



EcoTur – Safaris – Angola

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Descubra Angola conosco
Discover Angola with us

Massangano – "where Angola's history begins" (1 Day tour) – For tour dates and pricing please contact us.

Includes – transport in fully equipped air conditioned 4x4 vehicles (satellite phone, twin spares, 1st aid kits etc) with English / Portuguese speaking driver guides, drinks and snacks in car, activities, picnic lunch with drinks, park fees and tolls where indicated.

The town of Massangano is some 175km east of Luanda and around 25kms from Dondo close to the confluence of the Lucala and Kwanza rivers.

Massangano's history goes back to the days of the caravels, when ships brought the first Portuguese to Angola. The navigator and founder of Luanda city (1575), Paulo Dias de Novais, upon arriving at Massangano for the first time, met a local man pounding corn. Paulo Dias asked the man the name of the place and the local answered him "massa n'gana" ("corn sir!"). Paulo Dias de Novais naturally thought that the place was called Massangano, a name that stays until today.



The Fortress



Main entry inside fort



Crest

The name of the place was in fact N'Guimbi ya Songo (Songo City), a real paradise, where two great rivers, the Kwanza and Lucala meet each other. The Lucala river is famous for creating the 3th largest Africa's waterfalls (Kalandula). The Kwanza is also famous as being the longest Angolan River.



Kwanza River at Massangano



Church "Our Lady Victoria"



Administration building

Massangano was therefore founded by Paulo Dias de Novais in 1582. The fortress at Massangano was built in 1583 and is one of the oldest in Angola. The city was used as a base for the Portuguese during their expeditions to the interior of the country to capture slaves. In the 17th century it became the temporary capital of Angola when the Dutch occupied Luanda from 1641 to 1648, forcing the Portuguese up the Kwanza River. Paulo Dias passed away in 1589 and he was laid to rest in Massangano, his tomb is still here, although his ashes were later moved (perhaps) to the "Jesus Church" in the Cidade Alta in Luanda.

The fortress at the site was rebuilt in the 17th century and partially restored in the 1940s. The adjacent church of Our Lady of Victoria (Nossa Senhora da Victoria) was built at the same time as the fort and was the first church to be built outside Luanda. It served as the cathedral during the Dutch occupation of Luanda, and there are still pilgrimages there to this very day. Slaves were baptized here before being sent off to Luanda and thence to the Americas.



Paulo Dias de Novais Tomb



Cross



Some of today's Massangano residents

Leaving Luanda at 6:00am we follow the main road east in the direction of Dondo. We turn right at around 25 kms before Dondo on to Massangano

IMPORTANT NOTE – IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL TOUR MEMBERS TO ENSURE THAT THEY BRING WITH THEM THEIR UP TO DATE AND VALID I.D DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THEY HAVE LEGAL RIGHT OF ABODE IN ANGOLA. PREFERABLY ORIGINAL DOCS SHOULD BE BROUGHT, ANY PHOTO COPIES MUST BE NOTARISED. ANY RESULTANT FINES (TO THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED, ECO-TUR OR IT'S STAFF) REGARDING TRANSGRESSIONS WILL BE TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S ACCOUNT.