



Forgotten Africa's slopes

SIERRA LEONE - LIBERIA



11 days

24 April - 04 May 2025

English speaking tour leader



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- **Bunce Island**, where the sad memory of the slave trade echoes
- The vibrancy of **Freetown**, its krio architecture and busy **Lumely Beach**
- The **wild beaches** of River No. 2, Bureh Beach and Robertsport
- The **chimpanzees** in the **Tacugama** Chimp Sanctuary
- The frenzy of **diamond and gold mining** in the Kenema District
- **Mende villages** and women's secret societies with **Bondo masks**
- The decadent beauty of **Monrovia**, from the Ducor Hotel to the Masonic Temple
- Surprising Marshall, with its **chimpanzee islands** and **Libassa beaches**



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
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Day 1: Thursday 24 April

Outward Flight/Freetown (FNA)

Flight to Freetown with expected arrival late in the evening. Meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff who will provide transfer to Lungi Gateway Hotel or similar. Overnight stay in a double room with en-suite facilities.

Day 2: Friday 25 April

Lungi/Bunce and Tasso Island/Lungi

After breakfast assistance for the exchange of euros and for the possible purchase of a local phone card. Departure for the village of Pepel or Tagrin, where we will board a typical boat used by local fishermen (the gladi gladi) to visit BUNCE ISLAND, one of the crucial junctions of the slave trade in West Africa. It is estimated that in 140 years of slave trade (1668 to 1807), about 50,000 men, women and children were deported from this island to the Americas, mainly to Georgia and South Carolina. On the island, surrounded by a mighty nature that seems to want to take over the misdeeds of humanity, are the ruins of the British fort, with its cannons in attack positions, and the cells in which 'recalcitrant' slaves were segregated. Continuation to TASSO ISLAND and lunch in a restaurant where it will be possible to taste local specialities such as rice with peanut sauce or cassava leaves. In the afternoon, after relaxation on the beach, we will inland to visit the villages of fishermen, surrounded by palm trees and mangrove thickets. Return by boat and continuation to Lungi, free dinner and overnight stay in a hotel.

Day 3: Saturday 26 April

Lungi/Freetown

After breakfast departure for FREETOWN, the capital of Sierra Leone, with a ferry crossing of the river, where the bridge turns into a real 'market floating market'. Once disembarked, we will take part on a city tour whose route will wind its way through busy city streets teeming with people engaged in a variety of activities, and more where we can appreciate the colonial architecture of some public buildings such as the Court of Justice, and those of Krio imprint, such as St John's Maroon Church, a Methodist church built in 1820 by the first slaves who returned from Jamaica. Near the Cotton Tree, the majestic symbolic tree of the city, we visit the National Museum with its interesting collection of masks, drums and artefacts pertaining to the various ethnic groups of the region, and finally the handicraft market, where we can find valuable masks, jewellery and ancient coins.



Welcome to Sierra Leone!



Gladi Gladi boat



Bunce Island



On the ferry to Freetown



Freetown



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(follow)

Day 3: Saturday 26 April

Lungi/Freetown

Afterwards, departure along the coast to SUSSEX for lunch in a fish restaurant (possibility of shellfish on request). In the afternoon, relax on the magnificent BEACH OF RIVER N°2, considered one of the most beautiful on the entire continent, for its scenic views, which vary with changing tide levels. Return to town and accommodation at the Sierra Palms Resort or similar, dinner at leisure and overnight in a double room with services.

Day 4: Sunday 27 April

Freetown/Bureh/Tacugama

Breakfast at the hotel and walk to LUMELY BEACH, the popular and crowded town beach, which at weekends comes alive and becomes a meeting place for young people and families. We will then pass through some of the KRIO VILLAGES, from the colourful houses with wooden roofs, built by the descendants of freed slaves. Departure for the fishing village of TOMBO, where we can observe the men unloading fish on the beach and the frenetic bustle of the women placing the fish in baskets ready for smoking. Transfer to BUREH BEACH, the wild beach best known in the country, where you can relax in the shade of the palm trees, swim in the warm and calm waters of the inner lagoon, or stroll along the foreshore, in a beautiful scenery. Lunch in a restaurant on the beach. Continue to TACUGAMA CHIMP SANCTUARY and accommodation at Tacugama Lodge*, located in the forest, dinner and overnight in a double bungalow with services.

**Accommodations at Tacugama are limited, in case they are not available you will stay in a hotel in Freetown and the following morning you will visit the chimpanzee sanctuary.*



Freetown



At the museum



River n°2 Beach



Fishermen in Tombo



Bureh Beach



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Day 5: Monday 28 April

Tacugama/Kenema

After breakfast, visit the TACUGAMA CHIMP SANCTUARY, an important and pioneering centre for rehabilitation and reintegration into nature for chimpanzees kept in captivity. Here we can observe at first hand the rehabilitation activities of these primates by the veterinary team who look after them with such dedication, and spot some specimens already released in the lush rainforest surrounding the centre. Lunch in a restaurant and then departure for KENEMA, capital of the Eastern Province and undisputed capital of the diamond mining industry. On arrival, if time permits, we can browse through the numerous town shops where diamonds, gold and other precious stones. Accommodation at the Paloma Guesthouse or similar, free dinner and overnight in a double room with services.



Tacugama Chimp Sanctuary



Mende Village

Day 6: Tuesday 29 April

Kenema/Mende Villages/Kenema

After breakfast we will travel to a MENDE VILLAGE to witness a performance by the masks of this ethnic group, such as the BONDO MASKS (Sewi), related to the activities of women's secret societies, the FAOULI (Saya), the BAWI, ZORO, NAFALI and GONGOLI. Return to Kenema and lunch in a restaurant or hotel. In the afternoon we visit the gold and diamond mines in the surrounding area, where men and women till the ground muddy ground by makeshift means or dive into muddy waters to extract topsoil to sift through in search of the precious minerals that could change their destiny. We can also observe moments of everyday life such as the preparation of a dough made from manioc or red palm oil. Free dinner and overnight stay in a hotel.



Bondo Mask



Diamond Mine

Day 7: Wednesday 30 April

Kenema/Bo Waterside/Robertsport

Early in the morning, after breakfast, depart for the BORDER WITH LIBERIA. Transfer day, lunch box. Clearance of customs formalities and arrival in the late afternoon in Robertsport, a coastal town on the Atlantic Atlantic, considered a paradise for those who love ride the ocean waves on surfboards. Accommodation at Nana's Lodge or similar, located on the beach. Free dinner and overnight stay in a double bungalow with services.



Sifting in the river



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Day 8: Thursday 01 May

Robertsport/Monrovia

After breakfast, the morning is free for a walk through the picturesque village with its Caribbean atmosphere Caribbean atmosphere, trekking to the wreck or relaxing on the magnificent beach of ROBERTSPORT, popular with surfers, who camp under the huge ceiba tree that dominates the foreshore. Lunch in a restaurant and in the afternoon transfer to Monrovia, the country's capital, and first visits to the city if the weather permitting. Accommodation at the Cape Hotel or similar, free dinner with possibility to taste fresh shellfish and sushi at the famous Mamba Point restaurant. Overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 9: Friday 02 May

Monrovia/Marshall

After breakfast city tour of MONROVIA, which includes the National Museum, with an interesting collection of masks, artefacts, textiles, and artefacts of historical significance; the decadent palace of EJ Roye; the First United Methodist Church; the imposing Masonic temple and finally the famous and now abandoned Hotel Ducor*, a luxurious hotel from the 1970s that bears all the signs of the civil war, and the craft market, where find precious handicrafts or colourful souvenirs. Lunch in a restaurant and in the afternoon transfer to the village of Marshall, accommodation at Libassa Lodge or similar, an eco-resort placidly nestled between the lagoon and the sea, equipped with multi-level swimming pools. Free time to relax or visit the Libassa Sanctuary, a small reserve in which some volunteers are involved in the reintroduction into the forest of animals victims of poaching, such as pangolins, slow lorises, falcons and monkeys of various types. Free dinner and overnight stay in a double bungalow with services.



Robertsport beach



Monrovia from the Ducor Hotel



Masonic Temple



Traffic in Monrovia



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Day 10: Saturday 03 May

Marshall

Breakfast at the lodge and free day at leisure for relaxation by the sea or in the pools, snorkelling, kayaking or paddle in the lagoon. Possibility of boat excursion to the CHIMPANZEE ISLANDS, a small archipelago of river islets located at the mouth of the Farmington River, home to just less than a hundred chimpanzees who have survived years of experiments to test new drugs in a pharmaceutical research centre opened in the 1970s near Monrovia by the 'New York Blood Center', where these primates were used as lab rats because of their striking genetic similarity to humans. In 2006, the US stopped the flow of funding, the centre suspended operations, and the chimpanzees, used to living in captivity and totally dependent on humans, were abandoned on these islands. Theirs could have been a death sentence but some volunteers from the Liberia Chimpanzees Rescue have to provide assistance and help and today the archipelago is home to a large community of healthy chimpanzees, divided into small groups and scattered around the various islands. As we approach by boat, we can observe numerous specimens that will peep out of the bush or will the mangroves in the hope of getting some mangoes from us. Free lunch and dinner at Libassa Eco Lodge. Overnight stay in a double bungalow with bathroom.



How to speak Chimpanzee



Chimpanzees in the islands



Lagoon at Libassa

Day 11: Sunday 04 May

Marshall/Monrovia-Robertsfield (ROB)/Flight

Early morning transfer to Robertsfield, where Monrovia Airport is located (a good 60 km from the city). End of services.



Chimpanzee



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**Individual participation fee in double room
(min. 3/max. 16 pax)**

3,490 €/pax

**in promotion at € 3,390
for booking before 24/01/2025**

**in promotion at € 3,290
for booking before 24/10/2024**

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room*: **495 €**
- Transfer out of hours: **50 €/pax/transfer**
- Visa service: **330 €**
- Excursion to Chimp Island: **60 €/pax**
- Sea extension to Libassa: **on request**
- Pre-extension Guinea: on request

**The single room in Robertsport does not have a private bathroom.*

The fee includes:

- English speaking tour leader (from 6 pax);
- English-speaking local guide;
- Visits and excursions as per the itinerary;
- The Mende mask dance;
- All transfers by minibus or bus (depending on the size of the group) including drivers, fuel and tolls;
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary;
- 10 overnight stays in a double room as mentioned in the itinerary.

The fee does not include:

- The visa for Sierra Leone and Liberia;
- The insurance for cancellation, health, covid, baggage;
- The airline flights;
- Transfers to/from the airport (non-RAM flights);
- Drinks and mineral water;
- Meals not included in the itinerary;
- Photo and video tips;
- Tips and personal expenses;
- Anything mentioned in "supplements";
- Everything not expressly mentioned in "the fee includes".