



15-day round-trip Mali

comfort level: adventurous

group size: 1-12 pax

rooms: based on double occupancy

How to experience Mali to the fullest?

Go into the villages, connect with daily life: pound millet with the women, learn to walk with a calabash on your head and cook a typical Malian dish. Travel with the locals on bush taxis and local buses. Experience African time, the time beyond the clock.

Surrender to the rhythm of life and to the heartbeat of the continent. Let go of expectations and enjoy the flow.

We look forward to taking you on a journey to remember!

In short

1. Arrival - Bamako
2. Bamako - Mandé country
3. Mandé country
4. Mandé country - Bamako
5. Bamako - Mopti
6. Mopti - Dogon country
7. Dogon country
8. Dogon country
9. Dogon country - Djenné
10. Djenné
11. Djenné - Ségou
12. Ségou - River Niger
13. River Niger
14. River Niger - Koulikoro
15. Koulikoro - Bamako - departure



Itinerary

day 1 (Saturday): arrival - Bamako

The day is dedicated to the journey to Bamako's international airport. Arrival time in the capital of Mali depending on the airline chosen. Transfer to the accommodation.

night in: Bamako

meals included: -



**day 2 (Sunday): Bamako - Mandé country**

After breakfast practical issues, such as money exchange and a local sim card are taken care of. Transfer from Bamako to Siby in Mandé country (45k) on private transport. Siby and surroundings are known for the rock sceneries. Mandé country is a part of Mali, which is less frequented by tourists, offering the chance to explore rural life from the inside out. A great place to start your Malian experience!

Afternoon hike from Siby to the Arc de Kamadjan (4k), where the night is spent camping.

night in: Arc de Kamadjan

meals included: B-D

day 3 (Monday): Mandé country

Today is all about exploring Mandé country. Start the day visiting the cave at the Arc. The morning hike (7k) leads from the Arc to Kena village, where you're introduced to village life: pound millet with the women and learn how to walk with a calabash on your head. Most certainly the women will have a few good laughs over your efforts to perform their daily tasks. In the (late) afternoon the hike continues to Dinjeni (10k), at a stone throw of the falls. If daylight is left, go for a swim at the falls.

night in: Dinjeni

meals included: B-L-D

day 4 (Tuesday): Mandé country - Bamako

Take advantage of the early morning hours for (another) visit to the falls before being transferred (by moto taxi) to Siby, where the Mandé country experience comes to an end.

Travel back to Bamako on public transport in the afternoon.

night in: Bamako

meals included: B

day 5 (Wednesday): Bamako - Mopti

An early wake-up call to get to the bus stop in time for the journey to Mopti, 640k East of Mali's capital. The long day on the bus is guaranteed to give you a fair share of local experiences: beautifully dressed Malian women, vendors hopping on the bus at every stop trying to sell drinks and snacks and lunch in a roadside restaurant, where typical Malian rice dishes are served.

Arrival in Mopti, the Venice of Mali, is expected in the late afternoon / early evening.

night in: Mopti

meals included: B

day 6 (Thursday): Mopti - Dogon country

On Thursdays, when the weekly market is taking place, the harbor area is even more vivid than on other days. Morning visit to the market and the harbor, where fully loaded boats arrive from and leave to the fabled city of Timbuktu.

Travel by bush taxi from Mopti to Sévaré and get on another bush taxi for the journey to Bandiagara.

The final leg from Bandiagara to Djiguibombo is done on private transport.

Enjoy the ride into Dogon Country.

Depending on the arrival time, the village of Djiguibombo is visited in the afternoon.

night in: Dogon country - Djiguibombo

meals included: B-D



day 7 (Friday): Dogon country

Djiguibombo (9k) Daga (4k) Anakanda, that's where you're going today. Never heard of these Dogon villages? Not surprising! It's time to put on your hiking boots and explore off-the-beaten-paths Dogon country!

Be surprised by the scenery and by the hospitality of the Dogon people. Lunch is prepared in the village of Daga and the night is spent camping on the side of the village of Anakanda.

optional: late afternoon mask dances

The Dogon history is fascinating and so is their culture. Today the sacred masks dance especially for you on the rhythm of the sacred drums. Each type of mask has a specific meaning and role. Enjoy the performance of the mask dancers and the explanations of your guide.

night in: Dogon country - Anakanda

meals included: B-L-D

day 8 (Saturday): Dogon country

Set out on another day through less-known villages. Today's hike leads from Anakanda to Komo (8k) in the morning and on to Kani Bonzo (7k) in the afternoon. Kani Bonzo was the first village to be created by the Dogon people after they had fled from Mandé country. Explore the village and the traces of the past.

night in: Dogon country - Kani Bonzo

meals included: B-L-D

day 9 (Sunday): Dogon Country - Djenné

One more morning of waking up with the sounds of the women pounding millet and the girls doing tours to the nearest well. In the morning your hike through and time in Dogon country comes to an end.

Option 1: hike from Kani Bonzo to Kani Kombolé (6k) and - depending on the season - take a look at the crocodile pond. Transfer on private transport from Kani Kombolé to Sévaré.

Option 2: make it an early start of the day for the (serious) hike from Kani Bonzo to Djiguibombo (7k). Transfer on private transport from Djiguibombo to Sévaré.

Travel from Sévaré to Djenné by bush taxi in the afternoon. Set out on a first stroll through the capital of mud if daylight is left upon arrival.

night in: Djenné

meals included: B

**day 10 (Monday): Djenné**

The day is dedicated to Djenné. Get up early for a walk to one of the roads leading into town. On Mondays villagers travel from near and far to Djenné for the weekly market. The steady stream of people making their way into town will soon turn the square in front of the mosque into a colorful market, where local produce and products are being sold.

Visit the market with your guide and a local woman. You're not just setting out on a market visit, you're actually on a grocery shopping trip to buy all the ingredients for a typical dish of this region: Tion Tion. After the market visit it's time for a real Malian cooking experience. And of course the dish is eaten afterwards. The local crew will happily join in and rate your efforts. Return into town in the late afternoon for a guided visit including the sacred well, Tapama's tomb, a manuscript library and climbing a rooftop for a good view of the mosque and the market.



night in: Djenné
meals included: B-L

day 11 (Tuesday): Djenné - Ségou

An early morning call for the journey by bus to Ségou, the town of the 4,444 acacia trees (balanzans). Enjoy the ride through the savannah landscape with baobabs (monkey bread trees).

Arrival in Ségou is expected in the early afternoon.

Late afternoon visit to the Somono neighborhood and / or a mud-cloth (bogolan) workshop.

night in: Ségou
meals included: B

day 12-14 (Wednesday-Friday): Ségou - River Niger - Koulikoro

Having traveled by road so far, time has come to get on board of a traditionally built wooden pinasse for a journey on the River Niger. The quiet pace of traveling by boat and being surrounded by nature add without any doubt a different experience to your trip through Mali.

Visits on the first day of the river trip include historical village Segoukoro - in former times the capital of the Bambara Kingdom and Farako pottery village. There's a good chance to see hippos in this part of the river.

During the trip the scenery changes from flat in the Ségou surroundings to hilly near Koulikoro. Along the way riverside villages are visited, fishermen and groups of sand fishermen can be seen at work and there is many a bird species to be spotted. Enjoy the meals of the crew, the evenings around the campfire and the nights camping under the star-spangled sky.

Arrival in Koulikoro is expected in the afternoon of day 14.

night 12-13 in: River Niger

night 14 in: Koulikoro

meals included day 12-13: B-L-D

meals included day 14: B-L

day 15: Koulikoro - Bamako - departure

The last day of your trip through Mali has started.

Hop on a minibus for the remaining 60 or so ks back to Mali's capital.

Spend the remaining time in Bamako to your liking.

Transfer to the airport for your outbound flight.

possibility to shower before departure

meals included: B



Information regarding itinerary

This itinerary is based on a Saturday arrival to include the weekly market in Mopti and Djenné. The itinerary can be executed with a start on every other day of the week without these market visits.

Rainy season

When traveling during the rainy season itineraries may need to be adjusted to the weather circumstances. The above itinerary is the guideline. Your guide will suggest adjustments if necessary.

Suggested accommodations

Bamako	Hotel Tamana
Mandé country	camping, tents & mattresses provided - basic facilities
Mopti	Hotel Ya Pas de Problème
Dogon country	rooftop sleeping in basic camp (Djiguibombo), mattresses and mosquito nets provided & camping in Anakanda and Kani Bonzo, tents and mattresses provided - basic facilities
Djenné	Hotel Le Maafir
Ségou	Hotel l'Auberge
River Niger	camping, tents & mattresses provided - basic facilities
Koulikoro	Hotel Nanagaleri

Accommodations mentioned above are suggestions. The final choice depends on availability. If any of the above mentioned accommodations is not available, the best possible alternative is chosen.

Prices

Depending on the number of participants, available [upon request](#).

Included

- 🍷 **private transport:** including all costs related to the transport, such as driver, fuel and toll day 2: Bamako-Siby, day 6: Bandiagara-Djiguibombo, day 9: Kani Kombolé (or Djiguibombo)-Sévaré
- 🍷 **airport transfer:** on day 1 and day 15
- 🍷 **public transport:** as described in the above itinerary day 4: Siby-Bamako, day 5: Bamako-Mopti, day 6: Mopti-Sévaré-Bandiagara, day 9: Sévaré-Djenné, day 11: Djenné-Ségou, day 15: Koulikoro-Bamako
- 🍷 **guide:** accompanying English or French spoken guide, traveling with the party and local guides and assistants
- 🍷 **activities:** all costs related to the activities mentioned in the above itinerary, including entry fees, tourist taxes, tokens of respect to village chiefs and elders, as well as transport if applicable (river trip)
- 🍷 **luggage transport during multiple day hikes:** based on one bag per person per day
- 🍷 **accommodation:** based on double occupancy of rooms (some with fan, some with air-conditioning) and tents (single tents upon request)
- 🍷 **meals included:** as described in the offer
- 🍷 **fair payment:** for products and services to all we do business with

Exclusive

- 🍷 air fares and / or transport to the start of the journey and from the end
- 🍷 visa, vaccinations
- 🍷 personal insurances, such as travel, cancellation and medical insurances
- 🍷 additional side trips and/or excursions
- 🍷 upgrade for rooms and/or accommodations
- 🍷 additional days
- 🍷 drinks and additional meals
- 🍷 tips, souvenirs and personal expenses

Required visa(s)

Mali single entry visa - to be applied for through a Malian embassy
confirmation of reservation for the visa application provided upon request

General conditions

Papillon Reizen's [general conditions](#) apply to this offer.

Papillon funds

Papillon values taking on social responsibility. To create a balance between giving and receiving we have created the Papillon funds. By traveling with us you contribute to making a difference.

Payment conditions

Down payment upon booking: 25%.

Payment of the remaining sum six weeks prior to the start of the journey.

Full payment upon booking, when six or less weeks are left to the start of the journey.

Information

Extensive travel and country information is provided upon booking.