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Julius Maada Bio International Conference Center** | Presidential Villas | 552 | JMBICC/NTBSL | diana.gouro@hilton.com | Conference Venue |
| 2 | **Lungi International Airport hotel** | Standard rooms | 110 | LIAH/NTBSL | reservation.lungihotel@hotmail.com | 2km to the Venue |
| | | Junior Rooms | 150 | | | |
| | | Garden Rooms | 80 | | | |
| | | Standard Garden Rooms | 80 | | | |
| 3 | **Gateway Hotel** | Standard Rooms | 80 | GATEWAY/NTBSL | info@lungigatewayhotel.com | 2km to the Venue |
| | | Mini Suites | 120 | | | |
| | | Executive Rooms | 120 | | | |
| 4 | **Tariq Eco Resort** | Standard Rooms | 90 | TARIQ/NTBSL | info@tariqresort.com | 6km to the Venue |
| | | Suite | 90 | | | |
| | | Executive Rooms | 170 | | | |

Note:

i. The hotel rates include breakfast
ii. The hotel rates are per single room/person basis.
iii. Bookings and payment shall be processed directly by the guest with the hotels

Official Hotels - Regional Forum

- Julius Maada Bio International Conference Centre
- LIA Hotel
- Lungi Gateway Hotel
- Tariq Eco Resort




**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** We highly recommend delegates to book their accommodation at the earliest convenience by referring to the list of hotels above in order to ensure their transfer to the Forum's venue and return.

## 9. Health requirements

All participants are required to observe international health regulations on public health and measures for travellers.

**Proof of Yellow Fever vaccination is required for all travellers**. For further information, please consult the following link:
https://tourismsierraleone.com/plan-your-trip/health-safety/

Emergency health services will be available throughout the event. Ambulance services will be provided if needed.

## 10. Working languages

The working languages of the event will be English and French. Documents will be provided in both languages, and simultaneous interpretation will be available.

## 11. Social programme

The social programme is offered to all international delegates. Further details will be confirmed closer to the event.

- **2 December:**
  - Welcome Cocktail
- **3 December:**
  - Live Cooking - Gala Dinner
- **4 December:** Technical Tours (full-day programme, consecutive activities)
  - i. Gastronomy, Historic and Nature tours
  - ii. Beach Entertainment
  - iii. Street Food Tasting Festival - -

## 12. Currency regulations

The local currency is the Leone (SLE). Foreign currency exchange rates are approximately (as of August 2026):

- 1 USD = SLE (22.97)
- 1 EUR = SLE (26.76)

Please note that exchange rates may fluctuate.

## 13. Climate

The average temperature in Lungi  in December ranges from 24°C to 29°C.

## 14. Local time

Time in Freetown, Sierra Leone is GMT+0.

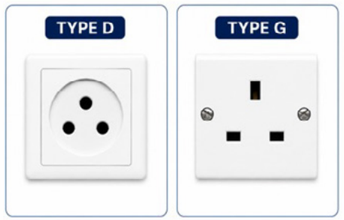
## 15. Business and shopping hours

- **Public offices:** 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM (Monday to Friday)
- **Businesses:** 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM
- **Banks:** 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM (Monday to Friday). On Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays banks are closed.

Credit cards/Debit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants, and shops.

## 16. Electricity supply

Power plugs and sockets in Sierra Leone are of type D (three round pins) and type G (three rectangular pins). The standard voltage is 230V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. Most hotels provide adaptors upon request.




## 17. Forum's website

For further information on the **3rd UN Tourism Regional Forum on Gastronomy Tourism for Africa**, please kindly refer to UN Tourism's website: https://www.untourism.int/events/3-un-tourism-regional-forum-on-gastronomy-tourism-for-africa

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