From Saint Louis to the Casamance

SENEGAL-GAMBIA

Photo by I. Fornasiero

12 days
26 December 2026 - 06 January 2027
English speaking guide

The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The old slave house on **Gorée Island**, testimony to a horrible past
- 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: Saturday 26 December

Outward flight/Dakar (DSS)

Flight to Dakar. Expected arrival in the evening, meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff who will arrange transfer to the Lodge des Almadies or similar. Overnight stay in a double room with bathroom.

Gorée Island

Day 2: Sunday 27 December

Dakar/Gorée Island/Pink Lake

After breakfast, assistance in exchanging Euros and the possible purchase of a Senegalese phone card. We will pass through the chaotic city, 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 GOREE ISLAND, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here, amidst narrow streets, pretty brightly coloured houses, climbing bougainvillea and artisan boutiques, we admire the Maison des Esclaves, a colonial house 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 it is possible to admire the entire island. Lunch in a restaurant. Return to the mainland and departure for the Pink Lake (Retba). Accommodation Chez Salim or similar and overnight at the hotel in double bungalows with services.

Maison des Esclaves

Day 3: Monday 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 pans by dugout canoe. 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.

Pink Lake

*** 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.*

Lompoul Desert

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Day 4: Tuesday 29 December

Saint-Louis/Djoudj/Saint-Louis

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 the colonial city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, by horse-drawn carriage: the Faidherbe square, the governor's palace (exterior), the fishermen's quarter of Guet N'Dar, the fish market, teeming with activity, and the handicraft and art ateliers, where you can find beautiful sculptures and paintings. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Djoudj Park

Saint-Louis

Day 5: Wednesday 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.

Fishermen

Day 6: Thursday 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.

Touba Mosque

At the Kaolack market

Day 7: Friday 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.

Casamance

On the Casamance River

Day 8: Saturday 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.

King of Bobedioum

Day 9: Sunday 03 January

Ziguinchor/Banjul/Toubacouta

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.

**** Waiting times for the barge cannot be estimated; you may have to wait between 1 and 3 hours, depending on the number of cars and the rotation of the vehicles.*

Toubacouta

Day 10: Monday 04 January

Toubacouta/Joal Fadiout/Somone

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.

Barns on stilts

Joal Fadiout Cemetery

Day 11: Tuesday 05 January

Somone/Dakar (DSS)

After breakfast free morning for relaxation on the beach or by the pool. Possibility of an excursion to the BANDIA RESERVE, for a photographic safari in search of giraffes, rhinos and buffaloes and to admire the huge sacred baobab. Lunch at the hotel. Day use rooms on request. Transfer to the airport, end of services.

Day 12: Wednesday 06 January

Dakar (DSS)/Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.

See you in West Africa!!!

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Individual participation fee in double room (min. 4 pax/max 12 pax)

2,390 €/pax

in promotion at € 2,190
for booking before 26/06/2026

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room: **310 €**
- Out-of-hours airport transfers: **on request**
- Safari in Bandia: **80 €/pax** (min. 2 pax)
- Sea extension: **on request**

The fee includes:

- English-speaking guide;
- 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;
- 10 overnight stays in hotels as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Rooms in day use (one per 4 guests)

The fee does not include:

- The visa for Senegal (currently not required) and Gambia (stamps at the border);
- Cancellation/Health/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'.

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