

Into Africa

Exploring Undiscovered Cultural & Natural Treasures

Aboard the 34-Guest Yacht *Callisto*

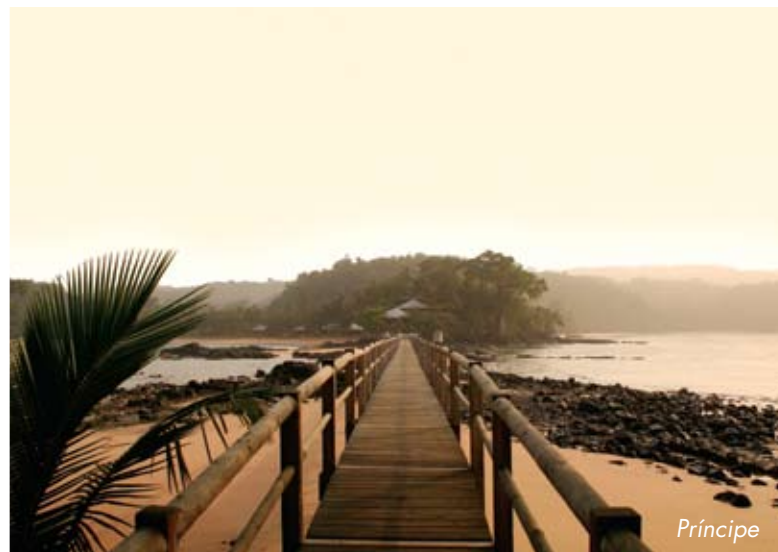
January, February & March 2012



MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE THE PORTUGUESE SAILED ALONG THE WEST AFRICAN COAST IN THE 15TH CENTURY. These regions of Africa, rarely visited for more than a half-century, have become known as one of the most beautiful and exotic destinations opened up to the adventurous traveler in recent years. We begin in Accra, Ghana's dynamic capital, and continue to make calls in Togo, as well as the traditional stilt village of Ganvié in Benin. Our voyage also includes Equatorial Guinea's Bioko Island, whose rain forests house endangered primates; Cameroon, one of the most culturally diverse countries in Africa; and the idyllic islands of São Tomé and Príncipe, formerly the prized possessions of Portugal and known for their beauty. This part of Africa should be explored in small numbers, and *Callisto*, with its limited passenger capacity, is the ideal vessel for this exceptional journey.



Benin



Príncipe



Travel Dynamics International
Excellence in Small-Ship Cruising Since 1969

ITINERARY

Day 1
FLY FROM USA

Day 2
ACCRA | TEMA, GHANA | EMBARK
Arrive in Accra, Ghana's sprawling capital, and transfer to *Callisto*. Overnight aboard ship docked in Tema, Accra's port.

Day 3
TEMA | ACCRA | TEMA
Tour Accra, a city that vibrates with energy and an air of excitement and industry. Visit the excellent crafts market, which showcases the best of local artisans throughout the region, as well as the National Museum of Ghana and the memorial to Ghana's first president, Nkrumah Mausoleum, set amid beautiful gardens.

Day 4
LOME | LAKE TOGO | LOME, TOGO
For centuries Togo was part of several empires including those of Mali, Asante, Benin, and others. Arrive in Lome, Togo's friendly capital. Explore the city including the Handicraft Markets, with traditional goods from all over West Africa, noted especially for sculpture and batiks. Then drive to Agbodrafo, formerly known as Porto Seguro, set on the shores of Lake Togo, from where we will explore the lake's traditional villages by local *pirogues*.

Day 5
COTONOU | PORTO-NOVO | COTONOU, BENIN
The small country of Benin was home to an ancient sophisticated culture. From the port of Cotonou, drive to the nearby capital, Porto-Novo, set on green hills surrounding a large lagoon. Formerly the center of an indigenous prosperous kingdom, it later became the capital of the French colony of Dahomey. Explore this pleasant city, including visits to the Ethnography Museum, the restored palace of King Toffa, and the Handicraft Center. After lunch, board local motorboats for a ride across Lake Nokoué to the picturesque fishing village of Ganvié, built on stilts.

Day 6
AT SEA

Day 7
MALABO, BIKO ISLAND, EQUATORIAL GUINEA
Arrive in Equatorial Guinea, which comprises two regions, one on the African continent, the other on the island of Bioko and several smaller offshore islands. Formerly a Spanish colony, the country attained independence in 1968. Call at Malabo, the major town of Bioko Island and the country's capital, and spend the day exploring this lush volcanic island, with its rain forests that are home to an extraordinary amount of wildlife, including endangered primates.

Day 8
LIMBÉ | BUEA | MT. CAMEROON | LIMBÉ, CAMEROON
Founded in the mid-19th century by missionaries, the attractive port town of Limbé is built below towering Mt. Cameroon, West Africa's tallest mountain (13,500 ft.). Explore the town, with its distinctive colonial architecture, including the Botanical Gardens, founded over a century ago and now considered one of tropical Africa's most important botanic gardens, featuring a large number of tree varieties. The tranquil Limbé River flows through it. Also explore the Limbé Wildlife Center, known for its work on primate conservation. For those interested and weather permitting, there will be an opportunity to trek a portion of Mt. Cameroon.

Day 9
KRIBI
Located on the south coast of Cameroon, the small town of Kribi is surrounded by superb white sand beaches that are fringed by palm trees. After a walk through the town, drive to the nearby Lobé Waterfalls. Set in a beautiful location, the waterfalls are one of the few in the world that fall directly into the sea. We will also take a local boat ride up the forested Lobé River and visit one of the villages.

Day 10
PRÍNCIPE ISLAND, SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE
Arrive in Príncipe, which, along with its larger sister-island, São Tomé, were the prized possessions of Portugal from the 15th century to 1975, when they attained independence to form the two-island nation of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe. Discover Santo Antonio, the island's atmospheric small capital, walk through the abandoned plantation of Porto Real, witness the villagers of Sao Joachim making palm oil, hike through the pristine rain forest, and relax on white-sand beaches.

Day 11
SÃO TOMÉ ISLAND
Call at the island's capital and main port of São Tomé Island, also called São Tomé, a picturesque and friendly town featuring colonial architecture. Also explore the island's lush interior, known for its rich biodiversity, and visit an active coffee plantation, where you'll observe a lifestyle largely unchanged since the colonial era and where you'll also sample some of the world's best chocolate.

Day 12
LIBREVILLE, GABON | DISEMBARK
Arrive in Libreville, Gabon's capital, and enjoy a morning tour of the town, and enjoy an afternoon at leisure before our evening departure. Dinner at *Le Meridien Re-Ndama* where rooms will also be provided before transferring to the airport for return flights to the U.S.

Day 13
ARRIVE IN USA

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- 10-night cruise aboard the 34-guest yacht *Callisto*
- Complete program of tours and excursions
- Day rooms and dinner in Libreville at the *Le Meridien Re-Ndama*
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship
- All meals aboard ship, including house wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Open bar aboard ship throughout the cruise
- Educational program of lectures and discussions by accompanying guest lecturers
- Professional Travel Dynamics International tour staff
- Complete pre-departure materials
- Baggage handling and transfers abroad on the designated program arrival and departure dates
- Port and embarkation taxes
- Gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO LOANGO NATIONAL PARK

Explore Gabon's most magnificent national park on a two-night optional extension. Loango National Park is a pristine and varied wilderness that protects habitats including ocean, forest, and savannah areas. Its wildlife includes, among others, forest elephants and hippos. Large concentrations of whales and dolphins frequent the sea. We will explore Loango by all-wheel vehicles and motorized pirogues. Accommodations will be at the superb *Loango Lodge*. Access to the park is by air.



CRUISE World

For bookings and enquiries contact
Travel Marketing Cruise World
PO Box 302 421, North Harbour, Auckland
Ph: 09 917 4440
Out of AKL agents 0800 500 732
email: info@cruiseworld.co.nz
www.cruiseworld.co.nz



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