

Mayor of London – Trade Visit to Africa - Disclosure Log

Overview

Since his election in May 2016, the Mayor of London has been determined to support business and economic growth in London by strengthening trade, investment, cultural and social ties between London and key countries and cities around the world.

From 14 to 19 July 2025, the Mayor led a trade and investment mission to four cities – Lagos, Accra, Johannesburg and Cape Town – across the African continent, to bang the drum for the capital and further develop the strong ties that exist between London and countries across the continent.

This was the first time any Mayor of London has led a trade and investment mission to countries on the African continent. Trade between the UK and Africa was worth £50 billion in 2024, and with UK exports up seven per cent year on year, the bilateral trade relationship between Africa and the UK has shown consistent growth over recent years, despite global challenges¹. The Mayor is proud that more businesses from London expand into Africa than from any other city globally, and the UK stands as one of Africa's most significant trading partners.

The Mayor was joined by a trade delegation of 25 London-based companies, which undertook a busy parallel programme of meetings and engagements with key decision makers, businesses and investors in Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa. The trade delegation's itinerary was organised by London & Partners, as part of its Grow London Global programme, which is a free 12-month programme for innovative tech companies ready to expand internationally.

Itinerary

During his visit, the Mayor's engagements included:

- Participated in a fireside chat with Iyinoluwa Aboyeji (E), one of Lagos's five tech 'unicorns', moderated by Dr. Juliet Ehimuan, Founder of Beyond Limits and Former Director at Google West Africa, in front of over one hundred leaders in the Lagos technology and innovation industry.
- Met with Mrs. Nike Monica Okundaye at her world-famous gallery, to engage with the rich history of Nigerian art, and highlight 'Mama Nike's' Nike Art Foundation's support for disadvantaged women ahead of her upcoming exhibition at the Tate Modern in London.
- Promoted new partnerships and exchanges between London and Lagos's creative industries by co-hosting a creative industries reception at EbonyLife Place. This event brought together top talent in the visual arts, Nigeria's film industry Nollywood, and the Afrobeats music scene.
- Hosted a diaspora business reception at the British High Commissioner's Residence in Accra, bringing together over 100 British-Ghanaian diaspora members in the Greater Accra business community to expand pathways for bringing more business to London.
- Met with members of the Ghana Food Movement, a non-profit organisation partially crowdfunded through the Ghanaian diaspora in London, for a discussion regarding youth employment, gastronomy, farming and food production, nutrition, biodiversity and food systems – both in London and abroad.

¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS), [UK total trade: all countries, non-seasonally adjusted - Office for National Statistics](#)

- Visited Osu Castle, a pivotal site in the transatlantic slave trade with an estimated tens of thousands of enslaved Africans held captive in the castle before being transported out to sea, with representatives from the Ghanaian Museum and Monuments Board.
- Delivered a keynote speech to over 100 Ghanaian students at Imperial College London's Global Hub in Accra at the University of Ghana, speaking out in support of students across the world and emphasising that all students are welcome in London.
- Attended an audience with the Ga Mantse, His Royal Majesty, King Tackie Teiko Tsuru II, where he spoke in support of London's Ga community, and joined the King in committing their cities to working together in combatting the climate crisis.
- Met with President John Mahama of Ghana at Jubilee House for discussions about London and Accra's historic and current ties, the contribution made by Ghanaian Londoners to the economic, social and cultural life of London, and an exchange on best practice in urban policy.
- Announced the first satellite Memorial to the Victims of Transatlantic Slavery with the Hon. Mayor Michael Kpakpo Allotey of Accra, Chief Executive of Accra Metropolitan Assembly, at the site of the future memorial in Accra's city centre.
- Met with Nelson Mandela's daughter, Dr. Makaziwe Mandela, and granddaughter Tukwini Mandela, on Mandela Day, for a discussion on Mr. Mandela's legacy and close relationship to London.
- Held bilateral talks with the Executive Mayor of Cape Town, Mr. Geordin Hill-Lewis, regarding Transport for London's ongoing relationship with Cape Town's transport planning initiatives, identifying new areas for partnership, and extending a formal invitation for Cape Town to join the World Cities Culture Forum.
- Spoke at London & Partners' flagship event, Connected Cities – London x Cape Town Tech Summit - with key technology ecosystem leaders and business executives in attendance at Innovation City.
- Met with students from the Atlas Foundation South Africa, the recipient of funding through the Mayor's £34 million New Deal for Young People, where he announced a £1.4 million investment in Go! London, the capital's biggest ever community sport fund.
- The Mayor remains determined to work tirelessly to further develop ties between London and key countries and cities around the world — as he builds a better and fairer city for everyone.

More information can be found in the 14th Mayor's Report to the London Assembly, which can be found at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-mayor-does/mayors-reports-assembly?ac-3226=230637>.

Total Costs

The Mayor's trade and investment mission in Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa from 14 to 19 July 2025 cost a total of £83,921.42.

The number of staff who accompanied the Mayor was 10 in Nigeria and Ghana, and 11 in South Africa.

The breakdown of these costs is set out below.

- Total cost of all flights: £68,330.50
- Total cost of all accommodation: £11,418.65
- Total cost of ground transport: £1,353.86
- Total cost of subsistence: £2,818.41

These costs were solely incurred by the Greater London Authority (GLA). Information on how the GLA is funded is available at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/what-mayor-does/role-mayor-london#:~:text=The%20Mayor%27s%20%C2%A320.7bn,business%20rates%20and%20council%20tax.>

No private sector contributions, sponsorships, or offsets were used to co-fund or subsidise the trip.

All travel arrangements were made in accordance with the GLA's Expenses and Benefits Framework which can be found at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/who-we-are/governance-and-spending/spending-money-wisely/salaries-expenses-benefits-and-workforce-information>.

All costs provided are accurate on the date of publication, and do not reflect any expense claims or repayments made by individual staff members following the conclusion of the visit.

Class of Travel

The flight breakdown and class of travel used by the Mayor's delegation was as follows:

- London to Lagos (6h 35m): Premium Economy
- Lagos to Accra (1hr 05m): Economy
- Accra to Johannesburg (Overnight flight, 5h 55m): Business
- Johannesburg to Cape Town (2h 20m): Economy
- Cape Town to London (Overnight flight, 11h 40m): Business

Mayor of London's flights

The cost of Mayor of London's flight tickets broken down by flight was as follows:

Flight and Class	Cost
London to Lagos (6h 35m): Premium Economy	£3,330.72
Lagos to Accra (1hr 05m): Economy	£224.60
Accra to Johannesburg (Overnight flight, 5h 55m): Business	£2,052.70
Johannesburg to Cape Town (2h 20m): Economy	£152.30
Cape Town to London (Overnight flight, 11h 40m): Business	Inclusive of outbound flight

