



Mali - 7-day itinerary Manding country

expected dates: to be determined

group size: to be determined

rooms: to be determined

Welcome to Mali.

Just outside the capital, Manding country is awaiting you. Looking for an immersion into history, culture and everyday life? This itinerary offers off-the-beaten tourist track experiences and a slow travel pace.

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

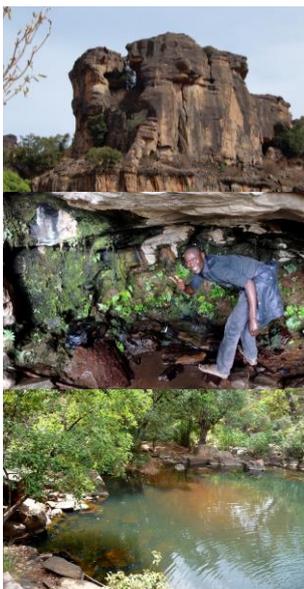
In short

1. Bamako - Siby
2. Siby & surroundings
3. Siby - Kangaba
4. Kangaba - Kela
5. Kela & surroundings
6. Kela - Badougou Nafadji
7. Badougou Nafadji - Bamako



Itinerary

day 1: Bamako - Siby



Morning meet-up with your guide and departure for Siby, at only 45 ks from Bamako. The village along the Guinea road is set in a rock scenery.

Visit to the Arch of Kamadjan, where the guide shares the story of the rock formation. Visit to the consultation cave below the arch. Set out on a short hike to visit the panther cave. Decent hiking footwear is recommended. Continue to the Dendjeni Falls for a relaxing afternoon. Bring your swim wear for a refreshing bath.

A picnic lunch is eaten along the way.

night in: Siby

day 2: Siby and surroundings

Morning visit to the cave, where water drips from the rocks. Put on your hiking boots for the climb to the cave, where local youth likes to gather. Fill up your bottle with all naturally filtered water.

Afternoon visit to Djeliba. A climb uphill leads to a cave, where ancient rock drawings can be seen. It is yet unknown when they were made.

Visit Tabou's sacred well and Kalasa on the way back to Siby.

If you happen to be around on a Saturday, a visit to Siby's weekly market is added to the itinerary.

night in: Siby



day 3: Siby - Kangaba

Departure from Siby for the road trip to Kangaba. Just before arriving in Kourémalé (short visit possible) we leave the asphalt road. While the road to Kangaba isn't the best, it takes you through a rural area with roadside villages, including nomadic mining settlements. A picnic lunch is eating along the way and there is plenty of time to include stops and interact with the locals.

night in: Kangaba

**day 4: Kangaba - Kela**

Kangaba once served as the capital of the Manding empire. Morning visit to Kouroukanfouga, the site where Soundiata Keita and his wise men made the declaration of the 44 Manding articles. The articles are nowadays referred to as what may have been the first declaration of human rights.

Continue to Kamablon. Once every seven years this sacred hut is given a new thatched roof. People travel from far and near into town for this special event. A local guide explains about the meaning and importance of the sacred hut. Be aware to only circle the hut counter clockwise!

After lunch departure for Kela.

Late afternoon visit to Lake Djolé to enjoy the water lilies and the beautiful late afternoon colors. Termite hills can be seen on the short walk to the lake.

night in: Kela

**day 5: Kela**

The day is dedicated to Kela and surroundings.

Set out on an early morning walk through the village to get a good impression of village life. Don't be surprised if the welcoming Manding people invite you to their compound to meet the family.

Visits are made to the blessed well and to the couple of baobabs, where your guide shares the story of Nankany and Sokobadjan.

In the times of Soundiata Keita the sword of Touramakan was left in the care of the Diabaté family of griots. The family is visited to see the double bladed sword and to hear its story. Note: photography of the sword is not allowed.

Afternoon visit to a nearby site, where women extract gold using water. You're invited to give it a try.

night in: Kela

**day 6: Kela - Badougou Nafadji**

Time has come to say goodbye to the village of Kela. Today's trip takes you along the Kangaba-Bamako road. Visit to Kirina's sacred trees Sounsouni, where a local explains about the importance and meaning of this site. In Bancoumana pottery can be seen (unless it happens to be a market day, in which case the market is visited).

Optional: visit to the nautical base for a trip by canoe or pirogue on the river Niger. Note: the river shores and the nearby isles have been turned into a gold mining settlement.

Continue par Dyoliba - the natal village of Salif Keita - to Badougou Nafadji.

night in: Badougou Nafadji

day 7: Badougou Nafadji - Bamako

Morning visit to Badougou Nafadji followed by departure for Samayana to visit the sand fishermen. Sand fishing from the River Niger is practised in many places. In Samayana it is done at a larger scale. The visit offers an impression of the hard work and of the importance of the sand industry. A picnic lunch is eaten along the way. Afternoon arrival in Bamako. Drop-off at the place of your choice.



Information regarding itinerary

This itinerary can start on any day of the week. When a visit coincides with market day, a visit to the market is included.

This being a trip with a slow travel pace, there is plenty of time for all visits as well as to include (photo) stops along the way.

Rainy season

When traveling during the rainy season the itinerary may need to be adjusted to the weather circumstances; not all sites (or roads) may be accessible. The above itinerary is the guideline. Your guide will suggest adjustments if necessary.

Siby visits / hiking

Instead of doing visits by car in the Siby surroundings, it is possible to set out on an overnight hike with camping in nature or a village. Equally possible to extend the time in Siby with a (multiple) day hike.

Suggested accommodations

Siby	Campement de l'Arche - basic hut, shared facilities
Kangaba	Hotel Résidence Kangaba - AC room with private bathroom
Kela	Campement Fama - basic hut, shared facilities
Badougou Nafadji	Campement Nafadji - basic hut, shared facilities

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:** per 4WD, including all costs related to the transport, such as driver, fuel, toll
- 🍷 **guide:** accompanying English or French spoken guide, 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 2-7, lunch day 1, 3 and 5-7, dinner day 1-2 and 4-6
- 🍷 **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

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.