

Senegal and The Gambia



Turkode
SE

Destinasjoner
Gambia - Senegal

Turen starter
Turen destinasjon

Reisen er levert av

EXPLORE!

13 dager
Fra : NOK

26 394

Oversikt

Discover tropical Anglo-influenced Gambia and exotic Francophile Senegal, and compare the colonial imprints in this beautiful region on this West African adventure. Walk through slow-paced French colonial towns, see prolific birdlife and explore some of the region's finest national parks.

Djoudj - Visit one of the most important bird sanctuaries in the world

Gambia River - Sleep aboard a boat on the mighty Gambia River and sail through tropical forest, bamboo groves, rice paddies and mangroves

Saloum Delta - Explore the river delta by traditional pirogue boat passing through mangroves looking for a range of aquatic birds





Reiserute

Day 1

Arrive in Dakar, the capital city of Senegal. Dakar is one of the main sea ports on the west African coast, and it's thought the name derives from Wolof word for the tamarind tree. For those arriving on time our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 6pm and for those that wish, there is the chance to go out for dinner. There are no activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Dakar at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Blaise Diagne International Airport (DSS), which is about one hours' drive from the city centre. Our welcome meeting will take place on the morning of day two at 8.30am. If you have free time on arrival, you may choose to take in the atmosphere at one of the markets.

Day 2

After a relaxed breakfast our leader will complete the welcome meeting before we will drive to the ferry terminal to take a ferry to Isle de Goree, a small and peaceful island without any traffic. The ferry crossing takes around 30 minutes, and on arrival we'll drop off our luggage before a guided tour of Isle de Goree on foot. Once a busy trading centre during the 18th and 19th centuries, the island is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The town's architecture may make you feel you have been transported in time to an old-world Mediterranean district, due to the island's charming colonial-style houses, wrought-iron balconies, narrow streets and brightly coloured bougainvillea. Le Castel is situated on a rocky plateau with its fortifications dating back to different periods, and we'll also explore the old Slave House originally built in 1786. This evening will be free to relax.

Day 3

This morning we return to the mainland by ferry and drive to Lac Rose - the Pink Lake. This large shallow lagoon is extremely salty and is also renowned for its pink tinge, caused by the high concentrations of minerals in the water. We'll have a 30 minute walk around the lake followed by free time for a lunchbreak. The pink hues change during the day and from season to season but no matter the time of year the locals can be seen out on the lake working hard to collect salt into baskets on their small boats. This afternoon we will drive to north for around 4.5 hours to St. Louis. Once the French capital city of West Africa, St. Louis is colourful, charming and full of culture. Jazz music is the rhythm of the city which is now a UNESCO World Heritage, and the evening will be free to explore. For dinner you may wish to try the local dish of Thieboudienne, a mix of fish, tomato, rice and vegetables created in St. Louis.

Day 4

An early start to visit Djoudj National Park, regarded as one of the most important bird reserves in the world. This national park provides the first major water source for migratory birds after their long and gruelling flight over the Sahara desert. We travel by motorised boat along the complex network of channels which lead off the Senegal River. The bird count reaches millions, some species are prevalent such as pelicans - there are as many as 15,000 in the park. We may see them performing an amazing display of synchronised diving for fish and will see a breeding colony. Around three million birds pass through the park annually which includes 400 different species - including herons, white-breasted cormorants, spoonbills, jacanas, Egyptian geese, West African fish eagles and flamingos to name but a few. You may also see crocodile, wild hog, monitor lizard and water python. Early this afternoon we return back to St. Louis in time for lunch and some free time before exploring this marvellous old town by calesh (horse-drawn carriage) with a local guide. Full of 19th century French colonial buildings, this was the first French settlement in Africa and the Headquarters of Senegambia (the term used to describe the whole region). By the late 18th century St Louis was a busy port and trading centre and was inscribed a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2000.

Day 5

Today we'll start early for our visit the L'Anse aux Pins National Park, located on a thin sandspit in the estuary of the Senegal River, and home to water birds such as flamingos, pelicans, cormorants, herons, egrets and ducks. During the months from November to April, the national park also fills with many more migratory birds from Europe. We'll take a motorised pirogue across the river to access the national park. After a morning of exploration, the afternoon is free to relax or wander further around the town. The streets of the St. Louis are narrow, dusty and easy to navigate and are lined with old French-style villas, some of which are slowly crumbling, that still have an air of colonial charm with colourful shutters and iron balconies.

Day 6

Early this morning we begin our journey to The Gambia and much of the day will be spent in the bus travelling. We will break up the first leg of this journey with a visit to an astounding mosque in Touba, the sacred focus of the Mouride Islamic brotherhood. Their founder Amadou Bamba, Senegal's most famous and influential 'marabout' (holy man), is buried here and pilgrims visit the town all year round, and as we pass through on a Friday the Mosque is busy with worshippers. Continuing through the town of Kaolack we enter The Gambia and head east following the route of the river towards Georgetown which was an important administrative centre during the colonial period. Our accommodation this evening is a simple riverside camp made up of simple rondavels with basic ensuite facilities. There is no main electricity but instead limited solar power and no hot water but the fantastic location offers a feel of sleeping within nature while the monkeys and birds add to the wild setting.

Day 7

The Gambia River flows along the entire length of the country for 300 miles from east to west into the Atlantic Ocean. The banks of the river have been inhabited since 2000 BC and slave ships once travelled along its course exporting slaves. We spend the next two days on this mighty waterway, cruising downstream in a converted groundnut boat, passing tropical forest, bamboo groves, rice paddies and mangrove swamps. Amongst the varied fauna present in this area are monkeys, hippos, crocodiles and of course a great number of bird species. Early this morning we will board our home for the next two nights and begin our journey down the Gambia. Along the way today we will visit the Wassu Stone Circles by bush taxi. There are several circles each consisting of about 10 to 24, reddish-brown stones between one and 2.5m high and weighing several tons. These were once burial sites dating back to 500 to 1000 AD, however very little is known about the people who were buried here and the stones still present a mystery to archaeologists. We spend one overnight on board a motor cruiser. Facilities on board are simple with a western-style toilet, a small kitchen and bar. At night we sleep in a communal setting on the upper deck on mattresses, and during the day time can be spent relaxing on the upper deck in the sun or on the lower deck with seating in the shade.

Day 8

This morning we continue our gentle cruise downstream, with time to take in the flora and wildlife along the river banks. The crew will put together lunch on the boat before arriving in the small settlement of Tendaba on the Gambia's south bank in the late afternoon. On arrival we leave our boat and check in to our rondavel style accommodation, home for the next two nights, on the shores of the Gambia River. The next couple of days will be a break from the hustle and bustle of normal life, as our accommodation is set on the water's edge, it's a great chance to explore the natural surroundings, take a swim in the pool and spot the resident birdlife. Due to the camp's rural setting electricity and hot water can be very limited and outages may occur.

Day 9

This morning we take a drive in Kiang West National Park. One of the largest protected areas in Gambia it boasts the largest and most diverse animal population in the country among is mangrove, grass and woodland. We'll be looking for baboons, colobus monkeys, warthog, marsh mongoose and bushbuck. We'll return to the camp for lunch. Later this afternoon we make another excursion by boat to explore the woodland, salt marshes and mangrove forests of nearby Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve. A tributary of the Gambia River, the Bao Bolong is most famous for its birdlife with more than 250 species in the area, including the impressive martial eagle and the bateleur. On return there will be time to relax and have a sundowner as sun sets over the river.

Day 10

This morning we begin our journey back into Senegal. We'll drive for around 90 minutes to a river crossing where we'll take a ferry journey to Farafenni before continuing to the land border to cross into Senegal. Once we've crossed we'll then continue to Toubakouta, our home for tonight. Today's journey will take around 5 hours in total but could be longer depending on how long it takes to cross the border. The afternoon is at your leisure to relax, have a dip in the pool or explore the local area. Our accommodation is rondavels set within the lush grounds of the hotel set on the river bank. This evening there will be the opportunity to join other guests an optional boat excursion.

Day 11

This morning we will depart our accommodation and cruise north along the Sine-Saloum Delta by motorised fibre boat for approximately 4-5 hours. We weave our way through the maze of wide channels, past mangroves, open forests, sand islands and villages built on islands constructed with oyster shells. We may also chance upon pelicans and flamingos. After a packed lunch onboard, we'll arrive in Ndangane, our destination for tonight where the afternoon will be free to absorb the slower pace of life. Ndangane is a small fishing village often used a base along the Delta, the beach is lined with traditional pirogues and along the main stretch of road there is a small number of bars and craft shops.

Day 12

Today we depart Saloum Delta National Park to begin our journey back to Dakar. Our first stop, just a short time away is to see a giant Baobab tree. Baobab trees are the national symbol of Senegal, some trees dating back 6,000 years and can only be found in a few places around the world. We'll have a short stop here before we continue. Our next stop will be for a guided walking tour Fadiout Islands. This unusual destination is composed of oyster and clam shells, and the inhabitants are both Muslim and Christian who all live together peacefully. The Christian and Muslim cemeteries are built on a huge ancient shell mound and our guide will take us around to help us understand this very unique community. Later this afternoon we'll continue on our return journey to Dakar, arriving in time for dinner.

Day 13

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Dakar. There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Dakar at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from Blaise Diagne International Airport (DSS), which is about one hours' drive from the city centre.

Viktig Informasjon

Meals Included

12 Break Fast(s) 5 Lunch(es) 6 Dinner(s)

Trekking Grade

None

Priser / Datoer

Ved skriftlig aksept av vårt tilbud bekrefter du/dere at våre betingelser er både lest og forstått og at evt kansellerings gebyrer kan tilkomme ved en evt. avbestilling av reisen

Tilgjengelige datoer	Pris (1 voksen)	Pris (1 barn)	Status reise
Sun, 17 Jan 21 / Fri, 29 Jan 21	NOK 26 394	På forespørsel	Ledig
Sun, 21 Feb 21 / Fri, 05 Mar 21	NOK 26 394	På forespørsel	Ledig

Sun, 14 Mar 21 / Fri, 26 Mar 21	NOK 26 394	På forespørsel	Ledig
Sun, 04 Apr 21 / Fri, 16 Apr 21	NOK 26 394	På forespørsel	Ledig
Sun, 17 Oct 21 / Fri, 29 Oct 21	NOK 26 394	På forespørsel	Ledig
Sun, 31 Oct 21 / Fri, 12 Nov 21	NOK 26 394	På forespørsel	Ledig
Sun, 14 Nov 21 / Fri, 26 Nov 21	NOK 26 394	På forespørsel	Ledig
Mon, 20 Dec 21 / Sat, 01 Jan 22	NOK 26 394	På forespørsel	Ledig

Vi vil komme tilbake til deg med et tilbud på den forespurte reisen/pakken i løpet av 48 timer. Alle tilbud er uforpliktende og er vanligvis gyldige i 7 dager. Vi gjør oppmerksom på at reserverte tjenester kan bli kansellert innenfor disse 7 dagene og at pris kan endres inntil en endelig bestilling er mottatt.



VIRKE



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