Togo in 11 days: a day-by-day itinerary

Small but remarkably varied, Togo can be crossed from south to north in a little over a week. This eleven-day itinerary links the markets of Lomé, the lagoon of Lake Togo and the wooded hills of Kpalimé, then follows the long road north to the fortress-like houses of Koutammakou, a World Heritage Site. It deliberately stops at Kandé and avoids the Savanes region in the far north, where the French and British governments advise against all but essential travel. Check official travel advice before you leave, as the situation can change.

Day by day

Days 1-2 · Lomé, markets and voodoo (night : Lomé)
Land in Lomé and start with the city centre: the Grand Marché and its multi-storey hall, where the famous Nana Benz made their fortunes trading wax-print cloth, then the neo-Gothic Sacred Heart Cathedral, built at the beginning of the twentieth century. The next day, head to the Akodésséwa fetish market in the east of the city, where ingredients used in voodoo practices are sold; a guide will explain what they are for, but always ask before taking photos. In the afternoon, visit the Palais de Lomé, the former governors' residence turned art centre, set in a large park. In the evening, avoid walking on the beach and the seafront: official advice warns against it after dark.

Days 3-4 · Lake Togo, Togoville and Aného (night : Aného)
Take the coast road east: the southern shore of Lake Togo is less than an hour from Lomé. From Agbodrafo, a dugout canoe crosses the lagoon to Togoville, the village where the German protectorate treaty was signed in 1884 with King Mlapa III, and which gave the country its name. Visit the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lake Togo, built in 1910, and see the house of the king's descendants. The next day, continue to Aného, one of the oldest towns on the coast, squeezed between the sea and the lagoon, with its colonial-era houses. The area is a centre of voodoo worship: only attend a ceremony if you are invited. Do not swim in the sea, as the currents are very strong.

Day 5 · Into the hills of Kpalimé (night : Kpalimé)
Head back towards Lomé, then north-west: Kpalimé lies about 120 kilometres from the capital, and the drive from Aného takes three to four hours depending on traffic. The landscape changes suddenly as the plain gives way to the green hills of the Togo Mountains, planted with coffee, cocoa and banana trees. Settle in for three nights, then take a first look around the lively market and the crafts centre, which sells carvings, pottery and weaving. The town is only about fifteen kilometres from the Ghanaian border, and it feels cooler and calmer than Lomé. Use the evening to arrange your outings with a local guide.

Days 6-7 · Womé Falls, Mount Agou and the Kloto plateau (night : Kpalimé)
Spend these two days exploring the surrounding countryside. On the first day, set off early for Womé Falls, one of the finest in the region: a path down through the forest leads to the pool where the water drops from a cliff covered in greenery. Add the Kpimé Falls, also near Kpalimé, whose flow depends heavily on the season. On the second day, drive up to the Kloto plateau for a forest walk, known for its butterflies, or climb Mount Agou, the highest point in Togo at 986 metres, with views far across the plain. A local guide is strongly recommended for these outings, and a four-wheel-drive vehicle is useful on the dirt tracks.

Day 8 · The long road north to Kara (night : Kara)
This is a transfer day, but not without interest. Drive to Atakpamé, a hilly town, then join the N1 highway, which runs the length of the country, via Sokodé and the Aledjo gap, a spectacular cutting through the rock. Allow around 350 kilometres and seven to eight hours on the road, including breaks: leave at dawn to reach Kara before dark, as driving at night is strongly discouraged throughout the country. Kara, the main town of the north, is a practical base for the following days. In the late afternoon, wander through the market and the centre, which feel more spacious than those in the south. Book your guide for Koutammakou this evening.

Day 9 · Koutammakou, land of the Batammariba (night : Kara)
From Kara, drive up to Kandé, then follow the track towards Nadoba and the villages of Koutammakou, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004. Allow around an hour and a half to two hours each way, depending on the state of the track. The Batammariba live here in takienta, two-storey earthen tower houses topped with turret-shaped granaries, scattered among the fields. Visit with a guide from the community, who will explain how the house is organised, the shrines and the rituals that shape village life; never enter a home without being invited. Do not continue north beyond Kandé, and be back in Kara before nightfall.

Days 10-11 · Back to Lomé and departure (night : Lomé)
Day 10 is the longest of the trip: around 420 kilometres on the N1, or eight to nine hours on the road with stops. Leave at first light and bring water and snacks; if you feel tired, it is better to stop for the night in Atakpamé than to drive after dark, even if it shortens your last day. On day 11, use your final hours in Lomé to finish your shopping, perhaps for wax-print cloth at the Grand Marché or for crafts, then head to the airport, only a few kilometres from the centre. If your flight leaves early in the morning, reverse the order: sleep in Atakpamé on the tenth night and reach Lomé on day 11.

Getting around

The most comfortable option is to hire a car with a driver for the whole trip: the main roads are paved but busy with lorries, and the tracks to the waterfalls and Koutammakou often need a four-wheel-drive vehicle in the rainy season. Never drive at night. In Lomé, use taxis with yellow number plates rather than motorbike taxis, which cause many accidents. Bush taxis link the main towns, but they are slow and their safety record is uneven, especially on the road north.

When to go

The best time to go is from November to February, during the dry season: the roads are passable, the heat is bearable and the skies are often clear, although the harmattan, a dust-laden wind, sometimes veils the horizon in December and January. In the south, the rains fall from late March to July, then from mid-September to late October, when the tracks become difficult. The waterfalls around Kpalimé are at their most impressive just after the rains, in November.

Practical information

Togo

Entry	Depends on your passport: visiterafriqueunie.com/en/visa/togo/
Yellow fever	Certificate required from all travellers
Malaria	throughout the country
Currency	West African CFA franc (XOF)
Languages	French, Ewe, Kabiye
Plugs	type C · dialling code +228 · UTC0
Emergencies	police 117 · ambulance 8200 · fire 118

Departure checklist

Documents

☐ Passport valid for at least six months after your return, with blank pages
☐ Visa or e-visa (printed if required)
☐ International vaccination certificate (yellow fever if required)
☐ Travel insurance certificate and assistance number
☐ Paper and digital copies of your passport and bookings
☐ Tickets, bookings and addresses saved offline
☐ International driving permit if you are hiring a vehicle

Health

☐ Travel consultation done and vaccinations up to date
☐ Malaria tablets if your doctor recommends them
☐ First-aid kit: plasters, antiseptic, anti-diarrhoea tablets, rehydration salts
☐ Mosquito repellent suitable for the tropics
☐ Sunscreen, hat and sunglasses
☐ Personal medication and prescriptions

Money and connectivity

☐ Bank told, Visa or Mastercard (and a backup card)
☐ Cash in euros or dollars, recent notes in good condition
☐ eSIM or local SIM card sorted
☐ Plug adapter for the country
☐ Power bank and cables
☐ Offline maps downloaded
☐ Afrique Unie app installed

In the bag

☐ Light clothes that cover up (sun, mosquitoes, places of worship)
☐ A fleece for evenings, dawn safaris and altitude
☐ Walking shoes and sandals
☐ Head torch
☐ Water bottle (ideally with a filter)
☐ Small daypack and waterproof pouches
☐ Luggage padlock

Before you close the door

☐ Your government's travel advice reread
☐ Trip registered with your consular service (if it offers this)
☐ Itinerary and contacts left with someone close
☐ Online check-in done and baggage allowance checked

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