

BENIN VOODOO FESTIVAL 2027

**COUNTRY INFO &
FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS**

**JANUARY 5 - 12, 2027
8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS**



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BENIN INFORMATION

Known as the birthplace of Vodun (aka voodoo), Benin is a popular destination for those interested in history, heritage tourism, and traditional African religions. Benin recently commenced a Citizenship program aimed at reckoning with its historical role in the slave trade and reconnecting with the African diaspora.

Cotonou, a coastal city in the south, is Benin's largest city and the location of the main international airport. One of Cotonou's most famous buildings is Dantopka, West Africa's largest open air market, where you can find food, home goods, and just about anything else for sale. But the main draw for tourists is the fetish market, with skulls, bones, medicinal treatments, and other items used for traditional vodun rituals. Other Cotonou attractions include the Foundation Zinsou, a local artistic space; L'étoile Rouge, a monument in the center of the city; Centre Artisanal, an arts, crafts and souvenir market; the Notre Dame Cathedral; the Corniche; the Graffiti Mural; and the statue of the Amazon female warrior.

Porto Novo is Benin's capital and 2nd largest city. It was a former colonial hub, which today has a unique cultural identity, forged in part, by formerly enslaved Brazilians who returned to Benin. This Beninese/Afro-Brazilian cultural fusion is visible through the architecture, the iconic Great Mosque, and community traditions.

Ouidah is also located in southern Benin about an hour from Cotonou. One of its most visited sites is the Slave Route, a 2.5 mile trail ending at the beachside Door of No Return. The monument is a memorial to those who were kidnapped, sold, and shipped to the Americas. Another popular site is the Python Temple, where dozens of python snakes are revered and worshipped as religious symbols. Ouidah is also the main site of the Vodun Festival, held every year on January 10th. This festival attracts visitors from around the world who come to celebrate vodun, the traditional animist religion that centers vodun spirits and other elements of divine essence that govern the Earth.

Abomey was the home of the Dahomey Kingdom, a prominent West African kingdom that rose in the 15th century and specialized in the slave trade. Today, its ruined temples and royal palaces are a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the country's top tourist attractions. The 12 Royal Palaces of Abomey are spread over 100 acres and several have been converted into museums which illustrate the kingdom's history.

Ganvie, the lake village also known as the Venice of Africa, is Benin's most unique landmark. The village founders escaped there 500 years ago to avoid slave traders and founded the village which sits completely on stilts and is accessible only by boat. Today the village has grown to more than 3,000 homes and buildings. You will visit all of these sites and more during your time in Benin.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need a passport?

A passport book is required for travel to Benin. Your passport must be valid for 6 months after your planned departure date and have at least 2 blank pages.

Do I need a visa?

Travelers are required to have tourist visas for Benin, unless they are nationals of a visa exempt country. **US citizens require a visa**. An e-visa can be obtained online 7 to 90 days before travel, for either a single entry or multiple entries with a stay of either 30 or 90 days. The cost is 50 to 100 Euros depending on length of stay and number of entries. If you are not a US citizen, check for your country requirements.

Do I need any vaccinations or medications?

The Yellow Fever vaccine is **REQUIRED** for all travelers. Anti-malarial medication is recommended, Check the [CDC Website](#) for the most up-to date information.

What is the name of the arrival and departure airports/cities?

The Cotonou Cadjehoun Airport, airport code COO, is the arrival and departure airport. It is located in the Cadjehoun neighborhood of Cotonou, the largest city in Benin.

What is the cost of this trip?

The cost of the trip is \$2,500 for double occupancy or \$3,000 for single occupancy. Single occupancy spots are limited.

Are flights included in the tour price?

Flights are **NOT** included in this package. Delta/Air France, Turkish Airlines, and Virgin Atlantic appear to have the best flight options. Currently, flights from New York JFK airport are approximately \$1,500.

Is ground transportation included?

Yes, airport transfers and transportation to all activities on the Itinerary are included in the package price.

Is hotel lodging included?

Yes, double occupancy hotel accommodations for 7 nights are included: 5 nights in Cotonou and 2 nights in Ouidah. All accommodations will be 3.5 or 4 star and well rated for service and quality.

Are meals and drinks included?

Daily breakfast is included. A Welcome Brunch and Farewell Dinner with with food, champagne, wine and beer are included, as well as several lunches. Other meals and drinks are at your expense.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will I have any free time to relax and explore on my own?

Yes, although we have daily guided tours and activities, most evenings will be free for you to relax or explore on your own.

Can I attend and enjoy this trip if I don't speak French?

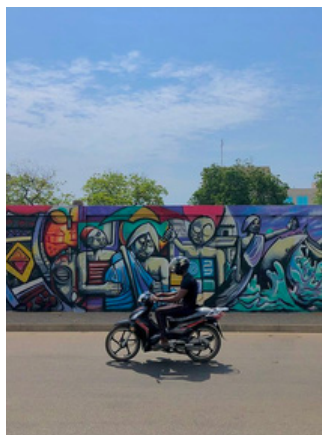
Yes, we will have a dedicated bilingual tour guide (English and French) throughout the tour. He will serve as a translator and resource for attendees.

When should I arrive in Benin?

You can arrive at any time on or before January 5, 2027. Since most flights arrive in the evening, we will not have any formal activities on that day. We will have an informal Meet and Greet that evening.

Which activities are included?

This trip will involve significant travel by road to several regions of Benin, with visits to the towns of Porto Novo, Adjarra, Ganvie stilt village, Abomey/Dahomey Kingdom, Cotonou, and Ouidah for the Voodoo Festival. We will visit a myriad of museums, historical sites, villages, markets, nature preserves, and beaches, and also participate in a dance and drumming class. All entrance and activity fees for excursions on the Itinerary are included, except that picture taking fees during the Voodoo Festival are NOT included. Photo fees will be announced the week of the festival and are payable separately by attendees. The full Itinerary is provided to paid attendees.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When should I plan to leave Benin?

Your tour will officially end following breakfast on January 12, 2027. You should schedule your flight to depart any time after 12:00pm. Those with late departures will be free to explore Cotonou on their own.

How can I reserve a spot on this trip?

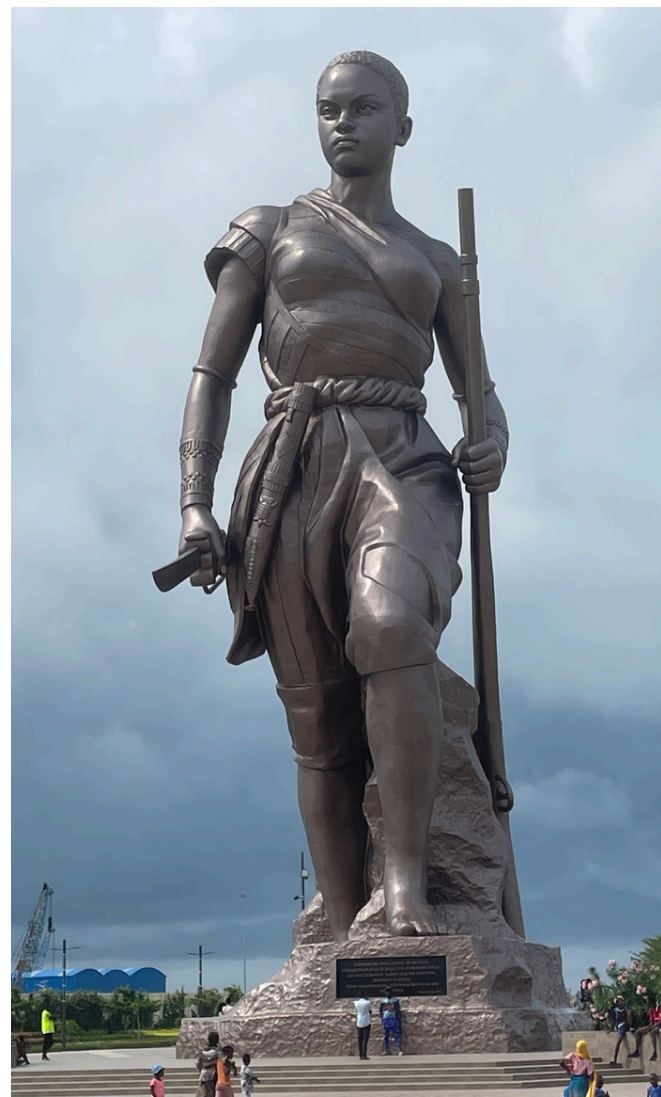
Full or partial payment can be made to hold a spot on this trip. If making a partial payment, a non-refundable deposit of \$250 USD is required. The deposit is applied towards the total balance due.

Are payment plans available?

Yes, a monthly payment plan is available. Payments are due on the 15th day of each month and all payments must be complete by the final payment deadline of October 15, 2026. All payment plans include a \$50 administrative fee.

What if I pay for the trip and can no longer attend?

The trip is non-refundable, but it is transferable. You are permitted to resell your slot to another participant, but we are unable to offer a refund. See the Terms and Conditions on our website for more info.



***TENTATIVE* ITINERARY**

Tues Jan 5, 2027

- Arrivals
- Informal Meet and Greet

Wed Jan 6, 2027

- Welcome Brunch
- Cotonou city tour: Ganvie, Dantopka Market, Notre Dame Cathedral, L'etoile Rouge, Centre Artisanal, Amazon Statue, Corniche, and more

Th Jan 7, 2027

- Porto Novo: City tour
- Adjarra: Visit Black River and professional drum makers

Fri Jan 8, 2027

- Abomey: Visit the Dahomey Kingdom museums and palaces

Sat Jan 9, 2027

- Ouidah: Temple of Pythons, Sacred Forest slave route, Point of No Return, evening cultural activities

Sun Jan 10, 2027

- Ouidah: Voodoo Festival (all day)

Mon Jan 11, 2027

- Gogotinkpon: relaxation day with clay bath, massages, beach and swimming
- Return to Cotonou
- Farewell Dinner

Tues Jan 12, 2027

- Departures

* Please note that this tentative Itinerary is subject to modification as the festival schedule and logistics require.



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN BENIN!

**If you have any additional questions or
would like to book your spot on this trip,
please reach out to us at
info@travelfricamovement.com.**

