



## Benin and Togo Voodoo Discovery

BENIN, TOGO - TRIP CODE BWA

DISCOVERY

### Why book this trip?

This diverse trip through Benin and Togo is an opportunity to understand tribal cultures directly from a village Chief, discover the varied landscapes and learn about the controversial French colonisation and slave trade history.

- **Voodoo** - A unique chance to witness these intriguing and esoteric rituals
- **Diverse landscapes** - Spend a night in a remarkable stilt village on Lake Nokwe and walk through pristine rainforest
- **Village Life** - See traditional life up close and meet the friendly people of these two small but mighty West African countries



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 13  
Lunch: 9  
Dinner: 2



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour  
Leader  
Cook  
Driver(s)  
Local Guide(s)



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus  
4WD  
Boat



**ACCOMMODATION**  
1 nights simple  
auberge  
1 nights  
comfortable  
auberge  
1 nights simple  
guesthouse  
9 nights  
comfortable hotel  
1 nights simple hut



**TRIP PACE:**  
Full on



**GROUP SIZE:**  
10 - 16

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join trip in Lome

Arrive in Lome, the lively capital of Togo.

For those arriving on time our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 6pm for the welcome meeting and for those that wish, there is the chance to go out for dinner.

There are no other activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Lome at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Lome Tokoin International Airport (LFW), which is about 15 minutes\ drive from the airport. Should you miss the welcome meeting, your Leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.

If you have free time on arrival then you may choose to walk through the bustling streets, relax or visit the Museum of the Arts - \ Palais de Lome\ . Dating back over 100 years, the building has been used as the French governor's residence, the seat of Togolese presidency and also the residence of the Prime Minister before being abandoned. The 11 hectare park surrounding the palace is now home to a number of gardens and sculptures. We would suggest speaking to the hotel reception if you would like to visit so that they can assist with arranging a taxi.



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
Hotel Napoleon Lagune (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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### DAY 2 - Lome city tour; Drive to Kpalime

After breakfast and our Welcome Meeting this morning, we will kick off this West African adventure with a guided tour of the city. Once an important landmark within West Africa's notorious slave trade, Togo was colonised in the 15th century and this can still be seen today in the faded European architecture and tree-lined boulevards. We'll visit the colourful market and Togo's famed fetish market where locals and voodoo priests alike, can source anything from good luck charms to animal skulls to aid their pursuit of bringing themselves good fortune and health.

This afternoon we will drive to Kpalime, Togo's 4th largest city which is surrounded by tropical forest. This area is Togo's biggest producer of artisanal items including pottery, weaved items and wood sculpture, and we'll visit the Centre of Artisans to see their work.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Auberge JP Nectar (or similar)

Grade: Simple Auberge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 3 - Guided rainforest butterfly walk; fire dance in the evening

Today we will start with a half day, guided hike through the rainforest. Following well-marked tracks we will be hiking for five to six hours guided by a butterfly expert. Along the trails we'll learn about the

important and delicate eco-system in the forest, where over 500 species of butterfly can be found. The walk is mainly flat terrain but will be humid and warm, so insect repellent and sun protection is recommended.

This afternoon we drive north to Sokode for approximately five hours. As we travel we get a good insight into the country's culture as we stop to visit local villages, experiencing the smells and sounds of the colourful markets. In the evening we witness a traditional Fire Dance. Dancing to the hypnotic beat of the drum, the dancers eventually leap into the glowing embers. They then pick up burning coals and pass them over their body and mouth without showing any pain or injury. Whether it is a matter of courage, magic or auto suggestion, witnessing these rituals is a real privilege and a truly interesting experience.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Nouvel Hotel Central (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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#### **DAY 4 - Drive to the Bassar region. Visit the clay houses and learn about the iron production**

Today we travel towards Kara with stops along the way to meet the Bassar people. The Bassar live in traditional large clay houses with conical roofs and produce iron following an old traditional procedure. Strict rules have to be followed: only old women should provide the coal needed, which they collect from the mountains surrounding the villages. According to their belief, the iron would only melt under particular circumstances and if a strict code of conduct is observed. Our leader will also see if it's possible to meet a traditional Chief who will talk to us about their role in the society and leading their village. We'll arrive in Kara in the early evening.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Kara (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### **DAY 5 - Visit the Kabye region and meet the Tamberma people in the Atakora mountains**

This morning will be an early start to begin our journey into Benin. The first part of our drive is through a mountainous region where the Kabye people reside. The Kabye are excellent blacksmiths who still work with traditional methods that have been lost in the Western world. After visiting the communities here, we reach the Atakora Mountains, a chain of mountains that starts in south east Ghana and cuts through Togo and Benin and have offered a refuge for the Tamberma people for generations. We'll join the track through this region, offering opportunities for us to see the fortified dwellings of the Tamberma; their clay castles are revered throughout Africa. With phallic shaped fetishes adorning the entrance to their houses and surrounding wall representing the spirits of their ancestors, these isolated homesteads could feasibly hold out in a siege situation and offer a great base from which to protect themselves against enemies.

We'll stop somewhere close to the border for a lunch break before crossing into Boukoumbe, Benin in the early afternoon. The drive to Koussou is only another 30km, however the road condition varies and along the way we will stop at a Somba village and viewpoints to catch a great photo over the Benin landscape.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Otammari Lodge (or similar)



Grade: Simple Hut



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### **DAY 6 - Walk in the Atakora Mountain range and meet the Somba people**

An early start this morning, ahead of a day walking in this remarkable region, discovering some of the villages in the Atakora Mountains. We'll be walking for around six to seven hours over undulating hills along visible trails with plenty of stops along the route. We will have the chance to meet the Somba people (this word means nude in the traditional language) whose traditions have not yet been changed by outsiders, due to their geographic isolation. Similar to the Tamberma architecture, the Somba

architecture is characterised by dwellings that resemble a three storey castle. These beautiful fortifications are separated from the others depending on the ownership of fertile land.

Walking shoes and walking poles are recommended for today. The terrain can be rocky in places with some ascents and descents. With warm temperatures sun protection and insect repellent are essential.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Tata Somba (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### **DAY 7 - Meet the Fulani people; travel to Savalou**

This morning we'll begin the long, full-day journey south to Savalou. Along the way we will break to meet the Fulani people, a pastoral community who are renowned for their beauty and their tattoos. We will visit a Fulani camp and spend time with them as they go about their day.

We will also take a walk over the plateau of Taneka, to discover the ancient villages of the Yom, where people live in round huts covered with conical roofs and decorated with terracotta vases. The upper part of the village here is inhabited by fetish priests, often dressed in a goatskin, and their young initiates.

In the afternoon we continue the journey and then this evening our Explore Leader will look into the possibility of joining some local Voodoo celebrations that often begin on the eve of the Yam Festival.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Auberge (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Auberge**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### DAY 8 - Feast of the Yam

Today is Feast of the Yam. Yams are a staple of the Benin diet and in August the population of Savalou, including the King, come together to give thanks to their ancestors for the annual tuber harvest. During the hour long ceremony, the king gives thanks to their ancestors and gods for a good season, with hope that a successful harvest will follow again the following year.

The festival draws in the crowds to the city, and while there is ample opportunity to eat yams (after the King consumes his first!), it's also common to see public prayers, masked dancers and hear beating traditional music throughout the colourful fairground set-up specifically for the celebrations.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Jeco (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### DAY 9 - Visit the town of Dassa and then the Royal Palace of Abomey

We start our day exploring Dassa, which used to be the capital of an ancient kingdom in 1385, by visiting Sacred Hill where funerals for the royal family take place accompanied by Voodoo practices. We'll the drive three hours to the town of Abomey, where we'll visit the Royal Palace with our leader to discover the ornate majesty that was once the Dan-Homey dynasty. Now a museum, the Palace walls are still decorated with bas-reliefs representing the symbols of the Dahomey kings and its halls and rooms hold the thrones and altars, statues and arms of a kingdom that lived in a perpetual state of war and built its greatness on the slavery of its neighbours. In the centre of the royal courtyard is the House of Pearls, a temple built by king Glele to honour his father's spirit, the walls made from a mixture of clay and human blood! We'll arrive in Cove in the last afternoon, our base for the next two nights.





ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel TG Le Retour (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### DAY 10 - See the incredible Egun and Gelede mask ceremonies

This morning we are lucky enough to witness an Egun mask performance. According to the local tradition, people perform the rituals not only to represent but also to embody the spirits of the ancestors. Dressed in bright, colourful costumes, they emerge from the forest and form a procession through the village streets.

This afternoon we also have the opportunity to visit a Gelede mask ceremony. A cult to the great divinity Oduua, the earth mother, Gelede is a cult, a secret society and a type of mask all at the same time. The brightly coloured masks represent the bridge between the society and the ordinary villagers and are comprised of a head with large eyes and sensual lips over which are an animated collection of characters and objects that tell stories, to the accompaniment of a choir and an excited audience. This is a really special day as we encounter contrasting ceremonies, both very different and yet equally memorable.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel TG Le Retour (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### DAY 11 - Travel to incredible stilt village of Ganvie to spend a night in a stilt guesthouse

We spend this morning travelling by bus and boat to Ganvie, the largest stilt village in Africa. Settled by the Tofinou people, fleeing the slave traders of the 16th century, the village today is an atmospheric



setting of thatched huts, balanced on stilts of teak, where daily life is still very much conducted on the waters of the lake. Fishing is still the principal activity for the inhabitants and every day the men go about their business, whilst women deliver their goods to the floating market and children go to school and play from the backs of open pirogues. But even amidst this tranquil aquatic idyll voodoo plays its part; after a relaxing afternoon we'll meet a local Bokono oracle, a village soothsayer, this evening. We'll learn how these traditional people are guided through life by the drums and dancing of voodoo's haunting rhythm.



**ACCOMMODATION:**

Auberge Carrefour Ganvie Chez M (or similar)



**Grade: Simple Guesthouse**



**SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE**



**MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH**

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**DAY 12 - Visit Ouidah, the spiritual home of Voodoo; drive to Grand Popo**

We'll depart Ganvie after breakfast, and travel by boat and bus on to the town of Ouidah, considered to be the spiritual home of voodoo. Once an infamous part of the old slave route, Ouidah was the site of one of the largest trading posts, supplying slaves to Europe and its outlying colonies. The echoes and ghosts of those infamous days still reverberate today, in its Afro-Portuguese architecture. We aim to spend some of our time here visiting the museum at the Old Portuguese Fort and taking a walk along the slave route to the beach, where the unfortunate victims were loaded aboard the slave ships. We will also visit the remarkable Python Temple, where Ouidah's ancient snake cult is still very much in evidence. Snakes are still an important feature of many voodoo rituals, believed to be able to imbue vitality and protection. Later we head east for two more hours towards the Gulf of Benin where we'll stay in Grand Popo.



**ACCOMMODATION:**

Hotel Awale Plage (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



**SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE**



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 13 - Zangbeto dancing mask ceremony and afternoon voodoo ceremony

We depart after breakfast this morning by bus for a short distance before we swap into boats for a 5 minute journey to a small village where we will see our last mask ceremony, the Zangbeto. The masks for this ceremony are full body, straw decorations and the wearers of these masks keep their identity hidden as part of a secret society of traditional Voodoo guardians.

Later this morning we'll cross the border back into Togo, where we'll continue for a short while before stopping in Aneho, a village of thatched houses with shrines and fetishes, and there may be an opportunity to watch a Voodoo ceremony. During such a ritual we will see traditional dancers falling into a deep trance at the hypnotic rhythm of drums. After the ceremony we meet a traditional healer who treat the patients with voodoo rites and herbs. Later this afternoon, we continue 90 minutes towards Lome where there will be time for a last minute trip to the bustling market before our last meal.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Napoleon Lagune (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 14 - Trip ends in Lome

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Lome.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Lome at any time. If your flight is departing early in the morning, breakfast will be served very early. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. There may be the option to pay for a day room at €30, which is subject to availability at the hotel.

If you would like to receive a complimentary transfer today, you need to depart from Lome Tokoim International Airport (LFW), which is about 15 minutes' drive from the airport.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## Trip information

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### Country information

#### Benin

##### Climate

The climates in Togo and Benin are mostly tropical with two main rainy seasons in the central and southern regions - May to June and September to November. This should not adversely affect the trip as the tour operates outside the main seasons. Average temperatures range from the mid to high 20s Centigrade, with little change at night. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable.

##### Time difference to GMT

+1

##### Plugs

2 Pin Round

##### Religion

Christian, Roman Catholic, Celestial Church of Christ, Methodist,

##### Language

French

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#### Togo

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##### Time difference to GMT

0

##### Plugs

2 Pin Round

##### Religion

The majority of the Togolese Republic have indigenous beliefs.

##### Language

French

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### Budgeting and packing

#### Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight but a warm jumper is also advisable, as nights can be cool. Don't forget your swim gear. Although we strongly advise against swimming in the ocean, some of the hotels have a swimming pool. A scarf is also recommended as protection against dust whilst driving in the drier areas. Please note: Some areas we travel through have strong Muslim influences and people may be offended by shorts or revealing dresses, which can attract unwelcome attention. Therefore you should dress with respect for local sensibilities. Women should also cover their heads when entering a sanctuary, though in general, mosques are forbidden to non-Muslim.

## **Footwear**

Lightweight walking/hiking boots with good ankle support, plus trainers or sandals for relaxing and travelling in.

## **Luggage**

15Kg

## **Luggage: On tour**

Take a tough soft bag or holdall (or rucksack with detachable frame) suitable to be carried by 4WD vehicle. Total allowance: 33lbs/ 15kg maximum (due to weight restrictions on our vehicle). Also take a day sack for items needed during any walks (20- 30 litre). The limit does not include your camera equipment.

## **Equipment**

Bring as a minimum a sleeping sheet or lightweight sleeping bag. The Stilted village and simple huts provide mosquito nets (additional tents if required at the simple huts have sewn-in mosquito screens) so nets are not required. A torch, sunhat, sun cream and insect repellent are essential. Binoculars are useful for bird watching. Foam sleeping mats and eating utensils are provided. You may consider bringing swimwear for the occasional hotel pool.

Water in both Benin and Togo is not safe to drink so we recommend taking a filter bottle, such as a Water-to-Go bottle which can filter tap water anywhere in the world - <https://www.watertogo.eu/explore>

## **Tipping**

### **Explore leader**

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline.

### **Local crew**

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly you should allow £50.00 per person for group tipping.

## Benin

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£6.00	£14.00	£1.55	£1.50

### Foreign Exchange

#### Local currency

Communaute Financiere Africaine Franc (commonly known as CFA). The responsible authority is the Central Bank of the West African States.

#### Recommended Currency For Exchange

We suggest you take the majority of your spending money in mainly Euros cash. Take mixed denomination bills in good condition.

#### Where To Exchange

Your Tour leader will advise you where Euros cash can be exchanged.

#### ATM Availability

Limited to Lome and very unreliable.

#### Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are of little use in the rural areas visited on this trip, though take one along anyway as they can be used in bigger hotels and large shops in the cities. Be warned though that Mastercard is not currently accepted in Benin.

#### Travellers Cheques

It is very hard to change Travellers Cheques and we don't recommend them.

## Togo

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£12.00 - 16.00	£1.3	£0.5

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**Transport, Accommodation & Meals****Transport Information**

Bus, 4WD, Boat

**Accommodation notes**

Togo and Benin's tourism infrastructure is far less developed than other areas of the world. Hot water and electricity are unreliable. Standards of service can vary greatly and waiting times for simple requests can be lengthy but staff are often welcoming and friendly. During the trip, accommodation varies in style and quality. Electricity is sometimes only available between set hours and can be temperamental, and hot water can also be unreliable. Wifi is not common.

As well as comfortable hotels, the trip features stays in simple huts and traditional auberge style accommodation which are small local inns. The properties have been chosen for their location, authenticity and in some cases because they are the only option in the more rural areas. Hot water and air-conditioning will not be available, and bathroom facilities are often basic and may be shared. The choice of accommodation is limited in this part of Africa but in most cases their off-the-beaten-path locations allow for human interaction with the communities and self-exploration.

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**Essential Information**

## Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

## Visa and Passport Information

**Benin:** A single entry visa is required by UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens and must be obtained prior to departure, from your embassy of residence. You will need an accommodation letter from Explore which is provided within your confirmation pack. UK passports must be valid for a minimum period of six months from the date of exit from Benin.

An E-visa for Benin can be obtained prior to departure via the e-visa website: <https://evisa.gouv.bj/en>. You will need to print a copy of your e-visa approval letter and present this with your passport and final documents at the border crossing. The approval letter can take 48 hours to approve if there are no queries on the application. We therefore advise for you to apply at least 5 working days prior to travelling. The e-visa validity starts from its date of issue and not when you arrive in the country, so please ensure you have enough validity left on the visa through to the end of the tour before you travel.

Please note the closest Benin Embassy for UK residents is Paris contactable on +33 145 009882 or +33 142 223191

**Togo:** A multiple entry visa is required by UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens and must be obtained prior to departure, from your embassy of residence. You will need an accommodation letter from Explore which is provided within your confirmation pack. Your passport must be valid for a minimum period of one year from the date of exit from Togo. Togo visas can be obtained from the Togo Consulate in London in person. Please ensure you download the visa application form, required supporting documents guide and the visa tariff document from the Togolese Consulate website: <http://togoembassylondon.com/consulate/>, in order to complete your application. Please note that visa fees can only be made in cash, the exact amount only.

For both visas you will need to have four blank pages in your passport. In order for you to arrange your visas in time we recommend you to submit your visa applications at the earliest possible time of 2 months before the start date of the holiday as visas take at least 25 working days to process for both countries. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper



altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **Benin**

### **Vaccinations**

Although rarely checked, a Yellow Fever vaccination and certificate is a compulsory requirement for entry into Togo and Benin. We recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, diphtheria, tetanus, typhoid and polio. You may also want to take immunisation against meningococcal meningitis and cholera. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Take all your vaccination certificates with you as they may be requested on entry to any of the countries visited. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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## **Togo**

### **Vaccinations**

Although rarely checked, a Yellow Fever vaccination and certificate is a compulsory requirement for entry into Togo and Benin. We recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, diphtheria, tetanus, typhoid and polio. You may also want to take immunisation against meningococcal meningitis. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Take all your vaccination certificates with you as they may be requested on entry to any of the countries visited. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider.

Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

### Additional Information



## Why book this trip

This tour through the incredible countries of Togo and Benin has been created for travellers who want to get off the beaten track and visit a part of the world rarely touched by tourism. The colourful dresses, the drumming, the voodoo ceremonies and the friendly people are what bring these fascinating places to life.

# Reviews

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AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS



PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE



AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS