



SENEGAL AND THE GAMBIA

March 13 - March 17, 2025

Led by Local Guides

Thursday, March 13

Guinea Bissau - Ziguinchor (**SENEGAL**)



From **Bissau**, the road continues north through an intricate web of rivers and tributaries that pour out into the Atlantic Ocean. The borders between salt water, land, and fresh water are always changing with the tides, leaving 23% of Guinea Bissau territory under water during the high tide, and emerging during low tide. Shortly after crossing the **Senegal** border, arrive in **Ziguinchor**, a former slave port situated at the mouth of the Casamance River. There may be an opportunity to join in on a ritual **sacred mask dance** of the Diola people. These masks belong to a secret society, and the dancers' identity is never revealed - it is said that the spirits animate the show. Drums, dances, and a colorful crowd will enliven this tiny village in the shade of large kapok trees. Transfer to *Kadiandoumagne Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Note: Given the sacred and often exclusive nature of this

performance, it is important to note that the availability of the mask dance can be tentative and subject to ceremonial schedules, local traditions, and community protocols.

Friday, March 14

Ziguinchor - Banjul (**THE GAMBIA**)



Free morning at leisure, then begin the drive to the borders to cross into **The Gambia**, the smallest country in mainland Africa. It is well known for its excellent birding opportunities, with close to 600 species, and some consider it the best place in Africa to spot various species. There will be a brief but intense afternoon of bird watching. Head to visit the **Gambia National Museum** displaying the preserving Gambian history and culture. Transfer to *Coco Ocean Beach Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Saturday, March 15

Banjul - Kaolak (SENEGAL)



After breakfast, take a "very local" and colorful **ferry** ride across the **Gambia River** creek to the northern banks, home to one of the most significant megalithic civilizations on earth. After crossing the border back into **Senegal**, leave the main road and take a small trail to **Sine Ngayene**, an impressive megalithic site with over 1100 erected stones. These stone circles are thought to have been associated with sacrificial rituals between 300 BC and 1700 AD. Transfer to *Relais de Kaolak Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, March 16

Kaolak - Dakar - Goree Island



Begin the day with a drive to the capital city of **Dakar**, arriving in time for a late lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, head to visit the **Musée des Civilisations Noires** to see an excellent collection of tribal art, textiles, and contemporary local art. Board the ferry to **Gorée Island**, a small island once the final stop for enslaved people from Africa on their way to the Americas. If time permits, we may visit the **House of Slaves**, to learn about the poor treatment of captured slaves that were shackled to the floor, unable to move. Today, the island's breezy climate, exciting history, ancient architecture, and inviting shops make it an interesting and trendy destination for local and foreign visitors alike. The best time to enjoy the Gorée atmosphere is during sunset when the crowd of the day visitors leave the island and in the morning before the arrival of the first ferry of tourists. Transfer to *Gore Municipal Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, March 17

Goree Island - Dakar - USA



After breakfast, board the **ferry** back to **Dakar**, an important center for political, artistic, and intellectual "renouveau" during the independence days. Today it is still the liveliest metropolis in French-speaking West Africa. Explore the "**Plateau**" district of the city including the **Presidential Palace**, a typical **market**, and the completely restored **Dakar-Bamako Railway Station**, a fine example of colonial architecture. Transfer to *Djoloff Hotel* for check-in and have some rest, then transfer to the airport for your flight back to the US. **(B,L)**

Notes: The Hotel is booked until 6:00pm. Also, since the trip is falling in Ramadan, it is essential to be aware that some sites and markets may operate on adjusted schedules or be closed to observe this holy month.

"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients."

Tour Cost (Land Only)

4 - 5 travelers \$1,895.00

6 - 12 travelers \$1,695.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$295.00

Prices is based on minimum 4 travelers

Tour Includes:

- Bissau to Senegal drive and Hotel/airport transfer.
- Visas: **Senegal** (no visa required for US Citizens) & The Gambia (Obtainable on arrival - \$200) - subject to change.
- Accommodation at hotels mentioned or similar.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Transportation by A/C private car.
- Bottled water during drives and tours.
- Qualified English-speaking guide.
- Entrance fees to all sites and museums as per the itinerary.

Tour does not include:

- International air out of Dakar.
- **Entry visa (required double entry to Senegal and one entry to The Gambia).**
- Beverages with or without meals.
- Tips & gratuities to drivers, guides, restaurant staff, etc.
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Items of personal nature (camera fees at sites, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- **Beverages or any alcoholic drinks.**
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules.
- Travel protection insurance (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

