

Travel Checkout and Grassroots Merchant Clusters Broaden Bitcoin Spending

Bitcoin Payment Adoption Tracker

2026-05-15

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By Bitcoin Payment Adoption Tracker • May 15, 2026

TravelwingsZA added Bitcoin checkout through PeachPayments, Uganda's Orphans of Uganda is onboarding local vendors, and Zambia surfaced a three-merchant Lightning cluster. The batch also shows recurring Blink.sv and BTC Map infrastructure, plus fresh community resistance to South Africa's draft capital-flow rules.

Major Adoption News

Location not explicitly stated in cited material — TravelwingsZA adds Bitcoin checkout for flight bookings

TravelwingsZA says customers can book flights and pay in Bitcoin by selecting PeachPayments at checkout, choosing “Pay with Crypto,” and completing the purchase from a wallet or exchange of their choice. The flow supports Bitcoin Lightning and specifically names Bybit, Binance, Luno, and VALR among the supported options [1, 2].

Significance: This extends Bitcoin acceptance into an online travel checkout flow rather than a purely local point-of-sale setting.

Uganda — Orphans of Uganda is onboarding local vendors and suppliers for Bitcoin payments

Orphans of Uganda says it is encouraging local vendors, food suppliers, small businesses, and community workers to adopt Bitcoin for peer-to-peer payments and borderless transactions [3]. Bitcoin Kampala amplified the initiative as evidence that “Bitcoin is everywhere” [4].

“This is how adoption grows — one person, one vendor, one community at a time.” [3]

Significance: This is broader than a single merchant acceptance post. It points to a deliberate effort to seed a local payment network across multiple counterparties.

Zambia — Three Lightning-enabled merchants are highlighted in one local cluster

Bitcoin Victoria Falls highlighted three Zambia merchants using blink.sv and BTC Map: phillardshop, it_enterprise, and mundayamirestaurant [5, 6, 7]. The same posts describe locals learning to use Bitcoin as money and say some merchants “actually love Bitcoin” [7, 5].

Significance: A cluster of shop, enterprise, and restaurant acceptance is more useful for payment circulation than a single isolated merchant because it creates multiple local spend points.

Payment Infrastructure

Location not explicitly stated in cited material — PeachPayments is the processor layer behind TravelwingsZA’s Bitcoin flow

The TravelwingsZA flow runs through PeachPayments: customers choose PeachPayments at checkout, select “Pay with Crypto,” and then pay from their preferred wallet or exchange. Lightning support is explicitly included [2].

Why it matters: Processor-led checkout flows lower the integration burden for merchants that want to add Bitcoin without building a separate payment path from scratch.

Uganda — University training has already produced two tested ideas, with a Kisumu bootcamp next

Brindon Mwiine says FreeRoutingAf trained bitcoin_muk students at Uganda’s largest university to code on Bitcoin, and that two ideas have already been deployed and are being tested in the Bitcoin Kampala community [8]. A Lightning developer bootcamp is scheduled next in Kisumu, with public signup available at <https://freerouting.africa/kisumu-lightning-developer-bootcamp/> [8].

Why it matters: Local developer capacity is part of payment infrastructure. Merchant adoption is easier to sustain when communities can build and test their own Lightning-based tools.

Multi-region — Blink.sv and BTC Map remain the recurring grassroots merchant stack

Across the current notes, merchant acceptance repeatedly appears as a combination of a blink.sv receiving identity and a BTC Map listing. Examples include Cyberpalace, Bliss hair salon, Haven food court, Richland General Shop, Bitcoin Ekasi’s listed merchant, and the three Zambia merchants [9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 5, 6, 7].

Why it matters: The repeated pattern suggests that grassroots Bitcoin payments are converging on simple merchant handles for acceptance and public mapping for discovery.

Regulatory Landscape

South Africa — Community opposition frames draft capital-flow rules as a day-to-day payments issue

Bitcoin Ekasi says its team went house-to-house as residents mobilized against South Africa’s draft capital flow regulations, while Bitcoin Witsand says the rules would hurt users from children going to the spaza shop to families trying to protect savings [14, 15]. Residents were asked to add their voice before May 18 at <https://ag.bitcoinzar.co.za/> [14].

“From the poorest child no longer forced to carry cash to the spaza shop in fear, to families trying to protect their savings. Bitcoin gave people hope.” [15]

Significance: The current notes emphasize the payment-use angle of the draft rules: local communities are presenting Bitcoin as part of safer everyday spending, not just an abstract financial asset.

Other regions

No additional payment-specific legal or policy changes were identified in the provided notes for Uganda, Zambia, El Salvador, or the other merchant examples in this batch.

Usage Metrics

The current source set remains thin on transaction volume or merchant-side settlement data. The clearest disclosed counts are:

- **Zambia:** three Lightning-enabled merchants were highlighted in the latest local cluster — phillardshop, it_enterprise, and mundayamirerestaurant [5, 6, 7].
- **Uganda:** two student-built ideas were reported as already deployed and being tested in the Bitcoin Kampala community after FreeRoutingAf’s university training [8].

- **Travel checkout:** the TravelwingsZA payment flow explicitly names four wallet or exchange options — Bybit, Binance, Luno, and VALR — alongside Lightning support [2].
- **Geographic spread in this batch:** merchant or merchant-network activity is explicitly identified in Uganda, Zambia, and Berlin, El Salvador, plus multiple additional cases where the location is not explicit in the cited material [3, 5, 16, 9].

Interpretation: The evidence here is stronger on merchant breadth and implementation patterns than on payment volumes, repeat-purchase rates, or settlement totals.

Emerging Markets

Berlin, El Salvador — Bitcoin appears in ordinary consumer retail

Bitcoin Berlin SV showed Calzado Stevens accepting Bitcoin for a routine shoe purchase, describing it as paying with Bitcoin “like any other day in Berlin” [16].

Why it matters: Everyday apparel is a useful signal of normalization because it sits outside purely Bitcoin-native services.

Location not explicitly stated in cited material — Bitcoin Ekasi frames adoption around circular local spending

Bitcoin Ekasi highlighted a BTC Map-listed merchant and said Bitcoin is moving “from earning to using,” with sats being spent “in the real world” while a circular economy is built “one transaction at a time” [13].

Why it matters: The emphasis is not just merchant acceptance, but repeated local use after earning.

Location not explicitly stated in cited material — Service and daily-needs merchants keep broadening the spendable basket

The current notes add Bitcoin payment examples in printing, hair care, prepared food, and general retail: Cyberpalace accepts sats for printouts, Bliss hair salon for braids, Haven food court for food, and Richland General Shop is shown taking Bitcoin at checkout [9, 10, 11, 12].

Why it matters: Frequent, low-ticket categories matter for medium-of-exchange adoption because they create more opportunities for repeat spending.

Adoption Outlook

The strongest signal in this batch is continued expansion in *where* Bitcoin can be spent rather than hard evidence on *how much* is being spent. The notes show Bitcoin reaching online travel checkout, community vendor onboarding in

Uganda, clustered merchant activity in Zambia, routine retail in El Salvador, and additional everyday-service merchants in other locations [2, 3, 5, 16, 9, 10, 11, 12].

The enabling rails are also consistent: Lightning support, payment processors such as PeachPayments, and the recurring Blink.sv plus BTC Map pattern across grassroots merchants [2, 13, 9, 12, 11, 10, 5, 6, 7].

The main gaps remain measurement and policy clarity. The sources provide merchant announcements and implementation details, but almost no transaction totals or retention data; South Africa is the clearest reminder that regulation can still shape how freely Bitcoin is used for day-to-day payments [14, 15].

Sources

1. X post by @TravelwingsZA
2. X post by @MoneyBadgerPay
3. X post by @orphansofuganda
4. X post by @BitcoinKampala
5. X post by @BitcoinVicFalls
6. X post by @BitcoinVicFalls
7. X post by @BitcoinVicFalls
8. X post by @BrindonMwiine
9. X post by @BitBiashara
10. X post by @BitBiashara
11. X post by @BitBiashara
12. X post by @BitBiashara
13. X post by @BitcoinEkasi
14. X post by @BitcoinEkasi
15. X post by @BitcoinWitsand
16. X post by @BitcoinBerlinSV