

# Congo Trip - 1 to 14 December 2015 - Part 1: Cultural

Our trip was to the extreme southern edge of the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), to Lubumbashi, the capital and largest city of the province of Katanga.



The region has many mines for copper ore. These are samples of malachite from a pile of coarse gravel.



During the 1960s the province of Katanga thought it was rich enough from such mineral deposits to break away from the rest of Congo and form its own country. A civil war resulted. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjold, was killed in a plane crash during a negotiation mission to the area.



We arrived at the Lubumbashi airport on a regional jet of South African Express after a 2.5 hour flight from Johannesburg, South Africa. The airport has simple facilities. Our entry was delayed until our host arrived.



Our hotel was in a quiet neighborhood of the city. We were a team of eight, and we had morning meetings in an upper room.



The locals sometimes used the hotel for their own small meetings. In the next photos a wedding couple was using the facilities for a photo shoot.

A buffet breakfast was available each morning. Sometimes we also had a lunch or dinner at the small hotel restaurant.







This photo is from Friday, 11 December, towards the end of our stay, when we took a long ride into the countryside to get out of the city environment. We had a flat tire, and the spare was also flat. To continue the trip we had to tightly pack our team and translator into a car taxi. But this photo shows some other things worth noting. The region is lightly forested, as shown by the background trees. Vehicles drive on the right side of the road. However, as shown by the steering wheel, the driver is on the right side of the vehicle. Vehicles with left

hand drive are rare and are marked by a rear “LHD” sign. At the far left, notice the way the youngster is being carried by its mother. At the right is a stack of mud bricks to be used for home construction.



In the less-developed parts of the city that we visited the homes were of such brick construction with sheet metal roofs. In the countryside the roofs were of thatch (photo from Google Earth source).



This telephoto image overlooks a nice city neighborhood. In the distant rear is an artificial mountain made from the waste rock tailings of a copper ore mine.

The second time we had lunch at a nice restaurant there was a pre-school class using the playground. The children had purple uniforms. The teacher had a colorful green dress and head piece, typically African. Elsewhere students had school uniforms.







In one neighborhood we saw corn (left photo) that was about to be milled into a corn meal, a major part of the local food supply. At a Sunday dinner in our honor at a pastor's home, the corn meal paste was served out of the blue container. The rest of the dinner had

abundant vegetables and some meat (chicken). Milk and fruit juices came in the foreground boxes.



Mango trees are abundant in this area.

There is an abundance of churches in this city. Some are simple structures with dirt floors. Others have concrete floors. A few are well-finished buildings.



African Pied Wagtail



Enthusiastic choir practice on dirt floor



Hundreds present on Sunday morning



Church for training sessions



Team in a church after second film show



Speaking at a large church



Small church near fourth film show



African Paradise-Flycatcher



Black-and-White Mannikin



Brown Firefinch



Speckled Mousebird

I am filling the blank spaces with some of the birds.