

THE KITTY: ACCOMMODATION & ACTIVITIES



Trip Name: Freetown to Dakar

Trip Duration: 28 nights

Kitty Price: Approximately €590 Euros (subject to change)

What is 'the kitty'?

The kitty is paid by each passenger in cash at the start of each trip, and is completely separate from the trip price you have paid Overlanding West Africa.

The kitty is managed by both the crew and the passengers, and is used to pay for:

- the accommodation for each trip night (be it camping, or a specified night in a twin/double/triple/dormitory room in a hotel/hostel)
- meals whilst camping
- any 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. Though the crew usually directly manage the kitty, the expense sheets will be open to inspection by everybody at all times so that the whole process remains transparent.

The kitty price detailed above is an estimated figure. We will inform you if there is any change in the price closer to departure. Please be aware that the total kitty price might increase during the course of the trip due to unforeseen price increases on the ground and/or exchange rate fluctuations etc. Of course, if there is money left over at the end of the trip then you will receive a refund!

The kitty payment will be collected when you arrive - usually on the first day at the joining meeting. **The kitty must be paid in cash**, and we ask that *at least* 50% of the total is paid in Euros. 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?

Meals

An **approximate** breakdown of the accommodation on this trip is as follows:

- 5 nights in a hostel or hotel (in a twin/double/triple/dormitory room)
- All other nights mixed between camping at campsites (with basic facilities such as toilets and showers), and wild camping (no facilities at all).

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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 along the way. Please note that when rooms are available they are of a varying standard, and you will need to pay the difference in cost between the price of camping and the room.

Meals

Meals while camping are 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.

Activities

Included in the kitty price

- a number of music and dance ceremonies that we'll enjoy 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 are included in the kitty - though you can opt out of these treks if you wish.

Important: All activities are subject to availability and local conditions.

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 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

- The sites of Dakar, such as Goree Island and/or the African Renaissance Monument
- Various museum entrance fees in Dakar, Bissau and Freetown
- Boat trips or quad bikes onto and around Lac Rose, Senegal (if time permits)
- 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
- 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 as our truck will not be able to reach a lot of the waterfalls and smaller villages as the tracks are not suitable for such a large vehicle **

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Approximately €250 Euros should be more than sufficient to cover these optional extra activities.

How much spending money should I bring?

In many places we visit the tourist industry is in its infancy and there isn't a great deal to spend your money on. However, 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.

Based upon passenger feedback, we suggest that €10 - €20 Euros a day should be sufficient as an approximate 'spending money in addition to kitty' amount. Obviously personal spending varies a lot depending on the individual, based upon how much you want to eat in restaurants, drink alcohol, buy souvenirs, upgrade to rooms, 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 towns/cities, but remember there will be parts of the trip where we are quite remote. At such 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 may decide to eat out in restaurants when we are camping in towns/cities, in order to break up cooking off the truck - **so please bear that in mind when planning your budget.**

It is best to bring a variety of payment options. **You should not rely upon ATM's** – which quite often won'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. **All notes should be as new as possible, with no writing/tears/damage to them.**

Please note that traveller's cheques are now almost impossible to change so not worth bothering with.

If you have any questions about the kitty for this trip, please send us an email at info@overlandingwestafrica.com