

THE KITTY: ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMMODATION



Trip Name: Freetown to Dakar

Trip Length: 28 nights

Kitty Price: Approximately €550 Euros (subject to change)

What is the 'kitty'?

The kitty is a group fund paid in addition to the trip price at the start of your trip. The kitty is managed by the crew and the passengers and is used to pay for accommodation for each trip night (be it camping or hotels/hostels), meals whilst camping and all activities listed as included (see below).

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

The kitty figure detailed above is an estimated price. We will inform you of any changes closer to departure.

Your kitty payment will be collected when you arrive for your trip, usually on the first day at the joining meeting, **and must be paid in cash.** We ask that *at least* 50% of the kitty price is paid in Euro cash. We can accept the remaining 50% of the kitty price in American dollars. This is because the West Africa CFA is pegged to the Euro at a fixed exchange rate, and trying to change any currency other than Euros or US Dollars can 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 5 nights in a hostel/hotel, the rest mixed between campsites/campements (with basic facilities) and bush camping (no facilities). The longest stretch without access to any facilities *should be* no more than 3 nights in a row. There are a number of options on this trip to upgrade from camping to rooms of a varying standard along the way if you want to pay the extra.

All food whilst camping is included in the kitty, though occasionally we might decide to put a lunch or dinner on hold whilst camping if people want a break from cooking, if we find somewhere nice to eat out, or are invited to eat in a local village.

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Included in this kitty price are a number of music and dance ceremonies that we'll enjoy as a group in Gambia and Senegal, including a traditional 'Koumpo' dance; a Djembe troupe performance; a Kora performance; and an evening of music and dancing with villagers at Tendaba camp. **However, please note these performances are not always guaranteed to happen and subject to availability!**

When we spend 2 nights in a traditional village in the Fouta Djallon with locally prepared meals, any guided treks with our wonderfully eccentric English-speaking host are included in the kitty - though you can opt out of these treks if you wish.

There are no other activities included in the kitty price on this trip. With such an array of activities in the Gambian National Parks, the Casamance region in Senegal and the stunning Fouta Djallon region of Guinea, we think it's best to leave it up to you to decide how to spend your free time. Some treks are more strenuous than others, and you might just want a bit of down time, so we will leave it for you to decide what to do with your free time.

Optional activities not included in the kitty price:

- Any activities in Dakar, such as visiting Goree Island and/or the African renaissance monument.
- Museum entrance fees in Dakar, Bissau and Freetown
- Boat trips or quad bikes (if time permits) onto and around Lac Rose, Senegal
- Pirogue rides, fishing trips, short taxi rides and/or guided nature walks in Gambian National Parks and in the Casamance region of Senegal
- Drumming lessons and Kora lessons in Casamance and Gambia
- Boat trips to various islands in the Casamance region
- Nightlife of Dakar, Bissau and Freetown. Local bands playing and entrance fees accordingly.
- Bush taxis and trekking guides to explore the extensive trails, canyons and waterfalls of Guinea's spectacular Fouta Djallon region **

** Bush taxis are the best way to get around this area as our truck will not be able to reach a lot of the waterfalls and smaller villages in the Fouta Djallon, as the tracks are not suitable for such a large vehicle

Approximately €250 Euros should be more than sufficient to cover these optional extra 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 to do when we visit places rather than making it too restrictive - so there will be opportunities for optional excursions/trips at most places we stop at along the way.

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Based upon passenger feedback we suggest that €10 - €20 Euros a day should 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 the internet etc. It's always better to over-budget than under-budget!

You may well spend more than this figure when we are in the cities, but remember there will be parts of the trip where we go quite remote and at these times there will be hardly anything to spend your money on, so you will find it balances out accordingly.

Please note that on occasions 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 bank 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 US Dollars. Traveller's cheques are now almost impossible to change so not worth bothering with.

