

From Saint Louis to the Casamance

SENEGAL-GAMBIA

Photo by I. Fornasiero

12 days
27 December 2026 - 07 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 decadent colonial buildings of **Ziguinchor** and **Carabane**
- **Banjul**, the capital of Africa's smallest country
- Dugout canoe trip through the mangroves of **Siné-Saloum**






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Day 1: Sunday 27 December

Outward flight/Dakar (DSS)/Pink Lake

Flight to Dakar. Arrival scheduled for the evening; meet with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff, who will arrange your transfer to the Pink Lake; check-in at the Hotel Chez Salim or similar; overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 2: Monday 28 December

Pink Lake/Lompoul/Saint-Louis

After breakfast, we'll explore the PINK LAKE*, a lagoon surrounded by dunes whose waters take on a curious pinkish hue due to the mineral salts present, famous for having been the final stage of the Paris-Dakar Rally. We'll visit the salt flats by pirogue. Departure for Saint-Louis, with lunch en route at the Gite Africaine or similar, situated on the edge of the LOMPOUL DESERT, where we can take a walk or a camel ride across its golden dunes. Onward journey and check-in at the Hotel Diamarek or similar; free time to relax on the beach or by the pool. Overnight stay in a double room with services.

*** 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.*

Day 3: Tuesday 29 December

Saint-Louis/Djoudj/Saint-Louis

Early in the morning, after breakfast, we set off northwards to visit the DJOUDJ BIRD SANCTUARY, one of the world's best spots for birdwatching, where we'll take a pirogue trip that will allow us to admire a vast array of species, such as pelicans, cormorants and fish eagles. Return to SAINT-LOUIS and lunch of *thiébou-dieune,* the national dish, consisting of rice cooked in tomato sauce and served with fried fish. In the afternoon, a tour of the colonial city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, by horse-drawn carriage: Faidherbe Square, the Governor's Palace (exterior), the Guet N'Dar fishermen's quarter, the bustling fish market, and the craft and art workshops, where you can find splendid sculptures and paintings. Overnight stay at the hotel.


Pink Lake


Lompoul Desert


Djoudj Park


Saint-Louis



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Day 4: 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.


Touba Mosque

Day 5: 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.


At the Kaolack Market

Day 6: Friday 01 January
Ziguinchor/Carabane/Ziguinchor

After breakfast, a visit to the bustling fish market in ZIGUINCHOR, where both sea and river specialities are sold. We then set off for Elinkine where, by motorised pirogue, we will head to CARABANE ISLAND, a former Portuguese and later French colonial outpost, where remains such as the cemetery and the church are still preserved. Tour of the island, an important hub for the trade in local produce and for the transit of passengers to the various branches of the Casamance River delta. Lunch at a restaurant. In the afternoon, return to the mainland and continue to OUSSOUYE, where we will explore the traditional villages. We'll be able to observe scenes of daily life, such as the making of palm wine, work in the fields, the repair of a thatched roof on a traditional house, the processing of cashew nuts, and more. Meeting with the King of Bobedioum in the sacred forest (subject to availability). Return to Ziguinchor and overnight stay at the hotel.


Baobab in Casamance


King of Bobedioum



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Day 7: Saturday 02 January
Ziguinchor/Banjul

Breakfast and transfer to The Gambia. Visit to the fishing village of TANJI, where you can watch the canoes, laden with fish, returning to shore, as well as the fish market and the fish-smoking process. Check-in at the Ocean Bay Resort or similar, with direct access to the beach, followed by lunch. In the afternoon, a visit to KACHIKALLY: the sacred caiman pond, the small museum and the craft market. Overnight stay in a double room with services.


Boat fishermen in Tanji


Caiman in Kachikally

Day 8: Sunday 03 January
Banjul/Toubacouta

After breakfast, a tour of the capital, BANJUL, including the Arco 22 monument and the colourful Albert Market. Crossing the river by barge**, passing through the border and continuing on to TOUBACOUTA. Check-in at the Hotel Keur Saloum or similar, followed by lunch. In the afternoon, we'll go on a boat trip to admire the mangrove habitat, offering the chance to spot numerous species of birds such as cormorants and kingfishers. With a bit of luck, you may also spot the rare dolphins and manatees that inhabit this area, or meet the women who harvest oysters. Overnight stay 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 9: Monday 04 January
Toubacouta/Joal Fadiout/Somone

After breakfast, departure for JOAL and a visit to FADIOUT, an island made entirely of seashells, where we will admire the cathedral, a splendid view of the granaries on stilts and the colourful mixed Muslim and Christian cemetery, a fine example of religious tolerance. Lunch at a restaurant. In the afternoon, we continue to LA SOMONE, a village nestled between the lagoon and the sea, situated on one of the most beautiful beaches of the Petite Côte. Check-in at the Hotel Africa Queen or similar; overnight stay in a double room with services.


Joal Fadiouth



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Day 10: Tuesday 05 January
Somone/Bandia/Somone

After breakfast, the morning is free to relax on the beach or by the pool. There is the option of a trip to the BANDIA RESERVE for a photo safari in search of giraffes, rhinos and buffalo, and to admire the enormous sacred baobab tree. Lunch at the hotel or in a restaurant. An afternoon spent relaxing by the sea. Overnight stay at the hotel.


Zebras in the Bandia Reserve

Day 11: Wednesday 06 January
Somone/Dakar/Gorée Island/Dakar (DSS)

Transfer to Dakar. We will drive through the bustling city, taking in its architecture and some of its squares and monuments, such as the colonial railway station – from where the famous Dakar–Bamako train still departs – before reaching the quay where we will board the ferry to GOREE ISLAND, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here, amongst narrow alleyways, charming little houses in bright colours, climbing bougainvillea and craft boutiques, we shall admire the Maison des Esclaves, a colonial house dating from 1776 where slaves were held captive before passing through 'the door of no return' and setting sail for the Americas, and the ramparts from which one can admire the entire island. Lunch at a restaurant. Return to the mainland and transfer to the airport in good time for the return flight. End of services.


Gorée Island


Maison des Esclaves

Day 12: Thursday 07 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

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.

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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