

Into Africa

Exploring Africa's Hidden Treasures on a Voyage from the Gulf of Guinea to Namibia

Aboard the All-Suite, 114-Guest *Corinthian II*

December 18, 2010 – January 7, 2011 & February 26 – March 17, 2011



Benin

MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE THE PORTUGUESE SAILED ALONG THE WEST AFRICAN COAST IN THE 15TH CENTURY.

These regions of Africa, rarely visited for more than a half-century, have become known as one of the most beautiful and exotic destinations opened up to the adventurous traveler in recent years. Guests on our epic Africa cruises have been enraptured by the exciting energy in Ghana, the vast mangrove lagoons of Gabon, and the soaring sand dunes of the Namib Desert. On this voyage spanning nearly 2,500 miles, we'll enjoy an intimate exploration of the extraordinary diversity of animals, plant life, and human cultures spanning the equatorial rain forest to the dune seas southeast of Walvis Bay. As we sail through the Gulf of Guinea we'll call in the small and fascinating countries of Togo and Benin. Next we'll journey to Equatorial Guinea to explore Bioko Island's unspoiled rainforest and the mainland town of Bata, with a visit to a game-rich national park. Venture into the legendary Congo, the deepest river on Earth, surrounded by dense jungles. As we voyage south, we'll see the rain forest become savannah, then desert – and the colonial influence shift from French to Portuguese and Bavarian. We'll learn how Angola is emerging from its past, then watch thousands of flamingoes in Walvis Bay.



Musicians in Luanda, Angola



Young gorillas in Gabon



Travel Dynamics International
Excellence in Small-Ship Cruising Since 1969

ITINERARY

Day 1

USA

Fly from the U.S. to Accra, Ghana.

Day 2

ACCRA | TEMA, GHANA | EMBARK

Arrive in Accra, Ghana's sprawling capital, and transfer to *Corinthian II*. Overnight aboard ship docked in Tema, Accra's port.

Day 3

TEMA | ACCRA | TEMA

Tour Accra, a city that vibrates with energy and an air of excitement and industry. Visit the excellent crafts market, which showcases the best of local artisans throughout the region, as well as the National Museum of Ghana and the memorial to Ghana's first president, Nkrumah Mausoleum, set amid beautiful gardens.

Day 4

LOME | LAKE TOGO | LOME, TOGO

For centuries Togo was part of several empires including those of Mali, Asante, Benin, and others. Arrive in Lome, Togo's friendly capital. Explore the city including the Handicraft Markets, with traditional goods from all over West Africa, noted especially for sculpture and batiks. Then drive to Agbodrafo, formerly known as Porto Seguro, set on the shores of Lake Togo, from

where we will explore the lake's traditional villages by local *pirogues*.

Day 5

COTONOU | PORTO-NOVO | COTONOU, BENIN

The small country of Benin was home to an ancient sophisticated culture. From the port of Cotonou, drive to the nearby capital, Porto-Novo, set on green hills surrounding a large lagoon. Formerly the center of an indigenous prosperous kingdom, it later became the capital of the French colony of Dahomey. Explore this pleasant city, including visits to the Ethnography Museum, the restored palace of King Toffa, and the Handicraft Center. After lunch, board local motorboats for a ride across Lake Nokoué to the picturesque fishing village of Ganvié, built on stilts.

Day 6

AT SEA

Day 7

DOUALA | LIMBÉ | DOUALA, CAMEROON

Built along the banks of the Wouri River, Douala is Cameroon's main port city and business center. Travel to Limbé, a charming seaside town built on the foot of Mt. Cameroon, West Africa's highest mountain. Limbé is known for its well-preserved

colonial architecture; its Botanic Garden, designed early in the 19th century and considered one of the best in Africa; and its Zoological Garden, which focuses on the preservation of primates.

Day 8

MALABO, BIKO ISLAND, EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Arrive in Equatorial Guinea, which comprises two regions, one on the African continent, the other on the island of Bioko and several smaller offshore islands. Formerly a Spanish colony, the country attained independence in 1968. Call at Malabo, the major town of Bioko Island and the country's capital, and spend the day exploring this lush volcanic island, with its rain forests that are home to an extraordinary amount of wildlife, including endangered primates.

Day 9

BATA

The main city of continental Equatorial Guinea, Bata has attractive colonial architecture, but is also experiencing rapid modernization, generated by the country's sizeable oil revenues. Explore the town and enjoy swimming and relaxing at one of the nearby beaches, or alternatively, drive for the day to Monte Alen National Park, a protected tropical rainforest that



Namibia's striking landscape



Forest elephants

is home to gorillas, chimpanzees, forest elephants, large populations of birds, and other wildlife.

Day 10
PRÍNCIPE ISLAND, SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE
Arrive in Príncipe, which, along with its larger sister-island, São Tomé, were the prized possessions of Portugal from the 15th century to 1975, when they attained independence to form the two-island nation of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé

and Príncipe. Discover Santo Antonio, the island's atmospheric small capital, walk through the abandoned plantation of Porto Real, witness the villagers of Sao Joachim making palm oil, hike through the pristine rain forest, and relax on white-sand beaches.

Day 11
SÃO TOMÉ ISLAND
Call at the island's capital and main port of São Tomé Island, also called São Tomé,

a picturesque and friendly town featuring colonial architecture. Also explore the island's lush interior, known for its rich biodiversity, and visit an active coffee plantation, where you'll observe a lifestyle largely unchanged since the colonial era and where you'll also sample some of the world's best chocolate.

Day 12
PORT-GENTIL, GABON

A French colony until 1960, 70% of seldom-visited Gabon is covered in lush rain forest. Land at Port-Gentil, the economic capital of Gabon located on the northeastern tip of an island that was first explored by the Portuguese in the 15th century. Explore the town and enjoy the white sand beaches at nearby Cape Lopez.

Day 13
AT SEA

Day 14
CONGO RIVER

Cruise in the storied Congo River, explored first in 1485 by Diego Cão, and later by countless other explorers, adventurers, and representatives of European powers looking for Africa's riches.

Day 15
LUANDA | KISSAMA NATIONAL PARK | LUANDA, ANGOLA

Arrive in Luanda, Angola's vibrant capital, for an excursion to Kissama National Park.





São Tomé

Established in 1938, Kissama encompasses a large area of coastal savannah and is home to a large variety of birdlife; kudu, bushbuck, and duiker antelopes; and other wildlife. Alternately, explore Luanda, touring the San Miguel Fort, the Anthropology Museum, and the church of Nossa Senhora dos Remedios.

Day 16
LOBITO | BENGUELA | LOBITO

Take an excursion to Benguela, known as Angola's cultural capital. Founded by the Portuguese in 1617, Benguela retains much of its colonial architecture, including the church of Nossa Senhora do Pópulo, built in 1748, the Palácio das Bolas, and the Pálacio do Governo, facing the sea.

Days 17 & 18
AT SEA

Day 19
WALVIS BAY, NAMIBIA

At Walvis Bay, we will explore the Namib Desert Park, with its incredibly beautiful sand dunes, home to some of the oldest desert landscapes in the world. We will learn about the natural life of the desert and enjoy a spectacular private dinner in the dunes. We will also explore the wet-

lands around Walvis Bay, which comprise perhaps the most important bird sanctuary in Southern Africa. Over 150,000 birds are found here, including large numbers of flamingos, chestnut-banded plovers, curlew sandpipers, and others.

Day 20
WALVIS BAY | DISEMBARK | FLY TO USA

Disembark and transfer to the airport for the return flight to the U.S.

Day 21
ARRIVE IN USA

The February 26 departure operates in the reverse direction, from Walvis Bay to Accra.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- 18-night cruise aboard the all-suite, 114-guest *Corinthian*
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship
- All meals aboard ship, including house wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Open bar aboard ship throughout the cruise
- Complete program of tours and excursions
- Educational program of lectures and discussions by accompanying guest lecturers
- Professional Travel Dynamics International tour staff
- Complete pre-departure materials
- Baggage handling and transfers abroad on the designated program arrival and departure dates
- Port and embarkation taxes
- Gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers



Travel Dynamics International
Excellence in Small-Ship Cruising Since 1969

132 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021
1-800-257-5767

www.TravelDynamicsInternational.com