



Benin - 15-day itinerary 'adventurous'

Ségou, 25 October 2017

expected dates: to be determined

group size: to be determined

rooms: to be determined

Welcome to Benin!

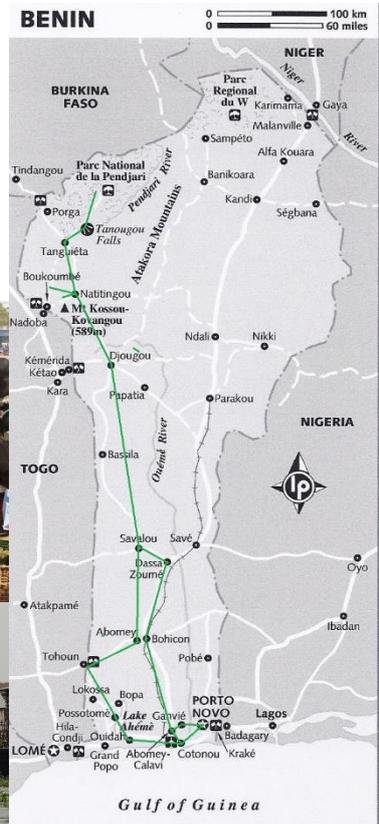
Nature, culture, traditional architecture and a diverse population, Benin offers something for every traveler.

In two weeks 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. Several nights are spent camping in villages, where you easily connect with the local people to get an impression of their everyday lives.

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

In short

1. arrival - Cotonou
2. Cotonou - Lake Nokoué
3. Lake Nokoué - Adjarra
4. Adjarra
5. Adjarra - Dassa
6. Dassa - Natitingou
7. Natitingou
8. Natitingou - Somba country
9. Somba country - Pendjari Park
10. Pendjari Park - Taneka country
11. Taneka country - Abomey
12. Abomey - Possotomé
13. Possotomé - Ouakpè
14. Ouakpè - Ouidah
15. 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 - Lake Nokoué (30k)

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 Nokoué Lake. The lake is known for the stilt villages of which Ganvié is by far the best known. The trip on the lake takes you to Ganvié, where the night is spent in a local setting.

night in: Ganvié - Lake Nokoué

**day 3: Lake Nokoué - Adjarra (65k)**

After breakfast the tour on the lake continues to Aguégoué, one of the lesser known stilt villages. During the trip you are introduced to the different ways of fishing, practised by the locals and to the floating market. Set foot ashore again, your driver is waiting for you for the road trip to Adjarra near Porto Novo.

The afternoon is used for a visit to a private museum, to a place where traditional music instruments are made and to the Adjarra market.

The night is spent camping in the village.

night in: Adjarra

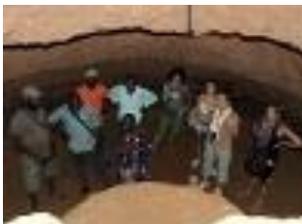
day 4: Adjarra (35k)

The day is dedicated to Adjarra and Porto Novo, Benin's capital.

The morning is used to visit Adjarra and to an introduction to raffia.

In the afternoon a side-trip is made to Porto Novo for a visit to the botanical garden, the ethnographical museum, the place dedicated to the 9-headed phantoms, the old market, the central mosque and the Songhai centre.

night in: Adjarra

**day 5: Adjarra - Dassa (235k)**

Leave Adjarra in the morning for the journey to Bohicon. Stops can be made along the way for photos and breaks .

Visit to the underground village near Bohicon. The underground village was only recently discovered when a road construction truck disappeared in a hole in the ground. Research showed it was a well-hidden underground house and more of them were afterwards discovered in the surroundings. It is still unknown who created and inhabited the underground village.

Continue to Dassa in the afternoon.

Late afternoon 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.

night in: Dassa

day 6: Dassa - Natitingou (360k)

Morning road trip to the North of the country, destination Natitingou, with stops at the famous Dankoli voodoo fetish and at Miniki village to see the unique palm tree with nine branches.

The Dankoli fetish is said to be one of the most powerful voodoo fetishes in the country, and therefore

many a follower of the voodoo religion travels to this particular fetish for offerings.

The afternoon is used for a proper exploration of Natitingou, with visits to the regional museum and to a tchouc (local beer) distillery. Tchouc and banana fritter tasting.

night in: Natitingou

day 7: Natitingou surroundings (45k)

Put on your hiking boots! Today you set out exploring the surroundings of Natitingou.

A hike of about 5 hours on the Atakora mountain range takes you to a Fulani village and finally to the Kota falls. A well-deserved picnic lunch is waiting for you at the falls. Enjoy a lazy afternoon at the falls, where a refreshing bath can be taken.

night in: Natitingou

day 8: Natitingou - Somba country (45k)

On taxi-motors the trip is made to Somba country. 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. Drop-off of your luggage at the family, where the night will be spent followed by descending the Atakora mountain range to get a good impression of the magnificent scenery of the Boukoubé area.



Lunch is eaten in a traditional maquis - a kiosk, where regional dishes like fonio are being served.

Continue to Koussougouingou village in the afternoon for an introduction to the architecture, culture, traditions and customs of the Ottamari people, including visits to traditional tata's - the local name for the adobe houses typical for the Ottamari people.

The night is spent in a tata with a local family.

night in: Somba country



day 9: Somba country - Pendjari Park (380k)

Time has come to say goodbye to Somba country. The journey continues, destination Pendjari Park in the North of the country. Pendjari Park 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 a multitude of animals, including: elephants, warthogs, buffalos, multiple gazelle species, crocodiles, hippos, lions, baboons, red monkeys, hundreds of bird species and even leopards.

The day is spent in the park and game drives are made.

night in: Pendjari Park

day 10: Pendjari Park - Taneka country (405k)

The early morning is taken advantage of for another game drive in the park. With a bit of luck you'll see some animals you had not yet seen yesterday.

Following on the game drive the park is left.

A stop is made at the Tanougou falls for a refreshing swim and lunch.

Road trip to Taneka country in the afternoon, with arrival in Tanéka-Beri expected in the late afternoon.

night in: Taneka-Beri

day 11: Taneka country - Abomey (355k)

Having arrived in the late afternoon yesterday, the day starts with courtesy visits to the Taneka King and to the Spiritual Leader. Both men play an important role in everyday life of the Taneka people, who are true to their culture. You're introduced to daily life, customs and culture of the population group. A visit is made to the cultural bank, which looks like a museum. With the difference that none of the items belong to the museum. They all serve as a pledge for a microloan that was granted to the owner to start or expand his business. When the loan has been paid off, the item returns to the owner.

A lunch stop is made in Djougou, where some craftsmen - weaver, smith, leather worker - are visited.

Continue to Abomey for the night.

night in: Abomey

**day 12: Abomey - Possotomé (120k)**

In the morning a nearby village, where the voodoo religion is visibly present, is visited. And for those interested in learning more about this intriguing religion: it is possible to take part in a voodoo ceremony.

After lunch the journey goes to Possotomé. Even though Possotomé is not on most visitor's itinerary it is well-worth a visit as you'll find out today. Village visit in the afternoon. Possibility to take a thermal bath in the evening.

The night is spent camping on the shore of Ahémé Lake.

night in: Possotomé

day 13: Possotomé - Ouakpè (65k)

Early morning departure for Ouidah on the ocean. The town is known for both the voodoo religion and the slave history. In the morning you visit the pythons' temple and the basilica. Walk the 4k long slave route taking you along landmarks as the well, where people had to wash themselves, and the Tree of Forgetfulness to the Port of No Return at the ocean, where people were boarded to faraway unknown destinations.



Lunch is eaten at the Zinsou Foundation.

In the afternoon the village of Ouakpè is visited, where you are introduced to the process of salt making and where you set out on a boat trip.

night in: Ouakpè

day 14: Ouakpè - Ouidah (15k)

Enjoy a day off on the beach or at the salt water pool of the pool in Ouidah.

night in: Ouidah

day 15: Ouidah - Cotonou - departure

The last day of the trip through Benin has arrived already. In the morning you travel back to Cotonou via de Route de Peche, the coastal road. Lunch is eaten in a traditional maquis on the oceanfront.

Visit a handicraft center in Cotonou 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 fan and private bathroom
Ganvié	homestay - basic facilities
Adjarra	homestay - camping
Dassa	Ferme Chez Armand - hut with fan and private bathroom
Natitingou	Le Bélier - room with fan and private bathroom
Somba country	homestay, rooftop sleeping - basic facilities
Pendjari Park	Pendjari Lodge - safari tent with private bathroom
Taneka country	Auberge villageoise - room with shower, shared toilet
Abomey	Hôtel Le Vanqueure - room with fan and private bathroom
Possotomé	camping on the lake shore
Ouakpè	homestay - basic hut with shared facilities
Ouidah	Le Jardin Brésilien, room with fan 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 2-15, lunch day 3-8, day 10-12 and day 15, dinner day 2-8, day 10-13 and day 15
- 🍷 **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.