



Experience Mali

Calabash day

Calabashes play an important role in everyday life in Mali. For centuries people have grown calabashes and they still do. In rural villages you may see them hanging from the thatched roofs of huts. Some villages are entirely dedicated to the fruit, which has many uses, ranging from bowls and spoons to traditional instruments.

In the Ségou surroundings two villages are - each in their own way - calabash specialists. We take you on a tour to show the chain from growing calabashes to final product. A morning visit leads to the village of Touna, which grows vast quantities of calabashes on their fields and turns them into bowls. Depending on the time of year the fields can be visited, before heading into the village to visit a family, specialized in the preparation of the calabashes. With a bit of luck someone is willing to open up his storage room. If the trip takes place on a Wednesday a visit to Touna's weekly market is included. Noumouwere, a hamlet near Ségou, is visited in the afternoon. Here the villagers master the art of decorating calabashes, using hot iron. Add some fun to the day, and learn to carry a calabash on your head.

Discover about the many uses of calabashes!

Route

Ségou-Touna-Ségou-Noumouwere-Ségou

Duration

day-trip

Best visiting time

year round - seasonal variations apply
Note: there is little activity in Noumouwere during the agricultural season. On Monday's the villagers sell their goods on the Ségou weekly market.

Dates & prices

[Ask us for an offer](#) for your group.

