



Togo-Benin - 15 day itinerary 'comfortable'

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

Welcome to West Africa!

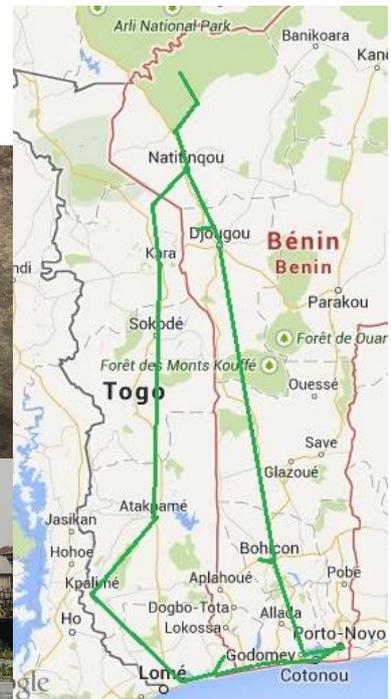
Togo and Benin, neighboring countries are an excellent combination for a West Africa trip. Both countries are loved by travelers for the great mix of culture, history, architecture, nature and population as well as for the possibilities to go off the beaten tracks.

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 - Natitingou
8. Natitingou - Park Pendjari
9. Park Pendjari
10. Park Pendjari - Djougou
11. Djougou - Dassa
12. Dassa - Abomey
13. Abomey - Porto Novo
14. 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 19th 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





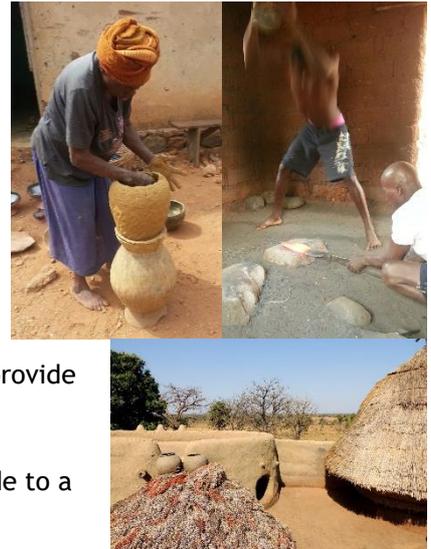
all facilities needed for the government.
night in: Kara

day 7: Kara - Natitingou (220k)

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.

Cross the border to Benin in the late afternoon.
night in: Natitingou



day 8: Natitingou - Park Pendjari (205k)

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 - Djougou (265k)



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

Continue to 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.

Continue to Djougou for the night.

night in: Djougou



day 11: Djougou - Dassa (265k)

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 - Porto Novo (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. Visit Ganvié.

Continue to Porto Novo for the night.

night in: Ganvié

**day 14: Porto Novo**

The day is dedicated to Benin's capital 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 Rouge - AC room
Grand Popo	Awalé Plage - AC room
Agbodrafo	Hotel Ecole Safari - AC room
Kpalimé	Résidence Parc Hotel - AC room
Kara	Hotel Kara - AC room
Natitingou	Hotel Totoro - AC room
Park Pendjari	Hotel Pendjari - AC room
Djougou	Hotel du Lac - AC room
Dassa	Hotel Jeko - AC room
Abomey	Auberge d'Abomey - AC room
Porto Novo	Centre Songhai - AC room
Cotonou	possibility to shower at Maison CanelYa

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
- 🍷 **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.