



Togo-Benin - 15 day itinerary 'adventurous'

expected dates: to be determined
group size: to be determined
rooms: based on double occupancy

Welcome to West Africa!

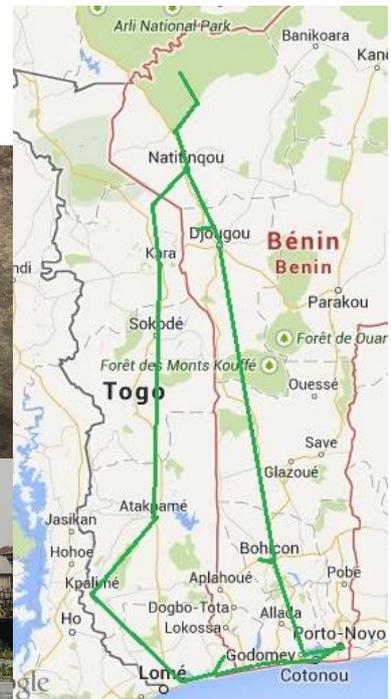
Togo and Benin, neighboring countries are an excellent combination for a West Africa trip. Both countries are loved by travelers for the great mix of culture, history, architecture, nature and population as well as for the possibilities to go off the beaten tracks.

During two weeks you visit the best of the two countries. We take you to several of the countries' highlights and into the villages to get an impression of everyday life.

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

In short

1. arrival - Cotonou
2. Cotonou - Lake Nokoué
3. Lake Nokoué - Abomey
4. Abomey - Taneka country
5. Taneka country - Natitingou
6. Natitingou surroundings
7. Natitingou - Park Pendjari
8. Park Pendjari - Tamberma country
9. Tamberma country - Kara
10. Kara - Kouma Kounda
11. Kouma Kounda surroundings
12. Kouma Kounda - Mono river
13. Mono river - Ouakpè
14. Ouakpè - Ouidah
15. Ouidah - Cotonou - departure



Itinerary

day 1: arrival - Cotonou (20k)

The day is dedicated to the journey to Benin. Arrival at Cotonou international airport. Transfer to your accommodation.

night in: Cotonou





day 2: Cotonou - Lake Nokoué (85k)

Take care of practical issues such as money exchange and arranging a local sim card first thing in the morning, before departure for Porto Novo, the capital of Benin. Visit Porto Novo and the botanical garden. After lunch on board 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 via Aguégué to Ganvié, where the night is spent in a local setting. Don't miss out on seeing the evening market.
night in: Ganvié - Lake Nokoué



day 3: Lake Nokoué - Abomey (130k)

Continue the trip on the lake to Abomey-Calvi. Continue by car to Bohicon for a visit to the underground village. Afternoon visit to Abomey and to the Royal Palace. In former times Abomey was the capital of the then famous Dahomey Kingdom. Each succeeding King built his own palace in town. By the time the French entered the country, there were no less than 12 palaces. All of them were set on fire by King Béhanzin before he fled town to escape colonisation. One palace was spared and is now home to the museum.
night in: Abomey

day 4: Abomey - Taneka country (370k)

Early morning departure for Dassa. Visit Dassa's sacred hills and continue to Taneka country, where arrival is expected in the late afternoon. Upon arrival in the village courtesy visits are made to the Taneka King and to the Spiritual Leader. Both men play an important role in everyday life of the Taneka people, who are loyal 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 belongs 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. Spend the night in a local setting.
night in: Taneka country



day 5: Taneka country - Natitingou (55k)

Morning departure for Natitingou. Afternoon visit to the regional museum and to a brewery of millet beer. Tasting of millet beer and beignets.
night in: Natitingou

day 6: Natitingou surroundings (45k)



Put on your hiking boots. A walk is made on the Atakora Mountain Range with visit to a nomadic Fulani village. The hike finishes at the Kota Falls, an excellent place for a picnic and a refreshing swim. Free afternoon.
night in: Natitingou

day 7: Natitingou - Park Pendjari (350k)

Early morning departure for Park Pendjari 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 species of antelopes, 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 8: Park Pendjari - Tamberma country (325k)

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

Following on the game drive the park is left.

Enjoy lunch and a refreshing swim at the Tanougou falls.

Afternoon departure for Tamberma country. Cross the border into Togo.

The land of the Batammariba is known for the two-story adobe houses. In times past the tatas - as the castle like houses are called locally - were designed to provide maximum protection against hostile tribes. Even though that kind of protection is no more needed nowadays, the people are loyal to their traditions, to their architecture and the way of building. A visit is made to a tata. Tonight you are the guest of a local family. The night is spend under the star-spangled sky on the terrace of a tata.

night in: Tamberma country



day 9: Tamberma country - Kara (130k)

Wake up to the sounds of daily life in Tamberma country. After breakfast time has come to move on.

A visit is made to the Codhani craft center.

Continue to Mount Kabyé, for a hike through nature and villages.

Visits are made to a blacksmith, who works the hot iron with heavy stones and to a potter.

night in: Kara



day 10: Kara - Kouma Kounda (435k)



A long day on the road to travel from the Northeast to the Southwest. Today's destination is Kouma Kounda, a village near Kpalimé. Along the way a visit is made to a bat forest. Arrival in Kouma Kounda is expected in the late afternoon.

night in: Kouma Kounda



day 11: Kouma Kounda surroundings (35k)

Day-hike on Mount Kloto to enjoy nature and villages. The guide explains about the butterflies and about uses of the plants and trees. A picnic lunch is eaten at the Kloto Falls.

night in: Kouma Kounda

day 12: Kouma Kounda - Avévé (220k)

Morning departure to the Southeast of the country, via Tsevié and Vogan. If it happens to be a Friday, a visit to the weekly market in Vogan is included in the itinerary. The Vogan market is the largest in the region.

The rest of the day is dedicated for exploring the villages along the Mono river. In this part of the country the Mono river serves as the border between Togo and Benin.



You are introduced to the people, to everyday life and to traditions in the riverside villages. During the day you visit a basket maker and a potter, you're introduced to the production of palm oil and a visit is made to a sodabi brewery, where you are more than welcome to taste the local liquor. Enjoy the night camping in a riverside village.

night in: Avévé

day 13: Avévé - Ouakpè (115k)

Morning visit to the town of Aklakou followed by departure for Benin. Today the journey goes to Grand Popo. Lunch is eaten on the oceanfront. Afternoon visit to the sea turtle conservation project. Enjoy some quiet time at the beach.

Late afternoon departure for Ouakpè.

night in: Ouakpè

day 14: Ouakpè - Ouidah (35k)

Morning visit to the village of Ouakpè, where you are introduced to the process of salt making.

Continue for Ouidah. The town is known for both the voodoo religion and the slave history. Visit the pythons' temple and the Fondation Zinsou museum. Walk the 4k long slave route taking you along landmarks as the well, where people had to wash off their African sins, and the Tree of Forgetfulness to the Door of No Return at the ocean, where people were boarded to faraway unknown destinations to be sold as slaves. If time allows visit the sacred forest.

night in: Ouidah

day 15: Ouidah - Cotonou - departure (85k)

Travel to Cotonou over the Route de Pêches, the Fishing Road, lined by palm trees and fishing villages. Enjoy lunch at the oceanfront.

Afternoon visit to one of Cotonou's craft centers.

Transfer to the airport for your outbound 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 weather circumstances. The above itinerary is the guideline. Your guide suggests adjustments if necessary.

Suggested accommodations

Cotonou	La Maison CanelYa - room with fan, private bathroom
Ganvié	homestay, basic facilities
Abomey	Hotel Carrefour - room with fan, private bathroom
Taneka country	homestay, basic facilities
Natitingou	Auberge Le Béliér - room with fan, private bathroom
Park Pendjari	Hotel Pendjari - room with fan, private bathroom
Tamberma country	homestay, basic facilities
Kara	Hotel La Douceur - room with fan, private bathroom

Kouma Kounda	homestay, basic facilities
Avévé	camping, basic facilities
Ouakpè	homestay, basic hut, shared facilities
Ouidah	Hotel La Joie - room with fan, private bathroom

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, toll 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:** full board day 2-15
- ✿ **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 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)

Togo	single entry visa
Benin	multiple 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.

