



# Senegal River Cruise

## SENEGAL



10 days

October 2024 to May 2025

English speaking guide



### The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The colonial town of **Saint-Louis**, to be discovered on a slow horse-drawn carriage ride
- Cruise the **Senegal River** on board the historic **Bou el Mogdad** ship
- The **Djoudj bird park**, a birdwatching paradise
- Traditional **Wolof, Peulh, Toucouleur** and **Mauri** villages
- The decadent colonial buildings of **Richard Toll, Dagana** and **Podor**
- The **pink lake** and the fascinating **island of Gorée**



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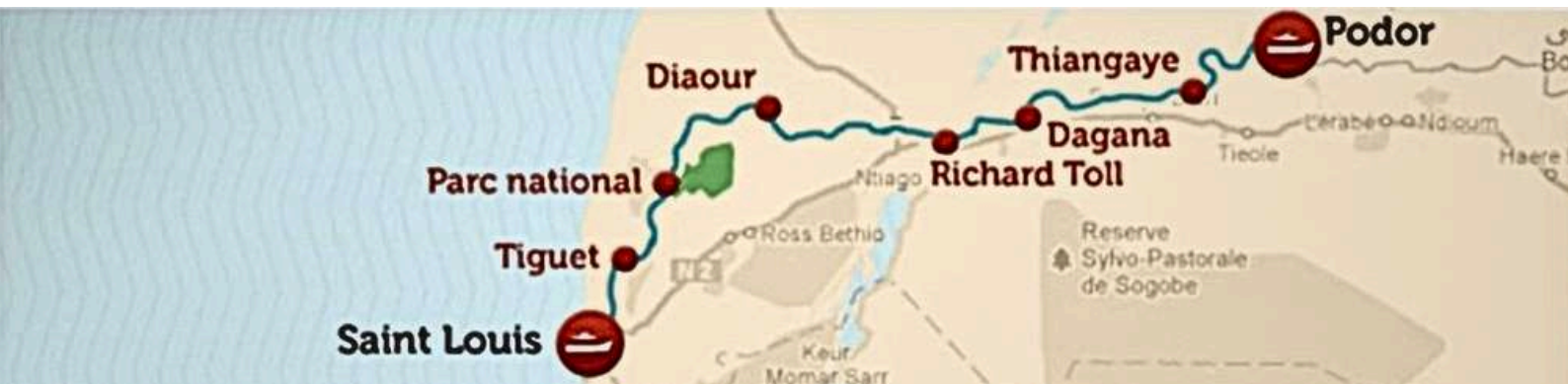
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### Cruise on the Bou el Mogdad

The story of the Bou el Mogdad tells of its mythical destiny full of surprises.

Built in Holland, the Bou el Mogdad ensured, between 1950 and 1970, the transport of goods and people between St. Louis and the entire Senegal River region, with stopovers at the French colonial outposts of Rosso, Richard Toll, Podor, Kaedi, Matam, Bakel, up to Kayes in Mali. The Bou el Mogdad was at this time a means of transport for mail, food, drinking water and raw materials for colonial trade, as road and rail transport were still non-existent. After this heyday, the ship increasingly lost its usefulness for commercial purposes and was abandoned for some years along the shores of St. Louis. In 1975 Georges Consol bought the Bou and relaunched it as a tourist ship, and in 1980 it started cruising between St. Louis and Podor, before leaving the Senegal River in 1982 following the construction of the Diama Dam. The Bou was later used for a series of cruises to Casamance, then to Sierra-Leone on the Kono River, Guinea Bissau and the Siné Saloum. In 2005, Jean-Jacques Bancal and several associates decided to return the boat to its homeland, so that the emotions of this mythical boat that has been plying the waters of the Senegal River since the post-war period can still be experienced today.



#### Technical Specifications:

- 52 metres long and 10 metres wide
- Steel hull
- 2 engines 400 hp
- 2 generators
- 1 barge (80 passengers maximum)

#### Ship sheet:

- 5 levels
- 1 indoor restaurant
- Outdoor lounge
- 2 bars
- 1 pool
- 1 solarium with bar
- 1 covered terrace
- 1 multi-purpose room equipped with projector and stereo system
- 1 library
- 1 shop
- 1 massage room

#### Cabins:

The ship has 25 cabins (all openings are protected by mosquito nets) facing an outside walkway.

The 25 cabins are divided as follows:

- 11 standard cabins with double bed
- 3 standard cabins with separate beds (twin)
- 9 en-suite cabins (5 twin, 2 double, 2 triple)
- 1 junior suite with private terrace (with river view) and bathroom
- 1 suite with bathroom and air conditioning
- Sink, fan and storage space in all cabins
- 6 shared showers
- 6 shared bathrooms

#### Safety on board:

- 1 life jacket per person
- Commercial marine security tour and fire-fighting procedures carried out
- Pharmacy on board
- Allianz Senegal liability insurance



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### Day 1: Friday

#### Outward flight/Dakar (DSS)

Flight to Dakar. Arrival in the evening, meeting with Kanaga Africa Tours staff who will arrange the transfer to the Hotel Radisson Diamnandio or similar. Overnight stay in a double room with private facilities.

### Day 2: Saturday

#### Dakar/Saint-Louis

After breakfast, departure for the colonial town of SAINT-LOUIS, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival, lunch in a restaurant and accommodation on board the BOU EL MOGDAD ship. This is followed by a tour of the town 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 craft and art ateliers. Dinner on board and overnight stay in a double cabin with shared bathrooms.

### Day 3: Sunday

#### Navigation: Diama-Tiguët (Djoudj Park)

After breakfast we will sail across the waters of the Sénégal River to the Diama Dam. Lunch on board. After crossing the dam, we travel up the river along the Diouling reserve, lined with reeds, from where we can access the DJOUDJ BIRD PARK, a reserve established in 1971, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the third largest bird park in the world (12,000 hectares). The excursion will take place slowly by dugout boat, to penetrate into the heart of the park, where we will be able to observe flamingos, pelicans, cormorants, fish eagles, ... Return to the boat, dinner and overnight stay on board.

### Day 4: Monday

#### Navigation: Diaour-Richard Toll

After breakfast, we continue cruising up the Senegal River, with the possibility of spotting warthogs along the way. We will pass Rosso, a border town between Senegal and Mauritania. Lunch on board. Arrive in RICHARD TOLL in the evening, visit the sugar cane factory, the main source of income for the local community. Dinner and overnight on board

**\*Navigation on some dates will be in the opposite direction**



Fishermen in Saint-Louis



Saint-Louis



Bou El Mogdad



Djoudj Park



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### Day 5: Tuesday

#### Navigation: Richard Toll-Dagana-Palmeraie

After breakfast, visit the *Folie du Baron Roger*, an incredible French-style palace surrounded by earthen buildings, the traditional architecture of the region. Navigation to the mango forest bordering the village of Gourmel, at a mouth of the Senegal River. Picnic lunch amidst the vegetation on the banks of the river, based on *thiébou-dieune*, rice cooked in tomato sauce and served with fried fish. Depart with a small motor boat for the Wolof village of DAGANA, visit this colonial bastion which still retains the remains of an old fort and some shops that traded in gum arabic. Visit the market and, if time permits, a school and a dyehouse specialising in batik, which uses the lost wax technique to create stylised motifs. Return to the boat, dinner and overnight on board.



Folie du Baron Roger



Bou el Mogdad

### Day 6: Wednesday

#### Navigation: Palmeraie-Thiangaye

After breakfast we reach the shore by small boat for a walk in the Gourmel forest. Visit of a TRADITIONAL PEULH VILLAGE consisting of oval huts built by women. Return to the boat and sail. We return to the river to enter the heart of the African Sahel in the kingdom of the Toucouleurs. The beauty of the landscape and the tranquillity of these waters will only be interrupted by the laughter of the children, the washerwomen in their multicoloured clothes and the herds of animals that come to water along the banks. Lunch on board. With a small boat we will navigate a branch of the river from where we will be able to observe several TOUCOULEURS VILLAGES built entirely of earth, some dating back to the 12th century. Visit to SALDE', VILLAGE ON THE MAURITAN SHORE\*. Back on board, then, after sunset, we go down to the shore for a méchoui dinner, a speciality of baked mutton accompanied by couscous. Overnight stay on board.



Toucouleurs Village

\* The Captain of Bou el Mogdad reserves the right to cancel the visit to Mauritania without notice if the diplomatic climate and bureaucratic formalities do not permit it.



Fishermen



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# Senegal River Cruise

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### Day 7: Thursday

#### Navigation: Thiangaye-Podor

After breakfast, navigation to PODOR, an old colonial bastion and trading town. The merchants' houses with their large courtyards and warehouses that held gum arabic, wood, ivory and slaves bear witness to a not so distant past. Lunch on board. In the afternoon, visit PODOR: the Faidherbe fortress, market, colonial houses and beautiful riverside landscapes. Dinner and overnight on board.



Podor

### Day 8: Friday

#### Podor/St. Louis/Pink Lake

After breakfast, transfer to St. Louis and on to the capital. Meeting with our guide and lunch in a restaurant. Continuation to Lake Retba, accommodation at the Hotel Chez Salim or similar. Afterwards, 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 pirogue. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in bungalows with services.



Gorée Island

*\*\*Lake Retba, or the '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 9: Saturday

#### Pink Lake/Gorée Island/Dakar

After breakfast, departure in the direction of Dakar. 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 handicraft boutiques, we admire Maisonla del 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 you can admire the entire island. Lunch in a restaurant. Return to the mainland in DAKAR, where we visit the craft market and have free time for shopping. Room in day use on request. Free dinner and transfer to the airport, end of services.



Maison des Esclaves

### Day 10: Sunday

#### Dakar (DSS)/Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



Goodbye in West Africa!!!!



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**10 days**

Fixed-date departures\* from October 2024 to May 2025  
English speaking guide

### Individual participation fee in double room/cabin

**2 pax: 1,890 €/pax**  
**4/6 pax: 1,490 €/pax**  
**8/16 pax: 1,390 €/pax**



### Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room/cabin: **350 €**
- Double cabin with bathroom: **290 €/pax**
- Suite cabin with bathroom: **590 €/pax**
- High season (Christmas/New Year/Easter/Festivals): **100 €/pax**
- Day use in Dakar: **60 €/room**
- Sea extension: **on request**

### The fee includes:

- English-speaking local guide on the ground (G1-8-9);
- Local French and English-speaking guide on board the cruise;
- The cruise on board the Bou el Mogdad from St. Louis to Podor (or vice versa);
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- All transfers by minibus, including driver, petrol and tolls;
- The Podor-St Louis transfer or vice versa by bus operated by Compagnie du Fleuve;
- Full board meals except dinners in Dakar;
- Drinks, water and alcohol (except champagne and digestives) during the cruise;
- 8 overnight stays in a double room/cabin as mentioned in the itinerary.

### The fee does not include:

- Visa for Senegal (currently not required);
- Cancellation/health/covid/baggage insurance;
- Air flights;
- Drinks and mineral water (except during the cruise);
- Dinners in Dakar;
- Photographic permits;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in 'the fee includes'.

### \*Tour departure dates season 2024-2025

**With St. Louis-Podor cruise:** 26/10/24, 09/11/24, 23/11/24, 21/12/24, 04/01/25, 18/01/25, 01/02/25, 01/03/25, 15/03/25, 29/03/25, 12/04/25, 26/04/25.

**With Podor-St. Louis cruise:** 02/11/24, 16/11/24, 30/11/24, 14/12/24, 28/12/24, 11/01/25, 08/02/25, 22/02/25, 08/03/25, 22/03/25, 05/04/25, 19/04/25, 03/05/25.