

Mali - Timbuktu

February 2013 Tour Cost: \$5,100

Mali is the jewel in West Africa's crown, a destination rich in culture and history. The country occupies the heart of a territory that once supported [Africa's](#) greatest empires. As a result, Mali has some of its most dramatic attractions – the legendary city of [Timbuktu \(Tombouctou\)](#), the gloriously improbable mosque at [Djenné](#), and the bustling river port of [Mopti](#) are simply three among many.

Mali is a country of deserts and rivers. The lucrative trade routes of the Sahara once made the region among the world's richest, and the [Niger](#), one of the grand old rivers of [Africa](#), is still the lifeblood of the country; But all of Mali is alive with a fascinating cultural mix of peoples, from the nomadic Tuareg people of the Sahara to the [Niger](#) fishing societies of the Bozo and the Dogon, whose villages and complex cultural rituals still cling to the edge of rocky cliffs.

As a result, everywhere you go there are fascinating ceremonies, world-famous musical traditions with strong roots in the local soil, and traditional cultures as accessible to travellers as any you'll find in [Africa](#).



Tour cost \$5,100 Price includes:

- Airfare from New York
- Accommodations, room tax
- All sightseeing tour and transfer services with private coach
- English-speaking locally-stationed guides
- Most meals
- All entrance fees for places on the itinerary
- Elephant ride or 4x4 jeep safari in Jaipur
- Full-day sailing excursion on the Niger River

Not included:

- Airfare and tax to NY
- International airfare taxes
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Tips: \$ 120
- Optional Single Supplement: \$ 663
- Festival tickets

Itinerary:

DEPART NEW YORK

DAY 1: Leave New York's JFK Airport at 5:45 pm on Royal Air Maroc.

ARRIVE CASABLANCA

DAY 2: Arrive Casablanca in the early am. Rest and/or see the city on your own, returning to the airport for our late night flight to Bamako, Mali.

BAMAKO - SEGOU

DAY 3: Arrive in Bamako around 1:00 AM; airport-hotel transfer; overnight in Bamako.

Leisurely breakfast.

Afternoon drive to Segou for overnight.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

SEGOU - DJENNE

DAY 4: City tour of Segou, Mali's second largest city and former colonial capital.

Late afternoon drive to Djenna, Timbuktu's historic sister-city; overnight in Djenna.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

DJENNE

DAY 5: City tour of Djenna, on its colorful market day; see the magnificent Great Mosque, one of Unesco's World Heritage sites; visit mudcloth artisan's workshop; overnight in Djenna.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

DJENNE - MOPTI

DAY 6: In the morning leave Djenna for Mopti. Upon arrival city tour of Mopti, also called "the Venice of Mali", because it is surrounded by the waters of the Niger and the Bani rivers; see the beautiful Sudanese-style Komoguel mosque, the fishing port (see pirogues being made by hand), and the bustling market where many of Mali's ethnic groups come to trade: Bambara, Bobo, Bozo, Dogon, Fulani, Tuareg and Songhay.

Overnight in Mopti.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

MOPTI/ NIGER RIVER

DAY 7: Today we will have a full day sailing excursion on Niger river. Overnight in Mopti.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

MOPTI - TIMBUKTU

DAY 8: Onward drive across the Sahel, to Timbuktu; overnight in Timbuktu.

EVENING FESTIVAL IN THE DESERT

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

TIMBUKTU

DAY 9: Visit the legendary city of Timbuktu, gateway to the Sahara Desert: see the ancient mosques and former universities, the museum and Ahmed Baba and Sheik Abdel Kader Haidara Institutes' archives of ancient Islamic manuscripts. Learn of the manuscripts preservation, restoration and accessibility for the world's scholarly community. Explore the explorers' houses, and the market which receives the azalaïs, the salt caravans from the desert; overnight in Timbuktu.

EVENING FESTIVAL IN THE DESERT

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

TIMBUKTU

DAY 10: Day at leisure in Timbuktu (visit the market); optional desert excursion by camel caravan to visit a Tuareg camp on the dunes; overnight in Timbuktu.

EVENING FESTIVAL IN THE DESERT

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

TIMBUKTU – DOGON COUNTRY

DAY 11: Drive to Mali's fascinating Dogon country; overnight in Bandiagara

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

DOGON COUNTRY

DAY 12: Visit Dogon villages along the Bandiagara escarpment; see many examples of the typical Dogon architecture, and ancient Tellem cave dwellings in the cliff; witness a traditional Dogon mask dance. Overnight in Bandiagara.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

DOGON COUNTRY - SEGOU

DAY 13: Visit Songo village, renowned for its circumcision grotto with rock paintings. Afternoon drive to Segou for overnight.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

SEGOU - BAMAKO

DAY 14: Drive to Bamako; en-route, visit Sekoro village, former capital of the Bambara kingdom; overnight in Bamako.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

BAMAKO

DAY 15: City tour of Bamako: visit the National Museum, Women's Museum, the city market, the artisans' village, the fetish market for traditional medicine. Overnight in Bamako.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner included

DEPARTURE

DAY 16: Around 4:00 am, transfer to the airport for 6:30 am flight to Casablanca; arriving JFK New York at 4:45 pm on the same day.

FLIGHTS: Pending

Date	Route	Flight	Departure	Arrival

HOTELS: Pending

City	Hotel	URL