



## Togo-Benin - 15 day itinerary 'medium'

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 - Grand Popo
3. Grand Popo - Agbodrafo
4. Agbodrafo - Kpalimé
5. Kpalimé surroundings
6. Kpalimé - Kara
7. Kara - Tamberma country
8. Tamberma country - Park Pendjari
9. Park Pendjari
10. Park Pendjari - Taneka country
11. Taneka country - Dassa
12. Dassa - Abomey
13. Abomey - Ganvié
14. Ganvié - Porto Novo
15. Porto Novo - 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 - Grand Popo (90k)**

Take care of practical issues such as money exchange and arranging a local sim card first thing in the morning, before departure for Ouidah via the Route de Pêches, the Fishing Road, lined by palm trees and fishing villages.

Afternoon visit to the town of Ouidah, which is known for both the voodoo religion and the slave history. Visit the pythons' temple and the 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 and the nearby village where salt is being extracted.

Continue to Grand Popo in the late afternoon.

*night in: Grand Popo*

**day 3: Grand Popo - Agbodrafo (120k)**

Cross the border to Togo, where 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.

Visit Aklakou on the way to Agbodrafo. Signs of the voodoo religion - such as idols and a voodoo palace - can be seen here.

*night in: Agbodrafo*

**day 4: Agbodrafo - Kpalimé (165k)**

In times past Agbodrafo - then called Porto Seguro - was a heaven for slave traders, who used to hide their victims in the house of Woold before boarding them for faraway destinations.

Morning visit to the slaves' house followed by a boat trip on Lake Togo for a visit to Togoville. In Togoville a treaty between Germany and Togoland was signed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Cross the lake once more and continue by car to Lomé for a visit to the largest fetish market in West Africa.

Continue to Kpalimé in the late afternoon.

*night in: Kpalimé*

**day 5: Kpalimé surroundings (40k)**

In the morning a botanical walk is made on Mount Kloto. The guide explains about the many uses of plants and trees while colorful butterflies can be seen all around. A visit is made to a women's cooperation where cacao and coffee are roasted.

Afternoon visit to the craft centre in Kpalimé.

*night in: Kpalimé*

**day 6: Kpalimé - Kara (415k)**

A long day on the road to travel from the Southwest to the Northeast of the country. Along the way lunch is eaten and stops are made to visit the Aledjo rock and the Bafilo weavers.

Kara is often referred to as the second capital. For good reason: the town has a presidential palace and







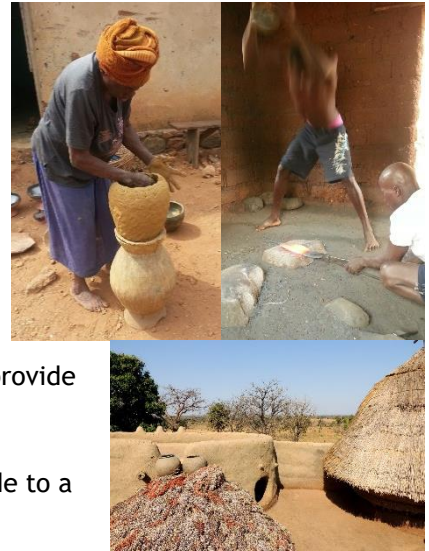
all facilities needed for the government.  
*night in: Kara*

**day 7: Kara - Tamberma country (175k)**

Morning visit to Mount Kabyé, where visits are made to a blacksmith, who works the hot iron with heavy stones and to a potter. Afternoon departure for Tamberma country with a visit to the Codhani craft center along the way.

The land of the Batammariba - as the Tamberma population is also called - 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 this 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.

*night in: Tamberma country*



**day 8: Tamberma country - Park Pendjari (250k)**

Cross the border to Benin. Morning hike on the Atacora Mountain Range from Koussou, followed by departure for Tanougou.

Lunch at the Tanougou Falls, where a refreshing bath can be taken. Continue to Park Pendjari in the afternoon for a game drive.

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.

*night in: Park Pendjari*



**day 9: Park Pendjari (200k)**

Enjoy another day in the park with game drives in the early morning and the late afternoon. The tour through the park takes you to several of the viewing points. Lunch is eaten in one of the park's accommodations.

*night in: Park Pendjari*

**day 10: Park Pendjari - Taneka country (230k)**



Enjoy one more game drive in the early morning before leaving the park.

Today's destination is one of the villages in Taneka country.

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 encampment.

*night in: Taneka country*



**day 11: Taneka country - Dassa (300k)**

Morning departure for Djougou, where visits are made to a workshop where aluminium is recycled, to a leather workshop and to a women's weaving cooperation.

Lunch is eaten in Djougou. 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 12: Dassa - Abomey (90k)**

Morning departure for Abomey. Along the way a visit is made to the underground village near Bohicon.

Afternoon visit to the museum in Abomey's Royal Palace and a walk through town along the remains of the former Royal Palaces. In times past there was a total of 12 palaces in town. When the French entered the Dahomey Kingdom, King Béhazin set the palaces on fire before fleeing town himself. Only one of the palaces survived the fires.

*night in: Abomey*

**day 13: Abomey - Ganvié (120k)**

Morning departure for Abomey-Calvi, where you go on board 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. The night is spent in a stilt hotel. Don't miss out on seeing the evening market.

*night in: Ganvié*

**day 14: Ganvié - Porto Novo**

Continue the boat trip on the lake to less-known stilt villages like Aguégué. Set foot ashore again and cover the remaining kilometres to Porto Novo by car.

Afternoon visit to the capital of Benin with visits to the botanical garden, the ethnographical museum and Adjarra craft village.

*night in: Porto Novo*

**day 15: Porto Novo - Cotonou - departure (85k)**

The last day of the trip has started.

Morning departure for Cotonou. Visit to the Dantokpa market and to a craft centre.

Enjoy lunch and a relaxing afternoon at the oceanfront.

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
Grand Popo	camping at the beach
Agbodrafo	Hotel Ecole Safari - room with fan, private bathroom
Kpalimé	Hotel Le Geyser - room with fan, private bathroom
Kara	Hotel La Douceur - room with fan, private bathroom
Tamberma country	Otamari Lodge - room with fan, shared facilities
Park Pendjari	Hotel Pendjari - room with fan, private bathroom
Taneka country	Auberge Villageoise - basic hut, shared facilities
Dassa	Ferme Auberge Chez Armand - hut with fan, private bathroom
Abomey	Auberge d'Abomey - room with fan, private bathroom
Ganvié	Chez M - room with private bathroom
Porto Novo	Centre Songhai - 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:** breakfast day 2-15, lunch day 3 and 8, dinner day 2 and 11
- 🍷 **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.