

VOODOO & VIBES OF WEST AFRICA, (ZAA)

Accra to Accra 21 Days, departing 27th December 2021



TRIP OVERVIEW

Trip Style: Overlanding
Route: Accra to Accra
Duration: 21 Days
Transport: Overland Expedition Vehicle, Pirogue
Accommodation: Comfortable Hotel 2 nights
 Camping 12 nights
 Camping without facilities 2 nights
 Basic Hotel 4 nights
Meals: Breakfasts x 20, Lunches x 14, Dinners x 14

Physical Challenge: ● ● ○ ○ ○

Your itinerary may include easy-paced day walks, bike rides, and other activities that are not too strenuous.

Lifestyle Challenge: ● ● ● ○ ○

This trip has a bit of everything. Some areas that you travel through may be physically challenging; for example you may be at altitude some of the time and you may be camping for several nights. The pace of the trip can be tiring at times and some facilities will be basic. However there will also be plenty of time to relax and some comfortable accommodation.



DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Accra (27th December 2021)

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.

Accommodation: Roots Hotel Apartment

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the famous Labadi Beach situated on the outskirts of Accra

Entrance: 5 GHS

Freely explore the huge Independence Square and Black Star Arch in Accra where independence was celebrated in 1957

Visit: Free

Freely explore the area of Jamestown Accra's oldest district and a vibrant fishing area

Visit: Free

Head to this park which is a memorial to one of the founding fathers of Ghana.

Visit: 5 GHS

Learn all about the history and culture of Ghana in the National Museum

Entrance: 40 GHS

Visit the outside of the famous Osu Castle the seat of power in Ghana since the 1600s

See the outside: Free

Day 2 - Akosombo (28th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning, we will apply for Togo visas at the Togolese Embassy in Accra. Once they are issued, we will leave Accra and head north to the village of Akosombo.

Day 3 - Akosombo (29th December 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have an included visit to the nearby Akosombo Dam, a major project built in the 1960s to provide almost all of Ghana's energy needs. The rest of the day will be free to relax at our campsite in Akosombo.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit Akosombo Dam the colossal 1960s project that provides almost all of Ghana's energy needs and created Lake Volta, one of the world's largest man-made lakes

Included

Day 4 - Mont Klouto (30th December 2021)

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 5 - Mont Klouto (31st December 2021)

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

An evening of energetic drumming and dancing from the local villagers in Mont Klouto

Included

Optional Activities

Experience Kpalime, a market town like no other

Taxi: 500 USD

Guided walks around Mont Klouto looking for butterflies and enjoying the beautiful forest scenery

Guided walk: 8,000 USD

Day 6 - Central Togo (1st January 2022)

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 7 - Tanguieta (2nd January 2022)

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.

Day 8 - Tanguieta (3rd January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning we will go on an included walking tour of the nearby Tata Somba villages with some of the local villagers. This is a fascinating visit to an area rarely visited by tourists, where we will learn a lot about the local traditional way of life and explore the famous two-storey mud huts of the area.

In the afternoon, there is the option to walk through the stunning area to some nearby waterfalls.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Go on a guided tour of the Tata Somba villages of northern Benin learning about the traditional culture and way of life and visiting their incredible 2-storey 'mud castle' homes

Included

Optional Activities

Head out on a guided walk through the beautiful scenery in the hills of the Tata Somba region to visit some local waterfalls

Optional walk: 2,500 XOF

Day 9 - Pendjari NP (4th January 2022)

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the stunning landscapes of Pendjari National Park famous for being one of the best wildlife reserves in West Africa

Included

Day 10 - Pendjari NP (5th January 2022)

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 11 - Central Benin (6th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a full day's drive heading south through Benin. We will wild camp somewhere en route between the towns of Natitingou and Abomey.

Day 12 - Abomey (7th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

A guided tour of the capital of the ancient Dahomey empire including the Dahomey Palace and Museum.

Included

Day 13 - Abomey (8th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a day off from the road and have the time to enjoy the sights and sounds of beautiful Abomey.

Day 14 - Ganvie (9th January 2022)

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.

In Ganvie we will stay in the stilt village itself!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit to the incredible stilt village of Ganvie where an entire community of fisherman live in a town entirely built on stilts in the middle of Lake Noukoe near Cotonou

Included

Day 15 - Ganvie (10th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will start with 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. Following this, we will head back to land to re-join the truck and drive along the coastal road to Ouidah, where we may hopefully see many of the local fishermen bringing their catch in.

Day 16 - Grand Popo (11th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

After this, a short drive from Ouidah brings us to Grand Popo, where we have 2 nights of well deserved relaxation on the beaches!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Half-day tour of Ouidah including the museums and exhibitions at La Maison Bresil learning about the history of slavery on the 'Route des Esclaves' and the Point of No Return and a visit to the voodoo Snake Temple.

Included

Day 17 - Grand Popo (12th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Explore the rivers mangroves and villages of Grand Popo on a pirogue trip around the local area

Boat trip: 5,000 XOF

Head out at night to walk to the remote beaches where Atlantic Green Turtles are often seen laying their eggs between November and March (please note that sightings of turtles are not guaranteed and the chances of seeing them are more like 50-50!)

Donation: 5,000 XOF

Observe a local voodoo celebration in the nearby village of Grand Popo watch the hypnotic drumming and dancing of the 'Nightwatchman' and see some mind-blowing black magic!

Ceremony per group: 60,000 USD

Day 18 - Agbodrafo (13th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Benin and re-enter Togo at Hilla-Condji.

Leaving the beach behind, our journey continues over the border from Benin and back into Togo. We will head to the small quiet town of Agbodrafo on the southern shores of Lake Togo.

This afternoon we will take an included pirogue trip to Togoville, the centre of Vodun culture, where you will have a guided city tour and church visit.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Trip in a local non-motorised pirogue across Lac Togo to Togoville where you can explore the town and learn all about its history and culture

Included

Day 19 - Keta (14th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Border information: exit Togo at Lomé, enter Ghana at Aflao.

Today we will cross back into Ghana and head for Keta, where we will visit the very atmospheric and evocative ruins of the abandoned Fort Prinzenstein, built by the Danes 300 years ago as a transit point for transporting slaves to the Americas.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the ruins of the small Danish slave fort of Fort Prinzenstein and take in its haunting and moving atmosphere

Included

Day 20 - Accra (15th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

The final drive of this trip takes us back to Accra, the chaotic capital of Ghana!

Day 21 - Accra - End Date (16th January 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

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

Today is the end day for passengers finishing their trip in Accra. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact the Sales Team if you are interested in booking extra nights of accommodation in order to fully explore and take part in some of the optional activities on offer.

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.

GHANA NOTES

TOGO NOTES

BENIN NOTES

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these notes. **These notes were printed on the 25th February 2021**