



Mali - 8-day itinerary 'comfortable'

Ségou, 7 December 2017

expected dates: to be determined

group size: to be determined

rooms: based on staying in double rooms

Welcome to Mali.

Explore the Dogon villages with traditional granaries, be introduced to the adobe architecture of Djenné, the town which is nick-named the capital of mud. Enjoy the quiet atmosphere of Ségou on the River Niger and get an impression of the bustling harbor in the Venice of Mali.

This 8-day trip offers an introduction to history, architecture, two UNESCO world heritage sites, culture, population groups and daily life in the West African country Mali.

We look forward to taking you on a journey to remember!

In short

1. arrival - Bamako
2. Bamako - Djenné
3. Djenné
4. Djenné - Dogon country
5. Dogon country - Mopti
6. Mopti - Ségou
7. Ségou
8. Ségou - Bamako - departure



Itinerary

day 1 (Saturday): arrival - Bamako

Journey to Mali; arrival at Bamako international airport.

Transfer to the accommodation.

night in: Bamako



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

Morning departure from Bamako for the journey to Djenné.

The road trip offers a first impression of the Savannah landscape with acacia and monkey bread trees (baobab).

Lunch stop in Ségou or San.

Arrival in Djenné is expected in the late afternoon. Djenné, 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.

Depending on the arrival time set out on a walk through the old town of





Djenné in the late afternoon for a first impression of the town.
night in: Djenné

day 3 (Monday): Djenné

Djenné and its surroundings are inhabited by multiple population groups. The morning is used for a visit to a nearby Fulani (herders) and a Bozo (fishermen) village. The village visits give an impression of everyday life in the villages and insights in cultural aspects of the population groups. On Mondays people travel from far and near to Djenné for the weekly market, held on the square in front of the mosque. Afternoon visit to the market and a walk through the old town's alleys, along adobe buildings 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 and the market. Visits to the interior of the mosque are reserved to Muslims.

night in: Djenné



day 4 (Tuesday): Djenné - Dogon country (330k)

Early morning departure from Djenné for a day in Dogon country. Leave the asphalt road at Somadougou and travel into a hardly known part of Dogon country. Visit the roadside village of Balaji Baboye. Nando is the second Dogon village to be visited today. Highlight is its beautiful mosque with organic forms. Continue to Nyogono - a village located on hills. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the foot of the hill before climbing up the hill to visit the village.

A little detour leads to Deguembère, the village where El Hadj Oumar Tall disappeared in a cave on 12 February 1864. Up till today the cave is a pilgrimage place for his descendants. Visit to the cave and the mosque on the hill.

night in: Bandiagara



day 5 (Wednesday): Dogon country - Mopti (140k)

In the morning - on the way to Mopti - two more Dogon villages are visited: Songo and Ficko.

Songo is known for the rock-drawings, made and used by the village elders to teach the village boys and to prepare them for manhood and circumcision.

Ficko's highlights are the caves and the old abandoned village on the hill. Ancient iron ovens were discovered in the village. Awaiting a conservation project they are still underground.



Continue to Mopti for lunch.

Visit to Mopti's women's market and the harbor area in the late afternoon. The Venice of Mali, as Mopti is nicknamed, is situated on both the Bani and Niger rivers. In the harbor fully loaded boats arrive from and depart to the fabled city of Timbuktu.

Sunset river trip to where the Bani and Niger rivers meet. The river banks in this area are inhabited by the Bozo people, who live a nomadic life.

night in: Mopti



day 6 (Thursday): Mopti - Ségou (400k)

Morning departure from Mopti for the road trip to Ségou.

Arrival in the city of 4,444 balanzans is expected in the early afternoon.

Visits are made to a bogolan workshop, to the colonial neighborhood and to a traditional millet beer brewery. Bogolan - mud-cloth - is an ancient way of decorating cloth with mud from the Niger river. During the visit the process of dyeing and decorating can be seen and you are invited to create your own piece of bogolan.

Ségou's colonial neighborhood dates back to the times of the French colonisation of the country, when Ségou was a regional headquarter. The buildings are now in use for government related services.

Finish the afternoon visits with a millet beer tasting.

night in: Ségou

day 7 (Friday): Ségou

Today you are introduced to life on and along the River Niger.

Get on board of a traditionally built pinasse for a day-trip including visits to Segoukoro historical village, Farako pottery village and a fishing village.

Segoukoro was in times past the capital of the Bambara Kingdom. Traces of that period, such as the tomb of Biton Coulibaly and the mosque, he had built for his mother, are still around. Traditionally the village visit starts with a courtesy visit to the village chief, who will be happy to answer your questions.

In the village of Farako the women master the art of pottery. Visits are made to several family compounds to see the women at work. All pottery is made by hand, no machines are used. Once a week, usually during the weekend, the pots are baked in fires at a square in the village.

The Bozo, the fishermen, live in villages and nomadic settlements along the river. A visit is made to one of the Bozo villages.

Lunch is prepared by the captain and eaten on the boat.

night in: Ségou

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

The last day of the trip has arrived.

Morning departure for Bamako, where arrival is expected in the late morning or early afternoon.

Afternoon visit to the National Museum and / or a handicraft market.

Transfer to the airport for your outbound flight.

use of room in Bamako

Information regarding itinerary

This trip can start on any day of the week. When starting the trip on a Saturday a visit to the Monday market in Djenné is included.

Market days in other places: Ségou and Bandiagara on Monday, Mopti on Mondays and Thursdays.

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 | Hotel La Coccinelle 4* - air-conditioned room |
| Djenné | Campement Houber - air-conditioned room |
| Bandiagara | Hotel La Falaise - air-conditioned room |
| Mopti | Hotel Kanaga 4* - air-conditioned room |
| Ségou | Hotel Hambé - 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.

Where no luxury accommodation is available the best-in-town principle has been applied.

Price

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, toll, ferries and border crossing fees
- 🍷 **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, lunch on day 7
- 🍷 **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 and optional 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)

Mali single entry visa
 the letter needed for the visa application is provided upon booking

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.