

Ouidah Voodoo Festival

BENIN, TOGO

Photo by T. Redaelli

9 days
03 - 11 January 2027
English speaking tour leader



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The **Pays Taneka**, stronghold of animism and ancestral cults
- The **Somba and Tamberma tatas**, fortress-houses built from straw and mud
- The magical **fire ceremony** of the Tem in Sokodé
- The **Lomé fetish market** and the mysterious **Togoville**
- The Python Temple and the Sacred Forest of **Ouidah**
- The singing and dancing of priests and believers at the **voodoo festival**
- The ceremony with the **Egungun** and **Zangbeto spirits** and the **Gelede masks.**
- The charming **Ganvié**, a village built entirely on stilts
- The Afro-Brazilian architecture, museums and voodoo temples of **Porto Novo**






Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
+223 76723946 - www.kanaga-at.com

Ouidah Voodoo Festival

BENIN, TOGO

In Benin, Voodoo is the unseen cornerstone of society, a rock-solid faith centred on devotion to hundreds of invisible deities, which gives meaning and order to the lives of the local population. Every year in January, the Voodoo Festival is celebrated in the Ouidah region; it is the main event dedicated to this religion.

Voodoo was formally recognised as the official religion of Benin in 1996, a national holiday featuring ceremonies, sacrifices, songs, dances and grand banquets, attended by the country's most influential figures from religious and political life. Faith, magic and the supernatural are revealed through complex rituals and spectacular performances, featuring devotees falling into a trance and juju priests in mediumistic connection with ancestral spirits. For anyone travelling to Benin, a stay in Ouidah during the Festival is certainly an unmissable opportunity!









Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
+223 76723946 - www.kanaga-at.com

Ouidah Voodoo Festival

BENIN, TOGO

Day 1: Sunday 03 January

Outward flight/Cotonou (COO)

Flight to Cotonou, meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff who will arrange transfer to Hotel du Lac or similar. Overnight stay in a double room with services.



Welcome in Benin!

Day 2: Monday 04 January

Cotonou/Abomey/Dassa Zoumé

After breakfast, assistance with exchanging euros and purchasing a local phone card if required. Departure for ABOMEY, where we will visit the royal palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a place steeped in history that will give us a deeper insight into the ancient and bloodthirsty Kingdom of Dahomey. This will be followed by a visit to several voodoo temples, including the impressive 'chameleon'. Lunch at a restaurant. Onward journey to Dassa Zoumé, check-in at the Hotel Jeko or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Chameleon Temple in Abomey

Day 3: Tuesday 05 January

Dassa Zoumé/Pays Taneka/Natitingou

Breakfast and transfer to SAVALOU to visit the Dankoli fetish, where animist sacrifices are frequently witnessed. Onward journey and lunch at a restaurant in Djougou. In the early afternoon, departure for Kopargo, from where we'll take a dirt track towards the hills of the TANEKA VILLAGES, in a setting where time seems to have stood still. Here we will explore the four districts of Taneka Beri, each governed by its own king and his notables – wise elders dressed in traditional attire, wearing leather loincloths and smoking long pipes. Onward journey to Natitingou, check-in at the Hotel Tata Somba or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Elder Taneka



Traditional Tata Somba

Day 4: Wednesday 06 January

Natitingou/Somba and Tamberma/Sokodé

Breakfast, followed by an exploration of the PAYS SOMBA and the PAYS TAMBERMA, two ethnic groups who live in fortified huts made of straw and mud (known as 'tata') scattered amongst the cassava fields. We will wander through the tiny traditional villages and experience the rituals of the animist religion, which is deeply felt and very much alive. In KOUSSOKOINGOU, a traditional Otammari (or Somba) village, we will sample traditional sorghum beer, explore the tata huts to appreciate their intricate architecture, and climb up to the viewpoint, where there is a magnificent view of the ATAKORA MOUNTAINS.



Otammari Village

Ouidah Voodoo Festival
BENIN, TOGO

(continue)

Day 4: Wednesday 06 January

Natitingou/Somba and Tamberma/Sokodé

Lunch with a packed lunch (sandwich and fruit). Afterwards, having crossed the BORDER WITH TOGO, we will visit the NADOBA WEEKLY MARKET and a TAMBERMA VILLAGE. We will then continue on to SOKODÉ. Accommodation at the Solim Palace Hotel or similar. In the evening, we will travel to a small Tem village to watch the FIRE DANCE, during which the initiates, following the rhythm of the djembe, cover their bodies in embers without sustaining any burns or injuries. Overnight stay at the hotel in a double bungalow with services.

Day 5: Thursday 07 January

Sokodé/Kpalimé

Early in the morning, after breakfast, we set off southwards on a journey that will give us the chance to admire Togo's varied landscape: the fields of cassava, yams and millet, typical of the north, will gradually give way to plantations of cocoa, coffee, bananas and pineapples. Lunch at a restaurant. Arrival in KPALIME' and a visit to its cathedral, built in 1913 during the German colonial period, and to the village of Kouma Konda, to admire the castle and the craft centre. Accommodation at the Park Residence Hotel or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 6: Friday 08 January

Kpalimé/Lomé/Togoville/Possotomé

After breakfast, departure for LOME', followed by a visit to the *Grand Marché*, famous for its burly vendors selling traditional cloth and handicrafts, and to the incredible fetish market, where bones and skins from all manner of animals, amulets and statuettes studded with nails are sold. Lunch at a restaurant. Followed by a pirogue trip on LAKE TOGO to reach TOGOVILLE. Visit to several voodoo temples and the majestic cathedral, built to commemorate the apparition of the Virgin Mary on the lake. Meeting with a voodoo priestess in the temple, after changing out of Western clothes into traditional attire. Visit to the VOGAN WEEKLY MARKET, before crossing the BORDER WITH BENIN and continuing to POSSOTOME'. Accommodation at the Hotel Chez Thèo or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Fire dance of the Tem



Lomé fetish market



Adepta voodoo in Togoville



Zangbeto Ceremony



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
+223 76723946 - www.kanaga-at.com

Ouidah Voodoo Festival
BENIN, TOGO

Day 7: Saturday 09 January
Possotomé/Ouidah (Festival)/Possotomé

After breakfast, the day will be entirely devoted to taking part in the events of the VUDU' FESTIVAL and exploring the city of OUIDAH. We will see the priests, dignitaries and followers, often in a trance, before deities such as Ogou, the god of iron, Sakpata, the god of the earth, Khèvioso, the god of lightning etc.. We will retrace the slave route, the path that led slaves to the port where they would be shipped to the Americas through the 'gate of no return'. We will visit the Temple of the Pythons, where we can learn about the beliefs of this cult, the sacred forest, a place dotted with Voodoo deities, and we will take part in CEREMONIES with the EGUNGUN and the ZANGBETO spirits. Lunch in a restaurant. In the evening, return to Possotomé and overnight stay.


Python Temple in Ouidah


Egungun at the Voodoo Festival

Day 8: Sunday 10 January
Possotomé/Ganvié/Porto Novo/Cotonou

After breakfast, we set off for Calavi, where we will take a boat trip to the lakeside village of GANVIE, where the Tofinu people live in bamboo huts built on stilts and make their living solely from small-scale fishing. Lunch at a 'floating' restaurant. On the way back, we may encounter the constant comings and goings of canoes carrying goods and people shuttling between the mainland and the villages on the water. We continue to PORTO NOVO, the country's tranquil capital, for a city tour: we will admire the Afro-Brazilian architecture, notably the colourful mosque, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which echoes the style of the cathedrals of Salvador de Bahia; we will visit the Honmé Museum, formerly the Royal Palace; we will be enchanted by the DANCE OF THE GELEDE MASKS and the temple of the Zangbeto spirit. Return to Cotonou. Day-use rooms available on request. Transfer to the airport, end of services.


Ganvié Water Market


A stilt house in Ganvié

Day 9: Monday 11 January
Cotonou (COO)/Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.


Porto Novo Mosque

Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
+223 76723946 - www.kanaga-at.com

Ouidah Voodoo Festival

BENIN, TOGO

9 days
03 - 11 January 2027
English speaking tour leader

Individual participation fee in double room (min. 4/max. 12 pax)

2,490 €/pax

in promotion at € 2,290
for bookings before 03/07/2026

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free**!
- Single room: **290 €**
- Extra airport transfer: **30 €/transfer/pax**
- Day Use in Cotonou: **80 €/room (max 2 pax)**
- eVisa Benin service: **130 €/passport**
- Visa Togo service: **100 €/passport**

The fee includes:

- French/English speaking guide;
- English speaking tour leader (from 6 pax);
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- Tips and entrance fees to attend the Ouidah Voodoo Festival events;
- All transfers by minibus, including drivers, diesel and tolls;
- Half-board meals as specified in the itinerary;
- 7 nights in a double room as specified in the itinerary.

The fee does not include:

- Visas for Benin and Togo;
- Cancellation, health and baggage insurance;
- Airfares;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- Tips for photographers;
- VIP access to watch the events of the Ouidah Voodoo Festival in the arena;
- Participation in the Gelede mask dance (approx. €350 per group);
- Airport/hotel transfers and vice versa with companies other than the one recommended;
- Tips and personal expenses;
- Everything listed under 'supplements';

Recommended airlines: TURKISH AIRLINES
Arrival in Cotonou COO: 03/01/27 23h40
Departure from Cotonou COO: 11/01/27 00h40

Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
+223 76723946 - www.kanaga-at.com