

Visiting the country of spirits. Anthropological tourism in Guinea Bissau

Responsible
travellers
only



Duration: 10 days / 9 nights



Type of holiday: Ethnicity, culture, nature and ecotourism



Accommodation: Orango Parque Hotel and Dunia/Royal/Ceiba hotel in Bissau



Meals: Full board



Means of transportation : Boat and minibus/car



Local accompanist: Spanish and portuguese

Guinea Bissau, a former Portuguese colony, owns a vast natural and cultural wealth. The perfect destination for anthropological tourism.

The uncommon heritage of the Bijagós community is priceless. Far away from mass tourism, they have preserved their local culture and traditions in a remarkable way and animism still has a great influence on everyday life.

Our local accompanist are experts in the local traditions and will show us the fascinating world of animism. With them we'll get a first-hand look at how the people live, how they interact and what their daily work is like. You'll also be able to interact with the local population during your stay at the Orango Parque Hotel since all hotel staff are Bijagó nationals.

We'll visit several tabankas (villages) and attend a typical dance celebration. We'll enjoy ourselves whilst also learning about traditional activities such as the shell-fishing carried out by the Bijagó women.

NOTE: The itinerary and visits are subject to modification by the company depending on the weather, tides and route conditions.

Departure date:

24 / 11 / 2022

12 / 01 / 2023



Itinerary

Day 1: Depart from city of origin. Arrival in Bissau. Airport pick-up and transfer to the hotel in Bissau. Lunch in a restaurant in Bissau. Free afternoon to visit the city. Overnight in Bissau.

Day 2: Transfer by boat to Orango National Park, crossing small islands and sandbars (4 hours' sailing). Lunch at the Orango Parque Hotel. Visit the Eticoga tabanka (village), the mausoleum of the last Queen of the Bijagó, Okinka-Pampa, and the development cooperation projects we have run there. Overnight at the Orango Parque Hotel.

Day 3: Visit to the Anor region, one of the most interesting places in terms of wildlife on Orango Island. We'll have the chance to observe the saltwater hippopotamus in its natural habitat during the wet season (October-December), as well as crocodiles, birds and other important fauna. Walk through the mangroves and savannah. Overnight at the Orango Parque Hotel.

Day 4: Full-day visit to Canogo Island to attend a Bijagó Kundere dance and get a first-hand look at the Bijagó culture. Overnight at the Orango Parque Hotel.

Day 5: A visit to the tabanka (village) of Ambuduco, the oldest in the National Park and the birthplace of the Bijagó culture (5-hour circular walk). Here we'll have the opportunity to enjoy a bijagó Kanhogan dance, another magnificent display of local Bijagó traditions. Overnight at the Orango Parque Hotel.

Day 6: Depending on the tide, we'll meet with the Bijagó women during their daily shell fishing and will even take part, as well as seeing the men fishing with their traditional nets. We'll talk to the Baloberas (sacred women) of Eticoga, the last bijagó Baloberas, and meet the medicine man who'll explain how local plants are used in traditional Bijagó medicine. Overnight at the Orango Parque Hotel.

Day 7: Boat transfer to Quinhamel (4 hours) followed by land transfer to Bissau (40 min). Afternoon tour by car, stopping at: Bissau Velho district, the port, ethnographic museum, Amura fortress, Bissau Cathedral, Pidjiguiti Memorial, Old Chamber of Commerce designed by the architect Jorge Ferreira Chaves (today the headquarters of the political party PAIGC). Lunch in Bissau. Visit to Bandim market and other crafts markets in the afternoon. Visit to the Bontche textile cooperative. Overnight in Bissau.

Day 8: Pick up at the hotel and transfer to the Bafatá region. On our way from Bafatá to Gabu, we'll stop at the town of Tabato, founded by the Mandinka Djabaté and Kouyaté family. They are masters of the balafon and Mandinga kora and originally come from the old Mali empire, Fouta Djallon. They compose songs and sing to praise something or someone. We'll enjoy this gentle griot music performed on traditional instruments. Transfer to Bafata to visit the city. Overnight in Bissau.

Day 9: Visit to Biombo region, where we'll start the "Balobas Tour" and meet the Papel ethnic group and their balobas (sacred sites), as well as their sacred places. We'll visit the looms and activities performed by the Guinean NGO Artissal with the local community. Overnight in Bissau.

Day 10: Transfer to the airport. Flight departure back to city of origin.

Price per person (group from 6 to 28 people)

Base price (9 -28 pax) :	2.299€
Group suppl. 6-8 (both inclusive):	100€
Single room supplement :	330€
Supplement premium bungalow Orango Parque Hotel:	175€

Included

Transfers to and from Bissau airport
Internal transfer by land and sea
Full board accommodation (without beverages)
National Park fees and tours included in the itinerary
Contribution to a solidarity project with the local community.

Not included

International flights
Airline taxes
Visas
Beverages
Tips
Any other point not contained in the "Included" section

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