

3.9. Mobility and freedom of movement

3.9. Mobility and freedom of movement

As enshrined in Article 41 of the 1999 Constitution, ‘[e]very citizen of Nigeria is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria and to reside in any part thereof (...).[1255](#) No information on specific administrative requirements needed by Nigerian nationals to move/relocate across the country could be found among all sources consulted.[1256](#)

Sources reported that, in fact, checkpoints, insecurity and infrastructure gaps in some areas hinder freedom of movement in the country.[1257](#) Checkpoints are set up by both security forces and armed groups.[1258](#) State security forces reportedly mount checkpoints to collect illegal tolls, extort truckers,[1259](#) and in some areas, as part of curfews to address security-related events.[1260](#) Business Day reported that, according to the Nigerian Association of Road Transport Owners, 53 checkpoints by security forces are located on the corridor that connects Lagos and Seme, Benin, making the travel longer and exposing travellers and truckers to extortion by security officials.[1261](#) Nigerian newspaper The Sun similarly reported that between Lagos and Onitsha, Anambra, commuters pass through over 60 security checkpoints, locally dubbed “collection checkpoints”, where interrogations, extortions, and mistreatment, including floggings, harassment, beatings, and humiliations, by security forces have been reported.[1262](#) The same source also reported the existence of security forces’ checkpoints in Imo, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Anambra states.[1263](#)

The US Country Reports on Nigeria indicated that in areas under the influence or presence of Boko Haram, ISWAP, or Islamist groups associated with them, ‘residents often found themselves subject to roadblocks, searches, and other restrictive security measures by authorities and other armed groups’.[1264](#)

For more information on road and travel security at county and state level see [EUAA COI Report – Nigeria Security Situation, November 2025](#).

In 2024, the government of Nigeria, in collaboration with UNHCR, facilitated the voluntary return of 50 households (242 Nigerian refugees) from Minawao Camp in Cameroon to Bama, Borno state.[1265](#) UNHCR also implemented ‘border monitoring’ with Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) with 11 000 families (39 000 individuals) who were granted ‘safe access, mostly spontaneous refugee returnees’.[1266](#)

The website of the Nigeria Immigration Service indicated that all passengers entering or leaving Nigeria need to produce Landing or Exit Cards,[1267](#) which are obtained online on the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) website within 96 hours before the travel.[1268](#) Nigerians returning with an expired passport can enter the country.[1269](#)

The Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) website indicated that there are five international and 11 domestic airports[1270](#) in the country.[1271](#)

[1255](#)

[1256](#)

See Bibliography

[1257](#)

World Bank (The), The World Bank in Nigeria: Overview, 10 April 2025, [url](#); Business Day, Multiple checkpoints on Nigerian roads hindering trade growth – Experts, 25 June 2024, [url](#)

[1258](#)

The Sun, S-o-u-t-h-e-a-s-t: Outcry as roadblocks turn to cashpoints, 12 January 2025, [url](#); Business Day, Multiple checkpoints on Nigerian roads hindering trade growth – Experts, 25 June 2024, [url](#)

[1259](#)

The Sun, S-o-u-t-h-e-a-s-t: Outcry as roadblocks turn to cashpoints, 12 January 2025, [url](#); Business Day, Multiple checkpoints on Nigerian roads hindering trade growth – Experts, 25 June 2024, [url](#)

[1260](#)

The Guardian, 24-hour curfew hits Kaduna residents hard, markets, shops closed, 6 August 2024, [url](#); Daily Trust, Insecurity: Zamfara govt Imposes curfew along Sokoto, Katsina borders, 2 April 2024, [url](#)

[1261](#)

Business Day, Multiple checkpoints on Nigerian roads hindering trade growth – Experts, 25 June 2024, [url](#)

[1262](#)

The Sun, S-o-u-t-h-e-a-s-t: Outcry as roadblocks turn to cashpoints, 12 January 2025, [url](#)

[1263](#)

The Sun, S-o-u-t-h-e-a-s-t: Outcry as roadblocks turn to cashpoints, 12 January 2025, [url](#)

[1264](#)

USDOS, 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Nigeria, 22 April 2024, [url](#)

[1265](#)

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 25

[1266](#)

[1267](#)

Nigeria, NIS, Landing and Exit Cards, n.d., [url](#)

[1268](#)

Business Day, Explainer: New immigration rules you must know before travelling in, out of Nigeria, 13 June 2025, [url](#)

[1269](#)

Punch, Nigerians with expired passports can return home, says FG, 24 December 2024, [url](#); Business Day, Explainer: New immigration rules you must know before travelling in, out of Nigeria, 13 June 2025, [url](#)

[1270](#)

The ‘Domestic airports’ webpage indicates that there are 16 ‘domestic airports’; however, 4 out of the 16 airports are domestic terminals in the international airports of Lagos, Abuja, Kano, and Port Harcourt. Nigeria, FAAN, Domestic Airports, n.d., [url](#)

[1271](#)

Nigeria, FAAN, Our Airports, n.d., [url](#)