

Kitty Price: Accra To Ouagadougou

28 night trip at approximately €400 Euros

What is the “kitty”?

The Kitty is a group fund paid in addition to the trip price at the start of your trip. It is a central fund and is monitored by you and the crew. The kitty pays for all your accommodation, meals whilst camping, and all activities listed as included.

The kitty system is very unique to overlanding – it is flexible and you can see exactly how your money is being spent. The crew will manage the kitty, but the kitty expenses sheet will be open to inspection by everybody at all times so that you can see how the money is being spent. If there is money left over at the end of the trip, then you will receive a refund!

The kitty shown here is an estimate. We will inform you of any changes to the price closer to departure.

Your kitty payment will be collected when you arrive for your trip, usually on the 1st day at the joining meeting and **must be paid in cash**. We ask for **at least 50%** of the kitty to be paid in Euros cash. We can accept the remaining 50% of the kitty price in American dollars. This is because a number of currencies in West Africa are tied to the Euro, and trying to change any currency other than Euros can often be time consuming and problematic.

Please note that if you are on a combination trip made up of more than one single trip your kitty will be collected in stages and not in its entirety at the start of the first section

What's included?

All accommodation costs included. Approximately 1 night in hostels/hotels, the rest mixed between campsites/campements with basic facilities, and bush camping (no facilities). The longest stretch without facilities should be 3 nights in a row. There are numerous options on this trip to upgrade from camping to a basic room if you want to pay the extra.

All food whilst camping is included in the kitty, though occasionally we might want to put a lunch or dinner on hold whilst camping if we find somewhere funky en route or are invited to eat in a local village.

Activities included in the kitty price include:

- An evening of music and dance by villagers near Kpalime, Togo
- Voodoo ceremony near Grand Popo, Benin
- Guided boat trip to the stilt village at Ganvie, Benin
- Walking tours of Batammariba and Tata Somba villages (Togo and Benin)
- Entrance fees to Pendjari National Park, Benin
- Entrance fees to the Gabnangou Escarpment, Benin

As a rough guide, optional extras include:

- Museum entrance fees and walking tours in Accra, Ghana
- Guide and entrance fees for optional activities in Ghana's Volta region (trekking, monkey sanctuary, visiting kente weavers)
- Guide fees for trekking around Mount Klouto, Togo
- Museum entrance fees in Lome or Cotonou
- Turtle walk and boat trips around Grand Popo, Benin
- Museum entrance fees in Ouidah, Benin
- Palace and museum entrance fees in Abomey, Benin
- Trekking in the Atakora Hills, Benin
- Safari in Pendjari National Park
- Trekking guides around Gobnangou Escarpment, Burkina Faso
- Optional vehicle safari to W or Arli national parks, Burkina Faso, if practicable.
This is by far the most expensive optional activity and the cost will depend on how many passengers wish to do it
- Entrance fees to various museums in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

All in all approximately €250 Euros should be sufficient to cover most of these activities

How much spending money should I bring?

In a lot of the countries we travel through the tourist industry is in its infancy so there isn't too much to spend your money on. Saying that though, we try to make our trips flexible to allow people to do what they want when we visit places rather than making it too restrictive – so there will be opportunities for optional excursions/trips at most places we stop along the way.

We think that €10 - €20 a day would be sufficient as an approximate 'spending money in addition to kitty' figure. But obviously personal spending can vary a lot depending on the individual and how much you want to eat out in restaurants, drink

alcohol, buy souvenirs, upgrade to rooms, and use email etc. It's better to over-budget than under-budget.

Please note: Occasionally we will eat out in restaurants when we are camping in towns and cities to break up cooking off the truck, so please bear that in mind when planning your budget.

With regards to what form of money to bring – it is best to bring a mixture of forms of payment. **Certainly you do not want to totally rely upon ATM's** – they often don't accept foreign cards. Paying with a credit/debit card is also very unreliable.

We advise you to bring a **VISA** card if you do want to withdraw cash, as Cirrus/Maestro/Mastercard/American Express are often totally useless in the region. As a general guide you should bring plenty of cash, predominantly in Euros but also some American Dollars. Traveller's cheques are an option if you want to cut down on how much cash you carry but they are becoming incredibly difficult to cash these days.

