



**U TRAVEL VACATIONS. license : 11/3487**  
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## Explore Mali 10-days

### Day 1: ARRIVE IN BAMAKO, MALI

International flight arrives in Bamako where you will be met, assisted and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight at **Le Grand Hotel Or Similar**

### Day 2: BAMAKO

After breakfast explore this capital city, Bamako, situated on the Niger. The city was founded in 1640, but didn't really start to grow until the French colonial period began in 1898. Mali is a country of many tribal peoples, each with your own exuberant styles of clothing and jewelry. There is nowhere better to see this colorful diversity than in the streets and markets of Bamako. Bamako has a large art and craft centre where sculptors, weavers, leather workers, jewelers and metal workers exhibit their wares and display their skills. Another highlight of your tour is the Grand Marche, or 'Great Market', where you can spend hours exploring the hundreds of stalls from carvings and cassettes, to fabrics, beads, brass and gold, the variety of goods is staggering. One area of the market is devoted entirely too traditional African medicines. Here you'll find the freshly shrunken heads of birds, monkeys and crocodiles along with lizard skins and other gruesome treatments.

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast

Overnight at **Le Grand Hotel Or Similar**

### Day 3: TIMBUKTU

This morning take an early flight to the city of Timbuktu, a place whose name is synonymous with somewhere unreachable. Located near the River Niger, Timbuktu became fabulously wealthy in the 16th century. Loaded with blocks of salt and other trade goods, huge convoys of camels would spend weeks crossing the unforgiving Sahara to reach Timbuktu. It was here that they would trade salt, pound-for-pound, with African merchants bringing gold and ivory along the Niger from the heart of Africa. Wander the dusty streets of Timbuktu, admiring such magnificent mud-brick structures as the Djinguereber Mosque, the Mosque of Sankore, and the Palace of Bouctou. See the houses of the various 19th century European explorers who used Timbuktu as a base. Meal(s) Included: Breakfast. Overnight at **Hendrina Khan Hotel Or Similar**

### Day 4: MOPTI

This morning you leave the legendary city of Timbuktu, and fly to Mopti. Explore the city of Mopti which has a fascinating mix of Malian cultures including: Bambara, Bobo, Bozo, Dogon, Fulani, Tuareg, Songhai and Hausa. Visit the beautiful mosque, the fishing port and the bustling market,



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where you can shop for gold or silver jewelry, Tuareg leatherwork, or Fulani blankets of cotton or wool.

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast.

**Overnight at [Hotel Kanaga Or Similar](#)**

#### **Day 5: MOPTI – DJENNE – MOPTI**

Drive to Djenne, Timbuktu's ancient sister-city on the Niger. Visit Djenne on its weekly market day when Djenne is at its colorful best. Observe the magnificent Grand Mosque, the largest mud-brick architecture in the world and one of UNESCO's World Heritage sites. Return to Mopti for overnight. Meal(s) Included: Breakfast. **Overnight at [Hotel Kanaga Or Similar](#)**

#### **Day 6: DJENNE – DOGON**

After breakfast, drive to the fascinating Dogon Country. Visit the Dogon village of Songo, renowned for its rock paintings and circumcision grotto. Continue to Sangha, on the top of the Bandiagara escarpment. Visit the villages of Sangha, Ogols and Bongo; see the traditional women's house, the sacrificial altar of the Hogon (the Dogon people's traditional and religious leader. Visit a Dogon seer.

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Overnight at [Hotel Cheval Blanc Or Similar](#)**

#### **Day 7: DOGON COUNTRY**

Descend the Bandiagara escarpment to visit the villages of Banani (note the ancient Tellem cave dwellings in the cliff face), Ireli, Amani (visit the sacred crocodile sanctuary), and Tireli, where you may see a traditional Dogon Mask Dance. Ascend up the cliff then continue to Bandiagara.

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Overnight at [Hotel Cheval Blanc Or Similar](#)**

#### **Day 8: DOGON – SEGOU**

After breakfast, travel to Segou, Mali's second largest city and former colonial administrative center. Admire the beautiful Sudanese-style colonial architecture, visit the port, the pottery market, traditional weavers and other artisans. Visit the village of Sekoro, the former capital of the Bambara kingdom where you will see the tomb of King Biton Coulibaly.

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast

**Overnight at [Hotel Independence Or Similar](#)**



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### **Day 9: SEGOU – SIKASSO**

Drive to Sikasso in Mali's green belt. Tour Sikasso where you will see the Mamelon (residence of the former kings of Sikasso), the Tata (remnants of a large palisade that encircled the city and for a time held off the French colonial army).

Meal(s) Included: Breakfast

Overnight at **Hotel Du Cinquantenaire** or Similar

### **Day 10: BAMAKO – FINAL DEPARTURE**

Today you will complete your tour of Bamako. Start at point G where you will have a panoramic view of the city. Visit the National Museum, the city market and the artisans' village; in the evening, transfer to the airport for your onward flight. Meal(s) Included: Breakfast

**TOUR INCLUDES** • Meeting and assistance upon arrival and departure • Round-trip airport/hotel transfers • Hotel accommodation in the indicated properties • Transportation in private vehicle • Experienced tour guide • Admission to listed sites and events • Meals indicated by Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE** • Cost of visa • Meals not listed • Travel Insurance • Gratuity to driver and guide