



DANSART ON TOUR

CULTURAL TRIP

to Benin, West Africa



22nd MARCH – 3rd APRIL 2024

THEME TRIP TO BENIN –

THE OTHER WAY TO TRAVEL!

VISIT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: COTONOU – OUIDAH –
DASSA-ZOUMÉ – ABOMEY – PORTO-NOVO – GANVIE –
POSSOTOMÉ

Get to know different facets of the culture of Benin – both with and without active dance.

Our journey leads us into the cultural and spiritual life of this beautiful West African country. You are free to actively participate in dance workshops, or simply join us for an African adventure trip. Discover the social and cultural life of Benin through different events, ceremonies and encounters. Accommodation will be in a hotel directly on the ocean with a lagoon nearby. Rooms are air-conditioned with free WIFI. Three meals are included daily (traditional cuisine with vegetarian option available).

Travel costs

Travel costs incl. flight, accommodation/hotel, three meals, and all activities such as excursions, entrance fees, meditation, dance etc. €3.290.

Registration is open until November 15th 2023

For all further information regarding preparing your trip, booking and registration, please email us at: info@dansart.de

OUR DESTINATION: BENIN, WEST AFRICA

Benin is bordered to the west by Togo, to the north by Burkina Faso and Niger, to the east by Nigeria and to the south by the Gulf of Guinea, or more precisely, the Bay of Benin.

Until 1975 the country was called „Dahomey“. This term stands in tradition to the historical kingdom of Dahomey, which until the conquest by the French at the end of the 19th century, formed the southern part of the modern state and the neighboring state of Togo. From 1975 to 1990 it was called People’s Republic of Benin. The name Benin goes back to the pre-colonial kingdom of Benin in present-day Nigeria. This French-speaking West African country is considered to be the cradle of the Vodun or „Voodoo“ religion. Benin’s predecessor was the Kingdom of Dahomey, which existed from about 1600-1900. In Abomey, the former capital of Dahomey, the Historical Museum is housed in two royal palaces, whose bas-reliefs offer insights into the history of the kingdom. Here stands a throne resting on human skulls. Further north in the Pendjari National Park, safaris are offered where elephants, hippos and lions can be observed.

Our Stay

We will start in the morning in Düsseldorf and fly via Paris to Cotonou, Benin, where we will land in the evening. Afterwards we will drive to Ouidah, a city about 30 km away, where we will stay during our whole trip at a hotel with a pool directly on the beach with a lagoon.

Being located in Ouidah near the equator, the temperatures in March/April range from between 32 degrees during the day and 26 degrees at night.

From our hotel we undertake various tours and day trips where the travelers can enjoy cultural and authentic experiences. In between there will be time to relax at the beach and hotel pool, or to explore nearby surroundings. Depending on the program, the plan includes morning meditations at the beach, voluntary dance training with the dancers of the local dance companies, visiting various



ceremonies such as the museum and temple of the Python in Ouidah. We will watch the salt extraction in the lagoons and experience an unforgettable meeting with the famous voodoo priest, the king of Ouidah.

We will travel to the town of Dassa-Zoume which is 200 km away, spend one night in a hotel, visit the mystical cairn and the sacred grotto to experience traditional ceremonies. On the way back to Ouidah, we will go and see the royal city of Abomey with its royal palaces. We take a day trip to Porto-Novo, the official capital of Benin, where we visit museums and other sights. We will also visit Cotonou, the economic center of the country and the largest city in Benin. Here we will tour lively markets with their many products and traditional handicrafts.

We then take a boat trip on the largest lake in Benin (Lac Nokoué) to Ganvié - the Venice of Africa. This village on stilts has about 20,000 inhabitants and is probably the largest village built on a lake in Africa. A small detour leads us to Possotomé on the shore of Lake Aheme, the second largest lake in Benin. It is known for its healing medicinal springs, as well being the favourite and most-consumed mineral water.

Neben all den interessanten Erlebnissen möchten wir auch gemeinsam die kulinarischen Leckereien der heimischen Küche genießen, mit vielen schönen Stunden am Strand, der Lagune und dem Pool mit einem guten Glas Wein am Abend. Wir freuen uns mit Euch auf eine gemeinsame, erlebnisreiche und unvergessliche Reise nach Benin/Westafrika.

Ulla und Tchekpo Dan Agbetou
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