

MALI

MALI THE JEWEL OF WEST AFRICA

November 9 – 19, 2008

Sunday 9 - : USA – Bamako

Arrival in Bamako.

Meeting and assistance at the airport.

Transfer to hotel SALAM 5**** or similar. Dinner and overnight.

Monday 10 - : Bamako

After breakfast, city tour of Bamako. A view from the hill of knowledge will show us the only three high points of the city (central Bank, the Sofitel hotel and the minarets of the grand mosque). Bamako is a nice, flat, shady but typical African city, visit the recycling market of Medine. Lunch in the African restaurant of Santoro, then visit of the handicraft centre and the centre of traditional medicine, with a exhibit of several traditional healing treatments explained by a specialist..

Dinner and overnight.



Tuesday 11 - : Bamako – Timbuktu

Early morning flight to Timbuktu, mythical and mysterious city of Mali. We start our visit in Timbuktu with the Djingareiber mosque, built in 1325, an architectural jewel of the Sudanese art which spread in the sub-Saharan countries, the mosque is on the list of The World Heritage of the UNESCO then we continue towards the Sidi Yahiya mosque, built in 1400, which is the best preserved, then Sankoré mosque, which represented the university founded in the Mali Empire time.

We will discover some of the houses where famous western explorers and travellers have stayed, such as René Caillé, Gordon Laing and Heinrich Barth, who is by far the most famous pioneer to the sub-Saharan countries.

Lunch in route.

In the afternoon, we visit the museum of Tuareg and Songhai traditions. Check in Hotel Hendrina Khan. Dinner and overnight.

Wednesday 12 – : Timbuktu

We will visit Ahmad Baba Centre for Islamic archives and meet the Director with whom we can discuss of Islamic art in Mali in general.

In the afternoon, camel ride to go and visit an authentic Tuareg encampment.

Dinner and overnight.

Thursday 13 – : Timbuktu – Mopti

Breakfast, then board the 4WD and drive towards Mopti.

Lunch in route.

After lunch, drive to Mopti. Visit the Komoguel mosque, the docks and the workshops of making boats, the harbour and the market.

Check in Hotel Ambédjélé 3*** or similar. Dinner and overnight.



Friday 14 – : Mopti – Sangha (Dogon land)

After breakfast, we board the 4WD and start our excursion to the Dogon land, starting with the village of Songho. Visit the village and discover the rock paintings in the circumcision grotto. Continue to Sangha. Check in Hotel le Campement 2**.

In the afternoon, we will visit the 2 sections of Upper Ogol and Lower Ogol ; we will discover the “Hogon” temple, he is considered as the spiritual chief of the village, the menstruation house, the “guinna”.
Dinner and overnight.

Saturday 15 – : Ireli - Amani – Banani - Koundo – Sangha

Hiking session in the land of Vertical Villages to visit: Iréli ; Amani-yaye, Banani and the plain village of Koundo. Lunch en route. In the afternoon, we will attend the Mask dance performance, and drive back to Mopti. Check in hotel Ambédjélé.

Dinner and overnight.

Sunday 16 – : Sangha – Niger Cruise - Mopti

In the morning, we cruise the Niger river during the whole day, stopping at several bozo villages, such as Barkoundaga , Saya and Kotaka. We will picnic and continue discovering the various villages.

Check in hotel Ambédjélé 3***. Dinner and overnight.



Monday 17 – : Mopti – Djenné – Mopti

Breakfast and depart towards Djenné, which is around 130 km from Mopti, listed on UNESCO's World heritage. We will cross Bani River taking the ferry. We reach the city of Djenné and visit the Grand Mosque the largest in West Africa and has a Sudanese architectural type. Every Monday, the city is rushed by thousands of people and made polychrome with all goods sold in.

Lunch downtown. We continue our exploration of Djenné in the afternoon visiting the Grand Mosque and the market.

Late afternoon, back to Mopti. Dinner and overnight.



Tuesday 18 – : Mopti – San - Ségou

We depart towards San, visit the mosque and lunch. In the afternoon, drive towards Ségou, visit the handicraft Center and check in hotel l'Indépendance 3*** or similar. Tonight, we attend the puppet show. Dinner and overnight.

Wednesday 19 – : Ségou - Bamako - Paris

Drive in the morning to Bamako. Visit of the national museum and check in Hotel Salam (or similar) for day-use. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure, either strolling in the market place of Bamako, or enjoy the pool at the hotel. Late evening, transfer to Bamako airport to catch up the flight to Paris.

MALI: The Jewel of West Africa



Djingareiber Mosque



Waiting for the ferry



Sunset on the River Niger

- *Journey to famed Timbuktu*
- *Experience life along the River Niger*
- *Indulge in the largest open-air market in Africa at Djenne, the melting pot of Mali, where all of the ethnic groups come to trade*
- *Expect warm weather, magical sunsets, incredible markets, the possibility to interact with the locals (Bambara, Malinke, Fulani, Bobo, Bozo, Dogon, Songhai, Tuareg and Hausa people), unique cultural experiences, and many unforgettable memories.*



Pricing & Inclusions

1. Double occupancy for 6+1..... = € **2760/person**
2. Double occupancy for 8+1..... = € **2610/person**
3. Double occupancy for 10+1..... = € **2490/person**
4. Double occupancy for 12+1//... = € **2410/person**
5. Single room.....= € **375**

Including :

- Accommodation at Hotels listed in the program
- All lunches.
- Transfers IN/OUT
- All visits to sites and museums.
- National Malian guide and local guides at the various villages.
- Transportation in a Mini-bus (a 30 seater) with A/C and 4 WD vehicles for 4 days.
- One way domestic flight Bamako / Timbuktu
- Me as tour-leader and my fees for the whole tour
- My round-trip flight ticket from Tunis to Bamako
- Water on board.

Not including :

1. Personal expenses
2. Camera fees in museums = 0,5 Euro/per camera

These prices are calculated on June 16, 2008 rate exchange : €1 = \$1,5478