Benin Tours

FULL DAY EXCURSION

Cotonou, Ganvié and Ouidah



THE DAY AT A GLANCE

One day, three faces of Benin

Explore and experience Benin through its beautiful places. The contemporary energy of Cotonou, life on the water in Ganvié, then Ouidah, a city of memory and living Vodun spirituality.

01	Place de l'Amazone	Cotonou
02	The Graffiti Wall	Cotonou
03	Ganvié, the city on the water	Lake Nokoué
04	Lunch at leisure, Afro Brazilian restaurant	Ouidah
05	Temple of Pythons	Ouidah
06	Route des Captifs and Door of No Return	Ouidah

STOP 01 · COTONOU

Place de l'Amazone

The day begins at the foot of the Amazon, a thirty metre statue that has become the emblem of modern Benin. Standing tall on the seafront esplanade, she honours the Agojié, the women warriors who defended the Kingdom of Danxomè.





STOP 02 · COTONOU

The Graffiti Wall

A short drive leads to the port, where one of the longest street art murals on the continent stretches along the boulevard.

Beninese and international artists have painted the history, cultures and ambitions of the country here in vivid colour: kings and queens, Vodun deities, scenes of daily life and visions of the future. It is an open air gallery and a striking introduction to the creative scene of Cotonou.



STOP 03 · LAKE NOKOUÉ

Ganvié, the city on the water

From the Calavi pier, you board a pirogue and glide across the lake to Ganvié, founded in the eighteenth century by the Tofinu people, who took refuge on the water to escape slave raids.

Tens of thousands of people still live here on stilts. You drift past houses, schools and places of worship, through the floating market and alongside fishermen at work.

STOP 04 · OUIDAH

Lunch at leisure, Afro Brazilian restaurant

After the transfer along the coast to Ouidah, a pause at a table inspired by afro-brazilian architecture and decoration

Lunch is at leisure and not included





STOP 05 · OUIDAH

Temple of Pythons

Facing the basilica, this sanctuary is home to dozens of royal pythons, revered as protectors of the city and messengers of the deity Dan. The snakes are harmless, and visitors who wish may hold one for a memorable photograph.

Beyond the encounter itself, the visit offers a sensitive introduction to Vodun, a living religion born on this land and still practised openly alongside other faiths.

STOP 06 · OUIDAH

Route des Captifs and Door of No Return

From the old auction square to the beach, you follow the final path walked by the captives before they were forced onto the ships. Each stage carries a part of this memory: the Tree of Forgetting, the Zomaï enclosure, the Zoungbodji memorial and the Tree of Return.

The route ends at the Door of No Return, a monumental arch raised on the sand facing the Atlantic: a moving place and a moment of reflection, which your guide accompanies with care.



RATES

One way to enjoy the day

Day excursion

25 600 FCFA

Day excursion in US dollars

45 USD

Price per person

Included

- English speaking guide
- Specialized mediators as mentioned in the program
- Transportation mentioned in the program
- Activities and experiences mentioned in the program

Not included

- Meals not mentioned in the program
- Personal expenses
- Activities not mentioned in the program
- Travel insurance
- International flights

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