

# Freetown International Airport at Lungi

## Arrival

### **1. *Transportation to the Terminal.***

Before you deplane, stairs will be rolled up to the plane, and you'll need to wait a few minutes for those to be set in place. Usually, you will be transported by bus from the bottom of the stairs to the terminal. On occasion, you will be expected to walk the short distance from the plane to the arrival hall. Airline employees at the bottom of the stairs will direct you to the bus or to the terminal.

### **2. *Arrival Hall—Immigration Check***

If you were not given a disembarkation card on the plane, you will need to look for one to fill out before you proceed further in the airport. Usually, airport employees distribute these at the entrance to the terminal. Occasionally you can find them at the tables lining the sides of the room.

When your disembarkation card is filled out, proceed to the appropriate windows to have your passport, visa, and disembarkation card checked. You'll notice that there are signs above the windows indicating that they are for citizens or non-citizens. Greet the teller (in Krio would be best) and hand him your passport and disembarkation card. He will then stamp your passport.

### **3. *Health and Immunization Check***

After your passport has been checked at the windows, pass through to the doors at the right where you will pick up your luggage. Just before you reach the doors, a small table is set up to check your yellow immunization card. They are looking for your yellow fever immunization record. Sometimes they will be checking your passport again as you enter the baggage area.

### **4. *Baggage Pickup***

The baggage turntable will be swarming with passengers and porters. Pick out just one porter whom you will pay for baggage handling. If he needs additional help, he can arrange for that and for paying his helper his share. If you are planning to travel to Freetown by the Pelican Water Taxi service, they will have special personnel there. Their nametags will identify them. The usual tip per bag is up to 2000 Leones per large bag. Paying them their tips in Leones is the most convenient since they cannot get small bills changed except by asking passengers.

### **5. *Customs Check***

The room adjacent to baggage pickup has low tables on your right with customs officials checking the contents of your baggage. They may ask you to open your bags, or they may ask you questions about the contents.

## **6. Exchanging Money**

After you leave the customs area, the room after the baggage turntable, you'll pass by the foreign exchange window. Usually the airport exchange rate is not as good as that in town. Therefore, if you will need money for tips or transportation, change \$100 at the window. This is the smallest denomination of bill they will change. (Make sure your hundred dollar bill has a big head on it. Older bills will not be accepted.)

## **7. Transportation to Freetown**

Lungi Airport is on a peninsula, so you will have to cross the harbor in order to reach Freetown. We recommend two possible means of transportation:

Ferry – Cost is 5000 Leones per car (this includes the driver) and 1000 Leones for each passenger. However, you will need to arrange transportation from the airport to the ferry by taxi or by private vehicle. You may also charter a taxi to take you to your destination. The ferry arrives at Kissy Road (about nine miles from Grafton and Jui).

Water Taxi – Cost is \$46 (U.S.) or the Leone equivalent. As you exit the arrival area (where the foreign exchange window is), you will see a booth on your right for Pelican Water Taxi. Buy your ticket there. You can pay in U.S. dollars. The Pelican employees will take care of your baggage to put it on the boat and unload it when you arrive. A reasonable tip would be 2000 Leones per large bag. The Pelican employees will then transport you to their dock where you will walk across the sand and on the pier to get on their boat. The water taxi arrives at Aberdeen area of Freetown (about sixteen miles from Grafton and Jui)

## **Airport Departure**

### **1. Transportation to Lungi Airport**

Allow plenty of time to get to the airport, since you can never be sure when service might be disrupted on the water taxi or the ferry.

#### Ferry

You need to arrange for transportation to Kissy Ferry Terminal which will take you all the way to the airport. Adventuresome types can take a taxi to the terminal, walk on to the ferry, and then catch a taxi on the Lungi side. This is difficult with large pieces of luggage. The return cost is the same 5000 Leones per car and 1000 for each additional passenger. Be sure to arrive at least an hour before the scheduled ferry departure, since the ferry can fill up fast during busy times.

British Midlands and some other airlines have shuttle service to pick you up and take you to the airport. You'll need to check into this possibility with the airline.

#### Water Taxi

Water Taxi tickets should be purchased at least one hour in advance, so make arrangements for an early arrival at the Pelican dock. There are some restaurants in the area if you want to buy your ticket and then eat while you wait. The Pelican Water Taxi Company will have a van waiting to pick you up from their dock at Lungi and take you to the airport.

## **2. *Baggage Queue***

Upon arrival at the airport, porters will be soliciting your business to carry your bags for you. If you are traveling by water taxi, porters are already provided. Suggested tip: 2000 Leones per large bag. When you enter the departure lobby at the airport terminal, you'll notice designated areas for a line to enter for check-in. Be sure you put your baggage cart in line. You don't have to stand with it. There are chairs in the lobby and also a small restaurant. You will not be able to begin check-in procedures until approximately three hours prior to departure.

When they call for boarding, you may move to your place in line beside your baggage.

## **3. *Entry Hall***

When you reach the doorway, airport personnel will inspect your boarding pass and passport at the doors. Passengers will be allowed to enter the customs area a few at a time.

## **4. *Customs***

As you enter the door, you will see some low tables to your right with custom agents behind them. They may ask to inspect the contents of your bags or ask you questions.

## **5. *Check-in***

Ropes marking the queues in the center of the room indicate the way you should pass next. Your passports and boarding passes will be checked again. You'll be given an embarkation card to fill out. Baggage identification tags will be made available. Follow the queue past the desks and proceed to the baggage check-in, where your bag will be weighed, tagged, and moved to the conveyor belt.

## **6. *Immigration***

After showing your passport, boarding pass and embarkation card to the security official at the door, you will enter the immigration room. Move to the windows and hand the officer your passport, boarding pass and embarkation card. He will stamp your passport and keep your embarkation card.

## **7. *Customs***

Move to the next room where you will pass through a metal detector (which may not work) and meet customs agents who may want to examine the contents of your carry-on baggage.

## **8. *Departure Lounge***

After your hand baggage has been inspected, you will move into the departure lounge. The lounge has an area upstairs with a restaurant and restroom, as well as the First Class Lounge.

Seating is also available downstairs, as well as a gift shop and duty-free shop.

When the boarding call is given, move to the roped off queues by the exit door. You will be asked for your passport and boarding card at the door.

## **9. *Security Inspection***

Additional tables are often set up outside the door where an additional inspection of your carry-on bags is made. They may also want to examine your body and clothes as part of the security procedure. They have a detection instrument, so the procedure is not too invasive of your privacy.

## **10. *Transportation to the plane***

After security inspection is complete, you may proceed to the bus which will transport you to the plane, or you may be permitted to walk to the plane.