



Forgotten Africa's tracks

SIERRA LEONE - LIBERIA

Photo by L. Vezzoni



11 days

02 - 12 February 2027

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: Tuesday 02 February

Outward Flight/Lungi-Freetown (FNA)

Flight to Freetown, arriving in the late afternoon. Transfer to the Lungi Gateway Hotel (or similar) via the hotel shuttle. Overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 2: Wednesday 03 February

Lungi/Bunce and Tasso Island/Freetown

After breakfast, meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff and assistance with exchanging euros and for the possible purchase of a local telephone 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 hubs of the slave trade in West Africa. In fact, it is estimated that in 140 years of slave trading (from 1668 to 1807), approximately 50,000 men, women and children were deported from this island to the Americas, mainly to Georgia and South Carolina. On the island, immersed in a powerful nature that seems to want to take over the misdeeds of humanity, the ruins of the British fort are still visible, with its cannons in attack positions, and the cells in which the "recalcitrant" slaves were segregated. Continue to TASSO ISLAND and lunch in a restaurant where it will be possible to taste local specialties, such as rice with peanut sauce or cassava leaves. In the afternoon, after some relaxation on the beach, we will head inland to visit the fishing villages, surrounded by palm groves and mangrove groves. Return by boat and departure for FREETOWN, capital of Sierra Leone, crossing the river by ferry, where the bridge turns into a real "floating market". Once disembarked, transfer to the Atlantic Lumley Hotel or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Welcome to Sierra Leone!



Gladi Gladi boat



Bunce Island



On the ferry to Freetown



Freetown



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Day 3: Thursday 04 February

Freetown

After breakfast, we will visit the We Yone Child Foundation (WYCF), an organization dedicated to empowering women through educational and vocational programs aimed at overcoming inequality, discrimination, and gender-based violence. Next, we will take a city tour, winding through bustling streets teeming with people engaged in various activities, as well as quieter neighborhoods where we can admire colonial-style public buildings—such as the Court of Justice—and Krio-style architecture, including St. John's Maroon Church, a Methodist church built in 1820 by the first formerly enslaved people to return from Jamaica. Near the Cotton Tree—the city's majestic landmark—we will visit the National Museum, which houses an intriguing collection of masks, drums, and artifacts representing the region's diverse ethnic groups. Finally, we will visit the craft market, where we can find fine masks, jewelry, and antique coins. Lunch at a restaurant. After the city tour, we will head to the magnificent River No. 2 Beach, considered one of the most beautiful on the continent thanks to its dramatic scenery that shifts with the changing tides. There will be free time to relax by the sea. Return to the city; overnight stay at the hotel.



Freetown



At the museum



River n°2 Beach



Fishermen in Tombo

Day 4: Friday 05 February

Freetown/Bureh/Tacugama

After breakfast at the hotel, we will take a walk along Lumely Beach—a popular, bustling city beach that comes alive on weekends as a gathering spot for young people and families. Next, we will pass through some Krio villages, characterized by colorful houses with wooden roofs built by the descendants of freed slaves. We will then depart for the fishing village of Tombo to watch the men unloading their catch onto the beach and observe the women busily arranging the fish into baskets ready for smoking. We will transfer to Bureh Beach—the country's most famous wild beach—where you can relax in the shade of palm trees, swim in the warm, calm waters of the inland lagoon, or stroll along the shoreline amidst stunning scenery. Lunch at a beachside restaurant. We will continue to the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary and check in at Tacugama Lodge*, located within the forest; dinner and an overnight stay 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.*



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Day 5: Saturday 06 February

Tacugama/Kenema

After breakfast, visit the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, a pioneering rehabilitation and reintroduction center for captive chimpanzees. Here, we can observe the veterinary team's dedicated work in rehabilitating these primates and spot some of the individuals already released into the lush rainforest surrounding the center. After lunch at a local restaurant, we depart for Kenema, the capital of the Eastern Province and the undisputed hub of the diamond mining industry. Upon arrival—time permitting—we can browse the many local shops selling diamonds, gold, and other precious stones. Accommodation at the Paloma Guesthouse (or similar); overnight stay in a double room with services.



Tacugama Chimp Sanctuary



Mende Village

Day 6: Sunday 07 February

Kenema/Mende Villages/Bo

After breakfast, we will head to a Mende village to witness a performance by the ethnic group's masks—such as the Bondo (Sewi) masks, associated with women's secret societies, as well as the Faouli (Saya), Bawi, Zoro, Nafali, and Gongoli masks. We will then continue to Bo for lunch at a restaurant or hotel. In the afternoon, we will visit nearby gold and diamond mines, where men and women break up the muddy ground using makeshift tools or dive into murky waters to extract soil for sifting—searching for the precious minerals that could change their lives. We will also have the opportunity to observe scenes of daily life, such as the preparation of cassava dough or red palm oil. Accommodation at the Dohas Hotel (or similar) and overnight stay.



Bondo Mask



Diamond Mine

Day 7: Monday 08 February

Bo/Bo Waterside/Robertson

After breakfast, depart for the LIBERIAN BORDER. The day is dedicated to the journey; lunch will be a packed meal. After completing customs formalities, arrive in the afternoon at Robertson—a coastal town facing the Atlantic, considered a paradise for surfing enthusiasts. Check in at Nana's Lodge (or similar), located right on the beach. Dinner and overnight stay in a double bungalow with services.



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Day 8: Tuesday 09 February

Robertsport/Monrovia

After breakfast, enjoy a free morning to stroll through the picturesque village—which boasts a Caribbean atmosphere—trek to the shipwreck, or relax on the magnificent beach at Robertsport, a favorite spot for surfers who camp beneath the massive ceiba tree overlooking the shoreline. Lunch at the hotel, followed by an afternoon transfer to Monrovia, the country's capital, and initial sightseeing if time permits. Accommodation at the Cape Hotel (or similar); dinner not included, but with the opportunity to sample incredibly fresh shellfish and sushi at the famous Mamba Point restaurant. Overnight stay in a double room with services.



Robertsport beach



Monrovia from the Ducor Hotel

Day 9: Wednesday 10 February

Monrovia/Marshall

After breakfast, enjoy a city tour of Monrovia, including the National Museum—featuring an interesting collection of masks, artifacts, textiles, and items of historical significance—the dilapidated E.J. Roye Building, the First United Methodist Church, the imposing Masonic Temple, and finally the famous, now-abandoned Hotel Ducor (a luxury 1970s hotel bearing the scars of the civil war), as well as the craft market, where you can find fine handicrafts or colorful souvenirs. Lunch at a restaurant, followed by an afternoon transfer to the village of Marshall and check-in at the Libassa Lodge (or similar), an eco-resort peacefully nestled between the lagoon and the sea, featuring multi-level swimming pools. Free time to relax or visit the Libassa Sanctuary, a small reserve where volunteers work to rehabilitate and release animals rescued from poaching—such as pangolins, slow lorises, hawks, and various types of monkeys—back into the wild. Overnight stay in a double bungalow with services.



Masonic Temple



Traffic in Monrovia



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Day 10: Thursday 11 February

Marshall/Robertsfield (ROB)/Return flight

Breakfast at the lodge and a free day to relax by the sea or the pools, or to enjoy snorkeling, kayaking, or paddleboarding in the lagoon. Optional boat excursion to the CHIMPANZEE ISLANDS—a small archipelago of river islets at the mouth of the Farmington River. These islands are home to just under a hundred chimpanzees that survived years of medical testing experiments conducted by the New York Blood Center at a research facility near Monrovia (opened in the 1970s), where these primates were used as lab subjects due to their striking genetic resemblance to humans. In 2006, US funding was cut off and the center ceased operations; the chimpanzees—accustomed to captivity and entirely dependent on humans—were abandoned on these islands. While this could have been a death sentence, volunteers from "Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue" stepped in to provide care and support. Today, the archipelago is home to a large, healthy chimpanzee community, living in small groups scattered across the various islands. As we approach by boat, we can spot numerous chimpanzees peeking out from the bush or climbing the mangroves out of curiosity, hoping we might share some mangoes with them. Transfer to the airport in time for your return flight. END OF SERVICES.



How to speak Chimpanzee



Chimpanzees in the islands



Lagoon at Libassa

Day 11: Friday 12 February

Return Flight

Arrival at the destination airport



Chimpanzee



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**Individual participation fee in double room
(min. 3/max. 12 pax)**

3,090 €/pax

**in promotion at € 2,990
for booking before 02/10/2026**

Supplements:

- Registration fee: **free!**
- Single room*: **€460**
- Out-of-hours transfer: **€50/person/way**
- Visa service: **€330**
- Excursion to Chimp Island: **on request**
- Day use at Libassa: **€130/room**

The fee includes:

- English speaking tour leader (from 5 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;
- Mineral water during transfers and lunches included;
- 9 nights' accommodation in a twin room as detailed 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-Brussels flights);
- 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".

RECOMMENDED AIRLINE: Brussels Airlines

Outward: arrival in Freetown (FNA) – 18:40

Return: departure from Monrovia (ROB) – 20:20