

# An ka taa! Let's go!

A DANCE VOYAGE THROUGH AFRICA



with Keisha Turner

# Africa is a HUGE continent



With lots of diversity!

- 54 Countries
  - 1.3 Billion People
  - 2,000+ Languages Spoken
  - More Than 11.6 Million Square Miles
  - Birthplace of All Humanity!
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We will take a virtual field trip through the African continent to visit 3 specific countries:

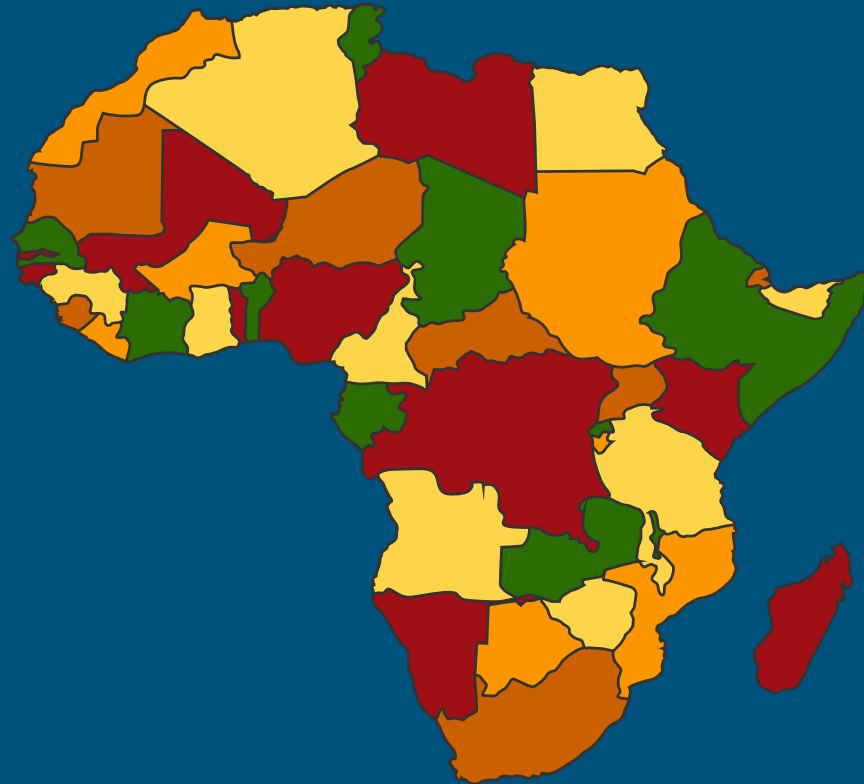
**Mali** → **Guinea** → **South Africa**

At each destination, we will learn a bit about the local culture and one of the traditional dances that come from the region.

If you like, you can use your own dance moves to travel from country to country! Are you ready?

**An ka taa (let's go)!**

**First stop, Mali!**  
**Can you find it on the map below?**



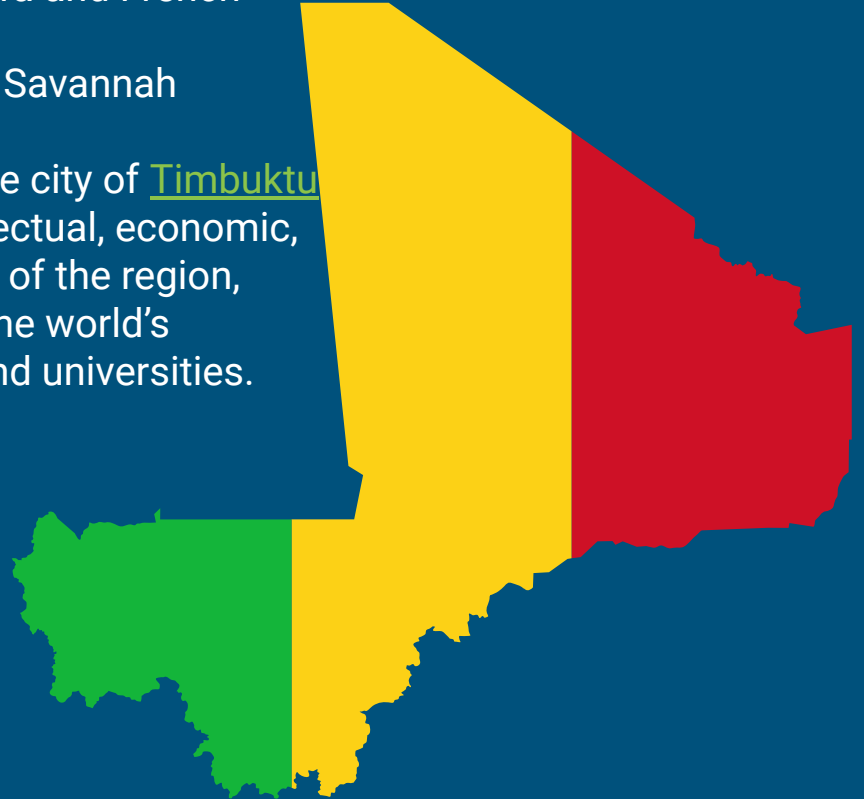
# Mali

Capital: Bamako

Languages: Bambara and French

Terrain: Desert and Savannah

Interesting Fact: The city of [Timbuktu](#) was once the intellectual, economic, and spiritual center of the region, boasting some of the world's greatest libraries and universities.



## In the **BAMBARA** language

### WHEN WE SAY...

I ka kènè wa?

Tòorò te.

I ni ce.

An ka taa!

### WE MEAN...

How are you?/Are you well?

I am fine.

Thank you.

Let's go!

# From Mali, we will dance BARA

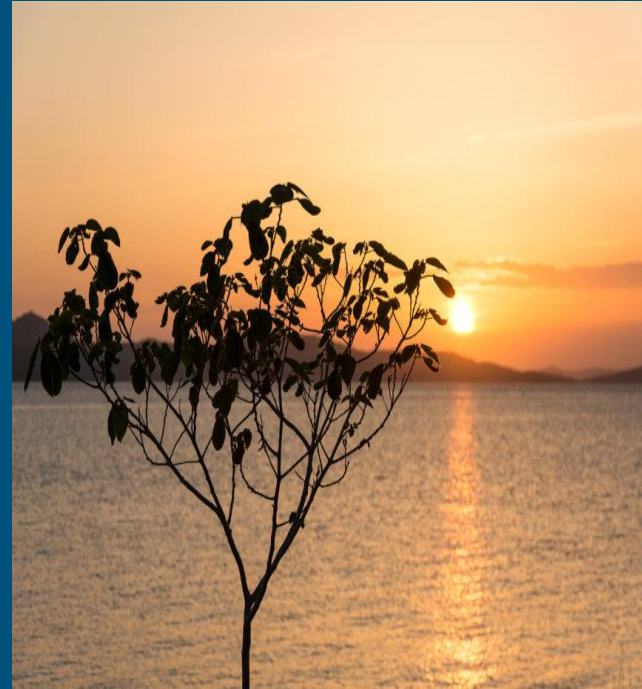
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“Bara” means “work.”

This dance comes from the **Somono** and **Bozo** ethnic groups in the **Segou region** of Mali, near the **Niger River**.

Bara is a dance done by **fisher people**; it is also performed to **welcome visitors** or as a **sign of respect for important community members**.

In this dance, we **move our bodies** as if we were going on a fishing trip. **Click here** to learn how to dance Bara!

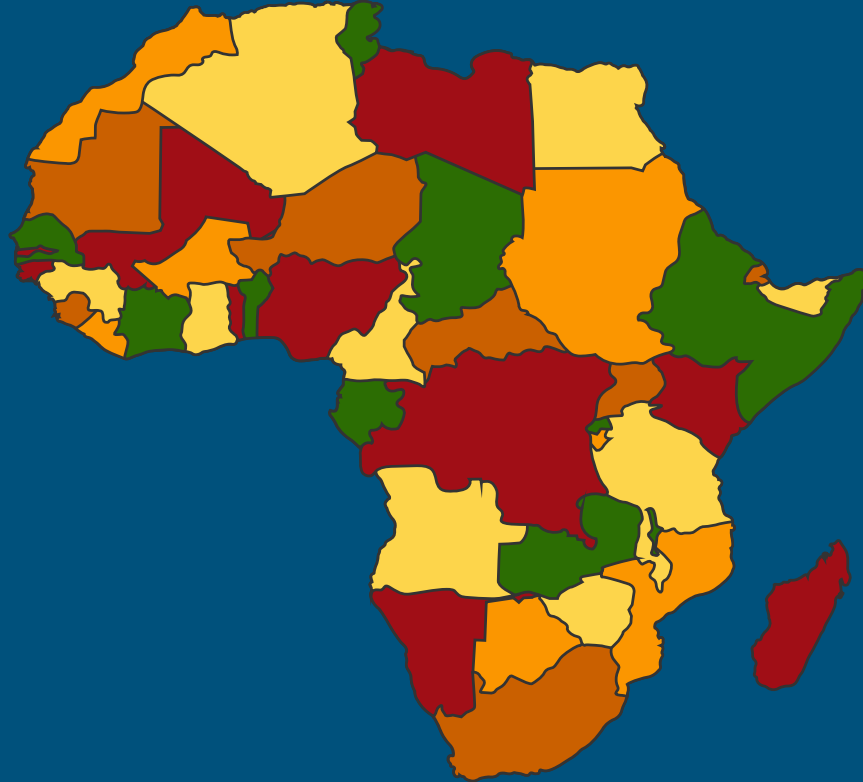




**K'an bèn (goodbye), Mali!**

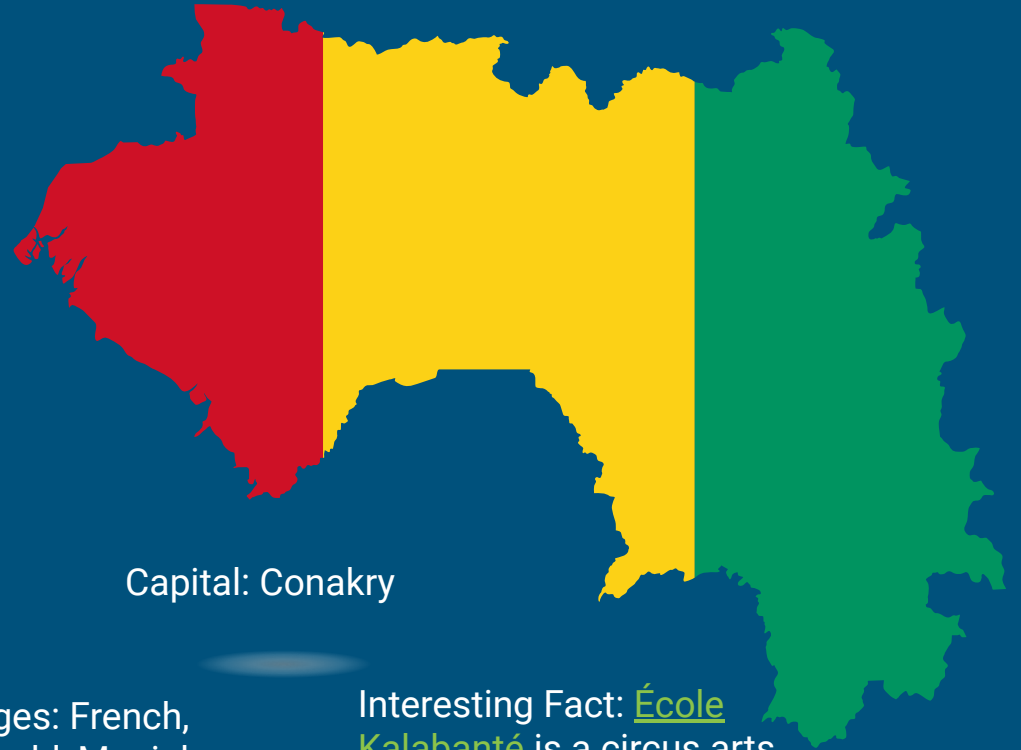
**Next stop- Guinea!**

**Can you find it on the map?**





# Guinea



Capital: Conakry

Languages: French, Susu, Peuhl, Maninka, Kissi, Toma and Guerze and more

Interesting Fact: École Kalabanté is a circus arts training school for youth in the capital.

## In the **MANINKA** language

WHEN WE SAY...

WE MEAN...

I xa kende?

How are you?/Are you healthy?

Toro te.

I am fine.

I ni baraji/barayi.

Thank you.

*Did you notice the similarities between Maninka (Guinea) and Bambara (Mali)? The countries are neighbors and share some of the same ethnic groups with similar dialects.*

# From Guinea, we will dance LAMBAN

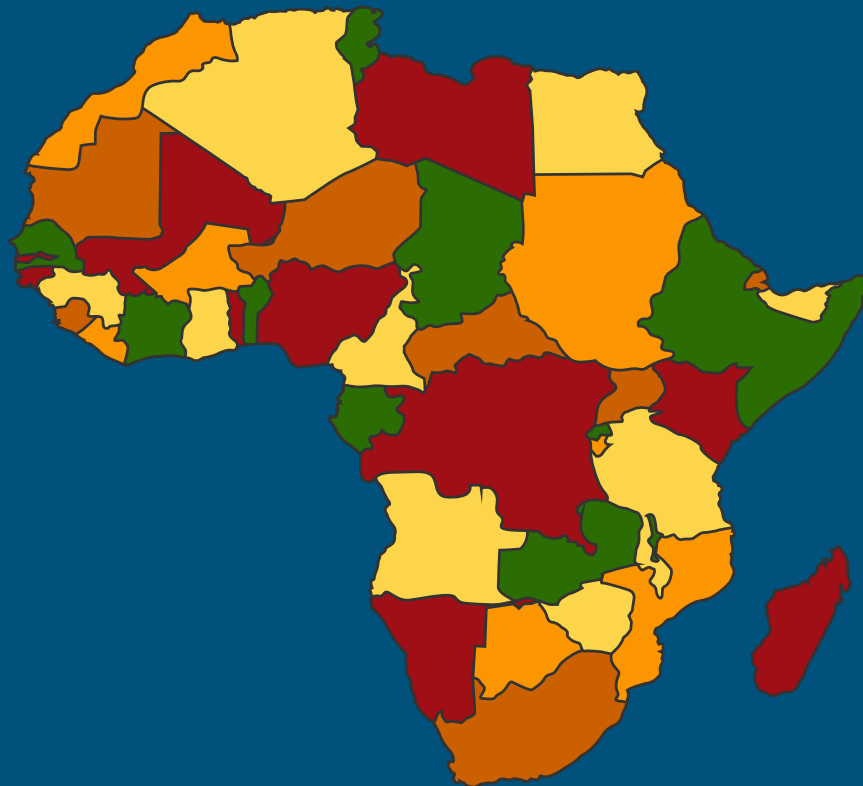


Lamban comes from the **Malinke** ethnic group in the **Kankan region** of Guinea.

Lamban is a well-known and well-loved dance that is dedicated to **honoring the djeli**, or griot, of the community. The djeli are the peacemakers and problem-solvers between families and villages. They are highly regarded by all.

In this dance, we **clear the way for the djeli** so that we may celebrate their contributions to the community. Take a look at **this video** to see how we dance Lamban.

**Our final stop is South Africa!  
Where might it be on this map?**



# South Africa

The first human heart transplant took place in Cape Town in 1967.

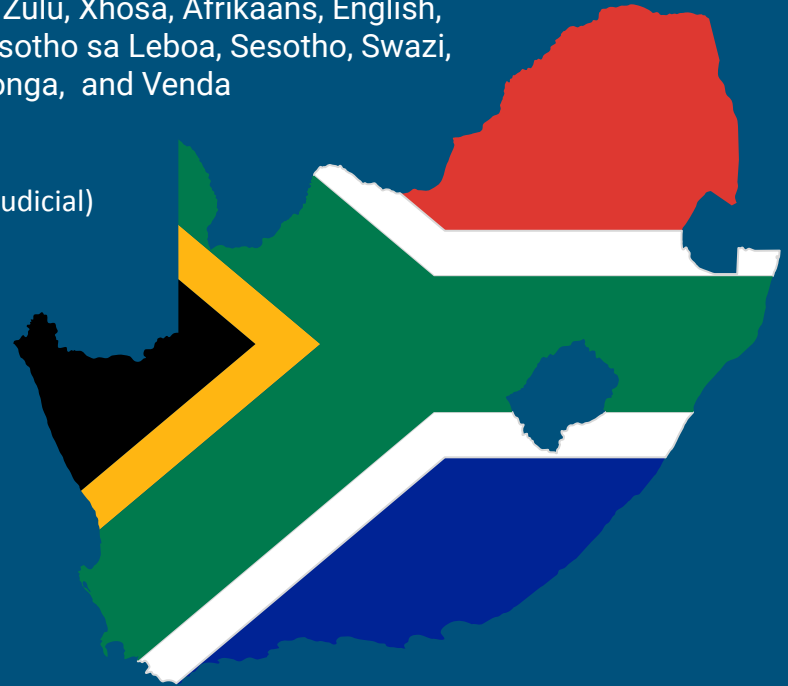
Languages: Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans, English, Ndebele, Sesotho sa Leboa, Sesotho, Swazi, Tswana, Tsonga, and Venda

Capitals:

Pretoria (administrative)

Bloemfontein (Mangaung) (judicial)

Cape Town (legislative)



## In the **ZULU** language

WHEN WE SAY...

WE MEAN...

Unjani?(singular)  
Ninjani? (plural)

How are you?

Ngiyaphila.

I am well.

Ngiyabonga.

Thank you.

Sala kahle.

Goodbye.

# From South Africa, we will dance TOYI-TOYI

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Interestingly, the Toyi-Toyi dance is believed to have its origins in Zimbabwe or among the Kikuyu people of Kenya.

The Toyi-Toyi is known as a resistance dance that gained steadily in popularity in the 1970s. It is intended to build group energy- for the purposes of public celebration or public grievance.

We dance Toyi-Toyi by shifting our weight from foot to foot in a rhythmic fashion while moving forward, similar to running. Click to [see how it's done](#) and to try it for yourself!

We have come to the end  
of our journey, for now.

Thank you for  
traveling and dancing  
with me!





# THANK YOU

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