

FROM 5 TO 14 JANUARY 2026
TIMUNTU-TRAVEL.COM



Benin Vodun Festival

BENIN

TIMUNTU TRAVEL PRESENTS

LOCAL STAY : 09 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS
A TOUR OF THE CRADLE OF VODUN

About

Timuntu

We are a travel agency specialised in organising traditional and unusual experiences to discover Africa and adapted to families with children. We offer sustainable tourism that respects the environment and local people by promoting an ecological, economic and ethical balance between travellers, communities and the people in charge of our Timuntists once they are there.

We offer expert advice and customisable adventures through authentic and responsible travel experiences.

*Travelling with
Timuntu, it's
giving a meaning
to your journey.*



Notes

BENIN VODUN FESTIVAL

The cradle of Vodou, the former French colony and Republic of Benin, the land of King Behanzin, a West African country with Porto-Novo and Cotonou as its capital cities, has been able to transform trends and preserve endogenous cults for centuries right up to the present day. The festival of endogenous cults has been officially recognised in Benin since 1992, under the impetus of former president Nicéphore Dieudonné SOGLO. Given the value and importance of this festival, which attracts visitors from all over the world to the cradle of Benin, the day is celebrated as a paid holiday by the government.

THE PROGRAMME

Benin, a hospitable land, welcomes you into its safe arms for the duration of your stay.

On this journey, learn about and explore Vodun from every angle! Overcome your fears by encountering the sacred within you!

RILLE TAKORE
FOUNDER OF TIMUNTU TRAVEL





Day 1: Your arrival in Cotonou

Flight times to be confirmed. Welcome by our local representative, then assistance with the transfer to your accommodation and settling in. Lunch on your own. Our team will accompany you in complete safety and professionalism, providing you with all the relevant information about your stay. You will have the opportunity to meet the local representative at a briefing where you can ask him any questions you may have. You'll also have some free time to relax. Depending on your arrival time, a city tour can be arranged to soak up the local colour and warmth. Overnight at **la résidence Imolease** or similar.



Day 2: Ouidah – Doors to the past and living spirituality



This day will immerse you in **African history and memory**.

Discover the unique traditions and rituals that mark this important event in the lives of the people of Ouidah. Take advantage of the day to explore the city's many historical and cultural sites. Visit the **Zinsou Foundation Museum**. Then, walk along the **Slave Route** to immerse yourself in the tragic history of the slave trade. You will have the opportunity to visit the **Kpassè Market**, where you can discover local crafts and perhaps find unique souvenirs to take home with you. Immerse yourself in Vodun culture by visiting **the Temple of the Sacred Pitons and the Sacred Forest of Ouidah**, where you can feel the spiritual presence that permeates these places. Overnight at the **Imolease Residence** or similar.

Day 3: Bohicon Abomey

Explore the towns of **Bohicon** and **Abomey**, true gems of the history of the **Kingdom of Dahomey**, nestled in the heart of **Benin**. These towns will immerse you in the heart of tribal wars and the resistance against the French army. Explore the fascinating history of the Amazons, these valiant women of the 17th century who fought with unwavering determination until the last drop of their blood. Visit the underground village, an ingenious creation of our ancestors to escape invaders.



We invite you to discover the **Honmè Museum**, which traces the rich and royal history of southern Benin. Immerse yourself in the court of the Amazons and be captivated by the tales of courage and bravery of these legendary warriors. You'll also have the opportunity to explore Beninese craftsmanship in all its finesse and beauty by visiting a family that has been working with bronze for centuries. Marvel at their ancestral know-how and admire the unique creations that showcase **Benin's artistic richness**. Overnight at the **Bois Vert Hotel** or similar.





Day 4: Allada, the Land of the Ancestors

Discover **Allada**, the first kingdom in southern Benin, where it all began. Delve into the thrilling history of this kingdom, which played a pivotal role in the pre-colonial period of **Dahomey**, present-day Benin. **Allada** is also the origin of the Vodun religion, which is now revered in many parts of the world. During your visit to the royal city of Allada, you will be immersed in the civilization of southern Benin and discover the historical legacy of this place. Meet King Tèdo Davié and immerse yourself in the local culture by learning some words and expressions of the Fon language, the most widely spoken in Benin, during a language immersion at the To Tché Wè cultural center. Visit **Toussaint L'Ouverture Square**, an emblematic figure of the liberation of the Haitian people and explore the surrounding forests. Also, let yourself be swept away by the artistic animation that animates Allada, where creativity and artistic expression are in the spotlight. Allada is a place steeped in history, spirituality, and culture. This unique experience will allow you to understand the importance of this **first kingdom in southern Benin** and immerse yourself in its fascinating atmosphere. Overnight at **Wanilo campsite** or similar.

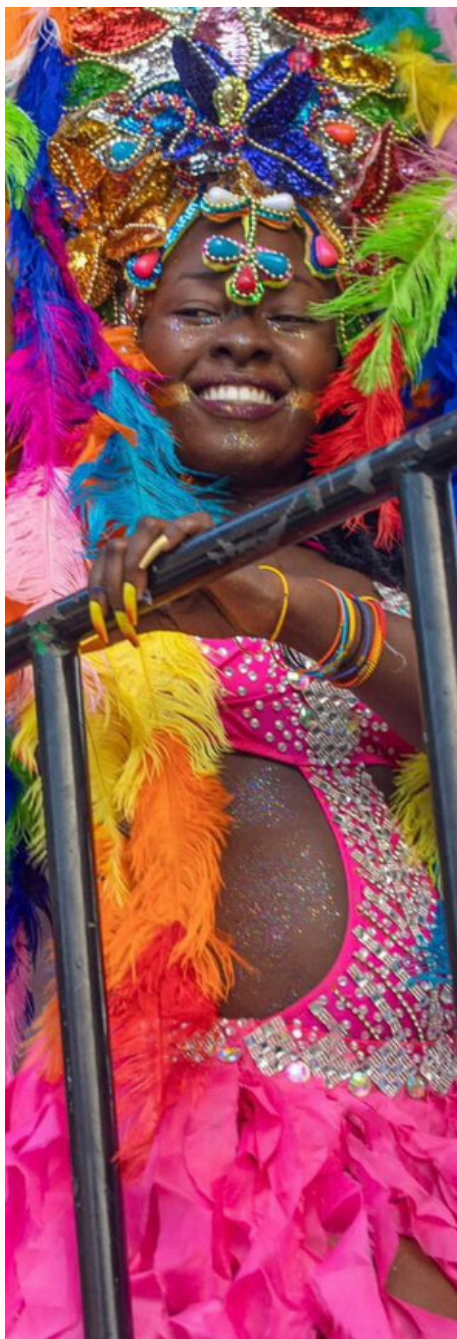
Day 5: Vodun Festival

After a traditional breakfast at the campsite, the day begins with an excursion to the **sacred Lake Awouto**, a mystical and spiritually charged place, at the heart of local Vodun celebrations. This peaceful shoreline is the setting for deeply rooted cultural expressions.

There, participants are immersed in an authentic version of the Vodun festival, with an introduction to the essential rituals and symbols of this ancestral tradition.

The **Vodun parade**, rich in color, rhythm, and divine presence, is a moment of pure contemplation and connection.

At the end of the day, head to Ouidah for the culmination of this spiritual adventure: the grand closing concert of the Vodun Days, a moment of collective celebration combining music, dance, and festive energy. Overnight stay at **Yamba Farm** or similar.



Day 6: Participation in the official activities of Vodun Days

Immerse yourself in the excitement of **Vodun Days** by taking part in the official ceremonies, ritual parades, and major celebrations held in Ouidah. You will witness the grandeur and **diversity of the Beninese people's cultural and religious expressions**. A rare opportunity to experience this festival in all its intensity. A unique event celebrating the living traditions of Benin.

- Colorful opening rituals: dances, sacred songs, ritual offerings
- Integration into a Vodun community or temple: a living connection with initiates and knowledge keepers
- Guided observation of major cults: Hêbiosso, Sakpata, Mami Wata, etc.
- Guided free time to experience the ceremonies at your own pace

This day offers an authentic immersion in a spirituality that is grounded, powerful, and open to discovery.



After the intense rituals and rejuvenation, head to Grand-Popo, with a soothing stop at **Gogotinkpon**, a unique place nestled in the heart of Beninese nature. After a picturesque pirogue ride, you'll arrive at a peaceful pontoon where you can completely relax. Immerse yourself in a therapeutic clay bath, enjoy a relaxing massage with shea butter based on African traditions, and participate in fun games to fully enjoy this magical place. To immortalize your visit, plant a symbolic coconut tree and leave a lasting mark on this serene place.

The day will end in **Grand-Popo**, between the lagoon and the ocean, for a peaceful rest. Spend the night at **Bambou Beach** or similar.

Day 7: Sè: The ancestral art of shaped earth

A few kilometers from Lokossa, the village of Sè welcomes you for a dive into the fascinating world of traditional Beninese pottery.

In this renowned village, **clay comes to life in the hands of skilled potters**, heirs to a know-how passed down from generation to generation.

You will discover unique **modeling techniques**, performed without a wheel, directly on the ground, respecting ancestral traditions.

Participate in a discovery workshop, shape your own clay object, and experience the power of the gesture, rhythm, and material. A time spent sharing with the village's artisans will allow you to better understand the spiritual and cultural symbolism surrounding each creation, ranging from domestic utility to ritual function. A simple, profound, and grounding experience that connects you to the earth, creation, and humanity. Overnight at **Bambou Beach** or similar.



Day 8: Grand Popo

After visiting the Karo villa, **Grand-Popo**, with its attractive, wild beaches lined with coconut trees, its fishing villages, and its lagoon arms ideal for canoe rides at sunset, offers you a **canoe excursion** on the lagoon to the mouth called **Bouche du Roy**, a meeting place between the Atlantic Ocean and the magical and soothing lagoon. You will have time to relax by the sea, and enjoy a good local dish in a natural setting. But first, two short stops on the salt island and the bird island with tasting of coconut caramel and the discovery of the production of local cooking salt. Night at **Bambou Beach** or similar.

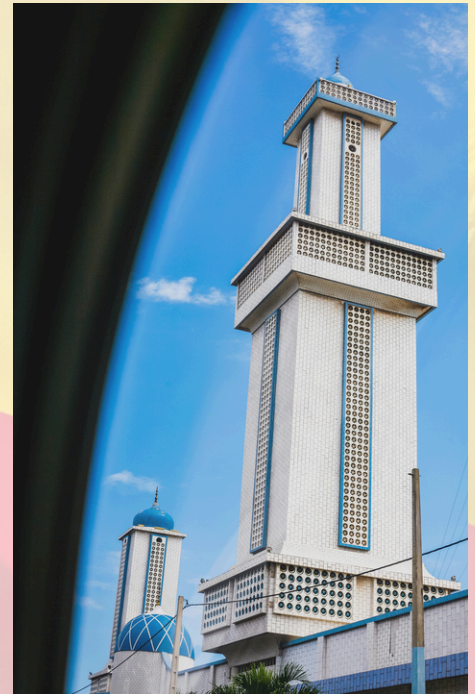


Day 9: Porto Novo - Adjara

Porto-Novo, the political capital of Benin, is a multifaceted city, rich in its royal, colonial, and Afro-Brazilian past. Discover cultural treasures such as the Honmè Museum, the great Afro-Brazilian mosque, and the colorful neighborhoods that bear witness to the return of former slaves, a true source of heritage pride.

A few kilometers away, **Adjara** offers an immersion in the river life (Black River) and rural traditions of southern Benin. Its lakeside villages, accessible by canoe, and its artisans (creators of sacred and non-sacred Benin drums) make this town a vibrant space for transmission and reconnection. Nature is omnipresent.

Together, Porto-Novo and Adjara offer a journey between history, spirituality, and nature, where each encounter is an open door to the memory, identity, and cultural genius of Benin. Overnight at **Bambou Beach** or similar.



Day 10: Cotonou et Ganvié

After a colorful stroll through **Cotonou**, from the bustling **Dantokpa Market**, the true beating heart of the city, to the vibrant **murals adorning** the walls of the country's autonomous port, passing by the majestic **Place de l'Amazone**, a tribute to the warrior women of Dahomey, one last adventure awaits us, imbued with magic and history.

Head to **Lake Nokoué**, where Ganvié, aptly nicknamed the Venice of Africa, unfolds. Accessible only by canoe, this lakeside village offers a striking spectacle: **houses, schools, a hospital, churches, and even hotels float on the water**, as if suspended in time.

Here, each stroke of the oar tells the story of the **resilience of a people** who, fleeing the slave trade, built a sanctuary of freedom and life on the water. Amidst children's smiles, tranquil canals, and floating market scenes, **Ganvié amazes with its ingenuity and quiet grace**, the ultimate pearl of Benin to discover before departure.

We will end this magnificent afternoon in style, carried by the still-fresh images of Ganvié and the emotions of the journey.

Over a **final shared convivial meal**, hearts will gently tighten, between laughter, gratitude, and promises of reunion.

This moment of farewell will be an opportunity to **relive together the most beautiful moments of the adventure**, to let our feelings speak, and to say goodbye in the warmth of a human circle.

Then, the transfer to the airport will come, our hearts full, our eyes shining, and our souls nourished by encounters, discoveries, and spirituality.





NB

During your trip to Benin, you will also have the opportunity to connect with your inner self and seek a better understanding of the situations that are troubling you by consulting the fa, the oracle revered in Beninese tradition.

Fa is an ancient divinatory system that allows you to obtain answers and guidance by interpreting the signs and symbols present on shells or palm nuts thrown during a consultation. It is a practice deeply rooted in Beninese culture and considered a way to communicate with spiritual forces and receive guidance for making important life decisions.

By visiting an experienced fa practitioner, you will be able to ask questions, express your concerns, and seek deeper, more intuitive answers. Fa can help you find keys to understanding, become aware of your blockages, or identify the options available to you.

This fa consultation experience can be both fascinating and enriching, allowing you to explore your inner world and gain wisdom and understanding. It is a unique opportunity to connect with ancestral wisdom and find answers that can illuminate your personal path. Please feel free to open yourself to this mystical and revelatory experience during your journey.



1590€ per person
based on 4 participants.*

*Subject to availability at the time of booking.



Included:

- 24-hour on-site reception and assistance for the duration of your stay.
- Travel documents (electronic version).
- Personalized and private round-trip airport transfers.
- Private transportation.
- Accommodation on a shared basis, as specified in the itinerary above.
- Full board (from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 10).
- Excursions as mentioned in the program.
- Guide service.
- Hotel pickup and drop-off for all activities mentioned in the program above.
- All entrance fees.

Service charges and VAT.

Not included:

- International flights and airport taxes.
- Visa fees and potential vaccinations.
- Meals not mentioned in the above program.
- Optional activities not included in the above program.
- Drinks and personal expenses.
- Tips for guides, drivers, and rangers (at your discretion, allow approximately €5 per person per day).
- Travel insurance (we strongly recommend purchasing this insurance via this link). : <https://www.chapkadirect.fr/index.php?action=produit&id=824&app=timuntu>).
- Services not mentioned in the "included" section.

Rreminder

The itinerary is subject to availability at the time of booking for a trip to Benin from January 5 to 14, 2026.
The photographs displayed in the itinerary are provided for illustrative purposes only. They do not constitute a contractual description of the services.

About

The travel insurance:

A complete contract with cancellation, repatriation assistance, medical and hospitalization expenses up to €300,000, luggage, private life and sports and leisure liability...

Cancellation:

Cancellation before departure for all justified reasons and exceptional events (airspace closure, undeclared strike, natural disaster, riot, epidemic*...): €10,000 per person. Cancellation within the limit of €10,000. Maximum per event of €40,000.

This formula is enriched with additional guarantees: impossible departure, missed flight, flight delay, interruption of stay with unused services.

Assistance:

A premium coverage for travel abroad without the cancellation guarantee. This package can be purchased up to the day before departure and includes teleconsultation.

[*COVID-19]:

Cancellation in case of Covid19 contraction before departure,

Cancellation in case of quarantine before departure,

Cancellation if you are denied boarding due to a thermal (or other health) inspection by the authorities or the carrier,

Medical expenses in case of contraction of Covid-19, quarantine at destination and medical repatriation,

Extension of stay when you are not infected or quarantined but are stranded due to confinement at destination or lack of transportation.

Subscription conditions:

The insurance must be taken out before or within 48 hours of the payment of the first deposit for your trip (flights, hotels, tour...).

Be a resident of Metropolitan France, the French overseas departments, the European Union, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the Principality of Andorra or Monaco.

Maximum duration of the trip: 60 days. No age limit.

Registration:

We are at your disposal to answer all your questions and to proceed with your registration.

We take a 60% deposit (if the registration is made more than 45 days before departure).

Loyalty:

Your loyalty is rewarded! With My Solidarity Card, every purchase you make will be rewarded. Free card with no validity limit. More information on our website.

Confirmation:

Payment of the balance at 45 days, then sending the travel documents.

Meeting at destination:

All you have to do is pack your suitcase, we are waiting for you on site to make you live a unique experience.

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*We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our Timuntists for their trust in Timuntu Travel. We are honored that you have chosen our company for your travels and we strive to continue providing you with exceptional travel experiences.
Thank you again for your support and loyalty.*



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