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UNIVERSAL TRAVEL SYSTEM

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 7050
Santa Monica, CA
90406-7050

May 2017

Re: West Africa Tour #1 - 2018

Dear Traveler,

Attached hereto are details for our Unusual West Africa Tour #1.

Costs are as follows:

Land Portion Sharing	\$15,400
Single Room Supplement	\$ 2,600
Estimated Airfare from New York	\$ 5,200

In addition to the above tour, we also have Africa #2 and #3

These tours cover countries that normally are not included in tours.

Book through your travel agent or contact us at 310-393-0261 to reserve your space.

With kindest regards,


Klaus Billep



ITINERARY
WEST AFRICA TOUR #1
2018

- Visiting -

MAURETANIA
CAPE VERDE ISLANDS
SENEGAL
GAMBIA
GUINEA BISSAU
GUINEA
SIERRA LEONE
LIBERIA
IVORY COAST

Travel Arrangements by:
UNIVERSAL TRAVEL SYSTEM
P.O. Box 7050
Santa Monica, CA 90406

ITINERARY

West Africa #1 - 2018

SUN. Jan 7 Leave USA by various flights.

FRANCE

MON. Jan 8 Arrive **PARIS** (Charles de Gaulle) 7:30 AM
D You will meet your tour manager at the Air France departure gate.

Leave **PARIS** (CDG), Aerogare 2, Terminal E by Air France AF#724 11:00 AM
(Airbus 330, flying time 5 hours, 15 minutes)

MAURETANIA

Arrive **NOUAKCHOTT** 12:30 PM
Transfer to
HOTEL HALIMA

NOUAKCHOTT

Afternoon sightseeing
Drive of the capital of Mauritania, to see the Moresque – style Ksar where the National Office of Carpet Shops, the big Mosque with its ten domes, the Independence Avenue with the Presidential Palace, the National Museum which houses prehistoric vestiges, the Souk, the market, handicraft village and time permitting the beach of fisherman.

Tue. Jan 9 Leave **NOUAKCHOTT** by Royal Air Maroc AT #510 7:10 AM
D Arrive **CASABLANCA** 9:45 AM
Leave **CASABLANCA** by Royal Air Maroc AT #505 12:15 PM

SENEGAL

Arrive **DAKAR** 3:55 PM
HOTEL TERANGA PULLMAN

WED. Jan 10
B,L,D

DAKAR

Morning city tour.
Dakar, the capital of Senegal, is a modern city at the extreme of the African continent surrounded by sea. The city tour will offer you the possibility to see different districts: The old city in the colonial style with the city hall, the railway

Cont. station and Kermel Market. Downtown with the Independence Square, administrative buildings, the Presidential Palace, the Cathedral, the main mosque and Dakar University. You will discover contrast between wealthy villas and poor districts, as well as the craft village of Soumbédioune.
Lunch included.

Afternoon tour of Goree Island.
Transfer to the Island of Goree in launches. Visit of the island with guide. Goree is a historic island discovered in 1444 by Dinis Diaz, a Portuguese explorer, and occupied successively by Portuguese, French and English. Visit of the historical museum, the slave house, the castle and the church.

THU. Jan 11
B,D

DAKAR

Morning free

Leave **DAKAR** by VR #8004

2:00 PM

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

Arrive **PRAIA (Santiago Island)**
HOTEL TROPICO

4:50 PM

FRI. Jan 12
B,L,D

PRAIA

Full day excursion to Tarrafal with lunch.
Leave the city Praia to the interior of the island.
By the Avenue Cidade de Lisboa, it passes by the Government Palace, Luise da Silva Basto's Stadium, the Municipal library and the auditorium, the Amilcar Cabral statue (he was one of the founders of the party that gained the country independence), the Sucupira (kind of shop).
On the way to the interior of the island, visit the Aldeia Infantil SOS can be visited. Then, there's a stop at Sao Domingo's village to visit the handicraft cooperative to see the potteries and other workmanship made of sisal, horn at the showroom.
Following, it's the visit to the Botanic Garden Luis Grandvaux Barbosa at Sao Jorge dos Orgaos village. After that it proceeds to Assomada City.
There's a stop at the belvedere at Cruz de Picos from where there's a panoramic view of the city and of the Fogo Island. At Assomada, it's time to visit the Cultural Centre (handicraft showroom and Tabanka Musuem) and the Municipal Market that it was the first built at the whole island at the colonial epoch.
Leaving Assomada behind, it starts the ascent to the Serra Malagueta, one of highest points of the Island. From here it can be caught a glimpse of Ribeira Principal 1,000 meters down. Finally, it reaches Tarrafal village. It's time to visit the ancient political prison was built by the Portuguese fascist regime. The way back by the west coast with some stops at the principal points as the Rabelados community, the banana plantation of Santa Cruz, Pedra Badejo, and Milho Branco.

SAT. Jan 13
B,D

PRAIA

Morning excursion to Cidade Velha.

The excursion starts with City Tour at Plateau from the Cruzeiro's belvedere. There's a panoramic view of the harbour and the zone of the international airport. It passes in front of the Military Quarter Jaime Mota to reach the statue of Diogo Gomes (one of the discoverers of the Cape Verde Island). From here there's a panoramic view of the bay of Gamboa, the islet of Santa Maria, the lighthouse Maria Pia.

Next, it passes by the square Alexandre Albuquerque surrounded by buildings of the 19th century as the Church of Na Sra. da Graca, the Courthouse, the City Hall and the lldo Lobo's cultural palace.

The city tour ends with a visit at the Municipal Market where there are always fresh fruits, vegetables, legumes and fish and some spices. It follows then to Cidade Velha, the first city for the archipelago. Here the visits start by the Fortress of Sao Felipe II (1578-1585); the ruins of the Cathedral, the Pelourinho (symbol of the justice and local execution of the justice); the Church of Na Sra. do Rosario, the distillery for the fabrication of the gorgue and the Convent of Sao Francisco. The excursion ends at Praia de Frente.

Afternoon free.

SUN. Jan 14
B,D

PRAIA

Morning free

Leave **PRAIA** by VR #8021

4:00 PM

SENEGAL

Arrive **DAKAR**

6:45 PM

Enjoy a dinner at a near by restaurant

MON. Jan 15
B,D

Leave **DAKAR** by W3 #396

1:15 AM

GAMBIA

Arrive **BANJUL**

1:55 AM

HOTEL KAIRBABA BEACH

Situated on the golden beach of Kololi, this is one of the best hotels along the West Africa Coast. This resort has been proved to be truly a paradise within Gambia-its incomparable location only a 20 minute drive from the international airport and 30 minutes from Banjul, the capital of the country-makes this beautiful hideaway a most pleasant and memorable experience in life. The Portuguese styled two-story house form a wide horseshoe featuring 150 spacious elegant rooms with shade balconies or terraces allowing views towards the ocean or the beautiful landscape gardens central pool.

Cont.
MON. Jan 15

Morning free to rest.

Afternoon city tour.

Our first stop brings us to the fishing village of Bakau. We stop by the busiest harbor in this town where you can see fishermen in action offloading the fish from the boats and the women gathering and cleaning the catch of the day. The variety of fish caught always differs from day to day and it is a way of living in West Africa as some fish are to be sold and others are caught to feed the families of the fishermen.

From here we move onto visit Serrekunda, which is the largest town in the country. Upon arrival at Serrekunda you visit the tie and dye batik factory owned by a Gambian lady called MUSU KEBBA DRAMMEH who has been in this job for over 30 years. Here we witness a display of the production of the batik. An hour is given to everyone to look around if shopping is needed. Prices here are very reasonable and prices can be negotiated if buying a couple of items.

TUE. Jan 16
B,L,D

BANJUL

Full Day Roots Tour.

You Depart Banjul ports on M/V Joven Antonio your cruise ship for the day where you will enjoy a lovely lunch while being transported to all the various sites on this Roots trip.

Passing an Island called dog Island, you visit your first port of call, Albreda. Here you visit the freedom flag pole and also visit a slave museum Albreda used to be a French trading post during the slavery era.

There is also a church here which was the first of its kind to be built in West Africa by the Portuguese. The essence of stopping here is to explain how the freedom flagpole came into being, which is nowadays one of our national monuments since 1970.

From here you proceed onto Juffureh, which is the home village of the famous slave who was forced into slavery in the mid seventeenth century: Kunta Kinteh. It is on whom, Alex Haley has based the history of his best seller Roots, which retraces the events of the transatlantic slave trade.

Following the walk to the boat we then all proceed for a 2-mile sea cruise to Kunta Kinteh. This is an Island, which used to play a vital role during the slave trade. Located about 3 KM away from the village Albreda. This tiny Island, which used to be six times bigger than its actual size, was used to keep slaves for 2 weeks maximum, before they were shipped to Goree Island. The most characteristic thing is the dungeon remaining on the Island, out of 14, which were washed away by the erosion or the gunpowder explosion, which occurred in the mid eighteenth century. Those dungeons were used to punish slaves who used to rebel against the slave master; hands and legs chained, and served one meal a day in order to weaken them.

WED. Jan 17
B,L,D

BANJUL

Full day Ecotourism day to Tumantienda

Toumani Tenda is a Jola village where the 300 inhabitants living in a real traditional African way. Located 25 kms east of Brikama, the seven extended families of Tumanitenda own cultivated land, rich forest that serves as medication and natural water reservoir. A visit to Tumanitenda gives the opportunity to discover and share the African and traditional way of living. The visitor will experience typical African cuisine, dances, and sacred rituals.

The villagers will invite them into their homes built with local materials.

The furniture and decoration of the rooms give authentic African atmosphere.

A cart safari, bird watching, Batik and dye workshop and a visit to the beekeepers are all facilities that you can experience.

You will have the opportunity to taste local meals served in traditional or European style. To finish possibility to play football with the youngest Tumaintenda.

THU. Jan 18
B,D

Leave **BANJUL** by W3 #397

2:45 AM

SENEGAL

Arrive **DAKAR**

3:25 AM

HOTEL RADISSON BLUE

Morning free

Leave **DAKAR** by VR #8004

2:00 PM

GUINEA BISSAU

Arrive **BISSAU**

3:10 PM

HOTEL 24 SETTEMBRO

FRI. Jan 19
B,L,D

BISSAU

Full day city tour of the capital

Drive down the main street with wide Avenida Amilcar Cabral with its Presidential Palace. Along here you will find most banks, the Cathedral And the cinemas. Also visit the central market. Continue to Avendia de 14 Novembro to visit the Bandim market.

Leave **BISSAU** by VR #8001

9:45 PM

SENEGAL

Arrive **DAKAR**

10:55 PM

HOTEL RADISSON BLUE

SAT. Jan 20
B,D

Leave **DAKAR** KP #29

6:50 AM

GUINEA

Arrive **CONAKRY**
HOTEL NOVOTEL

8:15 AM

Morning city tour, visiting Monument Samory Toure, People's Palace, National Museum, Port De Peche and the Niger Market, where you can buy artistic crafts and African sculptures.

Afternoon free

SUN. Jan 21
B,L,D

Leave **CONAKRY** by Private Minibus
Driving into

SIERRA LEONE

Arrive **FREETOWN** in the afternoon
HOTEL BARMOI

Hotel Barmoi is a small boutique hotel located on the Dape of Aberdeen in Freetown, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

MON. Jan 22
B,D

FREETOWN

Morning Peninsula Tour

Driving via Congo Cross. Continue to Lumley Village and along the coast To the well known fisherman village of York, in front of Bananas Island, where used to initiate the slave traffic. On the way back, stop en route at Number Two Village with its Polynesian-style beaches.

Afternoon Freetown city sightseeing

Drive to the center of town along Cotton tree, famous Freetown landmark, 600 years old, the commercial district. Then proceed to the Parliament building Passing along the State House. Continue to Hill Station and through the forest To Fourah Bay College, the oldest University in West Africa, overlooking the bay of Freetown. Back to the hotel through the African district.

TUE. Jan 23

FREETOWN

B,D

Morning free

Leave **FREETOWN** by KQ # 5595
(Flying time 1 hour)

1:45 PM

LIBERIA

Arrive **MONROVIA** Robert's Int'l Airport 2:45 PM
HOTEL MAMBA POINT

Afternoon city tour including the Waterside Market, the Masonic Temple, partly destroyed after the 1980 coup. Many parts of the city are being rebuilt since the recent war.

WED. Jan 24
B,L,D

MONROVIA

Excursion to the Firestone Plantation.

Drive through Embassies district on the top of the hill. After having crossed Monrovia, continue by a good tarmacked road through different African Villages to Firestone rubber plantation, the largest in the world. Short look at the layout of latex factory and the loading docks. Rubber tapping demonstration, if possible.

Leave **MONROVIA** (ROB AIRPORT) by SN #245 7:15 PM
(Flying time 1 hour, 15 minutes)

IVORY COAST

Arrive **ABIDJAN** 8:30 PM
HOTEL NOVOTEL

THU. Jan 25
B,D

ABIDJIAN

Morning city tour

Afternoon free

Leave **ABIDJIAN** by AF #703 11:00 PM

FRI. Jan 26

Arrive **PARIS (CDG)** 6:30 AM
Leave **PARIS (CDG)** by AF #22 9:10 AM
Arrive **NEW YORK (JFK)** 12:00 PM

HOTEL CONTACT LIST WEST AFRICA #1

All via 011

Nouakchott, Mauretania	HALIMA Tel: (222) 5257920	Jan. 07
Dakar, Senegal	TERANGA PULLMAN Tel: (221) 33 8892200	Jan. 8 -10
Praia, Cape Verde	TROPICO Tel: (238) 261 4200	Jan. 11 - 13
Bissau, Guinea Bissau	24 DE SETEMBRO Tel: (245) 3224505	Jan. 14 - 15
Banjul, Gambia	KAIRABA BEACH Tel: (220) 4462940	Jan. 16 - 18
Conakry, Guinea	NOVOTEL Tel: (224) 415802	Jan. 19
Freetown, Sierra Leone	BARMOI Tel: (232) 22 234933	Jan. 20 - 21
Monrovia, Liberia	MAMBA POINT Tel: (231) 0644000	Jan. 22
Abidjan, Ivory Coast	NOVOTEL Tel: (225) 20318000	Jan. 23