



# RIVERS OF WEST AFRICA

DAKAR TO DAKAR  
SHORE EXCURSION PROGRAM

Winter 2025





## DAY 2

# DJIFFER, SENEGAL

### DJIFFER, SENEGAL – JOAL FADIOUTH EXCURSION

- Duration approx. 7hrs
- A full day tour including lunch
- Per Person: Euro 146

#### [This tour requires a pre-booking ahead of the cruise](#)

We reach the Saloum River Delta and Djiffer. Disembarkation takes place by local tenders, called motor pirogues. Then we board a bus and drive to the village of Joal. During the 1.5 hours journey you can enjoy spectacular panoramic views, watch local every-day-life and might observe various species of birds.

After arriving in Joal, a quaint fishing village small pirogues are boarded for a 20 minutes row across the shallow bay to the granary huts on stilts; then on for another 10 minutes to the sea-shell cemetery. There we continue by foot over the wooden bridge to the small island respectively village of Fadiouth, also made out of sea-shells and have a look around there. After lunch we take the same road back to Djiffer, stop shortly at a giant Baobab tree and return to the ship by motor pirogues.

Our tour is private; A local guide is leading the tour with simple narration; protect your valuable items during tender or pirogue trips as they might get wet; carry water, repellent, sun tan lotion, a hat and an extra Tshirt.

**Special note:** In case of extreme bad sea conditions the motor pirogues might not operate the tour.



## DAY 3 BANJUL

### BANJUL & BAKAU EXCURSION

- Duration approx. 4,5hrs
- Half day morning tour including refreshments
- Per Person: Euro 58

This is an orientation tour for the visitor seeking to get an overview of the main points of interest in the capital of The Gambia, Banjul and The Greater Banjul area. Before leaving Banjul and driving to the village of Bakau, we make a photo-stop at Arch 22. It is a neoclassical-style triumphal arch commemorating the coup d'état from 1994.

Once arriving in Bakau a visit of the main attraction is on the program: the most famous one is "Katchikally", the sacred crocodile pool. It is home of approximately 70 crocodiles, but is also considered to be a sacred place for e.g. barren women, who either drink from or bath in the pool water to overcome their difficulties.

Another attraction in Bakau is the Botanic Garden (currently closed for visitors) a small, peaceful park next to the residence of the British High Commissioner in the Gambia. We will also visit the National Museum, where we get a better insight into the history of The Gambia. Before returning to the ship, the excursion ends with a visit of Albert Market, a colorful daily market. A chance to shop souvenirs in one of the many stalls selling handicrafts.



DAY 4

## TENDABA

### TENDABA - KIANG WEST NATIONAL PARK

- Duration approx. 4hrs
- Half day morning tour, incl. refreshments
- Per Person: Euro 55

From the ship we take simple motor pirogues in order to reach Tendaba, located on the South Bank in the Lower River Division. It is a small fishing village of mainly Muslim faith with approximately 600 inhabitants whose main occupation is fishing.

There we start with an approx. 5 km easy walk over uneven ground through savannah bush with destination Batelling, a small village at the entrance to Kiang West National Park. The area boasts of over 250 species of birds; many of which are difficult to observe anywhere else. Other residents include Guinea baboons, bushbuck, warthogs, Senegal bush baby and marsh mongoose. Your local guide will point out to you the species we see along the way!

Once we arrive in Batelling a refreshment drink is served before boarding an open safari truck which brings us back to Tendaba. On the way we pass again local villages where you get an impression of local life in The Gambia.

Please be aware that you have to walk for approx. 5 km over uneven terrain. This tour is quite strenuous, not suitable for guests with mobility issues. Remember to have with you plenty of water, a repellent, an extra Tshirt, sun tan lotion and a hat .

Protect your phone or cameras during motor pirogue trips!



## DAY 4 TENDABA

### TENDABA - BAOBOLONG RESERVE

- Duration approx.3hrs
- Half day afternoon tour – easy
- Per Person: Euro 55

We are picked-up from the ship by motor pirogues for a trip to the Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve. This reserve, lying across from Kiang West National Park features six major bolongs (creeks) that provide great birding and boating opportunities. Numerous rare and migratory birds also reside here including the Pel's fishing owl, African fin foot and brown-necked parrot. Sightings of Nile crocodiles and African clawless otter are possible, while baboons could be seen in the dry areas. Remember to have with you plenty of water, a repellent, an extra Tshirt, sun tan lotion and a hat .

Protect your phone or cameras during motor pirogue trips!

Please be aware that we are approx. 3 hours on a basic motor pirogue and there are no toilet facilities available!



## DAY 5 KUNTAUR

### KUNTAUR – GAMBIA NATIONAL PARK EXCURSION

- Duration approx. 4hrs
- Half day tour
- Per Person: Euro 110

Today we will board a large motor pirogue for a 3 hours cruise on The Gambia River. First we head to the southernmost tip of Baboon Island, one of the five islands of The Gambia National Park. There a local national park ranger is joining us onboard in order to give more information about the park and its fauna & flora. Then we turn, the motor pirogue slows down and sails slowly back to Kuntaur following closely the shores of Baboon Island. This island is home of the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation

Project. If we are lucky from our motor pirogue we can closely observe the chimps with minimal intrusion. There is also the possibility of seeing hippos, crocodiles, Red Colobus, Green Vervet monkeys and also The Gambia's famous birdlife.

After the local ranger disembarks at the northernmost tip of Baboon Island we continue to Kuntaur. Before boarding the ship again we meet the "Kankurang" and a local dance group on the pier. The "Kankurang" refers to the family of Mandinka masquerades that are covered from head to toe by leaves or bark and comes out e.g. on graduation days of initiates. Believed to have spiritual powers the "Kankurang" dispenses justice and wards off evil spirits.

Remember to have with you plenty of water, a repellent, an extra Tshirt, sun tan lotion and a hat .  
Protect your phone or cameras during motor pirogue trips!



## DAY 6 KUNTAUR

### KUNTAUR - JANJANBUREH & WASSU STONES

- Duration approx. 5hrs
- A long half day tour
- Per Person: Euro 122

From the pier in Kuntaur the bus takes us to the ferry station of Janjanbureh. There we board the local ferry for a short cruise over The Gambia River to Janjanbureh. We continue our excursion with a visit of one of the oldest towns of The Gambia, formerly called Georgetown. During the walk you get an impression of this laidback town and see the residence of the governor, the market and the Methodist church with its school. Afterwards we take the ferry back and board the bus. After 10 minutes drive we reach the local school of Lamin Koto. We will visit here the new

school building which was built with the help of the guests of M/Y Pegasos, Harmony G and the Management of VARIETY CRUISES!

Before returning to the ship we stop at the mysterious stone circles in Wassu, a megalithic site believed to be a burial ground thousands of years ago. Once there on the program is an interesting guided tour in the little museum and a visit of the archaeological site, which is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site.

Remember to have with you plenty of water, a repellent, an extra T-shirt, sun tan lotion and a hat .

For the local school visit during our tour guests are welcome to bring from home pencils (rather than pens) notebooks, sharpeners , erasers. Feel free to ask your booking agent if interested. Thank you!



## DAY 7

# JAMES ISLAND

### JAMES ISLAND - KUNTA KINTEH EXCURSION

- A short morning tour
- Per Person: Euro 24

James Island, located in The Gambia River mouth was discovered by the Portuguese in 1455. The first settlers on the island were from the Duchy of Courland & Semigallia (nowadays Latvia) which arrived in 1651. The Courlanders built a fort but already a couple of years later the Dutch took over. During the centuries also the French and the English occupied the island and the fortifications were extended.

Under the British it became an important slave trading post in The Gambia. Around 1780 the French took over again James Island and blew up the major buildings. The British did not rebuild it anymore instead, after the abolition of slave trade, founded Banjul at the entrance to The Gambia River on the Atlantic Ocean.

In 1976 James island became famous due to the author Alex Haley who wrote the book Roots. In it a family history of a slave, called Kunta Kinteh is told. For this reason the island was renamed in early 2011 to Kunta Kinteh Island. Nowadays it is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site.

After disembarking by tender your local guide will tell you more about the history of James Island and afterwards you have some time to explore this tiny island by yourself.

Remember to have with you plenty of water, a repellent, an extra T-shirt, sun tan lotion and a hat .

Protect your phone or cameras during tender or motor pirogue trips!





## REMARKS:

The tours are exclusively run for our Variety Cruises small groups. Operation and prices require a minimum of 12 guests. All tours while in Gambia are escorted by our local guide naturalist while most tours are led by licensed local guides in English language; In some remote places basic narration is expected by the local escorts.

The tours are subject to changes due to sudden maintenance closures or restorations, weather, heavy traffic or other conditions. Alternative visits will be offered instead. The length of the tours and the time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on weather, tendering, port and traffic conditions or also on the pacing of each group.

Most excursions are quite active and require good physical condition. Due to slippery or uneven roads we recommend comfortable shoes, an extra T shirt, mosquito repellent, sun tan lotion, a hat and water.

Gratuities for drivers and guides are not included.

**For the local school visit** during our tour guests are welcome to bring from home pencils (rather than pens) notebooks, sharpeners, erasers. Feel free to ask your booking agent if interested.

Many thanks!

