



# Benin - 8 day itinerary 'medium'

Ségou, 20 October 2017

expected dates: to be determined

group size: to be determined

rooms: to be determined

*Welcome to Benin!*

*Nature, culture, traditional architecture and a diverse population, Benin offers something for every traveler.*

*In 8 days we take you on a trip along some of the country's highlights and we take you off the beaten tourist paths to experience the country in a unique way.*

*From the South to the North and back we take you on a journey to remember!*

## In short

1. arrival - Cotonou
2. Cotonou - Porto Novo
3. Porto Novo - Dassa
4. Dassa - Natitingou
5. Natitingou -Pendjari
6. Pendjari - Natitingou
7. Natitingou - Ouidah
8. Ouidah - Cotonou - departure



## Itinerary

### day 1: arrival Cotonou

The day is dedicated to the journey to Benin.

Arrival at Cotonou's international airport.

Transfer to the accommodation.

night in: Cotonou



### day 2: Cotonou - Porto Novo (85k)

The morning is used to take care of practical issues such as money exchange and arranging a local sim card and / or an introduction to Cotonou.

After lunch the journey goes by road to Abomey-Calvi, where you go aboard of a boat for a trip on Noukoué Lake. The lake is known for the stilt villages of which Ganvié is by far the best known. Visit to Ganvié. Travel



back ashore and continue by road to Porto Novo, the capital of Benin.  
*night in: Porto Novo*

### day 3: Porto Novo - Dassa (235k)

The morning is spent in Porto Novo. Visit the botanical garden, the ethnographical museum, the 'Place International des Phantomes à 9 Têtes', - the place dedicated to 9-headed phantoms, the old market, the central mosque and the Songhai centre.

In the afternoon the journey goes by road to Dassa, with a visit to Bohicon's underground village along the way.

*night in: Dassa*

### day 4: Dassa - Natitingou (360k)

The morning is used for a visit to Dassa's sacred hills and to the Maria cave of Notre Dame d'Arigbo.

When talking about Dassa's sacred hills, the population uses the sacred voodoo number of 41. In reality there are more hills. In former times the hills were inhabited. People had sought shelter to protect their families against hostile tribes and slave hunters. To guarantee their well-being voodoo masters protected the area with sacred voodoo ceremonies. Up till today a voodoo palace is in use on one of the hills. Climb a hill with your guide and be introduced to the past and present of the sacred hills.

After the visits the road trip continues to the North, destination Natitingou, where arrival is expected in the afternoon.

A late afternoon visit is made to the regional museum and to a tchouc (local beer) distillery. Tchouc and banana fritter tasting.

*night in: Natitingou*

### day 5: Natitingou -Park Pendjari (360k)



A side-trip is made to Somba country in the morning. This area of Benin, situated on the border with Togo, is known for its traditional architecture. The mud-built two-story houses, locally called tata's, are well-worth a visit. A local guide explains about the culture, traditions and customs of the Somba people.

Time has come to travel further North for an introduction to Benin's wildlife. Park Pendjari is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site and often referred to as the best park in West Africa. For good reason. The park is home to elephants, lions, warthogs, buffalos, multiple gazelle species, crocodiles, hippos and hundreds of bird species. Occasionally even a leopard can be seen. The late afternoon is dedicated to a game drive in the park.

*night in: Park Pendjari*

### day 6: Park Pendjari - Natitingou (195k)

Wake up to the sounds of nature. Your accommodation is situated in the park and as soon as you step outside you may see wildlife in the distance. Take advantage of the early morning hours for a second game drive. Leave the park in the afternoon and enjoy a refreshing swim at the Tanougou falls.

In the late afternoon the journey goes back to Natitingou.

*night in: Natitingou*



**day 7: Natitingou - Ouidah (550k)**

Travel back to the South of the country, destination Ouidah. The road trip of 550k takes you through the different regions and landscapes of the country.

Arrival in Ouidah is expected in the late afternoon. The town, situated on the ocean front is known for both its role in the slave trade as well as for the voodoo religion. Every year on January 10<sup>th</sup> - national voodoo day - a voodoo festival is held at the beach near the Gate of No Return.

*night in: Ouidah*

**day 8: Ouidah - Cotonou - departure**

The last day of the trip through Benin has arrived already. In the morning Ouidah is visited: visit the pythons' temple and the basilica and walk the 4k long slave road along landmarks as the Tree of Forgetfulness and the well, where people had to wash of their African sins to the Gate of No Return at the ocean front.

Travel back to Cotonou via de Route de Peche, the coastal road, in the afternoon.

Transfer to the airport, according to the departure time of your flight.

*possibility to shower before departure*

**Information regarding itinerary**

This trip can start on any day of the week.

Specific interests for your trip? Do not hesitate to ask us to adapt the trip to your liking.

**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**

Cotonou	La Maison de Canelya - room with air-conditioning and private bathroom
Porto Novo	Centre Songhai - room with fan and private bathroom
Dassa	Auberge de Dassa - room with fan and private bathroom
Natitingou	Le Béliér - room with fan and private bathroom
Park Pendjari	Pendjari Lodge - safari tent with private bathroom
Ouidah	Le Jardin Brésilien - room with air-conditioning and private bathroom
Cotonou	possibility to shower before departure

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:** as described in the above itinerary, including all costs related to the transport, such as driver, fuel and toll - vehicle adapted to the number of participants
- 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
- 🍷 **accommodation:** as described above
- 🍷 **meals included:** breakfast day 2-8
- 🍷 **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 other meals
- 🍷 tips, souvenirs and personal expenses

## Required visa(s)

Benin            single entry visa, to be applied for through a Beninese embassy  
the letter needed for the visa application is upon booking provided by us

## 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 trip.

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

## Information

Extensive travel and country information is provided upon booking.