



15-day round-trip Mali

comfort level: medium

group size: 1-12 pax

rooms: based on double occupancy

Wake up to the sound of wood touching wood in Dogon Country. Explore the adobe villages along the Bandiagara escarpment, be introduced to the adobe architecture of Djenné, the town which is nicknamed the capital of mud. Enjoy the quiet atmosphere of Ségou on the River Niger and explore the less-known southern region of Sikasso.

This 15-day trip offers an introduction to history, architecture, two UNESCO world heritage sites, population groups and daily life in the West African country Mali.

In short

1. arrival - Bamako
2. Bamako - Ségou
3. Ségou
4. Ségou - Mopti
5. Mopti - Dogon Country
6. Dogon country
7. Dogon Country
8. Dogon Country - Djenné
9. Djenné
10. Djenné - San
11. San - Sikasso
12. Sikasso
13. Sikasso - Sélingué
14. Sélingué - Bamako
15. Bamako - departure



Itinerary

day 1 (Saturday): arrival - Bamako

The day is dedicated to the journey to Mali. Arrival at Bamako’s international airport. Transfer to your accommodation.

night in: Bamako

meals included: -





day 2 (Sunday): Bamako - Ségou

Morning departure for Ségou (240k).

Visit to the historical village Segoukoro, in former times the capital of the Bambara Kingdom. Visit the village, where traces of the past are still visible. Get on board of a pinasse from Segoukoro for an afternoon on the river. Lunch is eaten on the boat. A pottery village and - if time allows - a fishing village are visited. Arrival in Ségou in the late afternoon.

night in: Ségou

meals included: B-L

day 3 (Monday): Ségou

Start the day with a walk through the Somono neighborhood, the oldest part of town, home to the Bozo and Somono people. This part of town is known for its traditional red adobe architecture. Continue the exploration of Ségou with a visit to the weekly market, taking place on the river quay and in the streets of the town centre.

Afternoon visits are made to a mud-cloth (bogolan) workshop - where cotton fabric is dyed and decorated with natural materials and mud from the river, a weaving workshop and / or a carpet workshop. Continue to the colonial neighborhood for an impression of the colonial architecture. Finish today's visits at the Mission Catholique for a millet beer tasting.

night in: Ségou

meals included: B

day 4 (Tuesday): Ségou - Mopti

Morning departure for Mopti (400k).

Late afternoon visit to the harbor area. Set out on a sunset boat trip to where the Bani and Niger rivers meet. It is the unique location on both rivers that gave Mopti the name The Venice of Mali.

night in: Mopti

meals included: B

day 5 (Wednesday): Mopti - Dogon Country



In the morning the journey continues to Dogon Country (100k). The first stop is made in Songo, a Dogon village known for its rock wall paintings, made and used by the village elders to teach the young boys in preparation for their circumcision and manhood.

Continue by car to Sanga. Visit the village. Continue on foot (or by car) after lunch to Banani. By car the distance to Ibi is covered and today's destination is Koundou.

During the village visits the guide explains about daily life, culture, traditional architecture and history of the Dogon people.

night in: Koundou - Dogon Country

Meals included: B-L-D

day 6 (Thursday): Dogon Country

Wake up with the sounds of women pounding millet for breakfast. The adobe villages breathe a quiet atmosphere; electricity and running water are not yet available. Life is lived by the rhythm of the days and the seasons.

Leave Koundou by car to visit Iréli and Amani. Amani is well-known for its crocodile pond. These sacred





animals are treated with the utmost respect by the villagers, due to their important role in the history of the Dogon people. Continue on foot to Tiréli, where lunch is eaten.

Get ready for some climbing and descending: the afternoon is used for a side-trip (on foot) to the village of Tiréli Daka.

night in: Tiréli - Dogon Country

meals included: B-L-D

day 7 (Friday): Dogon Country

optional: start the day with Dogon mask dances. The Dogon people are known for their rich culture. Visitors rave about the mask dances, especially when they are performed in a beautiful setting, such as in Tiréli. This morning the masks are taken from their caves and the mask dancers perform their sacred dances especially for you. Each mask has its own specific meaning and rhythms. When the sounds of the sacred drums fade away and the masks are returned to their cave, time has come to see more of this amazing area.

Your time in Dogon Country is nearing the end.

By car you travel from Tiréli to Aindelou, a village beautifully situated on the plateau. Village visit followed by the hike through a stunning rock scenery to nearby Begnimatu. Depending on the timing lunch is eaten in either Aindelou or Begnimatu.

In the late afternoon the journey goes back to Bandiagara, where the night is spent.

night in: Bandiagara - Dogon Country

meals included: B



day 8 (Saturday): Dogon Country - Djenné

Morning departure from Bandiagara.



Before leaving Dogon Country Ficko village is visited. In former times this village had iron ovens (which are currently covered with earth). A visit is made to the old village as well as to the actual village. Ficko has some interesting caves and traces of colonial history.

Afternoon arrival is expected in Djenné. The town, situated on an isle in the Bani river, is well-known for its adobe architecture. The old town of Djenné is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site and is home to the largest mud-built structure in the world: the Great Mosque.

Set out on a late afternoon walk for a first impression of the town.

night in: Djenné

meals included: B

day 9 (Sunday): Djenné

In the morning the town of Djenné is visited in more depth: walk through the old town's alleys, along adobe architecture with Moorish influences, Koranic schools, the sacred well, the tomb of Tapama and a manuscript library.

Climb a rooftop for a good view on the Great Mosque. Visits to the interior of the mosque are reserved to Muslims.

A regional dish, Tion Tion - prepared the traditional way by a local woman, is served for lunch.

Djenné and its surroundings are inhabited by multiple population groups.



The afternoon is used for a visit to a Fulani (herders) and a Bozo (fishermen) village.
night in: Djenné
meals included: B

day 10 (Monday): Djenné - San

On Mondays people from far and near travel into town for the weekly market. Take a look at one of the roads into town to see the steady stream of people arriving on foot, horse cart, motor and on fully loaded minibuses and trucks.

Within only a few hours the square in front of the mosque turns into a colorful lively market. Visit the market with your guide.

Afternoon departure for San (140k).

night in: San

meals included: B

day 11 (Tuesday): San - Sikasso

Travel from San to Sikasso (275k) in the morning. Sikasso is the capital of the region of the same name. This most southern region of Mali is well-known for its agriculture. Sikasso is a crossing for traders, coming from and traveling to Burkina Faso.

The town is visited in the afternoon. Visit the vegetable market and the regional or the Senoufo museum as well as other interesting places.

night in: Sikasso

meals included: B



day 12 (Wednesday): Sikasso

Morning visit to Missirikoro, a rock formation at about 14k from town. This rock formation has an animist and a Muslim part. Visit the cave mosque and the animist part and climb to the top for a great view.

Afternoon visit to the Woroni Falls. Bring your swim wear and a towel for a refreshing bath.

night in: Sikasso

meals included: B



day 13 (Thursday): Sikasso - Sélingué

Morning departure for the journey to Sélingué (380k). The village of Sélingué is situated near a barrage, which created an artificial lake. Afternoon visit to the barrage (no photos allowed) and the village on the lake.

night in: Sélingué

meals included: B

day 14 (Friday): Sélingué - Bamako

Enjoy free time in Sélingué.

Afternoon departure for Bamako (145k).

night in: Bamako

meals included: B

day 15 (Saturday): Bamako - departure

The last day of your trip through Mali has arrived.

The day is yours to explore the capital of Mali or to take it easy. Possible visits include the national

museum and its gardens or a (handicraft) market. Guide and driver are available. Transfer to the airport for the outbound flight.

meals included: B

Information regarding itinerary

This itinerary is based on a Saturday arrival to include the weekly markets in Ségou 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	Azalaï Hotel Dunia *** - air conditioned room
Ségou	Hotel l'Auberge - air conditioned room
Mopti	Hotel Doux Rêves - air conditioned room
Koundou	Le Campement - air conditioned room
Tiréli	rooftop sleeping in a basic camp - mattresses and mosquito nets provided
Bandiagara	Hotel La Falaise - air conditioned room
Djenné	Hotel Le Maafir - air conditioned room
San	Hotel Teriya - air conditioned room
Sikasso	Hotel Mamelon - air conditioned room
Sélingué	Hotel Donso - air conditioned room

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 per air-conditioned 4-wheel drive(s):** for the length of the journey, including all costs related to the transport, such as driver, fuel, toll, ferries and border crossing fees
number and type of 4WDs adapted to the number of travelers
- 🍷 **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 (boat trips)
- 🍷 **accommodation:** as described in the offer
- 🍷 **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.