



MALI: THE ROAD TO TIMBUKTU

FEBRUARY 12-23, 2009

A NOTE ABOUT TRAVELING IN MALI

Traveling in Mali is exciting and illuminating. You will have the opportunity to witness tribal customs and lifestyles that are quickly disappearing in our increasingly modern, homogenous world. But traveling in Mali requires a hardy, patient traveler, willing to expect and accept the unexpected. Itineraries, flights, accommodations can all change without notice. Go to Mali! But go to Mali to see this amazing country and be prepared to leave behind your Western expectations.

DAY	DATES	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATIONS	MEALS
1	Thu Feb 12	FLY USA to Paris		
2	Fri Feb 13	FLY Paris to Bamako	Sofitel d'Amitie	D
3	Sat Feb 14	Bamako - Segou	L'Auberge	B,L,D
4	Sun Feb 15	Segou - Mopti	Kanaga Hotel	B,L,D
5	Mon Feb 16	Mopti - Djenne - Mopti	Kanaga Hotel	B,L,D
6	Tue Feb 17	Mopti	Kanaga Hotel	B,L,D
7	Wed Feb 18	Mopti - Dogon Country	Campement Sangha	B,L,D
8	Thu Feb 19	Dogon Country	Campement Sangha	B,L,D
9	Fri Feb 20	Sangha - Mopti	Kanaga Hotel	B,L,D
10	Sat Feb 21	FLY Mopti - Timbuktu	Colombe Timbuktu	B,L,D
11	Sun Feb 22	FLY Timbuktu - Mopti - Bamako - Paris	Sofitel d'Amitie dayroom	B
12	Mon, Feb 23	Paris - USA		

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Who hasn't thought of traveling to Timbuktu, that mystical place that represents the ultimate destination for the true world-traveler? It is possible to go there, but we offer a trip that includes much more than just a trip to Timbuktu. Mali is one of the most fascinating countries in West Africa, if not the world. You will witness traditional ways of life that one normally gets to see only between the pages of National Geographic magazine. Mostly untouched by today's global problems, the people of the Dogon Country are welcoming and appreciative of your interest in visiting them. Our program includes tribal dances, river excursions, market visits, light hiking in the Dogon Country, the amazing Djenne Mosque and, of course, the opportunity to go all the way to Timbuktu.

Day 1 – USA/PARIS

Depart the USA on a regularly scheduled flight to Paris.

Day 2 – PARIS - BAMAKO

Upon arrival in Paris, transfer to your flight to Bamako, arriving late evening in West Africa. Upon arrival in Bamako, you will be met and transferred to the Sofitel l'Amitié Hotel.

Day 3 – BAMAKO - SEGOU

Following breakfast, depart for a morning visit of Mali's capital. Visit the Musée National d'Art Malien and the Grand Marché, Bamako's busy central market. Following lunch, depart Bamako for the provincial capital town of Ségou. En route stop at a traditional farming village and take in the West African countryside. Overnight at the L'Auberge in Ségou. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 4 -- SEGOU - MOPTI

After breakfast, visit the morning market in Ségou before continuing overland to Mopti. En route pass the towns of Bla and San. Upon arrival in Mopti check in to the Hotel Kanaga. Following a late lunch at the hotel, depart for an afternoon walking excursion through the old residential quarter of the town. Overnight and dinner at the hotel.

Day 5 – MOPTI - DJENNE - MOPTI

Following an early breakfast, travel by 4x4 to the historic town of Djénné, one of the oldest city sites in sub-Saharan Africa. Cross the Bani River by local ferry and join the locals at the colorful Djénné market. Time at leisure to browse the teaming market before stopping for lunch at a local restaurant. Following lunch, enjoy a view of the Grand Mosque and visit a Bogolon cloth workshop. Returning to Mopti in the early evening, relax at the hotel before dinner.

Day 6 – MOPTI

Following breakfast, depart on a river boat excursion along the Niger River. During this excursion we view the bustling port of Mopti, crowded with boats carrying produce from all over West Africa. Also view the market of the Saharan salt traders and several Bobo villages built on a series of mid-stream islands. Return to the Hotel Kanaga for lunch. Afternoon at leisure to relax or visit the local craft market. Overnight and dinner at the Hotel Kanaga.

CODA INTERNATIONAL TOURS INC.

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Day 7 – MOPTI - SANGHA - DOGON COUNTRY

After breakfast, depart for the town of Bandiagaraf, gateway to the region of the Dogon. Visit the Dogon village of Songho, located at the foot of an impressive limestone mesa. In Songho you will see some of the best examples of Dogon mud architecture and the important site of the coming of age ritual for Dogon boys. Lunch is at a local restaurant in the main town of Bandiagara. Overnight at the Campement de Sangha.

Day 8 – DOGON COUNTRY

Following an early breakfast, travel overland to the Badiagara Escarpment, heart of Dogon Country. Continue to the village of Sangha where we have lunch at the Guina Encampment before continuing on a walking tour down into the valley below. En route view the unique mud granaries, sacred fetish shrines and elder's houses. Returning to the encampment, enjoy a refreshment and traditional Dogon dance performance.

Day 9 -- DOGON COUNTRY - MOPTI

After breakfast we depart for Mopti with stops in local villages en route. See indigo cloth being made the local women and shea butter sold in pure form in the local markets. Upon arrival in Mopti, check in to the Kanaga Hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 10 --FLY MOPTI - TIMBUKTU

Following an early breakfast, depart for the airfield in Mopti for the flight to Timbuktu. Upon arrival at this most famous of Saharan cities, continue on a visit to the Djebuerenguer Mosque and Sankore Mosque, once important centers of Islamic education. Visit Timbuktu's small historic museum and a local koranic school. Following lunch and a mid-day rest, continue for a visit to the local market and see a private collection of rare Islamic texts. This evening, we journey out to the Sahara for sunset and tea with a local group of Tuareg nomads. Tonight enjoy a desert farewell dinner at the Colombe Hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 11 – FLY TIMBUKTU - MOPTI - BAMAKO - PARIS

Depart after breakfast to the airfield for the flights back to Bamako via Mopti. Upon arrival in Bamako, check in to the Sofitel l'Amitié where day rooms are provided awaiting the transfer in the evening to the airport for return flights to Paris and on to the USA.

Day 12 – FLY PARIS - USA

Arrive Paris and connect with flight to the USA.

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ESSENTIALS

DATES February 12-23, 2009

DEPOSIT A deposit of \$750 per person is required at the time of registration.

FINAL PAYMENT Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure and is payable by personal check. Credit card charges for final payment are assessed a processing fee.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS A visa is **required** for American/Canadian passport holders. For current costs and to download forms, we recommend using Zierer Visa Service. To speak directly to ZVS Customer Service, call 866-788-1100 (toll-free in the U.S.). Please note that visas cannot be processed more than 90 days prior to departure and processing may take several weeks to complete. You may also apply directly with an Mali Consulate in your area. For information, google the Mali Consulate nearest you (e.g. Mali Consulate New York). You must have a valid passport that remains valid six months past your return to the U.S. You should also have a minimum of two empty passport pages.

SHOTS / HEALTH **Yellow Fever required**; Cholera & Anti-malarials recommended (resistance to chloriquine is confirmed.) If you cannot receive a Yellow Fever vaccine & wish to participate, please call us. It is recommended you have your regular vaccinations up-to-date before traveling. For further information, visit the Center For Disease Control website.

INT'L AIRFARE Air France and Royal Air Maroc are among airlines that can be used for this trip. We recommend booking at least 7 months in advance if you want to try to use Frequent Flyer Miles for free tickets or upgrades or the American Express Platinum card 2-4-1 program.

MINIMUMS All departures are guaranteed on a minimum of 2* participants. A Coda Tour Manager accompanies the tour on a minimum of 12 participants. (* Some modifications to the inclusions in the program may be made if participation is fewer than 5 travelers.)

TOUR RATES - 9 hotel nights and 26 meals included

2008	Land Price	Intra-tour Air	Total Per Person
Double	\$4295	\$400	\$4695
Single	\$5095	\$400	\$5495

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INCLUDED

Tour rates are per person in U.S. dollars. Most major credit cards are accepted for Tour Deposit. Final payment is payable by personal check. Final payment by credit card is assessed a processing fee.

Tour Rates include accommodations as listed in the itinerary, entertainment, special meals, air-conditioned motor coach, van or sedan transportation, sightseeing, luggage handling, admissions, expert English-speaking local guides and drivers. Mineral water on busses and at meals.

Arrival and departure transfers are included for those who purchase international air through Coda International Tours. Separate transfer costs will be charged to those who are not ticketed by Coda International Tours. Participants are required to provide Coda Tours with complete international flight details at least 2 weeks prior to the schedule tour departure date.

Most meals are included as indicated in the itinerary. The meal codes are: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner; R=Cocktail Reception. Participants with specific dietary requirements must inform Coda Tours at least 2 weeks prior to departure. Every effort will be made to accommodate special dietary needs where possible. Most meals taken as a group are pre-ordered. Local cuisine is given preference over Western choices.

NOT INCLUDED

International airfare is not included. Coda Tour will be happy to assist with business, first or coach class airfares . If you are planning to use Frequent Flyer Miles for an upgrade or free ticket, we highly recommend booking your tour at least 7 months prior to departure.

Passport and visa expenses (if required). Please check our Travel Documents requirements for this trip. Always double check that your passport will remain valid for at least 6 months past your return to the U.S. and that you have sufficient empty pages in your passport to accommodate visa and entry/exit stamps. Always carry a copy of your passport packed separately from your travel documents and leave a copy with someone at home.

Trip Cancellation & Interruption Insurance which is highly recommended to protect your travel investment in the unlikelyhood you would need to cancel or return home early. We recommend Travel Insured International and will send you an application form with confirmation of your trip. You may check the rates for insurance on their website at www.travelinsured.com. We also recommend insuring any expense for airline tickets issued prior to the determination if a tour is guaranteed to operate. We cannot assume responsibility for losses incurred due to the cancellation of a tour.

Gratuities to porters, waiters and hotel staff are included. Gratuities to local guides & drivers are not included.

Personal Expenses such as phone calls, room service, alcoholic and bar beverages, laundry, airline excess luggage charges, vaccinations, visa fees (if applicable) and other optional incidental extras are not included and may be significant.

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