



## Discover wondrous Mali with Toguna Adventure Tours

- Day 1: Evening: Arrive Bamako Senou Airport at 21h30 on Air France – transfer to hotel  
Jan 18 – Thurs Stay the night in Bamako at The Grand Hotel, 4\*
- Day 2: All Day: Free day in Bamako – relax/enjoy the swimming pool  
Jan 19 - Fri  
Evening: We recommend dinner at San Toro restaurant, the best African restaurant in Mali, that has live kora music while you dine starting at 20h00 (but they do not serve beer, wine or alcohol) – if you would like to listen to live music afterwards, we recommend Le Hogon, but it doesn't get started until late – it is good to arrive after 22h00 and the music continues until 02-03h00 – Toumani Diabate (or his band) often plays around 01h00  
Night: Stay the night in Bamako at the Grand Hotel
- Day 3: All Day: We will spend the day visiting the artisanat, Mali Chic (upscale boutique that sells art/products made in Mali), various marches and the Women and Children's bogolon (mud cloth) atelier – if it is a clear day (during the Harmattan season it is not as clear), we can drive up to Point G for a panoramic view of Bamako and the river Niger  
Jan 20 - Sat  
Evening: This night, we recommend dinner at Bla Bla Restaurant which is a trendy bar/restaurant with good food and drink – Oumou Sangare sings at her hotel on Saturday nights after 22h00 when she is in town; if she is not, we recommend Salif Keita's club, Mafou, or Matnignon to listen to live griot music  
Night: Stay the night at Grand Hotel
- Day 4: Morning: After breakfast, we will visit the National Museum and recycling market –  
Jan 21 – Sun  
Afternoon: Free afternoon (perhaps you would like to return to one of the places visited the day before – guide and vehicle will be at your disposal)  
Night : Stay the night at Grand Hotel
- Day 5: All Day: Depart after breakfast for a 7-hour drive + stops to Mopti (640 km) –  
Jan 22 – Mon we can stop in Segou along the way for lunch

- Night: Stay the night at Hotel Kanaga, the best hotel in Mopti with swimming pool, bar and restaurant
- Day 6: Morning: Depart Mopti after breakfast for a 2-hour drive (100 km) to Dourou – Pays Dogon has been declared a World UNESCO site for its natural and cultural significance where vibrant people still live as they have for centuries along 130 km of escarpment and who continue to be studied by anthropologists around the world – our first stop will be the village of Songo (55 km), famous for its picturesque setting and rock paintings at the site of circumcision – we will have a tour and continue 45 km to the last village on the plateau where we will leave our vehicle behind
- Jan 23 – Tues
- Afternoon: After lunch and a visit of Dourou, we will begin our trek down the Bandiagara escarpment through a breathtaking gorge to the village of Nombori (1.5 hr walk – 5 km) where we will spend the night
- Night: Stay the night in Nombori on the rooftops of the chief’s compound
- Day 7: Morning: An early wake up at the crack of dawn by roosters and donkeys. It’s part of the Dogon experience! The light of the sunrise on the escarpment is beautiful. After breakfast, we will visit the village of Nombori and trek 2.5 km to Idjeli (it is flat, so trek not difficult, but a donkey or cow cart is available) where we will have lunch
- Jan 24 - Wed
- Afternoon: After lunch, we will visit the springs and the Hogon in Indjeli Gotagna - - late afternoon, after the heat of the day subsides, we will trek for 1.5 hours to the village of Tireli where we will spend the night
- Night: Stay the night in Tireli on the rooftops of the chief’s compound
- Day 8: Morning: After breakfast, we will see a spectacular Dogon Masked Dance Ceremony in the morning light and visit the village of Tireli – we will then trek 4 km to Amani (1 hour)
- Jan 25 - Thurs
- Afternoon: We will have lunch in Amani and visit the crocodile pond – late afternoon, we will trek 1 hour (flat) to Ireli. Here we can see the best-preserved habitats of the Tellum and Dogon peoples
- Night: Stay the night in Ireli on the rooftops of the chief’s compound
- Day 9: Morning: After a visit of Ireli, we will walk back up the escarpment through a beautiful valley with many tellum houses to Sangha where we will have lunch at the Campment
- Jan 26 – Fri
- Afternoon: After lunch, we will have a short visit of Sangha and return to Mopti (110 km), approx 3-hr drive

Night: Stay the night in Mopti at Hotel Kanaga

Day 10: All Day:  
Jan 27 - Sat

After breakfast, we will have a morning tour of Mopti visiting its bustling harbor, marketplace, old town and mosque. Mopti is known for its port, linking all of Mali's towns and villages along the Niger. Here we will see the big slabs of salt that come from the salt mines of Taoudenni, the farthest town north in Mali's Sahara desert, carried 750 km to Timbuktu by Tuareg camel caravans where they are loaded onto pinasses to sail down the river Niger to Mopti where they are bought and sold. We will also see the many different faces of Mali selling and buying in the marketplace -- Peul, Bozo, Fulani, Dogon, Moors, Tuareg and Songhai – there is a quartier in Mopti where we can see the famous Fulani women who wear the huge gold earrings (they are featured on Mali's national postage stamps and posters all over Mali)

We recommend a visit to Peace Corps Baba Shop and Bead Museum in nearby Severe (13 km) – Peace Corps Baba is a supplier of the Smithsonian Institute Museum's giftshop

Mid-late afternoon, we will take a 2-hr Bani/Niger river excursion in a traditional pinasse to visit a couple river villages - at the end of our excursion, our pinasse will drop us off at Bar Bozo where we can have drinks and watch the sun set over the Bani/Niger rivers - bring your cameras - it makes a particularly beautiful picture

Night: Stay the night in Mopti at Hotel Kanaga (Tel: 223/243-0500)

Day 11: Morning:  
Jan 28 - Sun

After a leisurely breakfast, we will depart for a 2-hr drive to Djenne (130 km), sister of Timbuktu and one of the oldest towns in West Africa. It is built on an island in the Niger River Delta and we must cross on a ferry to reach it. We will check into the Djenne Campment and have lunch

Afternoon: After lunch, we can either visit some bogolon and silversmith ateliers or visit the nearby Fulani village of Senossa

Night: Stay the night at the Djenne Campment

Day 12: All Day:  
Jan 29 - Mon

Monday is market day and we will wake up to a quite different Djenne full of people and activity! We will visit Djenne's museum which houses the plan of Djenne-Djeno, the ancient settlement of Djenne, dating back to 250 B.C. and the artifacts that have been excavated, visit the colorful marketplace and famous mosque (built in 1280 when the 26<sup>th</sup> King "Djenne Were" Koi Komboro converted to Islam) and walk through the narrow, winding streets to see the beautiful architecture of the clay houses that makes Djenne such an original and beautiful "city"

After lunch we can revisit the bogolon/silversmith ateliers

Night: Stay the night to Djenne Campement

Day 13: All Day:  
Jan 30 - Tues After breakfast, we will depart for Segou (330 km) stopping enroute in San for lunch and a short visit of their mosque and bogolon atelier – late afternoon, we will visit nearby Segou-koro (13 km), ancient capital of the Bambara Empire to visit the cemetery of Biton Coulibaly (the first Bambara King of Segou-Koro) and 2 ancient mosques; one mosque is older than the town of Segou-Koro and built by an unknown person and the other mosque was built by the King and given as a gift to his mother when she converted to Islam

Night: Stay the night at Hotel Djoliba (this hotel has the best rooms in Segou - it is owned by a German couple)

Day 14: All Day:  
Jan 31 - Wed After breakfast, we will visit Boubacar Doumbia's atelier where we will spend the next 2 days learning the bogolon technique. Boubacar is the leading Bogolon (mud cloth) artist in Mali.

Night: Stay the night at Hotel Djoliba

Day 15: All Day:  
Feb 1 - Thurs After breakfast, we will visit Boubacar Doumbia's atelier where we will spend the next 2 days learning the bogolon technique. Boubacar is the leading Bogolon (mud cloth) artist in Mali.

The Segou Music Festival will kick off in the afternoon/evening

Night: Stay the night at Hotel Independence -- swimming pool and right across the street from Boubacar Doumbia's atelier)

Day 16: All Day:  
Feb 2 - Fri Segou Music Festival – schedule to follow – visit Espace Bajidala to see the special exhibit of masques and marionettes

Night: Stay the night at Hotel Independence

Day 17: All Day:  
Feb 3 – Sat Segou Music Festival — visit a weaving atelier  
9am – bogolan workshop at festival

Night: Stay the night at Hotel Independence

Day 18: All Day:  
Feb 4 – Sun Segou Music Festival — visit a rug-making atelier  
9am – pottery workshop at festival (not Sarah, Ginger, Carole)

Night: Stay the night at Hotel Independence

Day 19: All Day: After breakfast or lunch, depart for a 3-hour return drive to Bamako  
Feb 5 – Mon (235 km)  
Night: Early dinner and transfer to airport at 20h45 for 23h55 international  
flight departure on Air France

Day 20: Arrive home by midafternoon  
Feb 6 - Tues