



TRAVEL AND TOURISM AGENCY

Incentive – Cultural and adventure travels – Car rental – Handling
Bamako MALI

OPTION 41

Day 1: **BAMAKO**

Sunday 03 January 2010

Assistance for police and customs formalities and transfer by coach to the hotel - 02h00

Bamako: *“Bamako is a Bambara word meaning “Crocodiles River”. In 1806 Bamako was a Bozo fishing and trading community of about 6000 people. In 1883, the French captured the town and in 1908 Bamako became their regional seat of power and they built their residence on the hill of Koulouba. At the independence in 1960, Bamako was chosen as the capital ...”*

Arrival to Bamako. Welcome by West Africa Tours team followed with your transfer to the hotel.

Overnight at **Hotel or Guest House**

Day 2: **BAMAKO / MOPTI**

Monday 04 January 2010

Road by 4x4 - 640 Km: 11h00

Breakfast and early departure to Mopti.

Crossing of **Saharan typical landscapes and villages.**

Lunch stop at San. Arrival to Mopti at the end of the day. **Dinner** and overnight in Mopti

Hotel or Guest House

Day 3: **MOPTI / TIMBUKTU**

Tuesday 05 January 2010

Road and desert track with 4x4 - 400 Km: 08h00 + Ferry-boat crossing: 45 min

Breakfast and drive to Timbuktu.

Lunch at Douentza. Arrival at Timbuktu at the end of the day.

Dinner and overnight at **hotel or Guest House**

Day 4: **TIMBUKTU**

Wednesday 06 January 2010

Town visit

Timbuktu: *Timbuktu was formerly a great commercial trading city and an international centre of Islamic learning. The city was probably founded in the late 11th century AD by Tuareg nomads. Tuareg formed one of the most ancient tribal people of the Sahara. They speak a Berber language, Tamacheq, and have their own alphabet. In ancient times, the Tuareg controlled the trans-Sahara routes and substantially contributed in the expansion of Islam in sub-Saharan Africa even though they retained however some of their older rites. Today, the Tuareg symbolize the mysteries of the Sahara and continued to be seen as the Masters of the Desert.*

Breakfast and go for the mysterious town visiting:

-The ancient mosques including the famous mosque of Djingareiber the oldest and the famous Sankore whose reputation spanned all across North Africa and Europe as a leading Islamic academy for centuries.





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-The Ahmed Baba Centre where ancient books (some dating from the 14th century AD) are still preserved.

-The explorers (Gordon Laing, Rene Caillé, Henrich Barth) houses. **Lunch.**

In the afternoon, we will go on visiting to the ethnological museum that contains a good variety of exhibits including clothing, musical instruments, jewellery... **Dinner.** Overnight

Hotel or Guest House

Day 5: TIMBUKTU / ESSAKANE

Thursday 07 January 2010

Desert track with 4x4 - 60 Km: 02h00

Breakfast followed with a quick tour to the market.

After the **lunch**, you will depart for Essakane desert Festival site located 60 km from Timbuktu.

On route visit to the Tuareg village of Farach famous for has been a place where Tuareg people had fiercely resisted against colonial penetration. Meet with the elders and discover local population activities and women co-operative association. Continuation 2 Km to the site of the festival.

Opening ceremony.

Dinner followed by music show in the night. Overnight under

Tuareg tents



Day 6: ESSAKANE

Friday 08 January 2010

Essakane: Created in January 2001, the "festival au désert" is held every year in Essakane, two hours from Timbuctou in Mali. This Festival seeks its origin in the big traditional Touareg festivities, as Takoubelt in Kidal and Temakannit in Tombouctou, which represented for long time a place for decision making and exchange of information among the different communities. At the beginning, there were songs and touareg dances, poetries, camel rides, games, etc. Today, the Festival is opened to the external world and welcomes artists from other Malian regions, other African countries, but also from Europe and from the whole world. During three days, around 30 artistic groups are invited from all around the world to present their art. Due to the attention of the media and to the huge logistic effort that it is mobilizing, the Festival is now included among the Big Modern Festivals, though it maintains its traditional cultural aspects.

Breakfast. Visit to the cultural stands. Tuareg traditional music and dances.

Depart to Bankor (15 Km) to see desert unique archeological site. Discover the old Tuareg settlement. Admire the beautiful panoramic view on Lake Faguibine.

Drive back to Essakane. **Lunch** and relaxation with Sahara desert blue people.

Dinner followed by music show in the night. Overnight under **Tuareg tents**

Day 7: ESSAKANE

Saturday 09 January 2010



Breakfast. Visit to the cultural stands. Tuareg traditional music and dances. **Lunch** and relaxation with Sahara desert blue people. Tea party. Camel race...**Dinner** followed by music show in the night.

Overnight under **Tuareg tents**



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Day 8: ESSAKANE / MOPTI

Sunday 10 January 2010

Desert track with 4x4 - 460 Km: 10h00 + 01h ferry boat crossing

Breakfast and drive back to Mopti. You will have your

Lunch on route. Arrival to Mopti followed with the **dinner** and overnight at **hotel or Guest House**.

Day 9: MOPTI / SONGHO / SANGHA

Monday 11 January 2010

Road and truck: 135 Km: 04h00 + 01h30 visit to Songho

Breakfast and depart for the Dogon Country.

On route, visit to Songho, a Dogon village famous for its series of symbolic carvings in a cave used for traditional circumcision ceremonies. **Lunch stop** at Bandiagara.

Arrival to Sangha. **Dinner** and overnight at **hotel**.

Day 10: SANGHA / CLIFF VILLAGES / MOPTI

Tuesday 12 January 2010

Trekking: 08 Km-03h00 - 04h00 + transfer to Mopti

Breakfast. Today will require a bit of walking and stamina as we visit the picturesque Dogon villages along the World Heritage listed Bandiagara cliffs like Ireli, Amani and Banani...These villages are small and built out of local stone, again with the **granaries** being topped by thatched roofs...

“Prepare: hats for the sun, good walking shoes for the escarpments, comfortable clothes, small bag, sunglasses & water”. During your trek towards the Dogon villages along the Bandiagara cliffs, like Tirelly, Amani, Ireli, you will see the «impure women’s» house, the tellem caves, and the fetish altar of the Hogon (The Dogon people’s traditional and religious leader) ... As we walk from village to village we



will get a good insight into lives of the Dogon as well as an appreciation for their arts and crafts...

Pic-nic lunch at Banani. Before entering to Sangha, we will visit the Dogon Traditional Devin who conformly to the tradition still predicts the future to Dogon people...and visitors. In the afternoon we will admire the Dogon masks dance (optional). Dogon dancers are world-renowned and often consist of dances on stilts while wearing broad-brimmed hats and amazing facial decorations.

Continuation to Mopti. **Dinner** and overnight at your **hotel or Guest House**.

Day 11: MOPTI / BAMAKO

Wednesday 13 January 2010

Road 640 Km: 10h00

Breakfast and depart for a long way road back to Bamako.

Lunch stop on route. Arrival to Bamako at the end of the day.

Dinner and overnight at **hotel or Guest House**.

Day 12: BAMAKO / DEPARTURE

Thursday 14 January 2010

Bamako town visiting:



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Breakfast and depart for a visit of the town.

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Places to see and to visit: the market, the artisan’s and the fetish market, the art galleries (African arts center; Indigo; Santoro ...), the National museum with it’s over 4000 pieces relating the history of Mali people; you can see some traditional masks as well as funeral objects and handicrafts...,the panoramic point of view from “Point G” hill. **Lunch.**

Back to the hotel. You have time for these last minutes purchases and to get ready for your return flight. **Dinner** and transfer to the airport for final departure.

PRICE

BASE	NUMBER OF 4X4	PRICE/PERSON
04 persons	01	1 313 €

SUPPLEMENT SINGLE: **122 €**

ASK FOR DIFFERENCE IN PRICE BASED ON THE SIZE OF THE GROUP

THESE PRICES INCLUDE:

Accommodation in Full Board basis
Taxes and visits to the sites mentioned in the program
4x4 car rental + fuel + driver
Services of English speaking guide
Mineral water on the site of the festival
Taxes and visits fees to the sites

THESE PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE:

International flight ticket
Drinks and mineral water
Tips, telephone and other extra