



DJOBI ENSEMBLE



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ZAOULI TOUR II OVERVIEW

Zaouli Tour II is a cultural learning journey and an invitation to witness history in the making with the First Annual Festival of Masks. For serious artists and dedicated learners, this is an opportunity to fully immerse yourself with the Djobi Family and their Gouro culture—engaging, participating, and deepening your understanding—while also experiencing some of the most meaningful and renowned sites of Ivory Coast.

I don't want to scare you, but this is not a 5-star tour with fancy hotels, with the *creature comforts* from home. They will not always be available or wi-fi. Though, this may be the perfect place for you, especially if you need to unplug and reconnect with the Earth. Drums and nature have a habit of doing that. *Have you heard Emmanuel Djobi and the Djobi Ensemble drum?*

The First Annual Festival of Masks will be taking place in Bangofla, and you will have the opportunity to witness traditional masks from tribes all over Ivory Coast and West Africa. Front-row seating will be reserved for our guests, allowing you to be part of something truly historic. Masks such as Zaouli, Gou, Flaly, Zamble, Boyole, and many more will be featured. The official list of masks and dancers will be announced.

If you are looking to advance your drumming and dancing, we will have Emmanuel Djo Bi and MamaDjo with other family members teaching and learning together. We will also be joined by other master drummers and dancers in the village from the city who perform with other orchestras; they will share meals with us and help guide us throughout the experience.

The full tour includes master drummers and dancers teaching. 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. The Chief will also be joining us for our first breakfast. You will have the honor to meet the chief and speak with him.

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 and customs.

This time of year is also ideal, as it is the coolest season and outside of the rainy period. Average temperatures are around 71 degrees. There is a 5-hour time zone difference if you live in Eastern standard time zone with Ivory Coast.

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, and you will have access to information on our website. There will be videos to help all our travelers and to guide you through the journey and we will touch on going through US & Ivory Coast Customs and what to expect. We will prepare all our guests for the different times zones, food, customs and more.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATIONS OVERVIEW

Upon arrival, we will be staying in a hotel in Abidjan. Once we are in the village of Bangofla, we will be staying in huts and traditional homes. A simple mattress, approximately 6 inches thick, will be provided for you, though it will not be on a bed frame, as most homes do not have them. We ask that you bring your own bedding and mosquito net. For those who prefer additional comfort, an optional upgrade is available, which includes a bed frame and an enhanced mattress. You will have access to this upgrade during your stay, and it will remain in the community building bedrooms for future guests. 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. 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. You must be prepared for this journey, or it can become uncomfortable. If this speaks to you, and you want to put your feet on the ground, then go explore our tours and choose the one that feels right for you.




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.

WHAT TO BRING – ZAOULI TOUR II (BANGOFI, IVORY COAST)

 Climate + Clothing	 Health + Protection (BIG one online)	 Daily Living Essentials
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lightweight, breathable clothing (cotton, loose fit)• Shorts, pants, t-shirts, long sleeves (sun + bugs)• Rain jacket or umbrella (rain is unpredictable)• Flip flops / sandals + closed-toe shoes• Boots for the village and forest walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bug spray• Sunscreen (hard to find in rural areas)• Personal medications• Malaria prep / awareness• Mosquito bed net.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reusable water bottle• Backpack for daily use• Snacks / personal food items• Wet wipes & sanitizer• Toilet paper• Plastic bags• Personal Towel• Sheets/light blanket

 *You don't need to overpack. Remember you may want to bring souvenirs home.*

 Power + Reality of Infrastructure	 Travel + Money
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flashlight / headlamp (power outages are common)• Portable charger / power bank• Expect limited electricity outside cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passport + visa + Yellow Fever card• Cash/Credit card You can exchange at the Airport upon arrival.

 *Check with your airline for baggage allowances. You may find that you are permitted two 50 lb bags, or one 80 lb bag, and sometimes one 80 lb bag and one 50 lb bag, with a carry-on included.*



***The Festival of Mask
Full Zaouli Tour II -***

Arrival in Abidjan must be by **midnight** on
November 21, 2026 - Dec.1, 2026~,

FULL

- Festival of Masks – Zaouli Tour II.

***The Festival of Mask
Brisk Zaouli Tour II -***

Arrival in Abidjan must be by **midnight** on
November 26, 2026 – Dec.1, 2026~,

Brisk

- Festival of Masks – Zaouli Tour II.

For the **Full Zaouli Tour II** guests may arrive between November 19 and midnight on November 21; however, special arrangements must be made, as for hotel, food, and other accommodations are **not** included prior to the official tour start date. All guest for this tour must arrive by November 21, 2026. Please note: our goal is to complete all planned activities and adventures. However, if circumstances beyond our control arise, adjustments may be necessary. In such cases, we will always provide alternative experiences of equal value unless it is not weather permitting or other circumstances.

For the **Brisk Zaouli Tour II**, guests must be aware this is a shorter tour without the drum and dance instructors, tours of the village, and other tour activities before November 22, 2026. You will be travelling from Abidjan to Bangofla and arrive Friday evening to the village. All guests need to arrive by midnight on November 26, 2026 to join the tour and see the First Annual Festival of Mask in the village of Bangofla.

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Itinerary

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

Hotel check-in, eat, rest, meet and greet. Tailor will be present for those that need measurements.

November 22 (Sunday)

Rest and relaxation. Visit local drum carvers and see how they make drums. Pick up drums for some of our guest. Enjoy a peaceful walk-through the garden labyrinth at Paroisse Notre Dame de l'Incarnation Church. 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.



PACKAGES AND PRICING

Full Zaouli Mask Tour II –

Nov. 21 – Dec. 1, 2026 ~

Price: \$3,500.00

(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 Bangoula
- 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 in any package we offer**. Each participant is responsible for booking their own airfare. We will assist with guidance on flight options and timing.
- All guests must arrive to the airport by the required deadline, as the group will depart together for the village.
- This is a **cultural and rustic experience**, not a luxury tour.

Brisk Zaouli Mask Tour II –

Nov. 26 – Dec. 1, 2026 ~

Price: \$2,500.00

(Flights Not Included)

Package Includes:

- Transportation to and from Aéroport international Félix Houphouët-Boigny d'Abidjan to the guided tour.
- Transportation for all scheduled tour activities.
- Hotel stay in Abidjan & Grand Bassam (*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
- 3 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's:

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 Ivory Coast Africa during your journey. Please note that if you are on the Brisk Tour and would like a drum, you will need to make arrangements with your guides weeks prior to leaving. Good news—by May 1, 2026, we will share photos of the latest designs. Your drum can be packed in a second suitcase or other arrangements can be made.

This is a unique way to bring home an authentic instrument directly from the source. Many drums are carved from Lenke, known for its strong, rich sound, or Iroko, a hardwood deeply rooted in West African culture. Each piece carries the craftsmanship of the carver and the story of the tree it came from.

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.

Payment Plan

A payment plan option is available.

To secure your spot on the tour, a **\$250.00 deposit is required**. This deposit becomes **non-refundable after 7 days**.

The remaining balance must be **paid in full no later than 30 days before the journey**.

If you would like to use a payment plan, please contact us at:

Booking@DjobiDrum.com

Subject line: *Payment Plan*

We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Flight Responsibility

Participants are responsible for booking their own airline tickets.

Once you are added to our email list, you will receive updates on deadlines, travel timing, and important arrival details to help you plan accordingly.

THINGS TO KNOW & TIPS

We suggest using www.CheapOair.com to monitor flight prices.

As of 4/1/2026, estimated round-trip flights from New York range from **\$989.00 to \$1,289.00**.

From our experience, flying out of New York is often more cost-effective. Flights from Detroit can be approximately \$500 more per person. For this reason, we typically drive, rent a car, and avoid parking in New York to save on overall travel costs. We also rent a car for the return trip from the airport.

Parking fees can be extremely high, sometimes exceeding \$500. By comparison, a rental car can often be secured for approximately \$75–\$100 per day with unlimited mileage. You simply drop the car off and do not have to worry about leaving your personal vehicle in an unfamiliar location. This option can provide both peace of mind and additional savings. We encourage guests to coordinate travel when possible, and we will do our best to help organize group travel arrangements based on comfort and distance.

The primary diet in this region is rich in fiber and includes a well-balanced intake of meats such as chicken, pork, fish, beef, goat, and lamb. Traditional foods also include potatoes, yams, bread, cassava, plantains, fufu, fruits, and vegetables. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let us know when you will complete your paperwork.

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 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. When we stay in the hotels in the city, there will be inside plumbing and a other modernizations such as wi-fi.

These families in the village still live in traditional ways while, simultaneously, the influence of phones, Wi-Fi, electricity, and other modernization are being infused into the daily life of some. Electricity has only been available to the village within the last decade, so we should have some outlets available—no promises. Phone service is not as dependable in the village as it is in the city, but we will keep you busy and happy. The photo and video features on your phone will normally still work.

Medical care in this region is available, but it is important to understand the differences in capability. From Bangofla, the nearest local hospital in Zuénoula is approximately 15–25 miles away and can provide basic care and stabilization; however, for more serious conditions, treatment would require travel to the regional hospital in Yamoussoukro, approximately 35–60 miles away, which offers full medical services. We plan accordingly for your safety, but it is important that all guests come prepared, aware, and in good health before travel. 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.

Understanding the Investment

The Full Zaouli Mask Tour II is priced at **\$3,999.00** to support a fully immersive cultural experience from start to finish. We are almost finished with our Cultural Center in the village of Bangofla thanks to everyone that has helped us. Our focus is not to lose the traditional ways of the Gouro people such as their language, art, music, dance and other customs. We will be updating on our website www.djobidrum.com through BLOG and the Village of Bangofla page. Your investment to the Festival of Mask Zaoul Tour II helps us finish our Cultural center and preserve the traditions.

This investment also covers 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. Everyone that helps us from the village and comes with us on the journey to assist is being paid. They look forward to this and are as excited about you coming as you are for coming.

This is not a traditional tour—it is a moment for you to be open and observe and learn. We are not there to make changes and share our modernization; we are there to learn and observe. Unless you are a doctor and someone needs medical care. However, I think it is important to know that the statement, “When in Rome,…” really qualifies to be remembered and respected while visiting. We will educate everyone joining us on this journey to prepare you. Africa is 3.5 times the size of the USA so, whatever you have learned maybe be good, but each tribe has their customs. 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.

NEXT STEPS & PREPARATION

Once you decide to join the journey and submit your deposit, we will send you the required paperwork so we can gather important information. A member of our team will then contact you directly.

We would like to offer a warm welcome through a Zoom meeting—even if we already know you. This helps us connect, answer questions, and begin preparing together.

You will also receive videos that we ask all participants to watch. These will help you understand expectations and prepare for the experience ahead. Even if you have traveled to Africa before, it is important to refresh and align with this specific journey.

Our goal is to create an experience that you will never forget. This is something we share together, so it is important that the journey is a good fit for everyone involved.

For the safety and well-being of all participants, we reserve the right to decline participation if necessary, and background checks may be conducted.

If this is your first time traveling to Africa, do not worry—we will guide you and make sure you are fully prepared before departure.

If there are any question please contact

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Please text first or e-mail

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Last update 5/4/2026 11:37