

West African Kingdoms: The Ultimate Tour

Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Gambia, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone

Includes two festivals!

January 7- February 5, 2019

with Voodoo Festival & Ashanti Royal Festival (Akwasidae)



TOGO

Jan. 7 Day 1: Lomé / Mercury Sarakawa (B)

You will be met at the airport by our tour leader and transferred to the hotel.

Jan 8, Day 2: Lomé / Mercury Sarakawa (B,L)

Morning at leisure to recover from the long flight.

We will depart at 12 noon for lunch at a local restaurant.

Afterwards, we embark on an insightful city tour of Lomé, a city where tradition and modernism overlap. Discover this metropolis with its Musee National, Place de l' Independence, fishing harbor, and the Grand Marche - the realm of the famous "Nana Benz. "

Visit the Art Street with its craft vendors, the Artisans' Village and climax the morning tour at the Marche des Feticheurs (fetish market) - the heart of voodoo cult.

The evening at leisure; dinner on your own.

BENIN

Jan 9, Day 3: Lomé - Ouidah / Casa del Papa Beach Hotel and Spa (B, L)

This morning an excursion to Togoville, located on the north shore of Lake Togo. We drive 30 min to Aneho, where you embark on a local paddle boat to cross lake Togo into Togoville (a boatman paddles the boat). Visit the old German built cathedral, the colonial area and the traditional quarter of the town.

Lunch at a local restaurant and then we drive two hours to Ouidah, considered the capital of voodoo (UNESCO Cultural Site, 1996). Transfer to hotel.

The rest of the afternoon and evening are independent.

Jan. 10, Day 4: Ouidah - Annual Voodoo Festival / Casa del Papa Beach Hotel & Spa (B,L)

Depart at 9:00 a.m. to tour the Temple of the Python, which is believed to give vitality and protection. You may attend morning worship prayers with locals of the village. You will also visit The Sacred Forest of Ouidah, which houses many shrines dedicated to many deities.

Visit the historical Museum of Ouidah located in an old, Portuguese fort built in 1721. This museum portrays Benin's role in the Atlantic Slave Trade.

Next, visit the Port of No Return, a monument built by the Benin government to commemorate the Africans who were taken from the Dahomey Empire during the slave trade.

Here we attend the Annual Voodoo Festival which takes place at the monument every year attracting people from all over the world to dance and sacrifice animals, then offer their blood to the spirits.

Lunch at the hotel (7 km from the festival)

Afterwards we have the option to return back to the Voodoo Festival.

Jan. 11, Day 5: Ganvie- Cotonou / Azalai Hotel de le Plage (B,L)

Visit Ganvie, West Africa's largest stilt village.

This morning we drive 30 minutes to Abomey Calavi, where we will cross Lake Nokoué by motorized covered boat (20 minutes), to visit Ganvie (the second largest stilt village in West Africa), commonly referred to as the Venice of West Africa.

The residents here are members of the Tofinou ethnic group. They live in huts built on teak stilts and get around in dugout canoes. We will observe the people of Ganvie going about their daily routine as vendors in dugout canoes make transactions with one another and with tourists. Try shopping amongst the local vendors in the floating market while enjoying a relaxing canoe ride on the waterways of this exotic 300-year-old village.

After the visit, we return to Abomey Calavi again by boat and drive one hour to Cotonou. We shall stop at Cotonou's famous market, "Dan Togba" for a short visit.

BURKINA FASO

Jan. 12, Day 6: Cotonou-Ouagadougou / Laico Ouaga 2000 (B, L)

After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and visit the city of Cotonou, discovering its art galleries, markets and neighborhoods.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch, we transfer to the airport for flight Air Burkina 558, departing at 3:20 p.m. and arriving in Ouagadougou at 4:50 p.m. Upon arrival, transfer to our hotel. The evening is at leisure. Dinner on your own.

Jan. 13, Day 7: Excursion to Tiebele Village (6 hrs rnd trip) / Hotel Laico Ouaga 2000 (B, L, D)

Today we travel to the village of Tiebele to visit the traditional Royal Kassena Kingdom. We'll see magnificent mud-brick & colorfully hand painted with traditional motifs designed fortress-like houses built as a defense system to protect themselves from slave dealers during the days of slavery in the region. We will also see the Royal Palace.

(We will order sandwiches the night prior and pick up in the morning to take on our excursion and picnic after the village visit.)

Return to Ouagadougou. Dinner tonight at Gondwana, one of the best restaurants in the region.

Jan. 14, Day 8: Ouagadougou- Bobo Dioulasso / Hotel Residence Sissiman (B, L)

This morning we'll visit the Grand Market and the crafts markets at the Artisans' Center, where you will find basketry, batik fabrics, wooden statues and masks, jewelry, leatherwork and bronze castings; and a short walk around the city.

We'll have lunch at a local restaurant and drive 4-5 hours to Bobo Dioulasso.

Transfer to hotel. The evening is at leisure. Dinner on your own.

Jan. 15, Day 9: Bobo Dioulasso- Excursion to Banfora / Hotel Residence Sissiman (B, L)

This morning we embark on an excursion to visit the Domes of Fabledougou and Falls of Kafiguila. We'll have lunch at a French restaurant, Cane a Sucre. Return to Bobo Dioulasso. (4 hours rnd trip)

This afternoon a tour Bobo Dioulasso ("house of the Bobo merchants"), Burkina Faso's second largest city. We'll visit the old mosque of Dioulassoba, traditional music instruments museum, and the old Kibidouwe artisans' district.

The evening is at leisure. Dinner on your own.

Jan. 16, Day 10: Excursion to Lobbi Country / Hotel Residence Sisima (B, L, D)

We depart at 8 am for the drive to the south-west region of Burkina Faso, near the border with the Ivory Coast. Our reason for bringing you here is to see one of the most powerful Fetish men in West Africa. This will give you the awareness that Africans believe and still obey their traditions. You will see the man referred to as *Gods of Tajalte*, in Kampti Village.

Lobbi people are among the few left of the most isolated tribes today in the region. You will visit a few Lobbi tribal houses and a man who has more than 60 wives at a nearby village called Laka.

(We will order sandwiches the night prior and pick up in the morning to take on our excursion and picnic after the village visit.)

Return to Bobo Dioulasso. (6 hrs. drive rnd trip). Tonight we enjoy dinner at a unique restaurant where nuns serve as the wait staff. It is called *Eaux Vive* (the living water).

SENEGAL

Jan. 17, Day 11: Drive to Ouagadougou & Fly to Dakar / Radisson Blu Sea Plaza 5* (B, L)

We'll depart at 8 am for the 4-5 hour drive and have lunch in a local restaurant before boarding the flight Air Burkina 514, departing at 4:45 p.m., arriving at 7:45 p.m. in Dakar.

Upon arrival transfer to hotel. Evening at leisure.

Jan. 18, Day 12: Dakar / Radisson Blu Sea Plaza 5* (B, L)

We start our tour with visits of the various markets: Kermel, Sandaga, and the handicraft market of Soumbédioune and the Tilen market famous for its medicinal herbs and its traditional healers.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Next, visit the Great Mosque; National Museum, French Cathedral, the President's Palace and the Parliament House.

Drive through the picturesque district of Medina and the residential district of Fann.

Jan. 19, Day 13: Goree Island & Retba Lake / Radisson Blu Sea Plaza 5* (B, L)

We depart the hotel early this morning to embark on a cruise to the historic island of Goree.

Just twenty minutes from Dakar Port, the ferryboat that arrives at Goree Island carries the heavy burden of 300 years slave trading in West Africa. The island ranks today among the classified monuments of the World Patrimony. We will visit the House of Slaves (Maison des Esclaves) and its "Door of No Return," a former prison for slave trade and said to be the final exit point of the slaves from Africa, now a museum and memorial.

We will also see the canons built by Portuguese navigators. Lunch at a restaurant on the island.

Afterwards, return to Dakar and a one-hour drive to Lake Retba, also known as the “Pink Lake” located 30 km northeast of Dakar, north of Cap Vert Peninsula. This lake is considered an anomaly as it boasts one of the most rare natural phenomena in the world. The lake's pinkish hue is a result of the excessive amount of *Dunaliella salina* algae in the water that produces a red pigment used to absorb light, which in turn then provides the algae with life-energy. The pink color is particularly visible during the dry season. The lake is also known for its abundantly high salt content.

You will see the “salt harvesters” with their colorful tackle, and interact with the Fulani ethnic groups living in the surrounding villages.

Return to Dakar for overnight. Evening at leisure; dinner on your own.

[Jan. 20, Day 14: Drive to St. Louis / Hotel de la Residence \(B, L\)](#)

Depart at 8:00 am, heading north through the Sahel to the old colonial city of St. Louis, which was formerly the capital of French West Africa.

We stop at the Norflaye Turtle Conservation Farm, en-route. (155 miles north of Dakar)

Saint-Louis was founded in 1659 and named after the French King Louis XIV in the 1700s, it is the oldest city to be created by Europeans on the western coast of Africa and served as the capital of Senegal from 1872 to 1957. It played an important cultural and economic role in the whole of West Africa, a stroll around the Ville (as the cab drivers know it) quickly reveals the French colonial influence. Many of the buildings hold their old character with many brightly colored buildings and beautiful balconies to be seen all around the Island. The Island was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2000.

On arrival, check in to the hotel and lunch at a local restaurant.

This afternoon, we visit the Langue de Barbarie Peninsula. It is a short walk to Guet Ndar, the fishing village that is located on the Langue de Barbarie and watch the fisherman bring in their catch. Local people carry the fish in baskets on their neck and on their heads. Women can be found smoking and drying fish next to the beach in vast cauldrons. Nearby very colorful pirogues are always under construction. It is possible to see nearly every stage from the first carvings to the final painting.

This evening, explore the colonial quarters of St. Louis.

THE GAMBIA

[Jan. 21, Day 15: Excursion to Djoudj National Park & Drive to Banjul / Kairaba Beach Resort \(B,L\)](#)

We depart at 7:00 a.m. for the 1.5-hour drive to Djoudj National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the third largest pelican sanctuary in the world. It is known for its large pelican migration and many other species of birds. We shall cruise in a spacious motorized open-air boat, for a 1.5-hour trip through the mangroves of the river to see where the pelicans hatch their eggs each year.

We disembark and drive two hours, stopping in the town of Kaolack for lunch. Then we continue to drive to Banjul (4 hours travel, including a ferry cruise).

Transfer to hotel.

[Jan. 22 Day 16: Makasutu Forest & Banjul / Kairaba Beach Resort \(B,L\)](#)

Depart at 8:00 am this morning driving one hour south to Brikama where we turn to the east coast and continue 7 km into the Makasutu Forest.

Makasutu Forest, on an island facing the south bank of the Gambia River, is a tropical 1000-acre reserve encompassing five different eco systems, including gallery forest, savannah, mangroves, palm forest and wetland. Wildlife is plentiful with many bird species, baboons, vervet and red colobus monkeys and even the occasional odd mongoose.

On arrival, we begin with a nice stroll to the Baobab Restaurant, where we are greeted and given a brief history of the area. On the way, we will see some tree stumps carved into by sculptors. These are the remnants from the time when locals were chopping down trees.

After the talk, we hop aboard a pirogue, a traditional wooden boat, to experience nature as we cruise on the Gambia River through the mangroves lined with oyster shells. The boat ride will last a little over 1 hour. When we return, we'll then enjoy lunch at the Baobab Restaurant followed by some traditional entertainment.

Afterwards, we drive 30 minutes to Banjul for a city tour.

Banjul is one of the best examples of urban Africa. The sand-blown streets play host to colorful markets and fading colonial buildings, and a sense of history permeates every district. The Gambian capital may be one of Africa's smallest cities, but it has a big personality too soon forgotten by travelers.

Built in celebration of the 1992 military coup, a commemorative arch, Arch 22, is the country's tallest building. The Senegalese-designed gateway contains a small museum about the coup d'état and a cozy café. The real draw of the Arch is the view from the top-floor balconies.

Just outside the city lies the Tanbi Wetland Complex, established in 2001 as a protected wildlife area that spans more than 4,500 hectares (almost 5 feet). Nearly 80% of the reserve is made of numerous species of mangroves; the natural vegetation also includes salt marshes, grass woodlands, and bare flats. Tidal creeks and lagoons cut through the reserve in a patchwork fashion. Locals make good use of the water by fishing for shrimp, diving for oysters, and growing rice.

Wildlife abounds throughout the site, including crocodiles, lizards, small monkeys, manatees, and over 360 species of birds. The best way to spot these creatures, and explore the wetlands, is to hire a local guide from the center of Banjul.

Visitors can also get up close and personal with Banjul's crocodiles at the Kachikally Museum and Crocodile Pool, used by locals for fertility rituals. About 80 Nile crocodiles call the pool home, and some are allowed to freely roam around the grounds. Visitors can even touch some of the creatures and dip their feet in the sacred waters for a small fee.

The Royal Albert Market is the bustling heart of Banjul. Named after the husband of Queen Victoria, the market is an extensive emporium that comes alive with pungent aromas, lively scenes and the hum of shoppers and sellers haggling over prices on everything from vivid, shimmering fabrics and shining silver jewelry to fresh produce and the latest electronics. Packed to the brim, the market's labyrinth of alleys are a great place to immerse yourself in Gambian culture. Visitors should not hesitate to bargain; most goods can be purchased for just half the asking price!

Drive 30 minutes to Kairaba Beach Resort. Evening at leisure.

Jan. 23, Day 17: Wassu Circles-Jangjang Bureh Island / Kairba Resort (B,L)

Depart at 7:00 am and drive three hours to Wassu Stone Circles (UNESCO World Heritage Site) where an explanation is given on the nature of the stone circles, their history and how they came to exist. It is believed that these circles were discovered in around 100 BC and discoveries date up until 750 AD. They believe this is the only remaining evidence of an old unknown African civilization. The circles remind us a bit of Stonehenge in Scotland, but it is uncertain if these circles are linked to the solstice. Archaeological excavations have not been possible because the village chiefs (Alkalos) believe a curse will descend on the local people if the holy circles are disturbed.

Afterwards drive one hour to the south bank and ferry 15 minutes across to JanJan Bureh Island.

Disembark at Jangjang Bureh Island and visit the town of JanJan Bureh on the north bank of the Gambia River. It is an historical place where many reminders from the colonial and slave trade period can be found.

Jangjang Bureh Island is sometimes referred to by its colonial name, McCarthy. The island is 20 sq. km in area, 10 km long and 1.5 km wide. JanJan Bureh Town (formerly known as Georgetown) lies on the north side of the isle. It has a ferry terminal, a post office, a Methodist Church- which opened in 1835, a primary school, high school, police station, and a number of colonial buildings dating from the 19th and 20th centuries. JanJan Bureh also had a slave building, which was converted into a warehouse after slavery was abolished in 1807. We may have the opportunity to meet the Alkalo (head of the village).

After our tour of JanJan Bureh, we drive to the port for a short ferry ride to the south bank of the Gambia River. We drive four hours to Kairba Resort passing through the towns of Soma, Tendaba and Brikama.

Jan. 24, Day 18: Juffureh- James Island –Banjul- Toubacoutta / Hotel Keur Saloum (B,L)

This morning we depart at 7:30 am and drive to The Gambia border. Border formalities may take about an hour on each side. You will step out of the vehicle and walk about five minutes across.

From the border, it is a two-hour drive to this historic village of Juffureh where we have a short tour. Juffureh became famous in the 1970s following the film release of the bestselling book, "Roots" written by the African-American author Alex Haley, a descendant of Kunta Kinte. The film told the story of Kunta Kinte's capture in Juffureh by slave traders and his subsequent enslavement in America around 200 years ago.

Afterwards, it is a 30 minute motorized boat ride from Juffureh to James Island (aka Kunte Kinteh Island), the colonial period ruins of a slavery station and the 'Portuguese chapel' of San Domingo, which later came to be known as Sandi Munko Juyo. Nearby there are also the old ruins of Maurel Freres and the CFAO trading post. Visit the island.

After the visit we will drive two hours to Toubacouta for overnight.

Jan. 25, Day 19: Toubacoutta-Dakar / Radisson Blu Sea Plaza 5* (B, L)

Depart early morning to embark on a motorized boat ride to explore Sine Saloum Delta (UNESCO World Heritage Site). Afterwards, we return to the hotel for breakfast and drive to Dakar (5 hrs).

Transfer to hotel. Rest of afternoon and evening is at leisure.

GHANA

Jan. 26, Day 20: Lome-Accra/ Kapinski Gold Coast Accre 5* (B, L)

At 6:00 AM, we transfer to the airport to board flight Asky 54, departing 8:35 am, arriving Lomé 12:00 pm.

Upon arrival, we stop for lunch at a restaurant and drive two hours to Accra, transfer to hotel for check-in and refresh.

This afternoon we tour Accra, the capital city of Ghana, including National Museum, Osu Castle, Coffin builders at Teshi township.

The evening is at leisure; dinner on your own.

Jan 27, Day 21: Kumasi - AKWASIDAE Ashanti Royal Festival / Golden Bean Hotel (B, L, D)

This morning we depart at 7 am driving three hours to Kumasi. On arrival, we visit the Royal Palace Museum of the Ashanti Kingdom.

Afterwards, attend the Ashanti Royal Festival (Akwasidae), next in importance only to the National Day celebrations. The festival begins at 10:30 or 11 am and lasts three or four hours; sometimes longer. At the later part of the festival, more dignitaries arrive. Timing is never exact in West Africa, so please keep this in mind when we mention the time things are supposed to start.

Akwasidae is celebrated approximately every six weeks, on a Sunday (*Twi* in Kwasidae), in accordance with the official Calendar of Ashanti. The Akan annual calendar is divided into nine parts, each lasting approximately six weeks but varying between 40–42 days in a period; the celebration of this period is called the Aday Festival. The Aday Festival has two celebration days: the Akwasidae Festival is celebrated on the final Sunday of the period, while the Akwasidae Festival is celebrated on a Wednesday within the period. The Friday preceding 10 days to the Akwasidae is called the *Fofie* (meaning a ritual Friday).

During the last Akwasidae of the year, which coincides with the Aday Kese Festival, special attention is given to make food offerings and donations for helping people. On this day, the Asantehene (King of Ashanti) meets his subjects and subordinate chiefs in the courtyard of the Manhyia Palace. The Golden Stool (throne) is displayed at the palace grounds in the presence of the king, and people visit in large numbers, singing and dancing.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

This afternoon, we visit Bonwireh, a nearby town where local weavers make Ashanti traditional "kente cloth" for Asanti dignitaries and funeral wear.

Return to Kumasi and visit the Kejetia Market, one of the largest markets in Africa.

Transfer to hotel for overnight.

Jan. 28, Day 22: Elmina / Coconut Grove Resort (B, L)

Drive 2.5 hrs to Elmina. After check-in we shall tour the infamous Forts, Castles and Slave Dungeons of Ghana and learn about the slave trade in West Africa.

Begin with visiting Elmina Castle. Built by the Portuguese in 1482, it is also known as St. George's Castle. This castle was the first European structure built in Sub-Saharan Africa and is the oldest

castle in Ghana on the West African slave trade route. The colorful harbor nestled below the Elmina Castle, full of pirogues preparing to go to sea offers one of West Africa's greatest photo opportunities.

Next, visit the Cape Coast Castle. The largest of its kind, this castle was built by the Swedes in 1653 and was later taken over by the British. Walk the path of slaves as your guide takes you through each section. This castle also houses the West African Historical Museum established by the Smithsonian Institute in collaboration with the Ghanaian Government in 1994. It is filled with artifacts, stories, photos and more.

Then a visit to Assin Manso, the site of the "last bath" where slaves were taken for bathing before being shipped to the new world. It is also the burial place of two former slaves whose remains were returned to Ghana from the US and Jamaica.

Return to hotel for overnight.

Jan. 29, Day 23: Kakoum National Park-Axim /Axim Beach Eco-lodge (B, L)

We depart at 8:00 am driving 2 hours to visit Kokoum National Park which is famous for its amazing canopy walkway.

Next, drive two hours to the Ghanaian town of Axim, where the second oldest slave fort in the region, Fort San Antonio, is located. Visit the picturesque fishing village of Axim and the fort.

Transfer to hotel. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon and evening at leisure.

C ÔTE D'IVOIRE

Jan. 30, Day 24: Grand Bassam / Afrikland Hotel (B, L)

This morning we drive two hours across the Ghana/Ivorian Coast border and then another two hours reach Grand Bassam. Check-in to the hotel.

Grand Bassam is the first capital of Cote d'Ivoire and remains an important seaside resort. The first trading houses were built here.

After our lunch, we visit the old quarter built by the French during time of colonization and tour the Museum of Costumes, the Wickerwork Center, the Ceramics/Crafts Center.

Jan. 31, Day 25: Grand Bassam-Yamoussoukro-Abidjan / Azalai Marcory Estate Hotel (B, L)

Departing at 8:00 am, we'll travel 3 hrs through the central region to Yamoussoukro, the official capital of the country. Yamoussoukro owes its good fortune as the birthplace of Cote d'Ivoire's first president, Houphouët-Boigny who spent lavishly on his native village. Virtually no traditional African houses are left; Houphouët-Boigny replaced them with concrete middle class structures.

The dazzling centerpiece of it all is the Basilique de Notre Dame de la Paix, (The Basilica "Our Lady of Peace) which is the biggest church in the world, after the Vatican, and is almost an exact replica of St Peter's in Rome. The 36 immense stained glass windows, all hand blown in France are an unforgettable sight.

Tour Yamoussoukro including a visit to the Palace of the former president and see the sacred crocodiles in the palace moat.

After the tour, drive one hour to Abidjan. On arrival, we visit metropolitan Abidjan including Treichville, one of the areas where the masses live. We pass by a few colorful markets; then over one

of the major bridges to Le Plateau, the high-rise commercial area where we stop for a visit to the National Museum of Abidjan. The museum focuses on Ivorian art showcasing statues, masks, jewelry, tools, carved doors, tom-toms and musical instruments from every region of the country.

Transfer to hotel.

GUINEA

Feb. 1, Day 26: Fly to Conakry / hotel Palme Camayenne (B)

We depart at 8 am to Cocody, the upscale residential section and browse the Cocody market (time-permitting).

Afterwards visit the north-western part of town, Abobo, where Africa's largest outdoor launderette (laundry) is located. Here you will witness an unforgettable spectacle, hundreds of Fanicos (washer men, no women), jam together in the middle of a stream to wash clothes. They work all day every day, frantically rubbing garments on huge stones held in place by old car vehicle tires then spreading the clothes over rocks and grass in a large drying area. Despite the look of confusion, they never get their clients clothes mixed or missing.

Start drive to airport by 10 am for flight Air Cote d'Ivoire departing Abidjan at 12:10 pm and arriving Conakry at 2:00 pm. Upon arrival, transfer to hotel.

Enjoy an afternoon at leisure at our 5* hotel.

Feb. 2, Day 27: Conakry / hotel Radisson Blu (B)

Depart at 9:00 am on a city tour of Conakry visiting the Central Mosque, Sekou Toure's Mosoleum, fish market of Bolobineh, French Cathedral.

Transfer to the airport for the flight to Abidjan.

SIERRA LEONE

Feb. 3, Day 28: Drive to Freetown / Radisson Blu Hotel Mammy Yoko (B)

We depart at 8 am for the 5.5 hr drive to Freetown. Sandwiched between the Atlantic Ocean and the mountains, Freetown is the lively capital of Sierra Leone, steeped in history and culture. A British colony in the late 1700s, Freetown became the principal base for the suppression of the slave trade and 1200 freed slaves from Canada came here in 1792 to join the original settlers.

With its rich history, stunning scenery and vibrant city center, Sierra Leone's charismatic capital is perfect to explore on foot.

There are countless beautiful beaches within a short drive from the city centre, and a journey to the hilltops that surround the city provides truly breathtaking views.

On arrival check into the hotel.

Feb. 4, Day 29: Excursion: Taccugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary/Radisson Blu Hotel Mammy Yoko (B, L)

Depart at 7:30 am to visit one of the few chimpanzee villages in the region and drive around the Freetown peninsular beaches of John Obey, Black Johnson, York, Kent. The drive is 3 hours round trip.

Return to Freetown at about 12:30 pm and lunch in a local restaurant.

This afternoon we embark on a three-hour tour to visit Freetown city center. We will visit: Victoria Park Market, Law Court building, the cotton tree (emblem of the city; more than 550 years old), Parliament Building, State House building, King Jimmy Market and the Arts Market at Big Wharf.

Overnight at Radisson Blu Hotel Mammy Yoko

Feb 5, Day 30: Depart Freetown (B)

After breakfast you will be transferred to Lungi International Airport by a ferryboat to transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Best options dep JFK: Royal Maroc dep 6:40 am, arrive JFK same day 4:50 pm; Emirates dep 6:05 pm, arrive 7 pm next day; United dep 10:25 pm, arrive 1:20 pm next day. (if you select this one you can depart on Nov 19)

Best options dep LAX & SFO: South African Air dep 02:30 am via Dulles, arrive 11:20 am. AF dep 11:20 pm, arrive 1:05 pm next day. (if you select this one you can depart on Nov 19)

Sequence of activities and time schedule subject to change.

Price: \$11,490 per person based on min 8 people. Single Room Supplement: \$2070

Extra night Lomé: \$176 per person twin share; Single Room: \$176

Transfer if not on day 1: \$52 per car

Includes:

Accommodations with daily breakfast

Lomé: Lomé: Mercury Sarakawa 5* <http://www.sarakawa-hotel.com/fr/hotel-togo>

Ouidah: Casa Del Papa Resort & Spa 4* <http://casadelpapa.com/>

Cotonou: Azalai Hotel de la Plage 4* <http://www.azalahotels.com/azalai-hotel-de-la-plage>

Ougadougou: Hotel Laico Ouaga 2000 5* <http://www.laicohotels.com/laico-ouaga-2000/>

Bobo Dioulasso: Hotel Residence Sissima 4* <http://www.villafortuna.ba/index.php/en/>

Dakar: Radisson Blu Sea Plaza 5* <https://www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-dakar>

St. Louis: Hotel de la Residence 3* colonial style renovated by French owners.

<http://www.hoteldelaresidence.com/>

The Gambia, Banjul: Kairaba Hotel 5*standard room (garden view) <http://kairabahotel.com/>

Toubakouta: Hotel Keur Saloum 3* (superior river front bungalow room). <http://keursaloum.com/>

Accra: Kempinski Gold Coast Accre 5* <https://www.kempinski.com/en/accra/hotel-gold-coast-city/>

Kumasi: Golden Bean Hotel 4* <http://www.goldenbeanhotel.com/>

Elmina: Coconut Grove Resort 4* <http://coconutgrovehotelsghana.com/beachhotel/>

Axim: Axim Beach Eco-Lodge 4* <http://www.aximbeach.com/>

Grand Bassam: Afrikland Hotel 4* <http://www.afrikland-hotel.com/>

Abidjan: Azalai Hotel Marcory 4* <http://www.azalahotels.com/en/azalai-hotel-abidjan>

Conakry: hotel Palme Camayenne 5* <http://www.palmcamayenne.com/en/hotel-overview.html>

Freetown: Radisson Blu Hotel Mammy Yoko 5* <https://www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-freetown>

Meals: 29 Breakfasts, 24 Lunches, 3 Dinners. Bottled water 3 litres per day per person during drives and sightseeing.

Guide: One English speaking Tour leader/Guide. Plus a local English speaking guide during all sightseeing, as required, in Bobodioulasso, Banfora, Kampti, Koutamankou, Quidah, Freetown, Saint Louis, Ganvie, Juffureh and James Island, Jan jan Bureh,

Our Tour Leader: Mr Mohammed Traore (Momo). Momo is from Bamako and has twenty years experience as a guide and tour logistics organizer. Besides being experienced and knowledgeable, he is a wonderful warm personality that our clients will enjoy getting to know.

Local guides: There will be local guides in each city as required by regulations. Momo will be giving enhanced talks before the group reaches a site and handles all arrangements to ensure a smooth trip.

Vehicle:

Toyota Coaster ac mini bus, 25 seat (group 8-12). Toyota HIACE ac mini bus, 15 seat (group 6-7)
Two Toyota Land Cruisers Prado for excursions to Taccugama village/ Freetown and Conakry.

Entrance fees: All entrance fees into all sights listed; River cruise & boat rides.

Airfare: Abidjan to Freetown & Conakry to Dakar.

Does Not Include: Visas fees, tips to driver, guide, meals not listed, personal expenses such as laundry, phone calls, drinks even when meals are included.

General Visa Info

Togo: Upon arrival at border. Apply for double entry.

Benin: Apply in advance at the nearest Benin consulate.

Burkina Faso: Can be issued upon arrival and collect passports the next day afternoon.

Senegal: Free entry.

The Gambia: Upon arrival at the border.

Ghana: Apply in advance at nearest Ghana consulate.

Ivory Coast: E-visa online.

Guinee: Apply in advance at the nearest consulate.

Sierra Leone: Apply in advance at the nearest consulate.

A detailed description of all visa details as well as other information to assist in preparing for the trip will be sent upon booking the tour.