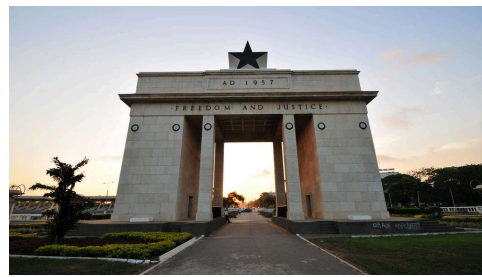




WESTERN TRANS AFRICA, SAHEL TO THE CAPE, (ADW)

Dakar to Cape Town 134 Days, departing 25th November 2019



TRIP OVERVIEW

Trip Style: Overlanding

Route: Dakar to Cape Town

Duration: 134 Days

Transport: Overland Expedition Vehicle, Jeep, Pirogue, Boat

Accommodation: Comfortable Hotel 6 nights
Basic Hotel 39 nights
Camping 54 nights
Camping without facilities 26 nights
Guesthouse 6 nights

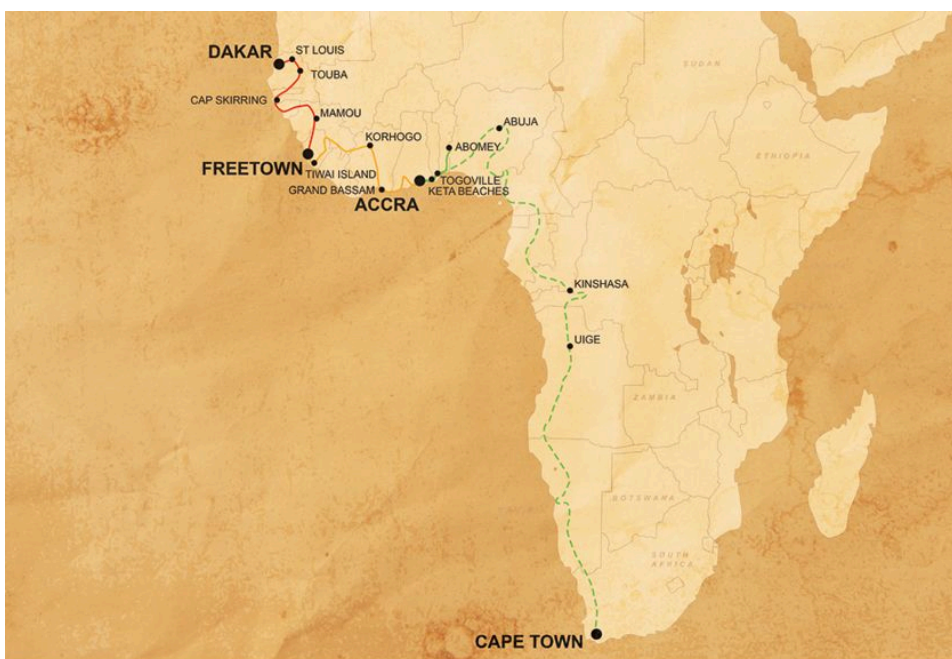
Meals: Breakfasts x 128, Lunches x 81, Dinners x 80

Physical Challenge: ● ● ● ○ ○

Depending on the trip, activities may include treks of 3-4 hours at altitude or across hilly terrain, multi-day treks at sea level, horseback riding, canoeing and other adventurous activities. A moderate level of fitness is required.

Lifestyle Challenge: ● ● ● ● ●

This is a trip for people with a real sense of adventure. You will be camping for the majority of the trip and the trip will include many long drive days and wild camps. The terrain may be very rough and the roads and facilities may be very basic or non-existent. The itinerary may be very flexible.



DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Dakar (25th November 2019)

Border information: if you are joining at Dakar, you will most likely enter Senegal at Dakar Léopold Sédar Senghor International Airport (IATA code: DKR).

Today is an arrival day with a pre departure meeting at 10:00am. Your leader will leave a note in reception telling you where this important meeting will take place. Your leader will collect your kitty and check your passport and insurance details at this meeting.

The afternoon will be free to explore the cosmopolitan city and perhaps take an optional trip to the famous Île de Goreé.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Dakar before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Dakar.

Accommodation: Hotel Al Baraka A""

Day 2 - Saint-Louis (26th November 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we head north through the dry Sahel region to the old colonial city of St. Louis, formerly the capital of French West Africa.

Day 3 - Saint-Louis (27th November 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a free day to explore the streets of the old city and take an optional trip to the Langue de Barbarie NP or the nearby Djoudj Birdlife Reserve.

Day 4 - Toubakouta (28th November 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we start our journey south to the small town of Toubakouta, situated close to the Sine-Saloum Delta. On the way we will see the landscape change as we enter the greener wetland region, and we will stop to see the Grand Mosque of Touba, one of the best known mosques in Senegal and most holy site in the Mouride branch of Islam.

Day 5 - Toubakouta (29th November 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

On our full day in Toubakouta we will have an optional morning pirogue trip to a nearby village to see a slice of rural Senegalese life and to meet their charismatic female chief. In the afternoon we have an included pirogue trip to the mangroves, the 'Shellfish Island' and the 'Island of Birds' - if the weather is good, there are often some stunning sunsets across the delta.

Day 6 - Tendaba (30th November 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Border information: Exit Senegal at Karang, enter The Gambia at Fass.

Today we will head across the border from Senegal into the small country of The Gambia, then cross the Gambia River on a local transport barge to arrive at the famous Tendaba Camp on the southern shore of the Gambia River. The ferry can be quite a chaotic local experience! Tendaba Camp was the first inland hotel in The Gambia, and is one of the most popular spots in the country for birdwatchers.

Day 7 - Tendaba (1st December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Tendaba is located opposite the Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve, one of the premier birdwatching sites in Africa. On our full day here we will have an included morning boat trip into the wetlands to spot some of the stunning area's wildlife and natural scenery. We will also have an opportunity to take an optional safari drive around the nearby forests of Kiang West NP.

Day 8 - Cap Skirring (2nd December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Border information: Exit The Gambia at Soma, enter Senegal at Senoba.

Today we will cross the border into the southern Casamance region of Senegal, arriving at the beautiful beaches of Cap Skirring.

Day 9 - Cap Skirring (3rd December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

We will have 2 full days in Cap Skirring, where there will be good opportunities for optional activities such as swimming, biking, fishing, quad-biking and sun-bathing! While in Cap Skirring, your co-driver will travel to the nearby town of Ziguinchor to obtain Guinea-Bissau visas for the group at the consulate there.

Day 10 - Cap Skirring (4th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

On our final day here we can continue to enjoy the activities on offer, relax and recharge ready for the journey ahead.

Day 11 - Bissau (5th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Border information: Exit Senegal at Mpack, enter Guinea Bissau at São Domingos.

Today we will drive across the border into the very rarely-visited country of Guinea-Bissau, and drive to its capital of Bissau.

Day 12 - Bissau (6th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Today, we will have time to freely explore the city and the old Portuguese centre of Bissau Velho.

Day 13 - Labe (7th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Guinea-Bissau at Kandika, enter Guinea at Kandika.

From Bissau we will journey through Guinea-Bissau and into the remote hilly areas of northern Guinea on our way to the town of Labé, the gateway to the stunning Fouta Djallon highland region. The roads on this section are very challenging dirt roads which take us through some incredibly remote areas, and our speed will largely be determined by the state of these roads - although getting to these areas is very special and a great adventure, even more flexibility will be required on these days!

Day 14 - Labe (8th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We will stop for 2 wild camps en route - the first is likely to be next to the Guinean border at Kandika, the second is likely to be in the highlands past the village of Seriba.

Day 15 - Labe (9th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we continue our drive and find ourselves another stunning wild camp ready to reach Labe tomorrow.

Day 16 - Labe (10th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

From Labé we will set off for an included 2-day excursion to the heart of the Fouta Djallon region of Guinea.

On the first day we will travel in 4x4 jeeps through very remote country roads to the small rural community of Aïnguel (approximately a 4 hour drive). After lunch there will be a short 3-hour trek to a waterfall viewpoint and to the nearby 'Pont de Pierre' rock bridge where we have the chance to swim in a beautiful natural lagoon.

On this night we will stay in a very small and basic community-run guesthouse - please note that if the group is large, some people may need to sleep in tents just outside.

Day 17 - Labe (11th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

On the second day there is a long 8-hour trek through the surrounding hills and villages taking in the incredible scenery. We will stop for a picnic lunch next to a stunning waterfall, where we have the opportunity to swim in the lagoon beneath. In the latter stages of the trek, we hope to be able to get to the base of a much larger and incredibly powerful waterfall, although this is dependent on the ground waters having receded enough after the rainy season to make this route passable.

Upon returning after this walk, we will immediately drive back in the 4x4s to Labe.

Day 18 - Mamou (12th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Leaving the Fouta Djallon region behind us, we head south through central Guinea to the town of Mamou.

Day 19 - Southern Guinea (13th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will continue our drive south through Guinea, stopping to wild camp close to the border with Sierra Leone.

Day 20 - Freetown Peninsula (14th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Guinea at Pamalap, enter Sierra Leone at Kindia.

Today we head to the stunning beaches of Freetown Peninsular, where we will spend 2 nights for some well-deserved relaxation after our journey through the tough roads of Guinea.

There are a few different options for which beaches we could choose to visit, our favourites being Bureh Beach at the south of the peninsular and River Number 2 Beach in the western part.

Day 21 - Freetown Peninsula (15th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We will have a full day for optional activities on the wonderful beaches - we could go fishing, take a boat to explore the Banana Islands, get to know the local communities, and of course relax on the beautiful beaches!

Day 22 - Freetown (16th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a short drive up the western side of the Freetown Peninsular to arrive in the Aberdeen district of the city of Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone.

Day 23 - Freetown (17th December 2019)

Border information: if you are joining in Freetown, you will most likely enter Sierra Leone at Freetown Lungi International Airport (IATA code: FNA).

There will be an important group meeting at 10:00am at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting. Your leader will collect your kitty and check your passport, visas, and insurance details at this meeting.

The afternoon will be free to explore Freetown and it's surroundings.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Freetown before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Freetown.

The fastest and most reliable way to Freetown from the airport is by water-taxi, as Lungi is across a bay from the city. The departure times for the water-taxis are linked to each flight in and out of the airport, so there will be transport available for you when you land. Exit the airport and walk to the right, and you'll see the water-taxi office at the end - you'll have to buy your ticket there for USD40 or EUR35, and check in your large bags. You'll take a minibus for 15 minutes, then the water-taxi for 30 minutes. The boat lands at the jetty, where you hand in your luggage ticket to get your large bags back.

The jetty is in the Aberdeen district of Freetown, only a 200m walk from our hotel. Just walk up the hill to the main road - the Raza Guesthouse is slightly further down and on the other side of the road.

Day 24 - Freetown Peninsula (18th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we leave Freetown for the stunning beaches of Freetown Peninsular, where we will spend 3 nights.

There are a few different options for which beaches we could choose to visit, our favourites being Bureh Beach at the south of the peninsular and River Number 2 Beach in the western part.

Day 25 - Freetown Peninsula (19th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We will have 2 full days for optional activities on the wonderful beaches - we could go fishing, take a boat to explore the Banana Islands, get to know the local communities, and of course relax on the beautiful beaches!

Day 26 - Freetown Peninsula (20th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Our final day on this beautiful beach we make the most of this time to relax before the journey continues.

Day 27 - Tiwai Island (21st December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Leaving the Freetown Peninsular behind, today we have a full day's drive through Sierra Leone to the Tiwai Island Sanctuary, one of Sierra Leone's largest inland islands.

Day 28 - Tiwai Island (22nd December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today, we will enjoy various nature walks through the web of trails that weave through the Tiwai forest. We'll be in search of the rare and colourful primates that inhabit the sanctuary, and if we're very lucky we may spot a very rare pygmy hippo!

Day 29 - Makeni (23rd December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Over the next 2 days we will travel north up through Sierra Leone to the small town of Kabala. Kabala is famous for being an oasis of cool air in the hills of northern Sierra Leone, and for its traditional Ronko-dyed clothes - shirts or gowns made of strips of cloth, typically dyed a rusty reddish-brown using local pigments.

Day 30 - Kabala (24th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today we will reach Kabala and should have the afternoon free to wander the town or climb the famous Gbawuria Hill.

Day 31 - Faranah (25th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Sierra Leone and enter Guinea at Gberia-Fotombu.

The next 2 days we will spend travelling through the remote border region between Sierra Leone and Guinea, driving through scenic areas very rarely visited by tourists and wild camping for a night en route. >

Day 32 - Faranah (26th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

We will arrive at the small Guinean town of Faranah today.

The road conditions in this area can be pretty tough going and unpredictable, and progress can be greatly affected by the weather conditions, so flexibility is very important over these days.

Day 33 - Gueckedou (27th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will travel through the central region of Guinea, stopping for a night in one of the towns en route (depending on how the drive goes, this may be Macenta or Guéckédou).

Day 34 - Nzekore (28th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will continue through the forested region of Guinea, visiting one of the famous vine bridges (Pont de Liana) en route. We will arrive at the small town of Nzerekoré in the heart of Guinea's Forest Region.

Day 35 - Nzekore (29th December 2019)

Meals: Breakfast

Today, we will have free time to explore the town, the nearby villages and the surrounding forests.

Day 36 - Western Côte d'Ivoire (30th December 2019)

Border information: Exit Guinea at Gbakoré, enter Côte d'Ivoire at Gbapleu.

The next 2 days are spent crossing the border and driving through central Côte d'Ivoire. These days take us through some very remote areas and some very poor quality dirt roads, so a great deal of flexibility is needed as our progress will largely be determined by the state of the roads.

Day 37 - Western Côte d'Ivoire (31st December 2019)

Today we continue our journey through the wilds of Cote d'Ivoire. It is on days like this when you get to see just how untamed this area is and appreciate how lucky you are to get a taste of life here.

Day 38 - Korhogo (1st January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will drive through the lush countryside to the northern Ivorian town of Korhogo, famed for the multitude of crafts that are made there.

Day 39 - Korhogo (2nd January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today, we will head out on an included tour around many of the handicraft workshops in the area, visiting painters, bead makers, wood carvers and cloth weavers. We will also have time to freely explore the town and its surroundings.

Day 40 - Yamoussoukro (3rd January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will drive to Yamoussoukro, the tiny and bizarre capital of Côte d'Ivoire. Yamoussoukro was the birthplace of Felix Houphouët-Boigny, the first president of independent Côte d'Ivoire, and is also the unusual location of the colossal and breathtaking Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, the largest Christian church in the world.

In the afternoon will have an included visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, and then have free time to further explore the small city.

Day 41 - Grand Bassam (4th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will drive to the Atlantic coast, arriving at the old French colonial capital of Grand Bassam situated east of Abidjan.

Day 42 - Grand Bassam (5th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have free time to explore the old colonial town of Grand Bassam experiencing the sights, sounds and tastes of this amazing place.

Day 43 - Grand Bassam (6th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today is a day to relax on the beautiful beaches around our hotel.

Day 44 - Elmina (7th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Côte d'Ivoire at Elubo, enter Ghana at Elubo.

Today we cross into Ghana and then head east along the Atlantic coast to the beaches of Beru Akyinim near the historic town of Elmina.

Day 45 - Elmina (8th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today, we will get involved with community projects currently being run in the Elmina area by the SABRE Charitable Trust. The Trust does very valuable work in developing educational projects across Ghana, with a focus on providing early-years education - we have been visiting their projects and providing a day of help and a donation for many years, allowing us to give a little back and to experience a wonderful bit of community interaction. The exact experience will depend on what the Trust has a need for at the time, but we could be asked to help to paint a classroom, do a bit of gardening in one of the schools, or simply come and play some games with the children!

We will also have time for an optional visit to Elmina Castle and to relax on the beautiful beaches on Ghana's Atlantic Coast.

Day 46 - Kakum NP (9th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will head into the nearby town of Cape Coast for a fascinating and moving tour of the old slave fort there.

We will then drive inland to the rainforests of Kakum NP. On arrival we will head out on an included evening walk through the forests in search of wildlife, bugs and snakes! We may also have the chance to visit a small animal sanctuary or stingless bee centre en route.

Day 47 - Kumasi (10th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have an early start with an included morning visit to the Kakum NP canopy walkways. These are a long series of hanging bridges at the forest canopy level that gives us a unique perspective of the rainforest - and at that time of the morning we will have the place to ourselves!

We will then journey north through Ghana's interior to the historic town of Kumasi.

Day 48 - Kumasi (11th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today, we will have lots of time for free exploration of the fascinating town and its museums. Kumasi is the home of West Africa's largest market and was the centre of the Ashanti Kingdom.

Day 49 - Accra (12th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will drive to Accra, the chaotic capital of Ghana! We will have free time on arrival to explore the city.

Day 50 - Accra (13th January 2020)

Border information: if you are joining in Accra, then you will most likely enter Ghana at Accra Kotoka International Airport (IATA code: ACC).

There will be an important group meeting at 10:00am at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting. Your leader will collect your kitty and check your passport, visas, and insurance details at this meeting.

The afternoon will be free to explore the city of Accra.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Accra before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Accra.

Day 51 - Accra (14th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will apply for Togo visas at the Togolese Embassy in Accra.

Day 52 - Akosombo (15th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we will leave Accra and head north to the village of Akosombo.

Day 53 - Akosombo (16th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Ghana at Klouto, enter Togo at Klouto.

Today we will have a full day's drive to the spectacular Mont Klouto, crossing the border into Togo.

Day 54 - Mont Klouto (17th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have a free day around the beautiful Mont Klouto region, with the opportunity to head out on optional forest walks or to visit Kpalimé town nearby.

In the evening, we will head to the village centre to see a spectacular show of drumming and dancing from the local villagers.

Day 55 - Mont Klouto (18th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Over the next 2 days we will drive up the length of Togo, all the way through the remote northern border with Benin. We will wild camp for 1 night en route.

Day 56 - Central Togo (19th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we continue our drive through Togo after our wild camp.

Day 57 - Togoville (20th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning we will head to the beach while we are waiting for our visas to be processed. Time to relax before we head into Benin tomorrow!

Day 58 - Grand Popo (21st January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Border information: Exit Togo at Ketao, enter Benin at Ouaké.

Today we will cross the border into Benin, before continuing our journey to the Tata Somba region close to the town of Tanguiéta.

Today we will have a free day at Grand Popo for relaxing on the beach or taking a pirogue trip around the nearby ocean and mangroves.

There is also an option this evening to visit an incredible local vodun (voodoo) ceremony in the nearby village, complete with very energetic dancing and incredible magic tricks! It may also be possible to take a night walk in search of Atlantic turtles, which lay their eggs on the beaches between November and March.

Day 59 - Pendjari NP (22nd January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

From the Tata Somba region we have a short journey north to the beautiful Pendjari NP.

We will stay for two nights wild camping in the NP, where we will have freedom to explore and head out on game drives in the truck in search of wildlife.

Day 60 - Pendjari NP (23rd January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have the entire day to enjoy this national park. One of the only places left in West Africa where wildlife continues to thrive. A lot of work is put into maintaining this park by African Parks who are responsible for many of the lesser known national parks in Africa.

Day 61 - Abomey (24th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Our journey today continues to Abomey, the ancient capital of the Dahomey kingdom. On arrival we will take an included tour of the Dahomey Palace and Museum.

Day 62 - Abomey (25th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a free day in Abomey to relax and prepare for the rest of our journey.

Day 63 - Grand Popo (26th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We will drive from Abomey to Grand Popo today and enjoy some well deserved time at the beach.

Day 64 - Grand Popo (27th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Free day in Grand Popo.

Day 65 - Ouidah (28th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will take a very interesting half-day tour of the sites in Ouidah, including the Voodoo Python Temple, the "Route des Esclaves" (Slave Route), La Maison du Brésil art gallery and the Ouidah Museum of History in the old Portuguese Fort of São João Baptista de Ajudá.

We may hopefully see many of the local fishermen bringing their catch in.

Day 66 - Ganvie (29th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning we will drive to Abomey-Calavi (a port on the outskirts of Cotonou), where we say goodbye to the truck for the night and jump aboard motorised pirogues to Ganvie, a fascinating town built entirely on stilts in the middle of Lake Nokoué.

Today we will have an included tour of the stilt town of Ganvie, exploring deeper on our pirogues and soaking up the unique way of life in the floating village.

In Ganvie we will stay in the stilt village itself!

Day 67 - Nigeria (30th January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today is where our true adventure begins! We will be making our way through the next 6 countries without a fixed itinerary. We will be keeping a close eye on the travel advice for each area that we head towards. This starts with the next 8 days through Nigeria. Some of the highlights we may experience include the impressive Usman Dam, Abuja National Mosque, Lekki Market and the beautiful Yankari NP.

We will be wild camping for the majority of this trip from now on, experiencing the true life and culture of the towns and villages we stop in.

Day 68 - Nigeria (31st January 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Nigeria

Day 69 - Nigeria (1st February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Nigeria

Day 70 - Nigeria (2nd February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Nigeria

Day 71 - Nigeria (3rd February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Nigeria

Day 72 - Nigeria (4th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Nigeria

Day 73 - Nigeria (5th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Nigeria

Day 74 - Nigeria (6th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Nigeria

Day 75 - Nigeria (7th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Nigeria

Day 76 - Cameroon (8th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Now we will head out of Nigeria into Cameroon. We have allocated another 8 days here. We may have the chance to apply for some visas during our time in Cameroon.

Highlights of the country include Douala with its bustling shopping and nightlife as well as Yaounde which is where we will find the National Museum. There will be opportunities to relax by the beach as well as spend time in the foothills of Mount Cameroon which is one of Africa's biggest volcanoes.

Day 77 - Cameroon (9th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Exploring Cameroon

Day 78 - Cameroon (10th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Exploring Cameroon

Day 79 - Cameroon (11th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Exploring Cameroon

Day 80 - Cameroon (12th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Exploring Cameroon

Day 81 - Cameroon (13th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Exploring Cameroon

Day 82 - Cameroon (14th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Cameroon

Day 83 - Cameroon (15th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Cameroon

Day 84 - Cameroon (16th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Cameroon

Day 85 - Gabon (17th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We now pass into our next destination, Gabon. We will spend 6 days travelling through this vibrant country. This is the point where the tarmac runs out, we will be getting used to dirt roads from now on!

There may be options for time on safari here as much of Gabon is rainforest. This could be in Lambarene or Loango NP which are barely inhabited by people and the wildlife is protected. There are also many Bwiti rituals in these areas.

Day 86 - Gabon (18th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Gabon

Day 87 - Gabon (19th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Gabon

Day 88 - Gabon (20th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Exploring Gabon

Day 89 - Gabon (21st February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Exploring Gabon

Day 90 - Gabon (22nd February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Gabon

Day 91 - Republic of the Congo (23rd February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Now onto 8 days in the Republic of the Congo. This is where we really prepare for the unexpected! Digging out the truck, huge potholes and overgrown passages can make this country feel truly wild. We will only pass through this country with the whole team working together.

The people in this country are renowned for their hospitable welcomes and we will find smiling faces wherever we go, from Nouabalé-Ndoki NP (home to Gorilla's), to Pointe-Noire (where the beaches are renowned) we will be greeted with open arms.

Day 92 - Republic of the Congo (24th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Republic of the Congo

Day 93 - Republic of the Congo (25th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Republic of the Congo

Day 94 - Republic of the Congo (26th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Republic of the Congo

Day 95 - Republic of the Congo (27th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Republic of the Congo

Day 96 - Republic of the Congo (28th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Republic of the Congo

Day 97 - Republic of the Congo (29th February 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Republic of the Congo

Day 98 - Republic of the Congo (1st March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Republic of the Congo

Day 99 - Republic of the Congo (2nd March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Republic of the Congo

Day 100 - Democratic Republic of the Congo (3rd March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We will be passing through a small portion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo as we make our way to Angola. Here we have the option of travelling West and visiting Kinshasa or, if it is in our best interests to do so, we can visit the enclave of Cabinda, which is part of Angola.

We should be able to view the Crystal Mountains range and have the option to climb Mont Mangenge, a pilgrimage site for local people. You will probably be overtaken by the Congolese praying step by step as they ascend. The DRC is also home to the only Bonobo sanctuary in the world, definitely worth a visit!

Day 101 - Democratic Republic of the Congo (4th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Day 102 - Democratic Republic of the Congo (5th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Day 103 - Democratic Republic of the Congo (6th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Day 104 - Democratic Republic of the Congo (7th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Day 105 - Democratic Republic of the Congo (8th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Day 106 - Democratic Republic of the Congo (9th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Day 107 - Democratic Republic of the Congo (10th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Day 108 - Democratic Republic of the Congo (11th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Day 109 - Democratic Republic of the Congo (12th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Day 110 - Democratic Republic of the Congo (13th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Day 111 - Democratic Republic of the Congo (14th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Day 112 - Angola (15th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Our final country with no fixed itinerary is Angola. This is a country that is still making it's way back from years of civil war. Due to this tourists are not seen very regularly, in fact, we may be the first tourists to travel through some villages. We also have the chance to test out our Portuguese here.

Close to where we enter the country is Turtle Beach where endangered Olive Ridley Turtles hatch through September to March. The National Museum of Slavery near Lobito is a stark reminder of Angolas past. Other highlights include Kalandula Falls and Quicama NP.

Day 113 - Angola (16th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Exploring Angola

Day 114 - Angola (17th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Exploring Angola

Day 115 - Angola (18th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Angola

Day 116 - Angola (19th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Angola

Day 117 - Angola (20th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Angola

Day 118 - Angola (21st March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Angola

Day 119 - Angola (22nd March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Angola

Day 120 - Angola (23rd March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Exploring Angola

Day 121 - Etosha NP (24th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we head to the stunning Etosha NP.

Etosha is one of the world's most pre-eminent wildlife areas, and we have an excellent chance to spot some of Africa's most famous animals such as elephant, lion, giraffe, zebra, leopard, oryx, impala, and rhino!

We will stay in the park for 2 days, giving us plenty of opportunity for game drives in our truck in search of the animals here.

In Etosha NP we will stay in a mixture of the campsites of Namutoni, Halali or Okaukuejo according to availability, all of which are superbly located within the NP, have excellent facilities and are situated next to watering holes where many animals come for a drink at night.

Day 122 - Etosha NP (25th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Full day in Etosha National Park.

Day 123 - Windhoek (26th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we drive to Windhoek.

Day 124 - Spitzkoppe (27th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive south to the stunning mountains of Spitzkoppe. This remote region has breathtaking sunsets and sunrises as the colour of the landscape takes on remarkable oranges and reds.

Day 125 - Swakopmund (28th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will continue to the old German colonial town of Swakopmund, where we will have 2 nights to explore the town and enjoy some of the many optional adventure activities on offer.

We will also have an included visit to Cape Cross en route from Spitzkoppe, to experience the sight, sound and smell of thousands of olive-coloured seals on the shore.

Day 126 - Swakopmund (29th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Free day in Swakopmund.

Day 127 - Sesriem (30th March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive from Swakopmund to Sesriem, our base for exploring the spectacular Namib Desert. If time allows, en route we will have the option to take a short walking tour of the desert around Solitaire where we can learn all about the ecosystem of the desert - please note that our time available for this is dependent on the time of the sunset, as they close the gates to our Sesriem campsite at sunset.

Day 128 - Bethanie (31st March 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have an early morning start to climb to the top of the famous Dune 45 for a dramatic and incredible sunrise view across a vast sea of sand. We will also have chance to explore the otherworldly landscape of the Dead Vlei. In the afternoon, we head south to our river camp near the small town of Bethanie.

Day 129 - Fish River Canyon (1st April 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we head south to the dramatic scenery of the Fish River Canyon. Here we will have some time for exploration and taking in the beautiful sunset over the canyon.

Day 130 - Noordoewer (2nd April 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we will drive to Noordoewer, next to the scenic banks of the Gariep (Orange) River - the natural border between Namibia and South Africa. If there is sufficient water in the river we may be able to take an optional canoeing tour on the Orange River.

NB: If we have arrived late the previous day, the Tour Leader may opt to spend more time at Fish River Canyon before driving to Noordoewer.

Day 131 - Citrusdal (3rd April 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border Information: Exit Namibia at Noordoewer, enter South Africa at Noordoewer.

Today we cross the border into South Africa and head down the Western Cape to camp site near Citrusdal. In the evening we will have the option for some wine tasting!

Day 132 - Cape Town (4th April 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Our final day takes us down the Western Cape to the charming and beautiful city of Cape Town.

Day 133 - Cape Town (5th April 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

This evening you will have the opportunity to enjoy a final group meal to say goodbye to your fellow travellers after what is certainly the journey of a lifetime.

Day 134 - Cape Town (6th April 2020)

End Day

Accommodation:

ITINERARY DISCLAIMER

The routes, activities and places visited described in these notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed and it sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons; climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. Changes to the itinerary may occur with little notice so please be prepared for modifications to your trip.

Drive Times

Drive times are listed in the day-to-day itinerary. These are the approximate number of hours that the vehicle will be in motion, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors.

Accommodation and Meals Included

The type of accommodation and included meals are listed for each day of the itinerary. These listings show our intention and on most departures the listings will be accurate. However due to the flexible nature of overland itineraries, climatic, bureaucratic or road conditions may demand changes to our listed intentions or groups may simply decide to amend the plans from time to time.

Optional Activities

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an endorsement or recommendation. Certain activities may not be available on your particular visit and it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination. It is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there. Prices listed are for entrance only and do not include transport costs to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated. The prices are displayed according to our latest information and in the best faith, but prices do fluctuate due to exchange rates, season, numbers of participants, and simple increases from the operator, and therefore any prices listed are a guide only and cannot be guaranteed. If you partake in any optional activities,

you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities. For more information around activity safety and insurance, please see the Essential Information document.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In the event of a real emergency once you have left your home country, please contact us on our out of office hours number. If you cannot get through on the phone, please leave a message with your name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you. Please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours, depending on the issue.

If your flight is delayed, please inform us as soon as you can and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in the Joining Point section of these notes.

Out of hours Number: +44 (0) 7985 106564

A FEW RULES

We expect all group members to act respectfully towards our staff and other group members. Bullying will not be tolerated.

Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, or carrying weapons may be legal, it is not acceptable for Dragoman customers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

ISSUES ON THE TRIP

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk.

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

IMPORTANT NOTES

OVERLANDING LIFESTYLE

Dragoman was founded in 1981, and has had many years of experience of leading overland trips across 4 continents. Overlanding is all about sharing a great travelling experience with like-minded people. On your trip you'll travel in one of Dragoman's purpose-built iconic expedition vehicles on an off-the-beaten-track adventure along rugged roads, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the world up-close. Your journey will be overland, sometimes across vast distances, so some long days spent driving are inevitable - but these will be interspersed with breaks of a day or two at a destination or activity.

On an overland journey, you are more than just a passenger and everyone gets involved setting up camp - we supply the tent but it's up to you to pitch it! As part of your trip, you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting firewood or water, luggage loading, organising food, stores, etc. Like all great adventures, the more you put in the more you'll get out! For more details of how an overlanding trip works, please see the Essential Information document.

SAFETY STANDARDS

We run adventure journeys in off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure. You should expect that some of these areas do not adhere to 'Western' safety standards. For more information, please see the Essential Information document

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN REMOTE AREAS

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available, and communications may be sparse. We do not carry satellite phones on our regular trips. Therefore, if you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

VISAS, HEALTH, INSURANCE & MONEY

Before you travel there are vital things to consider such as:

- Any visas needed for your trip
- Any vaccinations needed (please consult your GP or travel clinic)
- Organising your local payment (the kitty)
- Buying travel insurance (insurance is compulsory to be allowed to join our trips)

For more information on these topics, please see the Essential Information Document.

EXPLORATORY TRIP WARNING - THIS IS A NEW TRIP FOR US!

Please note that all or part of this trip is a brand new itinerary, and is going through completely new areas for Dragoman. This is what we call an Exploratory trip, and it means that all the passengers on this trip will be the route's pioneers for the first season!

While we have thoroughly researched all aspects of this new route and put the itinerary together with the best of intentions, please note that your crew will be finding a lot of information out for us on the ground and will be playing a lot of things by ear. The itinerary may be altered in places where it becomes necessary and the drive times may differ significantly from the published estimates.

Most Exploratory trips will have slight or significant changes made to them after this first season, and frankly we would be very surprised if an Exploratory trip was to run perfectly to the published itinerary. Usually we find that this is rarely a problem but rather an exciting feature and that there are much more pleasant surprises in store than unpleasant ones. You will be immersing in to the camaraderie with your crew and fellow travellers and give you the fantastic opportunity to shape the trip as a group.

However, the warning is sincere and this trip must be viewed as Exploratory - if this concerns you or you would rather stick to a tried-and-tested itinerary, then we recommend that you wait a year or two until we have this itinerary perfected following operating it many times, or of course to consider one of the more established trips in our extensive portfolio.

There will be numerous challenges on this trip including border delays, visa and paperwork delays, potential re-routing at short notice, lack of western facilities, road closures and other obstacles and unforeseen issues.

There is a risk of cancellation if the FCO advise changes (as of now the route is safe to travel all the way through).

West and Central Africa will test everyone's patience due to potential issues with obtaining visas. This is likely to lead to long delays in places where there may not be much to do. It may also be necessary to fly over some places which would be at your own expense.

This trip will have a higher level of participation compared to our other Dragoman trips and you will be required to help out with setting up camps, cooking etc. The campsites are also likely to be basic for much of the trip along with a high number of bush camps.

This will be a challenging trip and you must be fit in order to participate. If you have a pre-existing medical condition or any medical concerns you should check with your doctor prior to travel that this would be a suitable trip for you. You should also be aware that in the event of accident or illness, access to medical centres will be limited.

On the flip side, we'll be visiting regions and areas very rarely seen by Western travellers. Meeting people who have perhaps never seen foreigners. Enjoying the chaotic and buzzing cultures of West and Central Africa. And of course, the immense satisfaction of completing a classic adventure that only a handful of people ever get the chance to complete.

SENEGAL NOTES

SIERRA LEONE NOTES

GAMBIA NOTES

GUINEA-BISSAU NOTES

GUINEA NOTES

GHANA NOTES

CÔTE D'IVOIRE NOTES

CÔTE D'IVOIRE NOTE

This trip travels to areas of Côte d'Ivoire bordering Liberia, where there has been recent political tension.

The British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently advises against all but essential travel to parts of Côte d'Ivoire, including the western region of Dix-Huit Montagnes, through which our trips in the country pass when coming to or from eastern Guinea. Our route passes by the town of Man and the border of Danané.

Please see the link below for more details:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/cote-d-ivoire>

Our trip is scheduled to pass through this region for one day. From all the advice given to us from the FCO and also from our local ground agents, we have decided to continue to travel through this area on this itinerary. The majority of the problems occur a large distance to the south of where we travel, and any alternative routes that avoid this area are not currently an option due to the condition of the roads.

It's important to understand that your travel insurance may be affected by travelling through this region, so please seek advice from your travel insurance company to check your coverage for travel in these regions. We recommend taking insurance through an insurer who will cover you for this travel. Should you choose to embark on your travel without appropriate travel insurance cover, please understand that you undertake this at your own personal risk.

Non-UK clients should check the travel advice of their own governments, as this may be different to the British FCO advice. Some relevant links are provided below:

Australian Government travel warning

http://smartraveller.gov.au/countries/ivory_coast

Canadian Government travel warning

<http://travel.gc.ca/destinations/cote-d-ivoire-ivory-coast?>

New Zealand travel warning

<https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/cote-divoireivory-coast>

SOUTH AFRICA NOTES

TOGO NOTES

BENIN NOTES

NIGERIA NOTES

CAMEROON NOTES

GABON NOTES

CONGO NOTES

CONGO DRC NOTES

ANGOLA NOTES

NAMIBIA NOTES

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these notes. **These notes were printed on the 27th May 2020**