



**BEYOND
THE PATH
ADVENTURE**

Mali 7 days – Lost Kingdoms of West Africa

nature-discovery, cultural and sightseeing tour

We would like to invite you to an extraordinary expedition to Mali. During our trip we will visit the south and north of the country, where we will observe the exceptional ethnic and cultural mosaic of this part of Africa. We will visit towns that used to be capitals of African kingdoms, as evidenced by numerous historic sites that have been preserved despite variable and often tragic history of Mali, and we will set off for a short cruise on the Niger River. The most important attraction of this expedition will be the encounter with people and their culture and traditions that progressively subside under the pressure of civilisation. This may be one of the last opportunities to meet the followers of traditional African religions and also unique handicraft products in old merchant towns such as Sègou or Bamako.

You are welcome to take part in this exceptional journey to places off the beaten path. BTP Adventure

Itinerary:

❖ Day 1 – Bamako

Flights to Bamako usually take place in the afternoon and evening. After arrival, visa formalities. Transfer to the hotel and, after a short rest, an organisational meeting and dinner. D.

❖ Day 2 – Bamako – Koumantou – Sikasso

After breakfast, we will set off for Sikasso. We will stop in the Koumantou village on the way. After arrival in Sikasso, we will visit historic sites that have been recently entered



into the UNESCO World Heritage list. We plan a visit in the Senoufo cultural museum. We will visit the Mamelon hill and the mausoleum of king Tieba from the Kéné Dougou kingdom of 1866-1893. We will walk along the remainder of the town wall erected in the 19th century to protect the town from attacks by nomadic invaders from the desert. In the evening dinner in one of local restaurants. B.L.D.

❖ **Day 3 – Sikasso**

After breakfast, we will set off for the one-day visit to the area around Sikasso. To start with, we will go to villages of the Samogo and Senufo people near the small town of Louloni. We will see a traditional hunters' dance in the Fakokouroukoro village. We will drive for lunch to Sikasso and then set off for the Zerblaba village inhabited by the Minianka people, where we will assist at a concert of traditional music from the south of Mali. In the evening, return for dinner and night rest to Sikasso. B.L.D.

❖ **Day 4 – Sikasso – San – Sègou**

Early breakfast, and then we will set off for a whole-day journey to the town of Sègou. En route we will stop in Koutiala – the largest town in the region famous for its agriculture, in particular cotton farming. We will also see traditional granaries on our way. The next stop will be San where we will see a traditional mosque. We will visit the Terekoungo village belonging to the Bobo people. In the village, we will see the “fetish house” – a place inhabited by spirits that take care of the village and its inhabitants. We will have an opportunity to try traditional beer made from millet. Late in the evening, we will arrive to spend the night in Sègou. B.D.

❖ **Day 5 – Sègou and its surrounding area**



After breakfast, we will set off for the one-day visit Sègou and its surrounding area. To start with, we will visit the Sékoro village, a former capital of the Bambara kingdom, where we will see the grave of its founder, king Biton Mamary Coulibaly. We will visit one of the oldest mosques in the area, built by king Biton for his mother. Then we will go on a cruise by boats on the Niger River to the Bambara village in Kaiabougou. The village is famous for its pottery production. In the afternoon, return to Sègou where we will see colonial buildings and traditional houses made of mud bricks. This evening there will also be an opportunity to visit traditional craft workshops and buy some souvenirs. In the evening, return for dinner and night rest to Sègou. B.D.

❖ **Day 6 – Sègou – Bamako**

After breakfast, we will start our return journey to Bamako. After arrival, we will set off to visit the Mali capital. To start with, the Health Hill, then we will go to the heart of the city, which is the bazaar where we will meet traditional craftsmen, sculptors, weavers, jewellers and metalworkers, who display their products and present their skills. We will also visit the part of the bazaar which is dedicated to the sale of traditional African medicines. In the afternoon, we will see the largest mosque and historic buildings of the old part of the city. In the evening dinner in one of local restaurants. B.L.D.

❖ **Day 7 – Bamako – Siby – Mana Keniba – Bamako**

After breakfast, we will set off for the nearby mountains, to the Mandè village in the western part of Mali. In Mandè we will hear about the history of Soundiata Keita, a legendary king of the ancient Mali empire. West Mali was the place of origin of the various ethnic groups that create the extraordinary cultural mosaic of Mali, including Dogon,



Bambara, Malinke, Kassonke, Minianka, Senufo and Bobo. We will visit the Siby village to see the Kamandjan rock arch and the Kamandjan cave. At the end of the trip, we will go to Nana-Kenieba to see the Dogon dance spectacle that will last for about 2 hours. In the evening, return to Bamako and transfer to the airport (most outbound flights from Bamako take place at night). B.

If the departure is on the next day, an additional dinner and overnight stay in Bamako (not included in the price)

Dates:

The price per person depends on the group size:

Services included in the price:

- Accommodation in 2- and 3-star hotels
- Transfers by off-road vehicles
- Services of a local guide
- Services of the Polish tour leader-guide
- Professional security guard services, as necessary
- Meals as specified: B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner
- Invitation necessary to obtain the visa
- Tips
- Entrance fees and permit charges

The price does not include:



- Return flight to Bamako
- Flight to N'Djamena if the expedition is continued to Chad
- Travel insurance
- Visa to the Republic of Mali
- Meals other than those listed in the final itinerary.
- Personal expenses and souvenirs and additional beverages

Additional information / final notes

- Depending on the political situation, the length of the tour and the order of visited places may change. In a situation of a serious threat to travellers' safety, the tour may be cancelled. We will keep you updated as to whether the expedition is possible.
- We can arrange a self-guided tour – if your are interested, please contact the office.

You are welcome to take part! BTP Adventure
