


# Cultural studies tour to Mali, W. Africa

JUNE 25 to July 15, 2007  
with Master drummer  
Abdoul Doumbia



## THE PROGRAM

**We welcome you to join us for three weeks of learning and adventure immersed in the rich, vibrant, and ancient culture of Mali, in the heart of West Africa.**

The program's home base is Mali's bustling capitol of Bamako. Here you'll be offered two drum and two dance classes per day with Abdoul and other master drummers and dancers from the various national troupes. Outside of classes you'll have opportunities to shop at local marketplaces for traditional arts and crafts, or visit tailor shops to have clothes made. At night you can sample the big-city nightlife at Bamako's many nightclubs, featuring the best of Mali's flourishing modern music scene. Invitations allowing, you will also have the incredible and unique opportunity to experience traditional Mande ceremonies, and even participate if you so choose.

The highlight of the trip is a five-day tour north to experience village life and see the ancient cliff-dwellings of the Dogon people. The first stop will be Abdoul's home village of

Zambougou. You will be warmly welcomed by Abdoul's family, who are part of the esoteric blacksmith clan. You will be invited to observe the ancient craft of blacksmithing, as well as experience other facets of traditional village life. The journey will then continue north to the village of Sangha, in the heart of Dogon country. There you will be able to explore the cliff dwellings and caves that dot the landscape in this sacred and mystical region. The tour finishes back in Bamako, where drumming and dance classes resume. At the end of the trip, you will be treated to a traditional music and dance celebration in your honor, featuring your teachers along with others of Bamako's finest dancers and drummers.



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## **LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

The lingua franca of Mali is French. However, many people you will encounter, especially outside of Bamako, may only speak their native language. The entire tour will be accompanied by Professor Sekou Camara, professor of English, who will act for translator for the group. Professor Camara is also an expert on many aspects of traditional culture and history, and will be leading discussions throughout the trip.

## **PROGRAM COST / AIRFARE**



The program in Mali costs \$1800. Each participant is also responsible for purchasing his or her own airfare to Bamako, Mali,, West Africa..

The program cost (\$1800) is due by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **LOGISTICS**

Classes are geared towards intermediate or advanced students, but all levels can be accommodated. Room, board, and program-related travel within Mali are included in the program cost. While in Bamako, participants will live together in a villa with running water and electricity. Meals will consist of a simple breakfast, followed by traditional home-cooked meals midday and evening.

Optional dounou, kora, ngoni, balafon, talking drum, bell, singing, and Bambara (Bamanankan) language lessons are available for an additional cost.

Abdoul's experience leading trips in Mali, combined with his own sensitivity to issues of traveling abroad, ensure a truly moving, authentic African cultural experience. He welcomes you to share in the wonders and adventure of his homeland of Mali.



**Please contact**

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