

BENIN

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM IN BENIN

10 DAYS

Benin can well be the ideal destination for those willing to experience the real Africa. It is safe, diverse and has a great personality. Most of Benin's population continues to live in rural villages where the Voodoo animist rituals are still alive. We propose a tour based on the principles of responsible tourism; live with the locals and get to know their habits, families and traditions. We will use local transport during this trip which will even give us a better idea of the daily life in this part of the world. Indigenous customs will be closely observed by interacting with our hosts and other inhabitants we find along the way.

Required fitness level: basic

DAY 1:

Arrival in Cotonou in the afternoon

DAY 2:

Cotonou - Ganvié (explore Cotonou, Dantopka market - West Africa's largest urban market - and surprising communist monuments, pirogue to Ganvié, the "African Venice")

DAY 3:

Ganvié – Cotonou - Ouidah (observe Tofi ladies selling their goods, visit on foot of the colonial quarter, the Voodoo forest – a natural temple inhabited by the African Gods and Goddesses – continue the walk along the slave trail)

DAY 4:

Ouidah – Cotonou – Cove – Gbaname (bush taxi to Benin's rural interior, welcome party in Gbaname village and traditional "masquerade")

DAY 5:

Gbaname – Sowe – Assiagbome - Gbaname (get to know the Yoruba culture, trek to small villages in the area, Gueledé dances)

DAY 6:

Gbaname – Peul villages (3hrs trek in order to find our tattooed nomad friends)

DAY 7:

Peul villages – Gossowe – Gbaname (trek through the beautiful hilly area guided by one of our Peul hosts, visit to an educative project along the way)

DAY 8:

Gbaname – Cove – Cotonou – Atlantic Coast (get to know the local fishing population, sunset at the beach)

DAY 9:

Atlantic Coast - Cotonou (beach, relax and enjoy the local grilled seafood). In the evening: **final departure**.

DAY 10:

Arrival to European airport in the evening (if travelling with Royal Air Maroc one can visit Casablanca City Centre).

Recommended period: All year round

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