



DJOBI ENSEMBLE



Zaouli Tour II is a cultural learning journey and an opportunity to observe history in the making. For serious artists and dedicated learners, this is your chance to open yourself up to observe and participate with the Djobi Family and their Gouro culture.

This is not a 5-star tour with fancy hotels, and the creature comforts from home will not always be available. This may be the perfect place for you, especially if you need to unplug and reconnect with the Earth.

Even if you are not interested in learning to dance and drum, the full tour offers you the opportunity to stay in the village of Bangofla, Ivory Coast, with permission from the Chief and families. These families still live in traditional ways while also integrating iPhone, Wi-Fi, and electricity. Electricity has only been available to the village within the last decade.

There are no sewage systems or running water lines in the village. There is an outhouse that we share, and yes, we take sponge baths. Water is still drawn from the well, and we boil all water, as well as provide fresh bottled water for drinking.

We hire cooks who are experienced in preparing meals for our groups. When we bring guests, we also educate everyone on how to respect the culture and your hosts. In Ivory Coast, tipping is not customary. Giving money after a service can be taken as offense, suggesting the original agreement was not satisfactory. This applies even to waitstaff and instructors. While many people feel the urge to tip, it can create misunderstandings, so we guide everyone on proper cultural etiquette.

There will be videos to help first-time travelers and to guide you through the journey and customs.

Africa has thousands of different ethnic groups. During this tour, we will focus on learning about the Gouro (Goro) people and their honored Zaouli traditions. This journey will give you front-row access to the 1st Annual Festival of Masks, bringing together traditional West African mask dances in the village. There will be opportunities to meet some of the dancers, and we will learn about the meaning behind each mask and performance.

The full tour includes master drummers and dancers who travel the world, teaching and helping guide us throughout the experience. This time of year is also ideal, as it is the coolest season and outside of the rainy period.

There are important steps to prepare for this journey, including obtaining a visa, receiving a Yellow Fever vaccination, and taking Doxycycline for malaria prevention. We will cover all of this in upcoming Zoom meetings.

Travel & Accommodations Overview

Upon arrival, we will be staying in a hotel in Abidjan. After our time in the village of Bangofla, we will travel through Yamoussoukro, and then stay in a hotel in Grand-Bassam before departing Africa. This gives us time to enjoy the beautiful sights of the Atlantic Ocean and experience the coastline.

While in Abidjan, we will also explore parts of the city, including local malls and restaurants, so you can experience both the modern and traditional sides of the country.

There will also be opportunities throughout the journey to purchase traditional masks, drums, and other handcrafted items directly from local artisans.

We want you to come, but your health should be in good condition for a journey like this. I don't want to promise a 5-star experience like the Marriott. What I can offer is something different—being surrounded by love, our family, safety, and the chance to learn drums, dance, observe nature, discover new plants and flowers, hear different birds, and experience a different rhythm of life. Even the chickens sound a little different.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will continue to unfold for years, because you are traveling into a world that has not lost its magic or its love for people and life.

This is a rustic tour. It is not meant for fault-finders, but for those who are open to observe, learn, and love.

If this speaks to you, explore our tours and choose the one that feels right for you.

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All flights are to be booked by each participant joining the tour. We will help by suggesting ideas on how to find the best flights at the most affordable prices. However, if you already have a preferred airport or access to points or promotions that beat these prices, feel free to use them.

I suggest going to www.cheapoair.com and monitoring prices. You should purchase your flight and confirm it as soon as possible. Also, please consider buying travel insurance in case of an emergency or if you need to change your flight dates. Sometimes things happen—whether personal, governmental, or unexpected—and it's always better to be prepared.

Be sure to pay attention to flight details and layovers. Try to find a flight that is under 24 hours total travel time. A direct flight is ideal, but if not, a stop in Paris or Brussels is usually the most comfortable option.

If you've never taken a long flight before, bring a pillow and dress comfortably. These flights are generally more comfortable than many domestic flights, so plan ahead and make the most of the journey.

The TOTAL Zaouli Mask Tour II journey includes—

Arrive by Midnight November 21st – Expected Guest can come from November 19th to midnight November 21st – special arrangements can be made -

Tour will include Arrival from 3:00 p.m November 21- Novemeber 31

Saturday Arrival hotel – Eat – Rest – Meet- Greet

Sunday – REST -EAT – Stop at Drum Carvers then tour a local church and or Church of Notre Dame and pretty labyrinth garden walk – BBQ Chicken evening- fun and prep for Bangofla

Monday – TRAVEL to Bangofla = Stop at unique stops on the way to the village and eat traditional food- sing songs and drum on the way to the village

Tuesday – Friday – Breakfast with the Chief, Speak with the chief who speak English, A full Schedule will be made and it will include – Drum and dance workshops with master drummers

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and dancers - tour the village, tour the Cocoa field on motorbike, learn to make a traditional dish, celebrate Thanksgiving for the first time in Bangofla with a turkey from Africa, and help prepare for the Festival of Mask, meet the Djobi family,

Friday – Saturday – Front row seats to the Festival of Mask which include Zaouli, Zamble, Mask of Gou, Mask of Sopro, Flaly, Goli, and so much more. A once in a lifetime experience

We leave to Yamoussoukro visit the Basilica of our Lady of Peace then we head to finish our last day at the Grand Bassam then back home.

The TOTAL Zaouli Mask Tour II Journey Includes:

Arrival: Guests should arrive by midnight on November 21st. Early arrivals between November 19th and midnight on November 21st are welcome—special arrangements can be made.

November 21 (Saturday) – Arrival (from 3:00 PM)

Hotel check-in, eat, rest, meet and greet.

November 22 (Sunday)

Rest and relaxation. Visit local drum carvers, followed by a tour of a local church or the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace. Enjoy a peaceful walk through a nearby garden labyrinth. Evening BBQ chicken, fun, and preparation for travel to the village.

November 23 (Monday)

Travel to Bangofla. Along the way, stop at unique locations, enjoy traditional food, sing, and drum on the journey to the village.

November 24–27 (Tuesday–Friday)

Stay in Bangofla. Activities include:

- Breakfast with the Chief (English-speaking)
- A full cultural schedule including:
 - Drum and dance workshops with master drummers and dancers
 - Village tours

- Cocoa field tour by motorbike
- Learning to prepare a traditional dish
- Celebrating Thanksgiving in the village (with an African turkey feast)
- Preparing for the Festival of Masks
- Meeting the Djobi family

November 27–28 (Friday–Saturday)

Front-row experience at the Festival of Masks featuring Zaouli, Zamble, Gou, Sopro, Flaly, Goli, and more—a once-in-a-lifetime cultural experience.

Final Days

Travel to Yamoussoukro to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, one of the largest churches in the world.

Then continue to Grand-Bassam to relax and enjoy the historic coastal town before returning home.

Full - Zaouli Mask Tour II

Begining- Nov. 21 - Ending - Dec. 1, 2026

Journey Includes:

Arrival: Guests should arrive by midnight on November 21st. Early arrivals between November 19th and midnight on November 21st are welcome—special arrangements can be made.

November 21 (Saturday) – Arrival (from 3:00 PM)

Hotel check-in, eat, rest, meet and greet.

November 22 (Sunday)

Rest and relaxation. Visit local drum carvers, followed by a tour of a local church or the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace. Enjoy a peaceful walk through a nearby garden labyrinth. Evening BBQ chicken, fun, and preparation for travel to the village.

November 23 (Monday)

Travel to Bangofla. Along the way, stop at unique locations, enjoy traditional food, sing, and drum on the journey to the village.

November 24–27 (Tuesday–Friday)

Stay in Bangofla. Activities include:

- **Breakfast with the Chief first day**

(Our well Educated Chief speaks English and was educated in a Western University)

- **A full cultural schedule including thru the week:**
 - **Drum and dance workshops with master drummers and dancers**
 - **Village tours**
 - **Cocoa field tour by motorbike**
 - **Learning to prepare a traditional dish**
 - **Celebrating Thanksgiving in the village (with an African turkey feast)**
 - **Preparing for the Festival of Masks**
 - **Meeting the Djobi family**

- **FESTIVAL OF MASK WEEKEND!**

- **November 27–28 (Saturday - Sunday)**

Front-row experience at the Festival of Masks featuring Zaouli, Zamble, Gou, Sopro, Flaly, Goli, and more—a once-in-a-lifetime cultural experience.

- **Final Days**

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Travel to Yamoussoukro to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, one of the largest churches in the world.

Then continue to **Grand-Bassam to relax and enjoy the historic coastal town before returning home.**

Full Zaouli Mask Tour II - November 21 - December 1, 2026

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Price: \$4,000.00 (Flights Not Included)

Package Includes:

- Transportation from Aéroport international Félix Houphouët-Boigny d'Abidjan to the hotel upon arrival, and drop-off after the tour is completed
- Transportation for all scheduled tour activities
- Hotel stay in Abidjan (*hotel details will be announced once confirmed*)
- Village accommodations in Bangofla
- Travel to Yamoussoukro and Grand-Bassam
- Visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro
- Visit to Paroisse Notre Dame de l'Incarnation Church and garden walk
- Front-row experience at the Festival of Masks
- Drum and dance classes with master drummers and dancers
- Tour of the cocoa fields
- Three meals per day
- Drinking water provided throughout the journey

Important Notes:

- Flights are **not included**. Each participant is responsible for booking their own airfare. We will assist with guidance on flight options and timing.
- All guests must arrive by the required deadline, as the group will depart together for the village.
- This is a **cultural and rustic experience**, not a luxury tour.

Festival of Masks Tour -Zaouli Tour II November 26 - Dec. 1, 2026~

Price: \$2,500.00 (Flights Not Included)

Package Includes:

- Transportation from Aéroport international Félix Houphouët-Boigny d'Abidjan to the hotel upon arrival, and drop-off after the tour is completed
- Transportation for all scheduled tour activities
- Hotel stay in Abidjan (*hotel details will be announced once confirmed*)
- Village accommodations in Bangofla
- Travel to Yamoussoukro and Grand-Bassam
- Visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Yamoussoukro
- Front-row experience at the **1st Annual Festival of Masks** in the village of Bangofla
- Village immersion experience with the Djobi Family
- Tour of the cocoa fields
- Two meals per day
- Drinking water provided throughout the journey

Not Included in Tour:

- Activities prior to November 26, 2026
- Visit to Paroisse Notre Dame de l'Incarnation Church and garden walk
- Drum and dance classes

Add-On: Custom Tailored Outfit (Full Tour Only)

Enhance your experience with a beautifully handcrafted, custom-tailored outfit made in the most up-to-date styles of West Africa.

Guests on the **Full Zaouli Tour II** will have the opportunity to reserve a spot with a local tailor. A deposit is required to secure your place, which will go toward the cost of materials and craftsmanship.

Final pricing will vary depending on the fabric and design you choose.

Your garment will be measured, created, and completed during your stay, so it is ready for you before you depart.

Add-On: Custom Made Drum (Pre-Order Required)

Have your own drum made in Africa during your journey.

Guests will have the opportunity to pre-order a **full-size handcrafted drum**, created by local artisans. This is a unique way to bring home an authentic instrument directly from the source.

Two options will be available:

- **Professional Full-Size Drum** with detailed carved designs
- **Full-Size Drum for Learners**

Pricing will be announced soon and will vary based on style and craftsmanship.

Pre-orders are required to ensure your drum is completed during your stay.

Understanding the Investment

The Full Zaouli Mask Tour II is priced at **\$4,000.00** to support a fully immersive cultural experience from start to finish.

This investment helps cover essential elements of the journey, including accommodations, transportation throughout the tour, meals, village support, fuel, coordination, and the time and expertise of master drummers, dancers, guides, and local families who welcome us into their community.

A portion of the cost also goes directly back into the village and supports the people, artisans, and cultural leaders who make this experience possible.

This is not a traditional tour—it is a shared cultural exchange. Every part of this journey is carefully organized to ensure safety, authenticity, and meaningful connection, while also respecting and supporting the community we are entering.

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If there are any question please contact Kimberly @ (419) 984-2442 Please text first or
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