



18-day Guinea and Sierra Leone group tour nature & culture of less-known West Africa

dates: 07-24 November 2020

group size: 6-12 pax

rooms: single and double rooms available

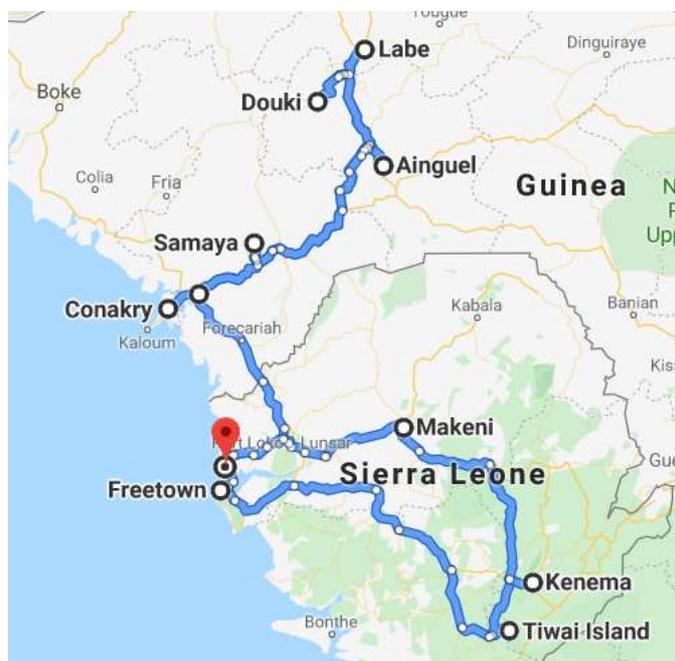
Welcome to West Africa.

This trip through Guinea and Sierra Leone takes us to some of the most stunning places of the countries, including the Fouta Djallon, the Guinean highlands, Tiwai Island and tropical beaches. In addition to exploring the natural gems of each country, we meet the people and are introduced to their culture and everyday life.

Join us on a journey to remember!

In short

1. arrival Conakry (Guinea)
2. Conakry - Waliya
3. Waliya - Kindia
4. Kindia - Dalaba
5. Fouta Djallon
6. Fouta Djallon
7. Fouta Djallon
8. Fouta Djallon
9. Fouta Djallon
10. Dalaba - Coyah
11. Coyah - Freetown (Sierra Leone)
12. Freetown
13. Freetown - Banana Island
14. Banana Island - Kambama
15. Tiwai Island - Kenema
16. Kenema - Makeni
17. Makeni - Lungi
18. Tasso & Bunce Island - departure



Itinerary

day 1 (Saturday): arrival - Conakry

The day is dedicated to the journey to Guinea. Arrival at Conakry international airport. Transfer to the accommodation.



night in: Conakry

meals included: -

travel distance and estimated time: 10 ks - 1h or more (depending on traffic)

day 2 (Sunday): Conakry - Waliya

We make our way out of town and travel to Samaya village. The journey offers us a first impression of the Guinean infrastructure. We share the windy roads with trucks and fully loaded bush taxis. Leaving the tarmac road, we continue on a dirt road through a lush rural area.

Samaya village is situated on a lake with the same name. On Sunday people travel from far and near to the village for the week market, which is one of the prettiest in the region. Different ethnic groups such as Fula and Susu visit the market. We visit the market and enjoy a picnic lunch on the lakeside, before getting on board for the boat trip to the village of Waliya, where we camp for the night.

Dances typical for this region are performed for us, and we are invited to dance along on the rhythm of the balafon and drums.

night in: Waliya

meals included: B-L-D

travel distance and estimated time: 105 ks - 4-5 hours

day 3 (Monday): Waliya - Kindia

After breakfast we visit the village. By boat we travel to the Susu village Kaporo. We visit the village and cross the lake one more time to return to Samaya. By car we continue to Kindia, where our arrival is expected in the late afternoon. In town we visit the weavers and the wood carvers. Statues as high as 3 metres are made here. Enjoy exploring the town.

night in: Kindia

meals included: B-L

travel distance and estimated time: 60 ks - 2.5 hours

day 4 (Tuesday): Kindia - Dalaba

Before leaving town we visit fabric dyers.

The day is dedicated to the drive into the Fouta Djallon highlands. On the way we visit the Bride's Veil, a waterfall is set in a scenery with tall bamboo.

Dalaba is the starting point for our time in Fouta Djallon. It is one of the places in Guinea, where the French colonial history has been preserved. We visit the neighborhood of the 'chargeurs' with its colonial buildings, the French governor's house and the 'case à palabre' in traditional Fula style.

Both from the governor's house and from our hotel we have great views on the Fouta Djallon.

night in: Dalaba

meals included: B-L

travel distance and estimated time: 215 ks - 4-5 hours

day 5 (Wednesday): Fouta Djallon

Today we travel deeper into Fouta Djallon. Before doing so we visit a nearby hamlet, where the women are experts in weaving baskets and mats. The beautiful crafts can be bought direct from the women.

We continue our journey to Pita, where we visit the weavers.

After a picnic lunch at the Kinkon falls we continue to Ainguel for the night.

night in: Ainguel

meals included: B-L-D

travel distance and estimated time: 80 ks - 3-4 hours

day 6 (Thursday): Fouta Djallon

After breakfast we set out on a short hike in the surroundings. We get an impression of the village with

traditional Fula huts and visit the nearby falls and God's bridge.

We continue our road-trip to Douki. In the afternoon a walk (of about 1.5 hours) is made through an area with impressive nature and rocks. At some point it may feel like you're in the jungle, and not surprisingly this area is nick-named Indiana Jones.

night in: Douki

meals included: B-L-D

travel distance and estimated time: 30 ks - 1.5 hours

day 7 (Friday): Fouta Djalon

Morning road-trip to Labé. Keep an eye out for primates. Fouta Djalon is home to five species including chimpanzees, baboons and red monkeys.

In Labé we visit the Fouta Djalon museum and the vibrant market area.

Through story telling and cultural exchange we learn more about the Fula population group and their history.

night in: Labé

meals included: B-L

travel distance and estimated time: 90 ks - 4-5 hours

day 8 (Saturday): Fouta Djalon

A visit is made to a sandpit for an introduction to artisanal sand digging.

We continue to the Saala falls, one of the highest falls in the country. Here we have a fair chance to see and hear primates. Baboons can often be seen sitting on the rocks near the water, and with a bit of luck some chimpanzees may show up.

Picnic lunch at the falls, where we can enjoy a refreshing bath.

night in: Labé

meals included: B-L

travel distance and estimated time: 100 ks - 1.5-2 hours

day 9 (Sunday): Fouta Djalon

We drive to Fougoumba, the ancient religious capital of the Fouta Djalon, where we can see the last remaining mosque with a thatched roof. The history of the Fouta Djalon and the ancient governance of the area are explained to us.

On the way to Dalaba a visit is made to the Ditin Falls, another of the region's natural wonders.

night in: Dalaba

meals included: B-L

travel distance and estimated time: 140 ks - 4-5 hours

day 10 (Monday): Dalaba - Coyah

A long drive to arrive at Coyah today. On the way we visit the Kissili falls, where we enjoy a picnic lunch. Our arrival in Coyah is expected in the late afternoon.

night in: Coyah

meals included: B-L

travel distance and estimated time: 345 ks - 7-8 hours

day 11 (Tuesday): Coyah - Freetown

A long day of driving as we cross the border into Sierra Leone and towards the capital, Freetown.

Arrival time in Freetown in the afternoon, depending on the time needed at the border.

night in: Freetown

meals included: B-L

travel distance and estimated time: 265 ks - 6-7 hours + time at the border

day 12 (Wednesday): Freetown

We explore Sierra Leone's capital the local way, by using a keke (tuktuk). We visit the Peace Museum for an understanding of the war history of the country. Visits also include the national museum, landmarks and the Big Market; a great place to buy local crafts.

night in: Freetown

meals included: B-L

travel distance and estimated time: short transfers

day 13 (Thursday): Freetown - Banana Island

Early morning drive to Kent, from where we take a boat to Banana Island. A transfer of 15-30 minutes depending on the current.

Banana Island is not only a place to relax and enjoy some time on the beach. It also offers nature and history. We explore the island by setting out on a historical tour. The walk takes us to the structures of the first European settlers in Sierra Leone, including the ruins of the Slave Hole, the Old Fort, the old St. Lukés church and to a small museum with chains and tools dating back to the time of the slave traders. We combine the walk with a visit to the village of Dublin, where we get a glimpse of the past and present of Banana Island.

After lunch a forest walk is made to learn more about the natural beauty of the island. The dense forest is a natural habitat much-loved by birds. The substantial number of species include the rare Picathartes Gymnocephalus and the endangered Rufous Fishing owl.

night in: Banana Island

meals included: B-L-D

travel distance and estimated time: 60 ks - 1-1.5 hours

day 14 (Friday): Banana Island - Kambama

An early breakfast followed by the boat trip back to the peninsula. We're expected at Tacugama's Chimpanzee sanctuary at 10:15am for a guided tour. Even though the chimpanzee is a protected animal, they are still being hunted and kept as pets. Quite a few chimps - orphaned or rescued from captivity - live at the sanctuary and are in the process of reacclimatising to community life.

Following on the tour we start the long drive to Kambama in the East of the country. The village on the Moa river is home to the Mendé people. Cultural exchange with the villagers.

night in: Kambama

meals included: B-L-D

travel distance and estimated time: 325 ks - 5-6 hours

day 15 (Saturday): Tiwai Island - Kenema

A short boat ride from the shore takes us to Tiwai island; a sanctuary and a haven for wildlife, including 11 species of primates, about 100 butterfly species, over 130 bird species and the rare and endemic pygmy hippo. We explore the island through a tree walk (1.5-2 hours) and a forest walk (1.5-2 hours). Lunch on the island.

In the late afternoon we transfer back to Kambama, say goodbye to the villagers and continue to Kenema, a pleasant town in the heart of the diamond mining region. Many a diamond trader has an office in town.

night in: Kenema

meals included: B-L

travel distance and estimated time: 90 ks - 1.5-2 hours

day 16 (Sunday): Kenema - Makeni

We visit a nearby village to learn about artisanal diamond mining, which is especially practised by the young men.

A mask dancing ceremony is performed for us.

Afternoon road-trip to Makeni.

night in: Makeni

meals included: B-L

travel distance and estimated time: 210 ks - ca. 3 hours

day 17 (Monday): Makeni - Lungi

Visit of Makeni, including the market and a walk along the town's architectural landmarks, such as the town hall, the mosque and the post office.

Afternoon road-trip to Lungi.

night in: Lungi

meals included: B-L

travel distance and estimated time: 165 ks - ca. 2.5 hours

day 18 (Tuesday): Tasso & Bunce Island - departure

The last day of our trip is dedicated to Tasso and Bunce Island, situated in the Sierra Leone river. We explore village life on Tasso Island. After lunch we continue to Bunce Island, for a visit to an old slave fort.

Late afternoon transfer back to Lungi. Evening transfer to the airport for the outbound flight.

day-use of room in: Lungi

meals included: B-L

travel distance and estimated time: 120 ks - ca. 2 hours

Suggested accommodations

place	accommodation	room type
Conakry	Palmiers Guesthouse	AC rooms
Waliya	camping	Tents provided
Kindia	Hotel Marcica	AC rooms
Dalaba	Sib Hotel	Fan rooms (cooler climate)
Ainguel	encampment	Huts with bathroom, rooms with shared facilities and camping (tents provided) <i>depending on group size</i>
Douki	encampment	Huts or rooms (shared facilities) and camping (tents provided) <i>depending on group size</i>
Labé	Tata Hotel	Fan rooms
Coyah	Parc Milly Mamadou	Fan bungalows and rooms
Freetown	Roy's Hotel	AC rooms
Banana Island	Daltons Banana Guesthouse	Fan rooms (with private or shared bathroom) and camping (tents, mattresses and bedding provided) <i>depending on group size</i>
Kambama	camping	Tents provided
Kenema	Paloma Guesthouse	AC rooms
Makeni	Wusum Hotel	AC rooms
Lungi	Lungi Airport Hotel	AC rooms

If any of the above-listed accommodations is not available at the time of booking, the best possible alternative is chosen.

Twin rooms are rare, if you desire a twin room, ask us about the possibilities.

Trip dates

07-24 November 2020

Prices

Per person, based on double occupancy of rooms and tents	€ 3,795
Single supplement	€ 639

Individual extensions and tailor-made trips possible.

Included

- **private transport:** by 4WDs*, including all costs related to the transport, such as driver, fuel, toll, border crossing fees and empty one-way of the vehicle(s)
** the number of 4WDs is adapted to the group size, with a maximum of 3 clients per vehicle*
- **airport transfers:** according to the arrival and departure listed in the itinerary
- **guide:** accompanying English-speaking 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 2-18, lunch day 2-18, dinner day 2, 5-6 and 13-14
- **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
- fees related to photography sessions, filming and interviews

Group size

6-12 pax

Transport

Private transport per 4WD. The number of cars is adapted to the group size, with a maximum of 3 clients per vehicle.

Comfort level of the journey

Guinea and Sierra Leone do not yet have well-established tourism facilities and infrastructure. Expect dirt roads and potholed roads to be part of the trip. Power and water cuts can happen; also in hotels. Several nights are spent camping in basic conditions.

Walks (on uneven surface) of a couple of hours are part of the itinerary.

Being open-minded, flexible and with an adventurous attitude are required to fully appreciate this trip.

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.

Required visa(s)

Guinea single entry visa

Sierra Leone single entry visa

Invitation letters for visas

If invitation letters are requested for the visa application, these are provided after receipt of the (down) payment.

Trip organization

The organization of your trip, including reservations for accommodation, transport and guides, starts as soon as the (down) payment of the minimum number of participants has been received.

Insurances

It is the travelers' responsibility to take care of personal insurances, such as health insurance, travel insurance and cancellation insurance. Insurances cover and limit unexpected costs, e.g. in case of a medical treatment during the trip or when you have to cancel or change an existing reservation.

Cancellation by the traveler

In case of cancellation of the trip by the traveler, the following costs apply:

- till six weeks prior to the start of the trip: the down payment
- six weeks till two weeks prior to the start of the trip: 70% of the costs of the trip
- less than two weeks prior to the start of the trip: 100% of the costs of the trip

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.

Responsible travel

Papillon Reizen values taking her responsibility. That is why we pay a fair price for goods and services. Besides all our activities contribute to the [Papillon funds](#).

Information

Extensive travel and country information is provided after booking.