

# FREETOWN — ACCRA



An epic 28 day trip between Freetown, Sierra Leone and Accra, Ghana. Experience the best of West African culture, music & dance ceremonies, wildlife, pristine beaches and traditional architecture on this off the beaten track adventure!

**It doesn't matter whether you join our Freetown to Accra trip or our Accra to Freetown trip; the destinations, itineraries and highlights are the same. Please note for our Accra to Freetown trip, this itinerary runs in reverse.**

**Trip:** Freetown to Accra (FTN-ACC)

**Start Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2026 (at 09:00am)

**Finish Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> December 2026 (at 08:00am)

**Joining Instructions:** Meet at 09:00am on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2026

**Trip:** Accra to Freetown (ACC-FTN)

**Start Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> February 2027 (at 09:00am)

**Finish Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2027 (at 08:00am)

**Joining Instructions:** Meet at 09:00am on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2027

**NB: All trip itineraries are subject to change.**

## Trip Highlights

- Spend a night **glamping** on the tropical paradise of **Banana Island** (\*2 nights on the ACC-FTN)
- Visit **Tiwai Island Animal Sanctuary**, take a **forest walk**, **cooking class** or canoe trip on the River Moa
- Witness a traditional **stilt dance** in an Ivory Coast village
- Trek through the **Mount Nimba nature reserve** in Liberia
- Visit the slave forts along **Cape Coast** Ghana
- Camp at the beautiful **Kpatawee waterfalls** in northern Liberia
- Marvel at the **basilica** in the surreal capital of Ivory Coast - **Yamousoukro**
- Soak up the beaches, nightlife and music of Freetown, the buzzing atmospheric capital of 'Sweet Salone'
- Explore the crumbling grandeur of **Monrovia**
- Marvel at the modern architecture, skyline and museums of **Abidjan**, and party until dawn to *coupé-décalé* or Ivorian reggae!
- See artisans at work and wander amongst the colonial buildings in **Grand Bassam**
- Learn about the rain-forest ecosystem in **Ankassa National Park**, Ghana

- Take a tour of **Jamestown** or visit the world famous **coffin makers** in Accra, Ghana

## Challenges: Is This Trip For Me?

This unique trip is one of our most exciting. We are proud that OWA was the first overlanding truck-based company to take groups into Sierra Leone back in 2012 and Liberia in 2013.



**Road conditions** have improved massively in this part of the world over the past few years (see the photo above for what it used to look like!). Drives that used to take 4 days we can now complete in a single day thanks to new roads and bridges. That said, at times we'll be driving through remote areas with limited infrastructure for tourists. We'll spend a lot of time camping from our truck Aminah, but we won't go more than 3 nights without facilities.

## Week 1: Sierra Leone

Our tour starts in **Freetown**, the lively capital of **Sierra Leone**. Set between lush green hills and the Atlantic coastline, the city offers a fascinating mix of history, culture, and natural beauty.

For a refreshing escape into nature, consider a trip to Charlotte Falls, a scenic cascade tucked into the forested hills outside the city. Wildlife lovers shouldn't miss the renowned **Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary**, where rescued chimpanzees are rehabilitated and cared for in a

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protected rainforest setting. A guided visit offers insight into Sierra Leone's conservation efforts and the importance of protecting its endangered primates.

Freetown is also home to several excellent museums that provide deeper context to the country's rich and complex history. Hop into a keke (local tuk-tuk) and visit the **National Railway Museum**, a hidden gem preserving the story of Sierra Leone's historic railway system.

The **Peace Museum** is also recommended; it offers a moving and educational look at Sierra Leone's civil war and the country's journey toward peace and reconciliation.

You can also visit the **Sierra Leone National Museum**, where traditional masks, artifacts, and historical displays showcase the diverse cultures and heritage of the country's many ethnic groups.

When the sun goes down Freetowners like to party – so if that's your thing you'll find plenty of beach bars and nightclubs to dance in until dawn!

From Freetown, we head west along the coast, stopping at some of the most breathtaking beaches the region has to offer. Our destination is the coastal village of **Kent**, where we'll unwind for the night, soaking in the serene beach vibes.

We'll leave our trusty truck, Aminah, behind as we set off to discover the paradise of **Banana Island**. Whether you're into **snorkeling, water sports, scenic boat trips**, or simply wandering through the charming village of **Dublin**, you'll find your kind of adventure. As the sun drops there's no better place to grab a palm wine and watch the sun dipping into the ocean, you'll truly experience the essence of Sweet Salone.

Returning from Banana Island we'll be reunited with Aminah, our next destination Kambama village, home to the remarkable **Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary**. This pristine reserve hosts **11 primate species** and is one of the few places on Earth where the rare and elusive **pygmy hippo** still roams. Explore the island on foot, by motorboat, or in a traditional dugout canoe, taking in the lush forest and river wildlife as you search for this secretive creature.

Leaving Tiwai Island behind, we take advantage of new roads and a recently built bridge, transforming what was once a four-day overland journey into a smooth single day drive into **Liberia**.

## Week 2: Liberia

**85% of Liberia's roads are unpaved**, but fortunately, the main route we'll use to transit through the country is largely surfaced with tarmac. While potholes can make for a bumpy ride in places, we're grateful there's tarmac at all.

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Our first stop is **Robertsport**, a sleepy beach paradise on Liberia's northern coast, where golden sands stretch for miles and life moves at an easy, unhurried pace. Known for its laid-back charm and scenic headlands, Robertsport is a favourite escape for surfers and beach lovers alike. If the surf's up, head to the local surf club for lessons with experienced instructors. On a free afternoon, take a peaceful walk along the shoreline to the famous shipwreck resting just offshore, a striking reminder of the area's maritime history and a perfect spot for photos at sunset.

Next we'll travel to **Monrovia**, Liberia's capital. Though parts of the city remain in disrepair after years of upheaval, Monrovia is moving forward and rebuilding for the future. Highlights include the haunting remains of the **Masonic Lodge**, the crumbling but iconic **Ducor Hotel**, and other fascinating reminders of Monrovia's complex and captivating history.

A short drive brings us to **Libassa Eco Lodge**. Here wildlife conservation meets beach resort. Take a tour of the wildlife sanctuary and learn about their conservation work, special mention goes to unique creatures like **pangolins**, one of the world's most trafficked mammals. If animals aren't your thing, float around the lazy river or relax in one of the 5 pools.

From the coast, we'll head north towards **Yekepa**, stopping at the beautiful **Kpatawee Waterfalls**, one of Liberia's natural gems. Here, you can choose to hike along the river and discover a series of cascading falls up the hillside, or relax and swim in the dammed pools fed by cool mountain water.

Our final stop in Liberia is **Mount Nimba Eco Lodge**, a unique nature reserve set on a reclaimed mining site, surrounded by breathtaking scenery and rich biodiversity.

A range of guided treks and activities are included during our stay. You can kayak across the tranquil lake, explore forest trails, or take on a rewarding **hike to the tri-border point** where **Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Sierra Leone** meet. Whether you're seeking adventure or a peaceful connection with nature, the choice is yours.

## Week 3: Ivory Coast

We'll cross from **Liberia into Ivory Coast**, then head east to **Man**. We'll re-stock our supplies here before heading north to spend the night in a traditional village, where we'll be treated to an evening of dancing and celebration. Set in a beautiful location and home to some of the warmest people we'll meet on the journey, this village offers a truly special cultural experience. With luck the traditional dance will include a **stilt dancer**, a rare and unforgettable sight. Watch the highlights on our YouTube channel [Here!](#)

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The following morning we'll continue east to one of Africa's more curious capitals: **Yamoussoukro**. Though it's the official capital of Ivory Coast, its title is mostly symbolic. The city was the hometown of long-serving post-independence President **Félix Houphouët-Boigny**, who poured vast sums into transforming it into a monumental capital.

During our stay, we'll visit the astonishing **Basilique de Notre-Dame de la Paix**, a near replica of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, as well as the grand hotel offering sweeping views of Yamoussoukro's unique and dramatic skyline.

Despite only a small portion of the Ivorian population being Catholic, the President spent hundreds of millions of dollars constructing this immense basilica. The city also features six-lane highways that lead to nowhere, extravagant hotels, and monumental architecture, all set in a town of fewer than 300,000 people. It's a surreal and fascinating place that truly must be seen to be believed.

Next, we head south to **Abidjan**, Ivory Coast's bustling economic capital. With its modern architecture and soaring skyline, Abidjan provides a striking contrast to the remote areas we've travelled through over the past few weeks. Here, you'll find vibrant museums, striking buildings, and the opportunity to restock on a few luxuries. We plan to stay 2 nights here to enjoy the city's dynamic nightlife, with the chance to hear **Ivorian reggae** and experience the infectious rhythms of **coupé-décalé**.

From Abidjan, a short drive east takes us to **Grand-Bassam**, the former French colonial capital. This relaxed coastal town feels like a world away from the energetic pace of the city. You can stroll past grand colonial buildings, watch local artisans at work, or simply unwind on the golden sands of its scenic beach.

## Week 4: Ghana

A full day's drive and a border crossing take us from French-speaking **Côte d'Ivoire** into English-speaking **Ghana**. Our first stop is **Ankasa National Park**, Ghana's most biodiverse reserve, home to over 800 plant species, 190 bird species, and more than 70 resident mammals. We'll have the opportunity to walk through its dense rainforest, keeping an eye out for some of the elusive wildlife that inhabits this vibrant ecosystem.

Continuing east along the coast, we'll visit **St George's castle at Elmina**. Originally constructed by the Portuguese as a trading post, it later became one of the most notorious slave forts in West Africa. It's a stunning location with a deeply tragic history. While here, we'll also explore the lively **fish market** that sits just below the castle, an energetic and colourful window into daily life.

Our next highlight is **Cape Coast castle**, once the residence of the British governor before **Accra** became Ghana's capital. Like Elmina, this grand structure offers a sobering reminder

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of the suffering endured during the transatlantic slave trade. Its striking setting belies the painful history within its walls.

From here it's a short final day's drive into **Accra**, Ghana's vibrant capital. A visit to the **coffin makers** on the outskirts of the city is well worth it. Here, craftspeople sculpt timber into fantastical shapes like animals, cars, and rockets, crafting unique coffins for unforgettable send-offs.

For those interested in cultural exploration, a tour of Accra with the excellent local guide **Charles Sablah** is highly recommended. Based in the humble suburb of **Nima**, Charles offers eye-opening walking tours that take you into the heart of a community and show a side of the city most tourists rarely see.

Accra's **artisans market** also provides a wonderful opportunity to pick up last minute souvenirs, masks, statues, handmade textiles, jewellery, chess boards, and more.

**Looking for a longer adventure? This trip can be combined with our Marrakech—Dakar and Dakar—Freetown tours to make the ultimate West African Overlanding trip.**

