

**LIKE WATER DRUMWORKS
6TH ANNUAL
DRUM, DANCE & BALAFON TRIP**



**GUINEA, WEST AFRICA
VILLAGE OF CAMBALIYA
CENTRE ILLYMANYA
MOUNTAIN SPRING OF "KODA-HODI"
MARCH 17-APRIL 8, 2007**

Basic Schedule (Sunday-Thursday):

Awakened by balafon, our roots alarm clock...

8:30 Breakfast (fresh fruit, tea, bread, eggs, potatoes)

9:30-11:00 Dance Class

11:00-12:30 Drum Class

12:30 Lunch

1:30-6:00 Balafon Class (hour and a half), with additional time for private lessons on any instrument

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Various activities, outings to town, concerts, etc.

Remember – our concept of time is different than that of our African hosts. All of our classes happen, not always at the same time. Participation in the classes is voluntary, and it is up to each person to be aware of the day's schedule. Group meetings and consensus decision-making may change things (ex. cancel a balafon class to get a group hike underway.)

Location:

Illymanya is the Susu word for patience. Located amongst the springs that feed the “Voile de la Mariee” waterfalls, our camp is in a small valley, near one of the mountain streams. We are also near the remote village of Cambaliya (aprox 200 pop.) We stay in traditional huts, 4 bedrooms and one central room in each, featuring a main door, beds, nightstands and dressers. Toilets are traditional squatters, beautiful clean water is from the spring, and our washing is handled in the stream adjacent to Illymanya, in our private outdoor shower stall (buckets and cup), or in the small waterfall just down the path. Our drum and dance space is an open air, shaded, level foundation with a thin layer of sand. We are surrounded by gentle villagers, their fields of pineapple, banana and vegetables, mango trees, tropical birds, monkeys and butterflies. There are no telephones or electricity at Illymanya, but calls and current can be found in the village of Kindia – a 20-minute car ride. Also in Kindia is the medical clinic, markets for food, fabric etc, as well as country restaurants, cold soda, and people watching (hey – you know that they're watching us!)

Teaching Staff:

Led by Milla Sylla, our team of teachers was hand picked by Ryan Edwards to represent the highest in authenticity, approachability, and openness. Milla and his team largely

represent the “Famadou Konate movement” as artists dedicated to the old traditions - proud to play and dance the way their ancestors did, with a keen attention to detail, folklore and presentation.

Milla Sylla & Fode Abas “Horni Rasta” Camara, our djembe and dunun teachers, respectively, both are lifelong students of the drum, and came up together under the instruction of, among other teachers, Famadou Konate. Both Milla and Fode are well steeped in the traditional drum and song repertoires of the Malinke and the Susu people. They are veterans of Famadou’s Ballet Hamanah, and have been teaching westerners and Africans alike for years.

Sedouba “Tiblo” Camara, our male dance teacher, began formal dance training and performance at age 21 with the group Les Etoiles de Kaloum under the direction of the esteemed late dancer Bangily Bangoura (of Ballets Djoliba and Ballet Africains). Tiblo then worked with the famous Ensemble Koteba (the National Ensemble of the Ivory Coast) alongside Mamady Keita. Tiblo moved on to join Ballet Mervailles under the direction of the famous Mohammed Kemo Sano (of Ballets Africains). Soliel d’Afrique and later Ballet Hamanah both also called upon the moves of Tiblo. These days, Tiblo co-directors his own ballet, Watafre, based in the Sibmaya district of Conakry.

Elhai “Djeliba” Sylla is our djeli, balafon teacher, and comedian in residence. Djeliba is a virtuoso player who seems to never tire of his instrument. From the age of 10, Djeliba began his formal study with his uncle, Alpha Camara from Boke. Djeliba now spends his life leaning over a balafon at marriages, naming ceremonies, ballet performances, and every morning as your wake up call.

All of the above artists are members of **Watafre**, a Conakry drum and dance ballet led by Milla and Tiblo. Our teaching staff also consists of 4-5 more drummers and dancers who are living with us full time. They are always there to coach you in a class, offer dunun tips, teach a private lesson or accompany you on a trip into town. Also in residence will be a tailor. So come with ideas for clothing, and the sizes (in cm) of those you wish to gift with clothing.

Ryan Edwards has been drumming for 15 years, and traveling to Africa annually for the last eight. He is the director of Like Water Drum and Dance (Ann Arbor, MI), a professional percussionist, and a father. Ryan considers himself a student and friend of all the above-mentioned staff. He speaks French and takes pleasure as your guide on our strange pilgrimage to this land of rhythm and dance.

Food:

The food will be traditional African fare, which is based on rice with a variety of sauces. Plenty of fresh vegetables, and fruit (c’mon with those mangos) will be available. Cow, goat, chicken and fish are common meats, though vegetarian meals are available if requested (note to vegetarians – peanut butter, cashews and eggs are really the only

reliable non flesh protein. If you are not open to fish (or eggs), please prepare to bring additional sustenance, and we should talk). Food will be prepared by Milla's family, with an open invitation to learn. Milla's Mother, N'ga, is our head cook, assisted by her daughters and extended family. Bring your adventurous culinary spirit – you won't be disappointed.

Classes:

Classes will be taught by an experienced staff of teachers who will remain in residence with us throughout our stay. Every weekday will offer the above schedule of classes. A conscious effort has been made to select teachers of not only the highest authenticity, but also of approachability and adjustability – as teaching westerners so greatly demands. Classes will build on a repertoire, with the intent that the students will return having been exposed to the rhythms, dance, and balafon melodies of a few select pieces. Djembe accompaniments, dunun parts, echauffements, solo phrases and unison figures will be covered. Dance classes are open to all, with an emphasis on those who come to study dance specifically. Travelers are welcome to play for the dance class. Balafon classes move slowly, and as a group. Advanced students will be challenged, beginning students will be nurtured. Private lessons are available at an additional cost, payable directly to the instructor(s).

Weekends:

The first weekend will include trips into the Kindia market center, famous for its fabric, especially indigo tie-dyed. Carvings, baskets, beads, and the best slingshots are also available. We will set out in small-guided groups, and meet at an open-air restaurant for dinner. This first weekend may also include a visit to Tafory, the oldest part of Kindia, and a visit to Djeli Sekou Kouyate's (a local legend of a balafonist) house. Other outings may include seeing balafon builders in action, fabric being dyed and woven, and so on.

Our second weekend is open for small group excursions, local hiking and exploring, additional classes, etc. Vehicles and guides will be facilitated by our staff, and any costs (transport, food, etc) will be the responsibility of the travelers.

Our last weekend is a trip to the island of Rume, an hour boat ride off the coast, for hammocks, frisbee and swimming. A casual, soak up the last of that Africa sun, breathe deeply before the long journey home, reflect and fill another couple pages of journal weekend is what we all seem to need at that point.

Otherwise:

- Special events, Dununbas, Marriages, etc. cannot be planned. We will make every effort to experience the culture as it is happening.
- Guinea's official language is French, and the national language is Susu, also common are Malinke and Fulani
- Electric current (don't count on it) is 220V
- March is the driest, hottest season; temps range from the mid 70's (at night) to mid 90's F.

Travel Arrangements: (Subject to slight change – please confirm before purchasing connecting flights) All flights listed below are Air France

- Saturday, March 17 depart Detroit Metro Airport, travel through Paris, arrive Conakry, Guinea March 18
- Sunday, April 8, depart Conakry, travel through Paris, arrive in Detroit on April 9
- Connecting flights available through our travel agent, Charo 734-213-5396

Registration, Fees, and Terms:

The full price of \$3,550 includes:

- Round trip airfare – Detroit to Conakry / Conakry – Detroit
- VISA
- Lodging, based on double occupancy
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Drum, Dance, and Balafon classes (Sundays – Thursdays)
- Transport to and from Airport in Conakry
- Trips to Market Center of Kindia
- Trip to Rume
- Professional djembe (yours to keep)
- Basic Travel Insurance

Your registration will be confirmed when we receive your deposit of \$2,000, along with your completed registration form, and your valid passport. The deadline for registration is **January 18, 2007. The balance of **\$1550** will be due by **February 8, 2007**.**

There is a \$200 fee for cancellations made up to eight weeks prior to the trip, after that, only 50% of the full payment may be refunded.

Enrollment is limited to 15 students

Conditions:

We (Like Water Drumworks, our African teaching staff, and others affiliated with the trip) are not responsible for lost or stolen items, injury or sickness, or death.

We reserve the right to deny any applicant we deem unfit for this trip, as well as the right to deny travelers the right to participate in some extra-curricular activities in Guinea (ex. Hiking the mountain, cave exploration, etc.).

No refund will be made for anyone who is denied access to the country due to lack of required documentation.

Necessary:

Valid Passport

2 additional passport photos (for visa)

Yellow Fever Vaccination, and proof of it (International Certificate of Vaccination).

Call Center for Disease Control 404-639-3311, or a local travel clinic.

Malaria Medication (from travel clinic also)

Positive Attitude

Good shoes (sport sandals work best)

Not Included:

Bottled water (about 50 cents/liter) - we drink the spring water otherwise, cost of which is only the hike to the source

Private Lessons

Shipping of any instruments / items you buy (we will help)

6-10 of our group meals out (expect to pay no more than \$5 for a full meal w/beverage)

Recommended:

- Small, meaningful gifts for teachers, friends, and new African family. (Soccer balls, djembe rope, T-shirts with home town logos, sports wear, shoes, sandals, crayons, blank paper, school supplies, tools)
- Light clothing, at least one light long sleeve and long pants. It cools off at night.
- Good shoes, sport sandals work great (a closed shoe is best for hiking in the bush)
- Bug spray (there are mosquitoes! I suggest a light herbal spray and a full on deet deal, you can experiment to see what suits you)
- Mosquito net
- Thermarest (travel sleep mat) our huts are outfitted with traditional straw beds and sheets, so bring a sleep mat if it fits in your luggage, and if you are the adventurous "I want to sleep outside tonight" type
- Anti - Bacterial soap (all natural is nice, they don't need our chemicals in their water)
- Extra duffel bag to bring home your new drum, clothes, etc.
- Flashlight, headlamp
- Various sized bags to accommodate various day and weekend excursions
- Notebook / journal
- Audio recorder, enough batteries, and blank tapes (practice with your recorder before coming! every year someone's tapes don't take)
- Get Healthy! Build up your immune system, your stamina, envision yourself there
- Brush up on your French
- Teas, comfort food, snacks (instant oatmeal, Emergen-C's, Jamaican coffee and a French press, Braggs, protein shakes - we have a hand-crank blender at Illymanya) - if you think you need it
- Dietary supplements, digestive enzymes etc
- Personal First-Aid. We are roughing it. I will have a comprehensive kit, and we have access to a local, safe, hospital as well as pharmacies, but pack as if your

- survival depends on your own preparations and provisions – what a concept!
- **Pack all meds and super valuables, toothbrush, passport, recording gear, camera etc in your carry-on. Baggage can and has been lost or delayed.**

Recommended Reading and Listening:

- Famadou Konate’s Albums “Guinea: Malinke Rhythms and Songs” This is clear, authentic djembe music. Available at Africanrhythmtraders.com
- Mamady Keita’s albums. Any one of them will be great for you. Also available at Africanrhythmtraders.com
- Buy any balafon album you see (they are rare) El Hadj Djeli Sory Kouyate had three albums out on the Music du Monde label.
- Read Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali, (Longman African Classics) –Djibril Tamsir Niane – book about the beginning of the Malinke Empire

Questions and Concerns:

Please feel free to contact tour director Ryan Edwards at:

- ryan@likewaterdrumworks.com
- 734-475-3158
- 16867 Waterloo Road
Chelsea, MI 48118
- Photos and more information available at www.likewaterdrumworks.com.

Registration Form - Please print clearly!

Name (as it appears on your passport): _____

Sex: _____ Date of Birth _____

Phone: _____ Daytime: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Other (allergies, special dietary concerns, medical considerations) _____

In case of emergency, please contact: _____

Relationship _____ Telephone _____

Interested in (circle all that apply): Balafon Djembe/duns Dance

How did you hear about our trip? _____

____ Enclosed is my deposit of **\$2000 USD, Valid Passport, signed registration form, and 2 additional passport photos** for the 2007 Like Water Drumworks Drum, Dance, and Balafon Trip to Guinea, West Africa.

I understand that by signing this form, I have read, understood, and agreed with all the terms and conditions stated throughout this packet regarding the 2007 Like Water Drumworks Trip to Guinea, West Africa.

I agree that any photo/video taken of me may be used in future advertising.

Signed: _____

Please make checks payable to Like Water Drumworks

Mail to:

Like Water Drumworks
16867 Waterloo Road
Chelsea, MI 48118