

Equatorial Guinea Independence Day Tour 7th Oct – 14th Oct 2026



INTRODUCTION:

Come and celebrate Equatorial Guinea's Independence Day with us! Often noted for being one of the least visited countries in Africa, largely due to its authoritarian regime and strict travel restrictions, there is no better way to experience this elusive nation than to take part in their Independence Day festivities.

As well as taking in everything that Independence Day itself has to offer, we'll also venture into most corners of the country on this tour, with an extensive itinerary of both the island of Bioko and the mainland. We'll go up and down both the eastern and western coasts of Bioko, visiting black and white sand beaches, a biodiversity centre, partially abandoned towns and buildings, and a chocolate plantation. We'll also explore the capital, Malabo, and drive to the highest point in the country, Mount Basila.

We'll fly to Bata on the mainland, the part of Equatorial Guinea that makes Malabo seem like a normal tourist destination. Here we'll visit Ciudad de la Paz, an absolute haven for those of us who love absurd, failed, monolithic building projects, and we'll have two nights in a super luxurious 5-star resort hotel. We'll also take a peek at Mongomo, where the president is from, and check out the Gabonese border.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Celebrate Independence Day like a local

Visit Ciudad de la Paz, the dystopian, purpose-built, but unfinished new capital

Explore in-depth both the island of Bioko and the mainland

Excited? Come with SAIGA to Equatorial Guinea!

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Tour Details:

DATES: 7th Oct – 14th Oct 2026

PRICE: EUR 2,195 (Twin Share)
Single Supplement EUR 350

INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation in twin share as per itinerary, breakfast included
- Transport as per itinerary, including internal flight Malabo-Bata-Malabo
- Entrance fees to most sites (as per itinerary)
- Western and local guides

EXCLUSIONS:

- Visa fee (everyone is eligible for an e-visa)
- Meals other than breakfast
- Transport to and from Malabo at the start and end of tour
- Personal expenses such as souvenirs or any optional activities



Itinerary:

Day 1: Malabo — Wednesday 7th October

- We'll explore Malabo, Equatorial Guinea's capital, walking through the centre along Independence Road, with stops at the Guinean Culture Centre, Independence Square, Santa Isabel Cathedral, the National Library and the Green House, plus the famous "I love Equatorial Guinea" and "I love Malabo" signs.
- We'll visit Malabo National Park (really a botanical garden) and Totem Square, a great place to learn about the tribes of Equatorial Guinea.
- We'll also visit Sipopo to see the African Union Village, and the central market — a great place to mingle with locals and browse for local goods.

Day 2: Fly to Bata, Ciudad de la Paz, Oyala, Djibloho — Thursday 8th October

- We'll fly to Bata, the largest city on the mainland, stopping for lunch, then visiting the memorial to the 2021 explosion on the outskirts of the city.
- We'll drive to Ciudad de la Paz, the purpose-built planned political capital — construction began in 2015 but it remains largely a ghost town, with wide empty roads and half-finished buildings, plus the original village of Oyala for contrast.
- We'll check into the one luxury hotel in town, with plenty of time to enjoy the spa, pools, and grounds. Overnight in Ciudad de la Paz/Djibloho/Oyala.

Day 3: Djibloho, Mongomo, Ciudad de la Paz, Djibloho — Friday 9th October

- We'll drive across the mainland to Mongomo, visiting the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, the second largest church in Africa, and the hometown of both the current and previous president.
- We'll take a walk around the centre of town, see the residence of the former president, and drive right up to the Gabonese border.
- We'll return to the capital for another night in the 5-star hotel.

Day 4: Djibloho, Bata — Saturday 10th October

- We'll return to Bata, stopping at Plaza de la Libertad and its monument to the 1979 coup, then descend into the underground library.
- We'll walk to the "I love Bata" sign and along the promenade to Torre de la Libertad (Liberty Tower), taking in views of the coastline and city.
- We'll stop for lunch, drive by the old stadium, and visit Bata Cathedral. Overnight in Bata.

Day 5: Fly to Malabo, chocolate plantation, Batete church, Luba, Alena beach — Sunday 11th October

- We'll fly back to Malabo and visit a small chocolate plantation to see how the chocolate is produced, with tasters included.
- We'll continue south along the western coast of Bioko to the long-abandoned Batete church, then to the town of Luba to see the statue of Maximillian Jones, Equatorial Guinea's first multi-millionaire.
- We'll finish the day at Alena beach, with the option to swim and enjoy barbequed meat from local vendors. Overnight in Malabo.

Day 6: Independence Day — Monday 12th October

- Happy Independence Day! Celebrating independence from colonial Spain in 1968, today is one of the most important dates on the Equatorial Guinean calendar, with concerts, award ceremonies, and spontaneous dancing and singing wherever the celebrations are held that year.

Day 7: Basila Mountain, Moka, Riaba, Malabo — Tuesday 13th October

- We'll drive up to the top of Basila Mountain (Pico Basile), at 3,011m, for spectacular views over Bioko and across to the mainland and Cameroon, conditions permitting.
- We'll head to Moka to visit a traditional musical instrument maker and the Conservation Biodiversity Centre of Bioko, with the chance to try local palm wine.
- We'll stop in Riaba, a presidential family holiday resort, for lunch, before returning to Malabo for our last night together.

Day 8: Malabo, End of Tour — Wednesday 14th October

- Free time in Malabo before heading to the airport as per your departure time. Let us know if you'd like an airport transfer or any other activities arranged.

**Visas:**

Everyone is eligible for an Equatorial Guinea e-visa. We do not arrange the visa directly, but can advise on the application process – the visa fee itself is not included in the tour price.

Food:

Apart from breakfast, meals are not included as part of the trip. In our experience people sometimes want to eat different things in different places at different times. We know some great places and will also happily show you some of our favourite restaurants and cafés. Some are luxurious, some are earthier, but all have character. However, we do not pretend to be the arbiters of good taste and are equally happy for you to go off and find your own favourites.

Accommodation:

We do not and cannot offer a uniform accommodation standard on our itineraries. We consider comfort, location, design, character, historical interest and whether the money we spend will go into the pockets of the local community when we make our choices of where to stay. The accommodation is based on people sharing a twin room.

Transport:

When we choose our vehicles and drivers we take into consideration the road conditions, the length of journey and the competence of the man behind the wheel. Your comfort and enjoyment of the journey is the first priority.

Guides:

On this trip you will be accompanied by a SAIGA Tours guide as well as local guides along the route. This allows for a richer, more authentic experience and means there will always be someone on hand to help or assist.

Security:

Trips like this do create dangers all of their own, and whilst we want you to have as much freedom as possible, the tour leader has the final word with regards to changes in the itinerary for safety reasons. Whilst the route we've chosen passes through areas we consider to be stable, things can change and we may have to alter the route or cancel sections of the trip at short notice. If there is an extra expense incurred due to a change of itinerary, you may be asked to bear part of that cost.