



VSL TRAVEL  
Visit Sierra Leone (VSL)

+23276258258  
info@vsltravel.com  
<https://www.visitsierraleone.org>



## **Sample - 14 day - Itinerary - Community Participation**

**\$2,778 per person**

The cost is based on a group of 6 pax.

## Trip Summary

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### Arrive, Transfer to Hotel

Arrival in Freetown, transfer to hotel - Tariq's Resort and Restaurant

Tariq's Resort and Restaurant - Tariq's Resort and Restaurant

### Rogbonko Village Retreat

Arrive at Rogbonko Village Retreat

### Full Day at Rogbonko Village Retreat

Full Day at Rogbonko Village Retreat

### Depart Rogbonko for Bonthe

Depart Rogbonko for Bonthe

### Transfer from Bonthe to Turtle Island

Transfer from Bonthe to Turtle Island

### Full Day on Turtle Islands

Full Day on Turtle Islands

### Bo City

Bo City

### Transfer to Banana Islands

Transfer to Banana Islands - Banana Islands

Check in at Bafa Resort

### Full Day at Banana Island

Full Day at Banana Island

### Tokeh

Freetown Peninsula - Tokeh - The Place Resort

### Freetown Historical Tour & Tacugama

Freetown Historical Tour

Arrive at Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary

Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary - Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary

### Bunce & Tasso Island

Bunce Island, Tasso Island - Hotel Barmoi

### Cooking Class

Cooking Class

### Farewell, Depart

Farewell - Freetown-Lungi International Airport (FNA), Cole Street Guesthouse

## Arrive, Transfer to Hotel



### Arrival in Freetown, transfer to hotel

Arrive at Freetown's Lungi International Airport, uniquely situated on the northern coast of the Freetown Estuary. Upon arrival, disembark and proceed to the arrivals hall for baggage claim. A representative from VSL TRAVEL will meet you at the terminal exit gate, holding a sign with your name on it. They will be available to answer any immediate questions before escorting you to your private vehicle for transfer to Tariq's Resort, where you will spend the night.

Overnight at Tariq's Resort or Similar



### Tariq's Resort and Restaurant

Lungi-Town, North West Province, Sierra Leone



### Tariq's Resort and Restaurant



### Tariq's Resort and Restaurant

Lungi-Town, North West Province, Sierra Leone

## Rogbonko Village Retreat



### Arrive at Rogbonko Village Retreat

Today, we will pick you up for a trip to Rogbonko Village Retreat, stopping in [Makeni](#) for a guided tour of this provincial town. After exploring Makeni, we will have lunch before continuing the final hour's drive to Rogbonko via Magburuka.

Rogbonko Mathaka, meaning "The Place in The Forest," is located 30 minutes from Magburuka Junction. With no electricity, running water, or telephones, and minimal contact with the outside world, you will experience life in a traditional house, meet the villagers, eat their food, witness their culture, and share in their daily lives. Your tour guide will accompany you on forest walks and tours of some of the farms, explaining the significance of daily life in the village. You'll learn about the various activities that keep the villagers content with such a humble life.

A highlight of the Rogbonko experience is the basket weaving. The baskets woven here closely resemble the sweetgrass baskets made by the Gullah/Geechee people, a skill believed to have been retained by enslaved Africans from West Africa, particularly Sierra Leone.

Overnight in traditional hut (with toilet and bathroom).

See the following links for more information:

<https://www.visitsierraleone.org/rogbonko-bumbuna-experience/>





## Full Day at Rogbonko Village Retreat



### Full Day at Rogbonko Village Retreat

Your full day in Rogbonko will be spent walking through the village talking to villagers and learning about how the local community operates. You have the option of taking short rides in a local dug out canoe, or walking through the farming fields.

## Depart Rogbonko for Bonthe



### Depart Rogbonko for Bonthe

Take an early breakfast, and depart Rogbonko at 8 AM and head to Bonthe via Yargoi (with a 40 minutes boat ride). We will have lunch in Bo, before continuing your journey to Bonthe.

Bonthe is a forgotten but alluring tropical destination. It is known to some Sierra Leoneans as Christmas Island, many visit this tranquil place to enjoy the holidays in peace. Bonthe is like a sun-bleached photo taken of an exotic island town, where you can see things once were bright and new, but now all that's left is a vague image of what used to be. And there's a melancholic beauty to that.

Upon arrival, you can do the history tour with one of the local guides, who will explain everything about the colonial history of the island.

Overnight at Bonthe Holiday Village or Smart Guesthouse.



## Transfer from Bonthe to Turtle Island



### Transfer from Bonthe to Turtle Island

This morning, after breakfast, we will set out to explore the Turtle Islands, a group of eight idyllic islands off the southwest peninsula. Inhabited by fishing communities, these islands offer a serene escape. You can stay at a basic guesthouse run by the Conservation Society, or you might prefer to pitch a tent.

A boat trip to various islands is highly recommended, along with swimming and fishing with the local fishermen. The clean, fresh water and air make swimming a truly pleasurable experience.

Overnight in a tent at Baki or Chepo Island



## Full Day on Turtle Islands



### Full Day on Turtle Islands

You will spend the entire day exploring one or two more islands and interacting with the local islanders. Additionally, you can enjoy swimming or fishing alongside them, immersing yourself in their daily activities and culture.



## Bo City



### Bo City

After breakfast, bid farewell to the islanders before heading to Bo via Yargoi.

Bo, the second-largest city in Sierra Leone, is home to the Mende, the country's largest tribe. Quieter, cleaner, and more tranquil than Freetown, Bo offers fewer options for lodging and dining but has a unique charm. At first glance, Bo might seem like a sleepy town with not much happening. However, it holds hidden gems and activities that make it worth exploring.

You can visit the Bo National Stadium and the historic Bo School, established in 1906 by the Sierra Leonean government. The school, situated on a spacious and green campus, is not only a beautiful sight but also rich in history, reflecting elements of Sierra Leone's colonial past. Originally intended for the sons of paramount chiefs seeking a high-quality, elite education, the school is now open to all boys. Notably, President Julius Maada Bio is an alumnus of Bo School.

Overnight at Dohas Hotel or similar.





## Transfer to Banana Islands



### Transfer to Banana Islands

This morning, we head to Kent Village on the Freetown Peninsula to catch a boat to Banana Island, offering a chance to explore this scenic paradise. The Banana Islands consist of three islands: Dublin and Ricketts, linked by a stone causeway, and the uninhabited Mes-Meheux. Our destination is Dublin, known for its backyard gardens, large breadfruit trees, and rare, delightful butterflies. You will be warmly welcomed by the sleepy yet friendly community and enjoy a tour of this quiet paradise.

These pristine islands offer a wonderful opportunity to experience the laid-back charm of Sierra Leone. A variety of optional activities are available, including hiking, snorkeling, scuba diving, fishing, and a scenic boat trip around the island. You'll also have the chance to embark on an insightful land tour and spend some time exploring on your own around this virtually unknown area of West Africa.

Lunch will feature locally-caught fresh fish, prawns, and lobsters, subject to availability.

Overnight at Bafa Resort or similar. See below the link for more details about this Island:

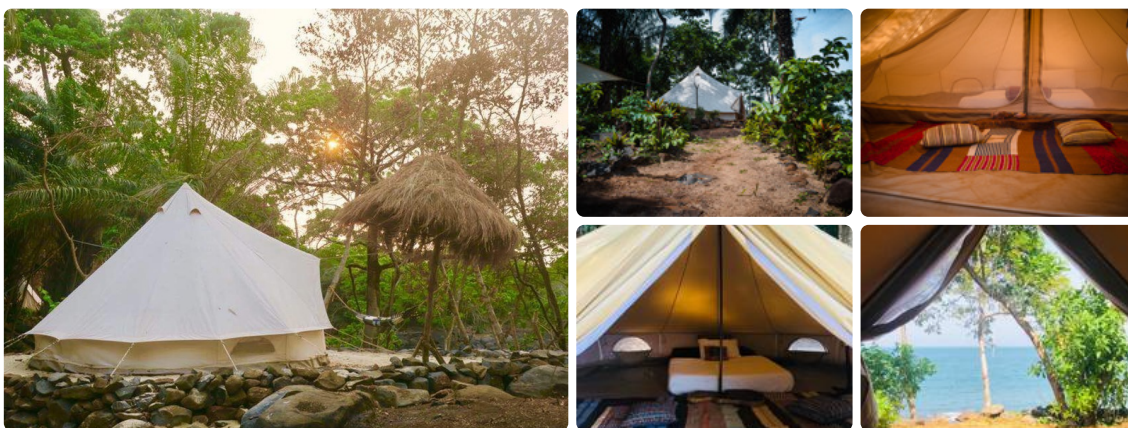
<https://www.visitsierraleone.org/banana-islands/>



**Banana Islands**  
Western Area, Sierra Leone



### Check in at Bafa Resort



## Full Day at Banana Island



### Full Day at Banana Island

Enjoy some downtime at Banana Island, taking your time to explore the village community or engage in optional activities.

## Tokeh

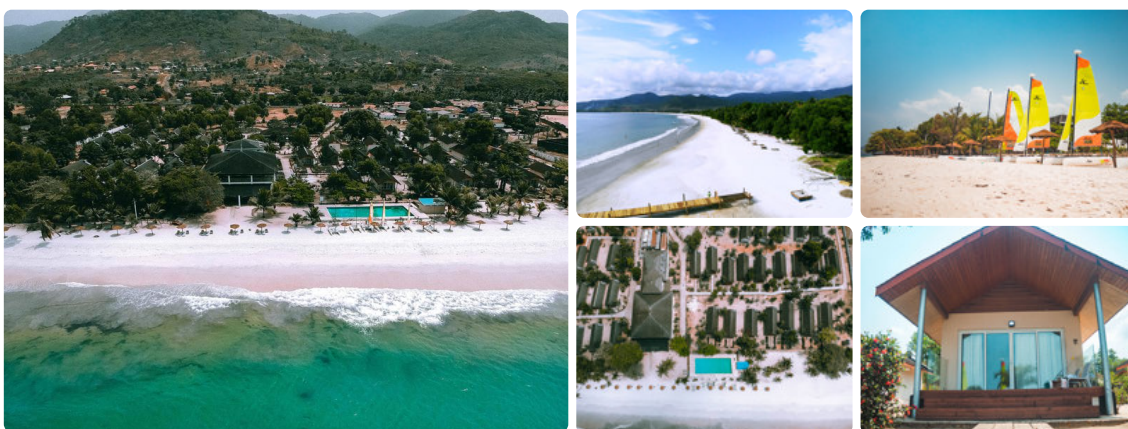


### Freetown Peninsula - Tokeh

After breakfast, depart Banana Island and head to Tokeh, with a stop at Bureh Beach along the way. At Bureh Beach, you'll meet the members of the Bureh Beach Surf Club, enjoy a seafood lunch, and take a quick surfing class. After lunch and some relaxation, you'll go on a tour of York before continuing to Tokeh.

Tokeh, a small coastal village on the Western Area Peninsula, boasts one of Sierra Leone's most beautiful beaches. Tokeh Beach features a stunning backdrop of lush green mountains and an old wooden pier extending into the sea, creating a picturesque scene. You can explore the area, relax on the beach, or spend time at the pool.

Accommodation: The Place Resort or Tokeh Beach Resort



### The Place Resort

Tokeh, Western Area, Sierra Leone

## Freetown Historical Tour & Tacugama



### Freetown Historical Tour



Today, we will head back to Freetown and begin our day by exploring this vibrant city and its historical core. With a car and guide at your disposal, you will visit notable sites such as the Railway Museum, St. George's Cathedral, the National Museum, the Peace Monument, the Maroon Church, the Cotton Tree, the Gateway to the Old King's Yard, and Fort Thornton (where the Presidential State House now stands).

After touring these significant landmarks, you will enjoy lunch in downtown Freetown before heading to the Krootown Road Market for some fruit shopping before heading to the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary.



### Arrive at Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary

After lunch (not included unless otherwise stated), you will head to the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, where you will spend the night.

At Tacugama, you will witness the remarkable work being done by Bala and his team. Chimpanzees, often cruelly or ignorantly kept as pets or hunted for their meat, now find a safe haven here. Over 100 primates swing from branches, hoot with happiness, throw things with the petulance of children, nuzzle each other with the tenderness of mothers attending to newborns, and pick bugs out of each other's fur with the attention of a manicurist. Even the least animal-friendly visitors find themselves enchanted by these moments.

Besides the sanctuary, the area offers other attractions, including the opportunity to view over 100 bird species identified in and around the Tacugama Forest Reserve. You'll spend the night in one of the elegant thatch huts, known as the Lodge, nestled amid the green forest canopy and serenaded by the calls of the chimps.



### Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary





**Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary**

## Bunce & Tasso Island



### Bunce Island, Tasso Island

This morning we go to Bunce Island with a private speedboat, viewing the city from the coast as you go by. Bunce Island was the largest British slave castle on the Rice Coast of West Africa. Founded around 1670, it exported tens of thousands of African captives to North America and the West Indies until the British Parliament finally closed it down in 1808. Bunce Island is left to decay, and although this raises questions of preservation, it does have a certain charm. It is authentic, raw - a painful history that is burying itself under layers of greenery.

After spending a couple of hours exploring the substantial ruins on the island, including the factory house, fortification, slave prison, watchtowers, dormitories, storerooms, and power magazine you will be transferred to Tasso Island where you could have lunch before being transferred to Freetown to spend the night.

Overnight at Barmoi Hotel



### Hotel Barmoi

Freetown, Western Area, Sierra Leone

## Cooking Class



### Cooking Class

After breakfast, you will join one of our local chefs for an immersive cooking class in Sierra Leonean cuisine. You can accompany the chef to purchase fresh ingredients from a local market, experiencing firsthand the vibrant atmosphere and selecting the best items for your meal. In the late afternoon or early evening, you will be transferred to your hotel in town.

## Farewell, Depart

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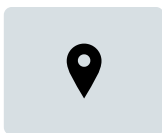
### Farewell

This morning, take the opportunity for some last-minute shopping at one of Freetown's craft markets, where you can find unique gifts and souvenirs. Enjoy a delightful lunch at Cole Street Guesthouse before being transferred to the airport for your journey home.



### Freetown-Lungi International Airport (FNA)

Lungi, Freetown, WESTERN AREA, SIERRA LEONE



### Cole Street Guesthouse

5 Cole Street, Freetown, Sierra Leone