

From Saint Louis to the Casamance

SENEGAL



11 days

27 December 2024 - 06 January 2025 English speaking guide

The 'unforgettable' of the trip:



- The **pink lake**, final stage of the legendary Paris-Dakar rally
- The **ornithological park of Djoudj**, a birdwatching paradise
- The colonial town of **Saint-Louis**, to be discovered on a slow horse-drawn carriage ride
- The lush landscapes of Lower **Casamance**
- The palm-fringed beaches of Cap Skirring and the Petite Cote
- The decadent colonial buildings of **Ziguinchor** and **Carabane**
- Dugout canoe trip through the mangroves of Siné-Saloum













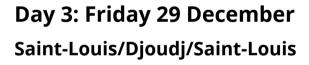
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Day 1: Wednesday 27 December Outward flight/Dakar (DSS)/Pink Lake

Flight to Dakar. Expected arrival in the evening, meeting with Kanaga Africa Tours staff who will arrange transfer to the Chez Salim hotel or similar, free dinner and overnight stay in a double bungalow with services.

Day 2: Thursday 28 December Pink Lake/Lompoul/Saint-Louis

After breakfast, exploration of the PINK LAKE*, a lagoon surrounded by dunes whose waters take on a curious pink colour due to the mineral salts present, famous for having been the final stage of the Paris-Dakar rally. Visit of the salt marshes by pirogue. Departure in the direction of St Louis, lunch en route at the Gite Africaine, located in the LOMPOUL DESERT**, where we can take a walk or camel ride on its golden dunes. Continuation and accommodation at the Hotel Diamarek or similar, time at leisure to relax on the beach or by the pool. Overnight stay in a double room with services.



Early in the morning, after breakfast, we set off in a northerly direction to visit the DJOUDJ BIRD PARK, one of the best places in the world for birdwatching, where we will make an excursion in a dugout canoe to admire a huge number of species, such as pelicans, cormorants and fish eagles. Return to SAINT-LOUIS and lunch of thiéboudieune, the national dish, rice cooked in tomato sauce and served with fried fish. In the afternoon, visit of the colonial city, a UNESCO World Heritage site, by horse-drawn carriage: the Faidherbe square, the governor's palace (exterior), the Guet N'Dar fishermen's quarter, the fish market, teeming with activity, and the craft and art ateliers, where you can find splendid sculptures and paintings. Overnight stay in a hotel.



Welcome to Senegal!



Pink Lake



Djoudj Park Lompoul De





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Day 4: Saturday 30 December

Saint-Louis/Touba/Kaolack

After breakfast, departure for TOUBA, a holy city with autonomous status, governed by the Mourid brotherhood. Visit the impressive, finely decorated mosque, characterised by its five minarets and six mausoleums, including that of Cheick Amadou Bamba, founder of the sect. Lunch in a restaurant and on arrival to KAOLACK, if time permits, visit its fruit and vegetable market. Accommodation at Hotel Le Relais and overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 5: Sunday 31 December Kaolack/Gambia/Ziguinchor

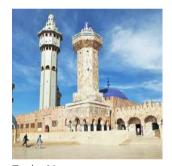
After breakfast, departure for the CASAMANCE. Crossing the Gambia, lunch on the way. Arrival in ZIGUINCHOR and accommodation at Hotel Kadiandoumagne or similar. Visit the old colonial town that stretches along the banks of the Casamance River, with its low arched houses, colonnades and narrow streets dotted with colourful buganvilles. Overnight stay in a hotel in a double room with services.

Day 6: Monday 01 January Ziguinchor/Carabane/Cap Skirring

After breakfast, visit the bustling ZIGUINCHOR fish market, where both sea and river specialities are sold. Afterwards, departure for Elinkine where, in a motor pirogue, we will head for CARABANE ISLAND, a former Portuguese and later French colonial outpost, of which vestiges such as the cemetery and church have been preserved. Visit the island, an important centre for the exchange of local products and for the transit of passengers to the different arms of the Casamance River delta. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon, return to the mainland and continuation to OUSSOUYE, where we will explore traditional villages. We will admire scenes of daily life such as the preparation of palm wine, work in the fields, repairing the thatched roof of an impluvium house, processing cashew nuts, etc.. Meeting with the king of Bobedioum in the sacred forest (if available). Continuation to CAP SKIRRING, accommodation at the Hotel Maya or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Touba Mosque



Touba Mosque



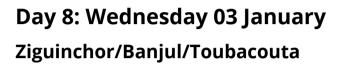
Fishermen



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Day 7: Tuesday 02 January Cap Skirring/Ziguinchor

Breakfast and free day to spend on the magnificent CAP SKIRRING BEACH. In the evening, transfer to Ziguinchor, accommodation at Hotel Kadiandoumagne or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



After breakfast, departure for Toubacouta, in the heart of SINE'-SALOUM. Crossing the border into The Gambia and city tour of the capital BANJUL, including its bustling market. We cross the river by barge, cross the border and continue to TOUBACOUTA, where we take a boat trip to admire the mangrove habitat, an opportunity to observe numerous bird species such as cormorants and kingfishers. With a bit of luck, it will also be possible to spot the rare dolphins and manatees that inhabit this area or to meet the women harvesting oysters. Accommodation at the Hotel Keur Saloum or similar, dinner and overnight in a double room with services.



After breakfast, we depart for JOAL visiting FADIOUT, an island formed entirely of shells, where we admire the Cathedral, a splendid view of the granaries on stilts and the colourful mixed Muslim and Christian cemetery, a great example of religious tolerance. Lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon, we continue to LA SOMONE, a village between the lagoon and the sea, which lies on one of the most beautiful beaches on the Petite Cote. Accommodation at the Hotel Phoenix or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Casamance



On the Casamance River



King of Bobedioum



Toubacouta



Barns on stilts

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Day 10: Friday 05 January Somone/Gorée Island/Dakar (DSS)

Breakfast and departure for DAKAR, appreciating its architecture and some of its squares and monuments, such as the colonial station from where the famous Dakar-Bamako train still departs, to the pier where we will take the ferry to the ISLAND OF GOREE, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here, amidst narrow streets, pretty, brightlycoloured houses, climbing bougainvillea and handicraft boutiques, we will admire the Maison del Esclaves, a colonial house dating from 1776 where slaves were imprisoned before passing 'the gate of no return' and taking the route to the Americas, and the ramparts from where we can admire the entire island. Lunch in a restaurant. Depending on the time of your return flight, transfer to the airport or return to Somone for an afternoon of relaxation on the beach. Rooms in day use on request. Transfer to the airport, end of services.



Arrival at the destination airport.



Goree Island



Maison des Esclaves

- * Lake Retba, or 'Pink Lake', is flooded at the time of writing, so neither its pinkish colour nor the work of the salt extractors can be appreciated.
- ** The Lompoul desert area has been purchased by a mining company, the various Campements/Lodges will have to be dismantled and the area will be made inaccessible to the public, but a precise date has not yet been set.



See you in West Africa!!!





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Individual participation fee in double room (min. 4 pax/max. 16 pax)

2,090 €/pax

in promotion at € 2,090 for booking before 27/09/2024

Supplements:

Enrollment fee: free!Single room: 260 €

• Day use in Somone: 90 €/room

• Out-of-hours airport transfers: on request

• Sea extension: on request

The fee includes:

- English-speaking guide;
- English-speaking tour leader (from 8 pax);
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- All transfers by Toyota Hiace 16-seater minibus (max. 8 clients/bus) or similar, including driver, petrol and tolls;
- Meals as specified in the itinerary;
- 9 overnight stays in hotels as mentioned in the itinerary.

The fee does not include:

- The visa for Senegal (currently not required) and Gambia (stamps at the border);
- Cancellation/Health/Covid/Baggage Insurance;
- Air flights;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- Meals not included in the itinerary;
- Photographic permits;
- Tipping;
- Expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in 'the fee includes'.