

INTERNATIONAL DRUM AND DANCE WORKSHOP In Burkina Faso 29.12.2014-16.1.2015

EXPERIENCE BOBO!

Master drummer Zoumana Dembele and his griot family welcome you once again to their musical home in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, West Africa. We want to offer you a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the heart of Africa that will leave you with unique experiences and a lasting effect.

Burkina Faso is considered one of the friendliest and most approachable countries in West Africa and Bobo-Dioulasso is its cultural capital. Its location at the crossroads of ancient trading routes has brought influences from all around the region and the Bobolese are renowned for their hospitality and open-mindedness. The cultural traditions of the Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Ghana and Guinea have converged here to create a fascinating mix which makes Bobo-Dioulasso one of the most interesting centers of djembe music.



Zoumana is one of the best djembefolas of his generation and highly revered by internationally renowned older masters like Mamady Keita and Adama Drame. Participating in the daily life of his family of griots offers professional and non-professional musicians and dancers an exceptional window into the teaching and transmission of these ancient musical traditions in a modern context.

In your free time you can profit from the abundance of cultural events in Bobo. They range from traditional ceremonies and events to festivals and reggae gigs, not to forget all the night clubs as well as theater and modern dance performances. There is always something going on!

MUSIC AND DANCE LESSONS

Beginners will be introduced to basic djembe and dundun melodies and techniques under the expert teaching of djembe soloist Siaka Keita, who is known for his unique phrasing.

Intermediate and advanced classes will be taught by master Zoumana himself, who will challenge his students to take on entire African rhythm compilations. He includes both djembe and dundun melodies, songs and solos for a more comprehensive mastery of the rhythms and insight into the traditions.



Lessons in other instruments (balafon, kamelen ngoni, calebasse, tama etc.) can also be organized for a small additional cost.



The highlight of every week will be the Friday afternoons when we will be accompanied by the old masters of the Burkinabe 'Buena Vista Social Club', Korole Foli. It is thanks to Zoumana's reputation and contacts that we can offer you the opportunity to study with these old and revered master musicians.

Experienced dance teachers Mama Sanou, Abdoulaye Sanou and Seydou Traore will introduce you to a wide range of traditional West African dances. You will study both dances local to Burkina as well dances known all throughout West Africa. We can organize courses for beginners, more advanced dancers as well as professionals according to demand. At the end of the course you will have the opportunity to perform with Zoumana's band Landaya.

ACCOMODATION AND FOOD

Accommodation will be close to Zoumana's home and the course venue. You will share a room with 2-3 people in a comfortable house with all the basic conveniences (running water, electricity, indoor shower, toilet, kitchen).

Our master chef Marie Louise will prepare a tasty breakfast, lunch and dinner for you. The home cooked meals include different meat, fish or vegetarian sauces served with rice and couscous. Local seasonal fruit will also be provided at breakfast and as snacks.

Zoumana's long-time Finnish collaborators Aakusti Oksanen and Annina Tuhkunen are in charge of organizing the course. Together they have years of experience studying and teaching music and dance around the world. During the course they will act as co-teachers, cultural interpreters and coordinators. They can also help you with travel plans and basic questions when planning your trip.

WHAT, WHERE AND WHEN

The length of the camp is 2-3 three weeks from December 29, 2014 to January 16, 2015. Arrival via Ouagadougou to Bobo during the previous weekend and return at the end of the last week.

Prices in euros: 1290 (3 weeks), 990 (2 weeks) include:

- Drum and dance lessons twice a day 5 days a week, Mon- Fri: 3 hours drum and dance/day
- Three meals a day, breakfast/brunch on weekends
- Accomodation in close vicinity of the course venue
- Bus transportation to and from Ouagadougou
- Hotel accomodation in Ouagadougou on the night of arrival
- Workshop T-shirt
- A trip to the Falls in Banfora and the hippo lake of Tengrela (transport and entrance fees)
- A guided tour of the old town of Bobo-Dioulasso and the Old Mosque

Campers are responsible for:

- Visa, passport and travel insurance (obligatory!)
- Flights to and from Ouagadougou
- Vaccinations and medications, esp. malaria
- Evening meals and free time activities

Early bird reductions: -5% if you pay by September 25.

Reserve your spot by paying the reservation fee of 250 euros by October 15, 2014. The reservation fee will only be returned in case the course is canceled or a medical certificate is presented. Workshop fee has to be completed by December 1.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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More at <http://djembepaja.fi/en/burkina/>

COME AND FEEL THE GRIOT GROOVE IN BOBO!**Comments from past attendees:**

”Everyone is smiling there all the time. You’ve got to be a fool not to start grinning the same way. It stays with you for a long time, this kind of a trip... The dances I saw were awesome and these girls were hammering it in this kind of a sweaty tent. Sweat flies but they don’t feel no fatigue ‘cause the rhythm really makes your heart pump. It keeps you awake all night.”

Remu Aaltonen, Hurriganes rock legend, Finland (Workshop of 2013-14)

”Workshop was much more than just learning to play and dance. It was a great opportunity to get into African culture and way of life. Experiencing the African rhythm in everyday life helped me to step out from daily rush that’s surrounding us in Europe. These kind of experiences challenge the way you perceive your own culture. Also, the Finnish organisers Annina and Aakusti were always there when needed.”

María Rodríguez García, African Dance enthusiast, Basque Country, Spain (Workshop of 2013-14)

“In Bobo I was able to really focus on studying dance and music during the lessons with our energetic teachers and the traditional events we attended. Culture and the arts are an essential part of everyday life there, not just something for the rich and privileged. The spontaneity and hospitality of the locals made me feel right at home!”

Mariana Siljamäki, Founder and choreographer of Mami Wata, African dance pedagogue and researcher, Finland (Workshop of 2011-12)