



Mali - 8-day itinerary 'adventurous'

Ségou, 7 December 2017

- expected dates:** to be determined
- group size:** to be determined
- rooms:** based on staying in double rooms
- remark:** traveling with an accompanying guide

Welcome to Mali.

Wake up with the sounds of daily life in Dogon country, where life is being lived on the rhythm of the days and the seasons and where it feels like time stood still.

Travel with the locals on bush taxis and local buses. Experience African time, the time beyond the clock.

Traveling through Mali on public transport you experience the country the local way.

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 - Djenné
3. Djenné - Mopti
4. Mopti - Dogon country
5. Dogon country
6. Dogon country - Sévaré
7. Sévaré - Ségou
8. Ségou - Bamako



Itinerary

day 1 (Saturday): arrival - Bamako

Travel to Mali, arrival at Bamako international airport, where your guide is waiting for you.

Transfer to your accommodation.

night in: Bamako



day 2 (Sunday): Bamako - Djenné (550k)

An early morning wake-up call for the bus trip to Djenné (buses leave Bamako around 5-6am). The road trip offers a first impression of the Savannah landscape and the roadside villages. Traveling by bus is a local experience. When the bus stops, girls and boys come running to the bus to sell drinks, fruits and snacks.

Arrival in the capital of mud, as Djenné is nick-named, is expected in the late afternoon.

If daylight is left, set out on a guided walk through the old town for a first impression of the town.

night in: Djenné

day 3 (Monday): Djenné - Mopti (170k)

The town of Djenné is built on an isle in the Bani river. On Mondays people travel from far and near into town, by road and over water, for the weekly market.

Take a look at one of the roads into town in the early morning hours. On foot, by motor, horse cart, minibuses and trucks people arrive in the town center. Each vehicle is loaded to the brim with merchandise and produce. Within a few hours the square in front of the Great Mosque turns into a colorful market.

In the morning a walk is made through the alleys of the old town for an impression of the mud-built structures and architecture with Moorish influences. Visits are made to the sacred well, Tapama's tomb, the girl who sacrificed her life for the town of Djenné, a manuscript library and the market. Climb a rooftop for a good view of the mosque. Visits to the interior of the mosque are restricted to Muslims.

Enjoy the regional dish, Tion Tion, prepared by the wife of one of our local guides, for lunch.

Around 2pm departure by bush taxi to Mopti.

night in: Mopti

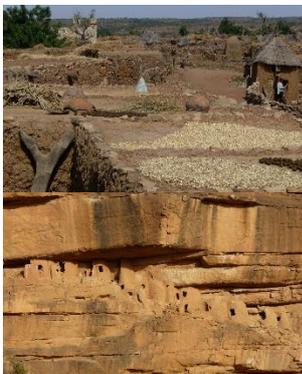
day 4 (Tuesday): Mopti - Dogon country (95k)

The morning is dedicated to Mopti. Visit the women's market and the always busy harbor area. Fully loaded boats arrive in and depart from the Mopti harbor coming from and going to the fabled city of Timbuktu.

Afternoon departure by bush taxi via Sévaré to Bandiagara.

In Bandiagara a car is waiting to drop you and your guide off in Djiguibombo.

night in: Dogon country - Djiguibombo

day 5 (Wednesday): Dogon country

Put on your hiking boots. Dogon country is waiting to be explored by you. Hundreds of villages are spread out in the valley and on the plateau of the Bandiagara escarpment, a UNESCO world heritage site. Today's hike leads from the plateau to the valley with visits to Djiguibombo, Kani Kombolé, Téli and Endé. Each village reveals part of the Dogon culture and of the way of living. The guide explains about guinas, togunas and granaries. Kani Kombolé has a beautiful mud-built mosque. Endé and Téli's villages used to be on the cliff in former times. The old villages have been preserved and can still be visited. If you're interested in textiles, don't miss out on visiting the women who dye with indigo, the deep blue color.

night in: Dogon country - Endé



**day 6 (Thursday): Dogon country - Sévaré (95k)**

One more morning of waking up to the sounds of daily life in a Dogon village. The women start pounding millet for breakfast in the early mornings, while girls and boys do their tours to the nearest well for the daily supply of water for the family. Starting in the valley the hike leads from Endé via Yabatalou and Doundiourou to Aindelou on the plateau. Don't forget to turn around every now and then during the climb to the plateau, to enjoy the vast views over the valley.

Enjoy lunch in Aindelou, overlooking the valley.

After lunch the car comes to pick you and the guide up for the trip back to Bandiagara. From Bandiagara the journey continues by bush taxi to Sévaré, where the night is spent.

night in: Sévaré

**day 7 (Friday): Sévaré - Ségou (400k)**

Travel by bus back to Ségou. Depending on the departure time from Sévaré arrival in Ségou is expected in the early afternoon.

A late afternoon walk is made through the Somono neighborhood, one of the oldest parts of town. The neighborhood has some unique red mud houses and the walk gives an impression of daily life in town.

Following on the walk you board a pinasse for a (sunset) trip on the River Niger along the Ségou shore.

night in: Ségou

**day 8 (Saturday): Ségou - Bamako - departure (240k)**

The last day of your trip through Mali has started.

Travel back to Bamako by bus.

Transfer to the airport for your outbound flight.

possibility to shower before departure

Information regarding itinerary

This trip can start at any day of the week. A Saturday start of the trip makes it possible to include a visit to the Djenné market. Market days are: Ségou, Bandiagara and Djenné on Monday, Mopti on Thursday.

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	The Sleeping Camel - room with fan
Djenné	homestay - basic shared facilities
Mopti	Hotel Ya Pas de Problème - room with fan
Dogon country	encampments - rooftop sleeping (mattresses and mosquito nets provided)
Sévaré	Hotel Via Via - room with fan
Ségou	homestay - basic shared facilities
Bamako	<i>possibility to shower before departure at The Sleeping Camel</i>

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.



