

# 2016 OFFICIAL COUNTRY GUIDE

The Gambia Tourism Board



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*Gambia Tourism Board*  
The Smiling Coast of Africa

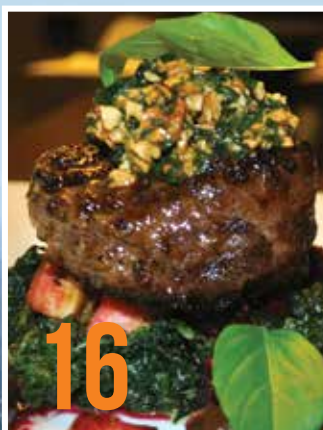
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The Gambia Tourism Board



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# MESSAGE FROM

## Honourable Minister of Tourism & Culture



Thank you for picking up the 5th Edition of our Official Tourist Guide, the annual publication that updates you on developments within the Tourism, Culture, and Hospitality Industry. We are grateful to you, the tourist, as you begin coming back to your beautiful, peaceful, and tranquil Tourist Destination following

the much hyped-up scare of the Ebola Virus during the 2014/2015 Tourism Season. We are grateful that despite the outbreak of this epidemic in West Africa, The Gambia has remained Ebola Free and we continue to undertake measures to ensure that we remain Ebola Free.

As a Government and under the dynamic leadership of His Excellency, the President of The Republic of The Gambia, Sheikh Professor Alhaji Dr. Yahya A.J.J. Jammeh, Babili Mansa, we continue to be steadfast and vigilant at all of our border entry posts to ensure we pre-empt an occurrence of an Ebola outbreak in The Gambia. We are equally appreciative of the support and partnership of the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare during the Ebola outbreak for proactively working and supporting the Tourism Industry.

Over the last 12 months, the Tourism Stakeholders have undertaken a number of initiatives geared towards improving Destination Gambia and all in efforts to give you the Tourist a better experience and a memorable holiday. Among the achievements of Destination Gambia is the addition of 278 more hotel beds through an expansion initiative undertaken by existing hotels in answer to the bed capacity constraints we experience during the Winter Season; the additional hotel beds are expected to increase to 350 beds by the 2016/17 Season. Two new Eco-Tourism related facilities have been added to our existing Tourism Product Suite – **Kauren River Camp** in Kaur and **ABCA Creek Lodge** in Kansange, Foni; both excellent bird watching sites.

Our efforts relative to the Juffureh/Albreda Revamp

Project in relation to the Kunta Kinteh Roots Heritage is also gaining momentum and meaningful developments are taking place at both the Kunta Kinteh Island and the villages of Juffureh and Albreda where signage installation and architectural design works have commenced to improve the image and aesthetic appeal of this UNESCO World Heritage site. The construction of an Information Center is well underway in Juffureh and Albreda and this is expected to be completed by November 2016.

As a Tourist Destination, we would hold our maiden edition of a **Bird Watching Festival Fair** in November of 2016 in partnership with the Ruthland Bird Fair of the United Kingdom. This event would take place at the renowned Tendaba Camp. This event is expected to showcase to the world the rich diversity in our wild life and would enable us to partake in global initiatives of protecting select bird species threatened by global warming and irresponsible wildlife hunting practices.

In the case of infrastructural development, a number of initiatives are equally in the pipeline and principal among these are the Airport Expansion works currently taking place, which includes the expansion of the airport tarmac to accommodate for more airplane parking; the addition of a new runway and taxiway; the recently completed refurbishment involving the re-roofing of the airport; and the recently completed overhaul of the seating at the departure lounge. The airport expansion works also has in the pipeline works relating to enhancing and improving the air conditioning at the arrival and departure lounges and the check-in area of the airport. The procurement of new Fire Tenders, thanks to the foresight of His Excellency, The President, is meant to further reinforce safety standards of the airport and to improve upon Fire and Rescue Services at the airport.

Our Tourism, Culture, and Hospitality development aspirations continue to be on track with the ultimate focus of increasing our Tourism air arrival numbers to 500,000 from the current 175,000 by the year 2020.

To further enhance our Tourism product suite, we plan on reconstituting the **National Troupe**, reviving the **Miss Gambia Pageant**, and introducing a **Tourism Awards Weekend** platform where Tourists that have

made substantial contribution through their various philanthropic initiatives, amongst others, would be recognized and appreciated. All these new Tourism products would be launched in November and December of 2016. Plans are underway to also create a Craft Village that would house all **Craft Markets** and also provide a platform where cultural groups would perform on periodic basis to entertain tourists.

As a Government, we continue to solicit your support, the Tourist, for your continued patronage and we want to assure you that we are forever committed to ensuring your safety, security, and happiness, and to guarantee you a positive experience during your vacation in the Smiling Coast of Africa. As the Honourable Minister, please allow me to once again thank you for choosing The Gambia as your destination of holiday and I urge you to **“Go discover the Smiling Coast of Africa!”**

**Benjamin A. Roberts**

*Honourable Minister of Tourism & Culture*



# MESSAGE FROM



## Director General, Gambia Tourism Board



I am pleased to write the editorial for this attractive and insightful publication about The Gambia Tourism. In this brochure, you will find many things said about The Gambia-“The Smiling Coast of Africa” some of which may be new and others that you already know. It is my hope that the brochure will enable readers to broaden

their knowledge about the smiling cost of Africa and experience a new understanding about Gambian tourism.

The Gambia Tourism is at a very important turning point after the recent Ebola outbreak in 2014 which has affected the entire tourism industry particularly West African countries, though the Gambia has never registered a single incident, we were affected as a member of ECOWAS regional block. We anticipate great things ahead in 2015/2016 tourism season as the country has witnessed its first ever flight during the green season marking a significant change from 6 months to 8 months of continuous tourist arrivals.

Tourism is an important component of the Gambian economy it is the leading foreign exchange earner and one of the pillars to eradicate poverty. The Government is continuing its efforts to broaden the tourism market improve quality standards and ensure rational use of Tourism Development Areas. We are fully committed to the ideals of responsible and sustainable tourism practice. Our objective is to increase the contribution of tourism to the economy, to raise the well being of the citizenry and being cognizant of the needs to continuously enhance our visitors expectation.

Destination Gambia is the whole country and its people. It is often said that **“The Gambia River is the Gambia and the Gambia is the river Gambia”**. It is a major tourist attraction and the dominant feature running through the heart of the country.

This West African waterway is approximately 700 miles

(1,130 km) long, rising in the Fouta Djallon plateau in Northern Guinea, flowing generally northwest through South East Senegal then west, dissecting The Gambia, to the Atlantic Ocean at capital city, Banjul. The river is navigable in most of its length by ocean going vessels, catamaran services and barges.

The river ecology is divided into two different zones, estuarine and freshwater, which in turn largely determine the peripheral vegetation pattern. Salt water sneaks in some 150km (95miles) upstream, as far as Kuntaur. In the lower estuary, mangroves dominate the riverside, with extensive reed belts in-between zone, while where the water is fresh; the banks are lined with gallery forest.

In addition to the mighty River Gambia, the destination prides itself with the beautiful attractions apart from our traditional sun, sand and sea. Bird watching, dolphin watching, sport fishing, sky diving and mangrove exploration are among the main excursions to be exploited. Eco-tourism has been embraced and there are attractive incentive packages for investors interested to invest in eco-tourism, up country facilities and up river tourism ventures.

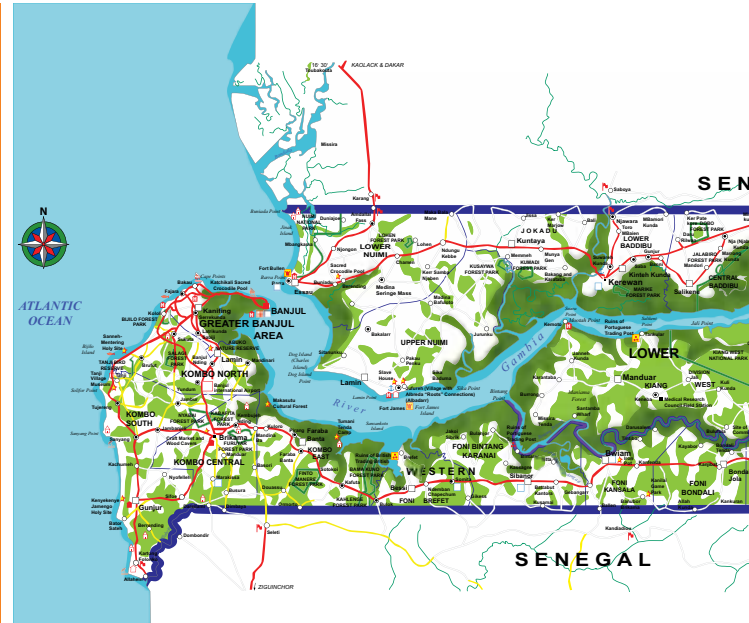
In terms of cultural heritage, The Gambia has a high degree of ethnic diversity, religious tolerance, peace and tranquillity and offers a wide range of visitors experience within its limited land area. These attractions include performing arts- dance, music, which are highly developed while Gambia cuisine is diverse and attractive. The Gambia has a range of historical buildings, monuments, and archaeological sites some of which are now listed in the world heritage sites of UNESCO.

The guide offers invaluable information for anyone planning to visit the Gambia as well as expose investors to the wonderful possibilities that await them. The Gambia Tourism Board official website [www.visitthegambia.gm](http://www.visitthegambia.gm) is a must visit for all intending and repeat visitors to the Smiling Coast of Africa.

Welcome to the Gambia ,“The Smiling Coast of Africa”.

**Abdoulie Hydar**  
*Director General*

# COUNTRY INFORMATION



## Location

West Africa (one of the smallest countries in mainland Africa)

## Area

11,295 sq. km (4361 sq. miles)

## Capital

Banjul

## Currency

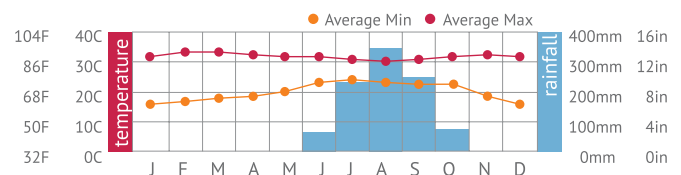
Dalasi (GMD), pronounced da-la-si

## Time Zone

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

## Climate

The country enjoys virtually uninterrupted sunshine and high daytime temperatures with almost no rainfall from November to June. From July to October the humidity level is high, and the sunshine is punctuated by heavy tropical showers.



## Population

1.8 million

## Ethnic Diversity and languages

**Official Language:** English

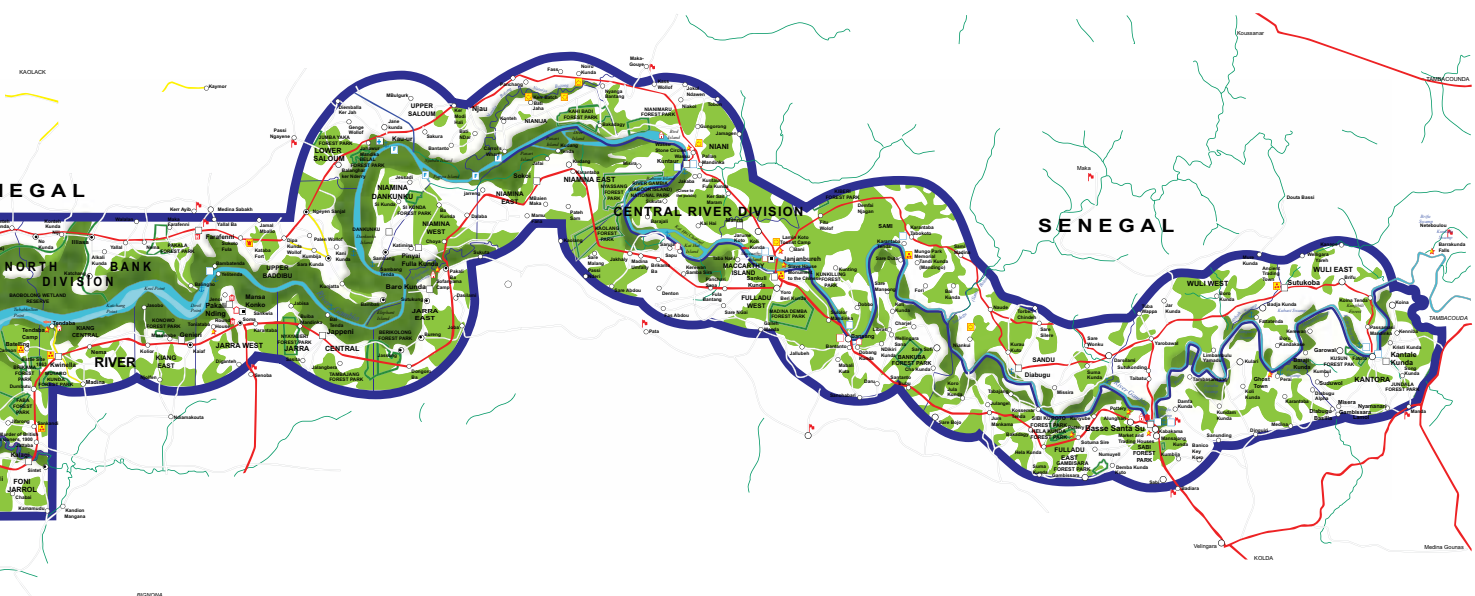
**Other Languages:** Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, Jola, Sarahule, Serer, Manjago, Creole (known as Aku)

French is spoken quite widely. In addition, some staff in hotels, restaurants and excursion agencies speak other languages including German, Italian, Dutch, French and the Scandinavian languages.

## Religious Tolerance and Diversity

The Gambia is one of the most religious tolerant nations in the world. Indeed, most people are inter-related, regardless of their religious backgrounds; it is not uncommon to find Muslims and Christians married to each other, or closely connected. Religious days and feasts – both Christian and





Muslim - are celebrated nationally. This has been the case since time immemorial, and continues today.

Muslims account for 85% of the population. The other 15% is comprised of Christians and practitioners of other African traditional religions.

### Economic Activity

Tourism is a major industry in The Gambia. Others include agriculture, agro processing, fisheries, livestock and manufacturing.



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GAMBIA

Archaeological evidence, in particular the Wassu Stone Circle, shows that people have been living in the region since 500 BC. Around 1200 saw the first migration of the Fula to the region; they now account for about 20% of Gambia's population.

Between 1400 and 1600 the region fell under the Mali Empire, the first of the great empires in West Africa to reach the Atlantic coast. The Malinke (Mandinka) ruled, a subset of the Mandé peoples who are spread across West Africa, and are now the dominant ethnic group in The Gambia.

Towards the end of the 16th century, the region came under the control of the Songhai Empire, but incursions by forces from Morocco, and then the arrival of Portuguese traders quickened its collapse. The Portuguese, British and French all tried to claim the region as part of their colonial empire; Britain gained the narrow tongue of land which was sandwiched within French territory. During the 17th and 18th century the region was a major source of slaves for the trans-Atlantic trade.

When Britain abolished the slave trade in 1807 it met with resistance in The Gambia; a military post was set up at Bathurst (now Banjul) to aid anti-slavery measures. Indeed, slavery in The Gambia was only abolished in 1906.

In 1889 the boundary between The Gambia and Senegal was agreed by Britain and France. Five years later, with increasing colonial activity inland, it became a British protectorate.

Independence was granted on 18 February 1965, with Queen Elizabeth II as head of state and Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara as prime minister. A republic was declared five years later, on 24 April 1970, with Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara becoming president.

A military coup in 1994 deposed President Jawara, who had been in power for 32 years (since becoming prime minister in 1962). Shiekh Professor Alhaji Dr Yahya A J J Jammeh has been the head of state since 1994.





# GAMBIA TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INSTITUTE

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The Institution was first established as The Gambia Hotel School (GHS) in 1979 with support from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the World Bank. In 2009 the Hotel School started a new stage in its development with the help of the Spanish Agency of Cooperation who invested over two million euros in a new Building and state of the art Equipment and the World Bank who provided the technical assistance required to manage the Institution and validate their programs.

The Institute is accredited by the NAQAA and offers Foundation, Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma Degrees in the following areas: Cookery and Pastry, Bar and Restaurant,

Housekeeping and Laundry, Front Office and Events and Tour Guiding. Students spend part of their training doing their placement in Hotels, Restaurants and other companies in The Gambia and neighbor countries. After graduation many of its graduates are offered international positions in the cruise ship industry and in Hotel Chains.

As part of the practical training of the students the Institute also offers the following services to individuals and companies in their premises at MDI Road: Restaurant and Bar services, Cakes Caterings, , Parties, Celebrations, Laundry, Staff Hiring, Canteen services, Youth Hostel for groups, Seminars, Hall and classroom rentals, etc.



**CONTACT US AT:**

MDI Road, Kanifing South, P.O. Box 818 Banjul, The Gambia,  
Tel: (220) 4392264 / 7961406 / 9919376  
[info@gambiathi.com](mailto:info@gambiathi.com)  
[www.gambiathi.com](http://www.gambiathi.com)

# COME AND EXPLORE

*The Gambia's beaches invite visitors to laze and linger on package tours, but there's more than sun and surf. Fishing villages are nature reserves are within easy reach of the clamorous Atlantic resorts, ecolodges and small wildlife parks dot the inland, and it's a bird lovers' utopia.*

*lonelyplanet.com*

## Resorts and Accommodation

There are nine main resort areas on the palm fringed Atlantic Coast in what is referred to as the Tourism Development Area. There are also a number of camps mainly situated on the banks of the beautiful River Gambia, which runs across the length of the country.

## Excursions

Choose from river cruises, fishing, village tours, African wrestling, bird watching, trekking, horse and camel riding, adventure trips, musical events and family visits.

## Nature

The Gambia offers a variety of ecological settings. You can choose from a number of bird and wildlife sanctuaries, including Abuko Nature Reserve, West Kiang National Park and Lamin Lodge, where you can enjoy the sights and sounds of the African forest, creek and mangrove swamp. The country is home to about 550 species of birds, and welcomes a large number of keen bird watchers each year. Other fauna include monkeys, crocodiles, dolphins and hippos.







## Cuisine

Hotels and restaurants in The Gambia serve international and African cuisines. Gambians have a variety of delicious dishes, which are mainly prepared with millet, maize and rice (the staple food of the country).

## Arts and Craft

The craft markets (bendula) outside the main hotels offer a large variety of carvings, batik products, hand woven fabrics, leather and basket work and jewellery. Bargaining is all part of the fun and is often a lively dialogue, is typical of Gambian hospitality and warmth, embrace it!



## Music

Like other African countries, The Gambia has a variety of traditional musical instruments, with the most famous being the Kora, a 21-string harp. The drum is also popular and plays a major role in the cultural life of most of The Gambia's ethnic groups. Whether it's a wedding or a naming ceremony, the drum has kept communities informed and entertained for many centuries.

## Shopping

For a taste of real West African shopping, visit the markets at Banjul (Albert Market), Serekunda, Bakau and Brikama, where you will experience the bustle and energy of local commerce in full swing. You will also find supermarkets and other shops in and around the TDA selling practically everything you might need.

## Photography

Gambian children are normally very keen to smile for the camera. However, you should first seek consent before taking a picture of anyone; your guide will come in handy in such situations.

## People and Culture

In addition to the eight indigenous ethnic groups, The Gambia is home to fairly large communities from neighbouring West African countries and Lebanon.

The country's reputation for hospitality is second to none. Gambians live harmoniously in communities, freely exercising their religious and cultural traditions and are recognized all over the world for their spontaneous warm smiles and their peace-loving nature.

## Getting around

Tourist Taxis (green) are parked in the main hotel areas. They charge for waiting time and this should be negotiated, prior to your journey.







*The Gambian people are the very friendly and will do anything for you. They always want to talk to you and shake your hand. They the nicest people you could ever meet always got a smile on their faces.*



# BEAUTY & WELLBEING

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## Massage

Many hotels in The Gambia have their own massage facilities. If your hotel doesn't, enquire at the reception desk on the location of the nearest one.



## Salons

Most hotels have beauty and hair dressing salons, and there are many more outside the hotels, throughout the country.

## Hair Braiding

Many female tourists and some males have their hair braided African style by women and girls offering this service. Some add colourful beads to the tip of the strands. Please ask for the fee before you start, and bear in mind that the process might take a few hours.





# SPORTS & TOURISM

## Surfing

Gambia Surf offers the unique surfers experience on the west coast of The Gambia. The waves are ideal for beginners and lessons are available for first timers. Located at Kotu Point at Sandbeach Hotel. Email: [hello@gambiasurf.com](mailto:hello@gambiasurf.com), website: [www.gambiasurf.com](http://www.gambiasurf.com) or facebook and instagram: surf gambia.

## Swimming

The beaches in front of most hotels are generally safe for swimming. However, you must look out for the flags before entering the water. Never swim when the red flag is flying. ***Nude bathing is forbidden in The Gambia.***

## Cycling

Bicycles are available for hire outside most of the resort hotels or in the Tourism Development Area (TDA). The hire rates are half hourly, half day or full day, and are reasonable.







## Horse Riding

There are numerous places to go to in Kololi, Kotu or Bijilo if you want to rent for some horse back riding on an hourly bases, half or full day. It is usually along the sandy beach so the best time is during the day-time, before 5pm, when there aren't too many locals who frequent the beach for a jog, football or swimming.

## Golf

The Fajara Club has an 18-hole course, which is close to most of the resorts. The Club offers a variety of sporting activities including squash and tennis. Temporary membership is available.



## Table Tennis

This is available in most hotels and is generally free of charge.

## Tennis

Available at almost all the hotels, and at the Fajara Club, by prior arrangement. Racquets and tennis balls are also available at hotels where tennis is advertised.







## Eating out

In addition to the facilities in the hotels there are many restaurants and fast food places in the resort areas and in the towns.

Some offer international cuisine; others specialize in Gambian, Lebanese, Indian, Italian, Mexican, Asian and other cuisines.





## Places to eat.

### Bakau

Calypso Bar and Restaurant  
Taj India  
New One For The Road  
Frank's Hungarian Restaurant  
Surf and Turf

### Fajara

Ngala Lodge Restaurant  
Gida's Garden Restaurant  
Butcher's Shop  
The Clay Oven  
Manos

### Kotu

Samba's Kitchen  
JD's  
Ninke Nanka  
kunta kinteh  
Oscars on the beach

### Kololi

Scala Restaurant  
Sea Shells Bar & Restaurant  
Darboe's Restaurant  
El Sol Gambia  
Gaya Art Cafe  
The Green Mamba Garden  
Reo's Bar & Restaurant  
G.T.S. Bar & Restaurant  
Paradiso Bar & Restaurant







## Night Entertainment

All the hotels and upriver camps organize nightly entertainment programmes. You can choose from a wide variety including exciting cultural performances with djembe drums, fire-eaters, kora and balafon (traditional instruments). Or you may prefer a karaoke night, fashion show or beauty pageant. There is something for every taste.

Some restaurants in the resort areas organize live musical performances in their gardens. A number of tourists also venture out to attend local ceremonies in the towns and villages.

**Night clubs and discos** are open most nights in the winter season (October to April). Please check with your hotel receptionist for details of opening hours.





Guarantee Trust Bank (Gambia) Limited

# VISA



## VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED



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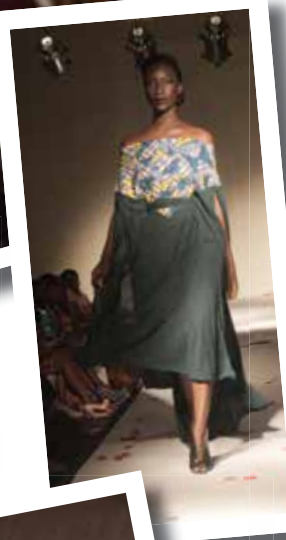
wouldn't you rather bank with us  
[www.gtbankgambia.com](http://www.gtbankgambia.com)



# Fashion

There are many tailors and fashion houses within the TDA area and on Kairaba Avenue, close to the tourism area. There you will find authentic African or fusion within European and African clothing.

Fashion shows take place all year around for example the Gambian Fashion Weekend that show cases young Gambian fashion designers and regional designers yearly.





Photos courtesy of Ansu Photo's / Fashion Weekend Gambia / Sawallo Couture



# Art in Gambia

The Gambia has several art galleries that display the work of contemporary local artists; some of the pieces are usually for sale.

Banjul national museum has examples of traditional statues and carved works for display only.

Leading contemporary artist like Njogu Touray, late Etu Ndow and many other painters produce colourful pieces of artwork using mixed materials. For those that like fabric prints using the art of batik can find great pieces from Baboucar Fall.

If you are particularly interested, meetings can be arranged with the artists in their studios.



## Tunbung Art Village Tujereng

Tunbung Art Village...a community art project started by Etu Ndow who was the owner and resident artist with teaching experience in school and on TV in The Gambia and who had exhibited work internationally in Europe and West Africa. Since his passing, his nephew has taken up the mantle and continues with the successful half-day workshops (for a minimum of 2 people) in screen printing, painting and crafts using natural materials. The 'studio' is outside in the shady grounds of the family's land in the unspoilt woodland between us and the sea. Several decorated huts have been built in the compound, using natural stone, recycled artefacts and reclaimed bricks from destroyed Portuguese colonial buildings. A gallery/museum of Etu's work is now on permanent exhibition for visitors.

**Location: Tujereng Village, Kombo South, The Gambia, West Africa, Tel no: +220 998 2102 / 9827255, Email: etundow@yahoo.com**





## Doing business

Most of the hotels have conference facilities. The bigger conference and banqueting halls can host up to 2,500 people, as well as having several adjoining committee rooms.

## Nature

There are six protected areas aggregating about 40,000 hectares nationwide, under the protection of the Department of Parks and Wildlife. The Gambia has remained committed to the Wildlife Act, which was signed into law as far back as 1977.

This political commitment to ensure that the environment is protected as a natural resource is still at the heart of the national policy.

Eco-tourism has massive potential in The Gambia and plans are further afoot to guarantee that every major habitat within the country is covered. If this is fully implemented, five percent of the land within tiny Gambia will be protected.







## GAMBIA INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES LTD



### GAMBIA INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES LTD

Gambia International Airlines (GIA) is the national flag bearer of The Republic of The Gambia, providing ground handling, cargo handling, and travel agency services at Banjul International Airport.

GIA has a long standing tradition for providing high quality services at competitive prices to airlines, air travelers and freight forwarders using Banjul International Airport. In delivering services, we strive to maintain high security and safety standards as part of the company's corporate philosophy of keeping abreast with changing air transport industry requirements.

Ground Handling has been GIA's core activity since its inception in 1996 and the company's competence and experience in this area is unrivalled in the Gambia. GIA has the manpower and material resources to handle all aircraft types in any kind of operation. The company uses industry technology, such as SITA for its Departure Control System (SITA DCS), world tracer for lost & found luggage and SITA TEXT for inter-airline communications.


The Company is also into passenger profiling and document verification services. Checking and confirming the eligibility of passengers of most internationally recognized carriers that fly into Banjul International Airport is handled by GIA through its competent profiling staff. It is our number one priority to make sure that only the eligible passengers are checked-in and boarded into the aircraft. We are making the work of the disembarking countries much easier in trying to reason the status of the passengers they receive.

***For further enquiry, please contact us on the following numbers:***

***Hajj & Ticket Sales*** - 00220 4396684      ***Ground Handling*** – 00220 4472756/4472762  
***Cargo Handling & Storage*** – 00220 4472755/4472765



# UP COMING EVENTS




**THE GAMBIA INTERNATIONAL BIRD FESTIVAL**  
21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Over 550 species**

"The Gambia provides some amazing opportunities for bird watching. It has over 550 species and everything is in relatively close proximity, meaning you don't have to travel far to see some amazing things - you'll even find a whole host of exotic species in your hotel gardens. So whether you're a first timer, a keen amateur or an enthusiast looking for particular species we guarantee you'll find something to inspire you..."

**Partners**



## The Gambia International Boat Fishing Competition

Discover Sea & River Creek Fishing



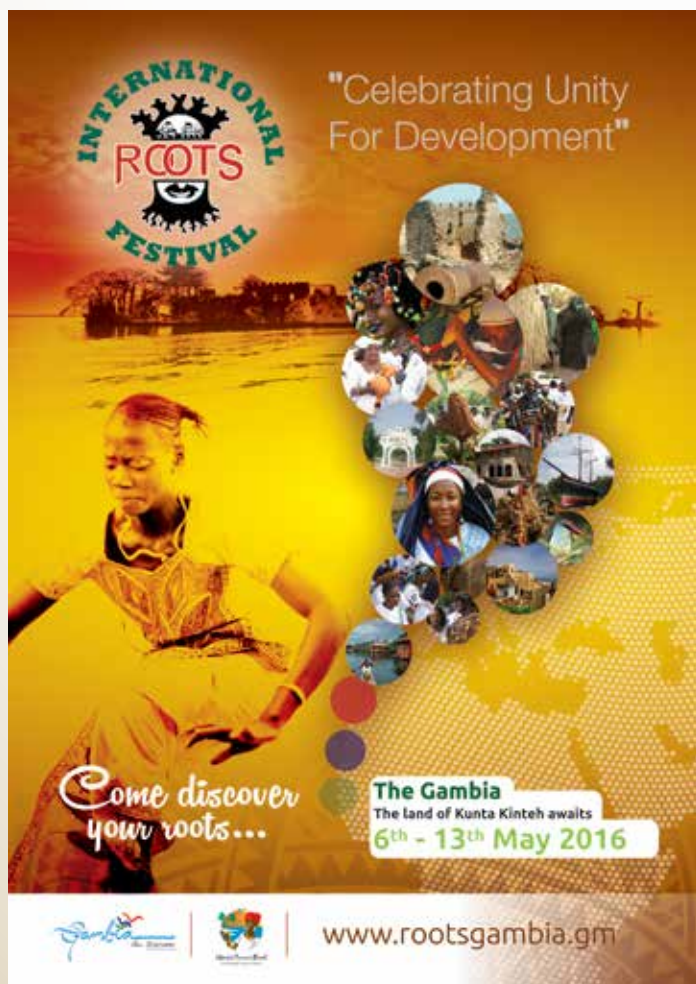
**COMPETITION DATES**  
November 2016

**FISHING SPOTS**  
Barra Point, Cape Point, Fajara and Kotu  
*Alternative fishing spot on the river should the ocean be rough (Dog Island, Wharf Njago, and Lamin Lodge)*

**ENTRY FEE**  
£125 per angler per day

For more information please email:  
info@gtboard.gm

[www.go-gambia.com](http://www.go-gambia.com)  
[www.visitthegambia.gm](http://www.visitthegambia.gm)



**INTERNATIONAL ROOTS FESTIVAL**

"Celebrating Unity For Development"

**The Gambia**  
The land of Kunta Kinteh awaits  
**6<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Come discover your roots...**

[www.rootsgambia.gm](http://www.rootsgambia.gm)

## FOOD & BEVERAGE FESTIVAL

in The Smiling Coast of Africa



**5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**@ Green Mamba Gardens / Jakarilo Bar & Restaurant**

Musical Jamboree  
Live Entertainment with Sontre Contemporary/Classical Music

**Come discover more of the Smiling Coast**

**Events include:**  
Wrestling Competition  
Eating Competition  
Pool Competition

**GMD 1200**  
Includes: Entrance, Food, First Drink

**Free Mug of Beer**  
Subsequent Beer refills at GMD 25

[www.go-gambia.com](http://www.go-gambia.com) [www.visitthegambia.gm](http://www.visitthegambia.gm)

For more information email:  
info@gtboard.gm /



# BIRD WATCHING

## Over 550 *species of birds*



One of the most expansive and accurate testimonies on the huge variety of birds that flock to The Gambia was authored by Clive Barlow and Tim Wachter, not only placing the country on the world map, but also earning the authors an award for “The best book of the year” from British Birds Magazine. The book, “A Field Guide to Birds of The Gambia and Senegal” illustrates the sheer variety of The Gambia’s bird life in terms of numbers and types.

The Gambia’s abundance and diversity of bird life is ranked as one of the highest in the world, coupled with the fact that the country is one of the most accessible destinations on the continent, making it a favourite with bird watchers.

## Gambia International Bird Festival

The Gambia Tourism Board, in collaboration with Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, Bird watchers association and conservation Organisations welcomes you to the first ever Gambia International Bird Festival to be held from 21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

The main goal of the event is to promote rural tourism development as well support the conservation of birds

and their habitats. This event will be hosted in the heart of the countryside close to the country’s prime birding locations. The bird festival will feature a wide variety of birding activities, birding field trips, lectures/ Presentations/workshops, outdoors activities Inside activities, exhibition and a farewell Gala Dinner.



# ‘A future for our past’

*The NCAC is a semi- autonomous institution established by an Act of Parliament in December 1989 to preserve, promote and develop Gambian arts and culture. It executes its mandate through three technical Departments: The Directorate of Cultural Heritage, The Directorate of Literature, Performing and Fine Arts, and The Directorate of Copyright.*

## MISSION

“To serve as a focal point in full partnership with the necessary national and international linkages for conserving, nurturing, presenting, celebrating and marketing of the country’s diverse cultural resources in the interest of The Gambia and the world at large”.

## VISION

“To provide the primary stimulus at the national and local government level for the orderly and professional development of a vibrant, integrated and sustainable cultural sector for the scientific, socio-cultural and economic benefit of The Gambia”.



## Contact Address

National Center for Arts and Culture, National Museum Premises  
Independence Drive P.M.B. 151, Banjul, The Gambia  
Tel: (+220) 8906759/8906778 Cell: 9929702/9481963/6506551  
Email: [info@ncac.gm](mailto:info@ncac.gm) / [bceesay@ncac.gm](mailto:bceesay@ncac.gm) / [hceesay@ncac.gm](mailto:hceesay@ncac.gm)  
Website: [www.ncac.gm](http://www.ncac.gm)



# FISHING PARADISE



The river runs from the Atlantic coast in the west to the east, cutting the country into two halves, and carrying a rich variety of fish, as does the vast ocean of the Atlantic which surrounds the capital city Banjul. The Gambia is renowned for its sport fishing, and both experts and amateurs can try for the 'Big One', on either the river or in the salty waters of the Atlantic.

There are a variety of options available: beach-casting is popular and the best area is in the western part of the country, (Sanyang, Gunjur or Kartong). Creek fishing, also very popular, attracts visitors who sightsee, bird watch, sun bathe and catch fish all on the same trip! There is also deep sea fishing for those still seeking the biggest catch of the lot, where variety is the name of the game.

Visitors often bring their own gear. However for those that prefer to travel light, there is plenty of gear in The Gambia for hire. The cost is often included in the trip; expect to pay about £30-£60 for full fishing gear plus the boat trip. The Gambia Tourism Board (GTB) licensed boats are very safe, with all standard safety equipment: life jackets, VHF radios, mobiles etc.

The Gambia has many different fish, and it is reckoned that between November and April a barracuda catch is virtually guaranteed!

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# NATURE LIES HERE

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ALL YEAR AROUND

## Abuko Nature Reserve



Abuko Nature Reserve was established in 1968 as The Gambia's first protected area and provides a good introduction to the country's plants and animals. The pools in the reserve hold a substantial population of Nile crocodiles and attract a wide variety of birds, mammals and reptiles. The education centre overlooks the pool and gives an interpretation of the ecology and natural history of the park.

Abuko is home to more than 270 species of birds, including the green turaco, kingfisher, little greenbul and red-bellied paradise flycatcher. Mammals in the reserve include bushbuck, Maxwell's duiker, Gambian red legged sun squirrel and crested porcupine. The park contains monitor lizards and several species of snakes, and visitors will also encounter colourful butterflies and dragonflies. The animal orphanage hosts spotted hyenas, baboons, parrots, turtles and

three species of monkeys. There are also several photo hides along the trail which provide excellent conditions for spotting wildlife. A refreshment kiosk provides drinks and snacks and a craft market, located at the exit, features items made by local artisans. Guides are available at the entrance to provide expert interpretations of the reserve's ecology and assist in spotting wildlife.

To reach Abuko, hire any taxi or take public transport from Westfield car park toward Lamin village. Ask to be dropped at the reserve entrance.

## Tanji Bird Reserve



Tanji Bird Reserve is made up of the Tanji river estuary and the Bijilo Islands. It is located a short drive away from the tourist development area, making it a perfect day trip for nature enthusiasts.

The reserve is an important bird nesting site for terns and gulls and is home to more than 250 species of birds, including several European migrants and 34

## Protected Areas System

*The Gambia's Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM) is responsible for seven national parks and reserves throughout the country. Population growth, urbanization and unsustainable agricultural practices threaten The Gambia's biodiversity, and protected areas are vital to preserving these unique ecosystems and promoting community development through tourism. You can support conservation and development in The Gambia by visiting these parks, many of which are just a short ride away from the hotels at the coast.*

*Gambia's parks and reserves offer something for everyone. Nature lovers will be delighted by the interesting terrain and diverse plant and animal life. Recreation-minded tourists will appreciate the fishing, boating and swimming opportunities, while families will enjoy the chance to discover nature in a very hands-on way.*

*The entrance fee for all parks is 35 Dalasis, payable at the park headquarters. For more information, please contact DPWM headquarters at 437 6972.*



types of raptors. Visitors to Tanji may also see the Western red colobus, callithrix and patas monkeys, as well as bushbuck, porcupines and the rare Mediterranean monk seal. On moonless nights from May to July, green sea turtles come to the islands to dig nests for their eggs. To get the most out of your visit, hire an experienced bird guide or participate in the tours provided by the park headquarters, offered twice a week from January to August, and daily from September to December. Tourists can board a boat to the Bijol Islands at the headquarters. Prices for the boat trip are 350 Dalasis per person for a group, or around 500 Dalasis for individuals.

To reach Tanji Bird Reserve, hire any taxi or take public transportation to the turntable area. At the turntable, board a vehicle to Tanji and get down at the signboard for the park posted on the highway.

## Tanbi Wetlands National Park



Situated half an hour from the beach resorts, Tanbi Wetlands National Park provides excellent boating, fishing, birdwatching and wildlife viewing opportunities. Tanbi is internationally recognized for its ecological value and

includes coastal lagoons, mudflats, gallery forests, marshes and mangrove forests. It contains more than 350 species of birds, including the African fish eagle, pelican, osprey and many migratory species. Visitors

may also encounter the West African manatee, African clawless otter, bushbuck, marsh mongoose, Atlantic humpbacked dolphin and Nile crocodile. Fishing trips through the mangroves yield catches of butterfish, barracuda, ladyfish and red snapper. You may also encounter local women harvesting oysters from the mangroves. The best way to experience the park is by taking a peaceful boat trip through the wilderness of mangroves. Boat tours and fishing trips are available at Lamin Lodge (look for the signs along the Banjul-Brikama highway in Lamin Village, or hire any taxi), or with the professional outfitters and local boat operators next to Denton Bridge on the highway to Banjul.

## Niumi National Park



Featuring one of the last untouched mangrove stands in West Africa and located just across the river from Banjul, Niumi National Park will please nature enthusiasts and beach lovers alike. Birdwatchers will appreciate the abundance of migratory and resident species, including terns, harriers, and warblers. The spotted hyena, green turtle, West African manatee, leopard, African clawless otter and bush duiker are also present, and swimmers





on the beautiful beach at Jinack Island may sight dolphins playing offshore. Lodging is available at Madiyana Safari Lodge on Jinack Island, and the park HQ. Visitors can also stay in nearby Jinack Niji at Camara Sambou Beach Bar or Coconut Lodge. To reach Niumi National Park headquarters, take the ferry from Banjul to Barra and board a car to the headquarters at Kanuma village. Many beach resorts also offer excursions to Jinack Island.

## Kiang West National Park



Kiang West National Park is the foremost wildlife reserve in The Gambia. It is composed mainly of Guinea savannah and woodland and is an excellent place for hiking. The escarpment running through the park provides beautiful

views. Kiang West boasts over 250 species of birds, many of which are difficult to observe anywhere else. Warthog, bushbuck, Guinea baboon, Senegal bushbaby, marsh mongoose, roan antelope and manatee also reside in the park. Tours are available at the park HQ and visitors can stay at nearby

## Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve



Directly across from Kiang West National Park on the North Bank of the country lies Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve. It features six major bolongs (creeks) that provide excellent opportunities for boating and birding. The pristine reserve is home to several rare and migratory birds, including the African finfoot, Pel's fishing owl, ibis and brownnecked parrot. Visitors may also see the African clawless otter, West African manatee, baboon and Nile crocodile. Jackals, hyenas



and warthogs are found in the dry areas.

Guests can explore the creeks on trips operated by Tendaba Camp, which also provides lodging. Land access is available on the North Bank at Konte Kunda Njii, Katchang, Salikene and Njaba Kunda. There is also a locally-run camp in Duntu Mallang (turn south off the main road at No Kunda).

## River Gambia National Park



Located near the ancient stone circles at Wassu, River Gambia National Park encompasses five small islands dominated by gallery forest, seasonal swamp and savannah. Visitors may be lucky to spot the endangered hippopotamus, the largest remaining mammal in The Gambia. The park also hosts the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Project (CRP), which protects rescued chimps, and there are currently more than 80 individuals.



First introduced to the islands in 1979, the chimpanzee population now boasts three generations of wild born chimpanzees. Boat tours of the park give visitors a chance to view the chimpanzees at a safe distance. A special tour is included in a stay at the CRP's visitor facility; bookings must be made well in advance by calling 7878827 or 6868826.

Other limited tours which offer a more distant view of the islands from the main channel are available at nearby Janjanbureh through Bird Safari Camp and Janjanbureh Camp, which also offer reasonably priced accommodation. Residents of nearby in Kuntaur may also be able to take visitors through the channel. To reach the park, board the ferry from Banjul to Barra. At Barra car park, take a vehicle to Wassu and proceed to Kuntaur. If heading to Janjanbureh, board a vehicle heading directly to the town at Barra car park.



# Gambia Tours



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P.O.Box 217, Bijilo, Off The Bertil Harding Highway,  
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# STAYING OFF THE BEATEN TRACK



## Bird Safari Camp (BSC)

Located in Janjanbureh, deep in the bush, BSC is a tropical lodge set on the banks of the River Gambia at MacCarthy Island. This idyllic location provides the perfect base for those seeking a rural getaway and a change of tempo from the bustling beach resorts.

## Tendaba Camp

Located in Kiang, this safari style camp located nearly 165 kilometres from Banjul was one of the first tourist camps in rural Gambia. It is situated on the banks of the river, surrounded by woodland with plenty of birds, bush hogs and other wildlife. The camp has two bars and a restaurant, a swimming pool, meeting facilities – and even a crocodile pit, where one can see these ancient animals at rest. Tendaba also offers bush safaris, river trips, village tours and entertainment.

## Makasutu Culture Forest

Situated in Brikama, Makasutu was voted the 'best eco lodge in the world' by the Sunday Times. It is set in a 1000 acre reserve encompassing 5 different eco-systems. Makasutu offers an up-market experience in the wilderness, with day excursions available. In addition to 5 star luxury lodges, visitors can enjoy traditional tribal dancing, singing, drumming, guided canoe rides and bird watching. Guests can also visit a 'holy man'/fortune teller, try traditional medicines and remedies, or take lessons in pottery, cooking, furniture making or wood carving at the craft market.

## Sandele Eco Retreat

Located in Kartong, approximately 25 km from the main tourist area, Sandele Eco Retreat is set in the forest at the edge of miles of deserted beach. The high quality accommodation is located in unspoiled surroundings, and Sandele offers a wide range of activities for visitors. Sandele Eco Retreat has won a number of awards, including The Guardian's "Ethical Travel Award" and TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence.

## Njawara Cultural Camp

The camp is situated on the North Bank of the River Gambia, in the middle of the village under big mango and cotton trees. The village offers a cultural





experience in the presence of griots (traditional musicians and storytellers). Visitors can also experience everyday life in a multi-ethnic society. Njawara Cultural Camp is locally staffed and profits are used for the socio-economic development of the village.

## Brefet Cultural Camp

The camp is located in Foni Brefet, right in the River Gambia, surrounded by beautiful forest with many baobab trees. Brefet Cultural Camp offers a cultural experience in a multi-ethnic society, site seeing in the forest and excursions on the River Gambia for bird watching and fishing. 25% of the income generated goes to the village development fund for poverty alleviation.

## Tumani Tenda

The camp is located in Tumani Tenda village, a Jola village named after “Tumani” a peanut picker and “Tenda” riverbank. The accommodation provides a rural African experience, with trees, hammocks, bar and a restaurant. Various activities are on offer, including a history talk, visit to beekeepers, salt/soap making workshop, fishing, bird watching, a farming tour, oyster collection, tree planting, cow cart safari, local cuisine cooking lessons.

## Sindola Safari Camp

Located in the vicinity of Kanilai village, Sindola offers ‘luxury’ bush camping, with 40 grass thatched huts. Activities include bird watching, trekking with a park ranger, visiting the naturally formed fish pond and relaxing in the huge tropical garden covering 30,000 square meters. Entertainment includes folklore and African cultural dance programmes provided by the local villagers.

## Abca’s Creek Lodge

AbCa’s Creek Lodge is the newest lodge in Kassagne village in The Gambia. It is only 90 km from the coast which you can reach in one hour by drive. This lodge is sitting in a beautiful palm forest and untouched nature of Foni and Laying on one of the beautiful creeks of Gambia. At AbCa’s Creek Lodge you can be assured of 24/7 electricity from solar energy. You cannot be bored with the amount of species of birds you can spot in this forest and in the creek. This lodge provides you direct contact with

the local communities around the inlands. There are a lot of activities you can do in AbCa’s Creek Lodge, canoeing, boat trips in the mangroves, bike tours, home cooking, nature walks, safari through the villages of Foni, exploring the cultures and traditions in Gambia.

## Bintou’s Lodge

Welcome to Bintou’s Paradise Lodge located in Bansang. Central River Region of The Gambia. The lodge is situated at the river side on your left to Basse and on your right to Banjul. Good and comfortable rooms, open bar and restaurant, quite and conducive environment for all customers. Daily foods are available with all kinds of African and European dishes. Fantastic local foods such as bennachin, domodah, chicken Yassa and beverages are available.

## Kauren River Camp

Only 147 kms from Barra, Kauren River Camp is a new environmentally friendly retreat located in Kaur Wharf Town in the Lower Saloum District of the Central River Region of The Gambia. With its panoramic view overlooking the magical River Gambia and its unspoilt forest, the site is ideal for birdwatchers and other nature lovers. Kauren River Camp consists of two spacious en suite rooms with a pleasant veranda overlooking the majestic River Gambia. With a modern kitchen and a restaurant of generous seating capacity as well as good standard toilets and showers with running water on site, the camp could serve as a good camping site for adventurers who like to be closer to nature and for those who wish to find peace in a busy world. Kauren River Camp serves delicious lunches and sandwiches for up country visitors. Due to its strategic location, the camp is within an hour or so of the popular Wassu Stone Circles, a world heritage site, and the River Gambia National Park which is home to chimpanzees, hippos, birds and other wildlife



# EXCURSIONS AVAILABLE



## Creek Tours/River Trips/Fishing Trips

A peaceful and relaxing day out on the bolongs (creeks) of the River Gambia is not to be missed. Most creek tours and fishing trips start off from Denton Bridge or Lamin Lodge, but local camps in the rural areas along the river also organize such tours. The sundeck of your pirogue will give you a good view of the mangrove swamps, the birds and the women who are often seen harvesting oysters from their dug-out canoes. Enjoy the tranquility of The Gambia's great river.

## Bush and Beach Safari: South Gambia

Different operators have different names for this full day tour where you visit small fishing villages and experience life in the rural areas, see monkeys and experience the rich bird life of The Gambia. Several hours are spent on the beach, including a picnic lunch, followed by a drive back to the accompaniment of a stunning African sunset.

## Janjangbureh

Formerly called 'Georgetown', this is one of the oldest towns of The Gambia. The old 'second' city of colonial days is the administrative headquarters of the Central River Region; it is situated on the island of Janjangbureh, which still has relics of The Gambia's colonial past. There are a number of camps around the island and visits normally include a trip to the prehistoric Wassu Stone Circles – a megalithic site believed to be a burial ground thousands of years old. The trip sometimes includes a journey by river from Sapu or Kudang to Janjangbureh where hippos can be seen wallowing in the river and on the muddy banks. Basse and Bansang, two towns further up the River Gambia can also be visited.



## Ndemban

Situated 45 minutes from the Senegambia tourist area, activities include creek tours for bird watching and fishing. There are two forest parks and one of them – Kungbeng - has been sign posted for forest walks and bird watching, There is also a 'village walk' which includes a visit to the community garden, salt fields and the fish ponds/fish farm. Boats, fishing rods and nets are available for hire.

## Excursions

There are many variations of this half day trip, but it is generally a tour of Banjul and the surrounding area, and covers visits to the National Museum, Banjul Market, Arch 22, Serrekunda Market, Bakau Craft Markets and the legendary Katchikally Crocodile Pool.

## The Nation's Capital

Experience the flavours of West Africa with the beaches, sunshine and culture of Banjul, the capital city and government seat of The Gambia. Shop for locally made batik, silver filigree jewellery and other crafts. There are regular tours of the city, and it is the starting point for trips to all parts of the country and coastline.





# THE “ROOTS” EXPERIENCE



*This popular excursion inspired by Alex Haley’s best-selling novel (and drama) of the same name, takes us on an epic journey of slavery and freedom, beginning in the rural village of Juffureh, and tracking almost five generations across the Atlantic Ocean to the USA, and back to Africa.*

The Gambia’s history is interlaced in this story of survival, love of country, people and freedom, with evidence of tradition and culture still seen today. The trail of Kunta Kinteh, hero of this epic tale, can still be followed from his birthplace in rural Gambia.

A converted yacht takes you on a three and a half hour journey to Albreda, a former French trading post. Then, a 15 minute walk will take you to Juffureh, Haley’s ancestral home, where you will meet a descendant of the Kinteh family.

You can view the slavery exhibition at the museum in Albreda before boarding the boat and continuing your journey to the former slave fortress of James Island (Kunta Kinteh Island).

On the return journey, you may have the opportunity to swim with the dolphins...

For further information, contact your tour representative.



Photos courtesy of Trust Bank Limited / Studio361

# DON'T MISS THESE

*Here are some of The Gambia's attractions that you should not go home without experiencing:*



1. **Boat trips on the River Gambia.** One day or several days, enjoy the River Gambia and its countless tributaries.
2. **Abuko Nature Reserve.** Here you can see much of The Gambia's wildlife all in one day. Located 30 minutes from the coastal resort areas, you'll see green vervet monkeys, monitor lizards, hornbills - and perhaps the more secretive bushbuck and crocodiles.
3. **Serrekunda Market.** This is the biggest, liveliest market in The Gambia, situated not far from the coastal resort areas. You could spend days meandering through the rows of stalls selling everything from dried fish, local peanut butter and freshly ground baobab fruit, to animist trinkets, shoes in all colours, and many articles of clothing both new and used.
4. **Katchikally Crocodile Pool.** Where else in the world can you pet a fully grown adult crocodile and have your photo taken as proof? Located in the heart of Bakau, close to the tourist areas.
5. **Gambian Reptile Farm.** Situated between Gunjur and Kartong. Learn about Gambian wildlife and conservation here while getting a chance to hold a few of the specimens, including an African python.
6. **Makasutu Cultural Forest.** Enjoy an evening of local dance, drumming, and singing; explore the mangrove forests on guided pirogue tours; learn about traditional herbal medicine; or take a cooking and pottery class. Although this is a private eco-resort, you don't have to be a guest to take part in the full or half-day tours.
7. **Tanji fishing village.** Watch the fresh catch of the day being hauled to shore in large plastic buckets balanced perfectly on the heads of the local women. Bring a cooler/icebox and good bargaining skills.





# THE HUNTING DEVIL MASQUERADE

The Hunting devil is interesting to note that the Hunting Masquerade although African in nature and character, is a culture associated with christianity. Because of its Christian association the hunting society goes on recess each Lenten season during which period all activities are suspended.

Today in addition to going on hunting expeditions, hunters of the hunting society hold cultural performance with the hunting masquerade commonly known

as Hunting Devil which some people ignorantly associate with the Devil Satan. This masquerade is also believed to originate from the Yoruba clan known as Ijessa and is called egun odeh (hunters masquerade). It is dressed in bags, wears a head dress made of horns and decorated with cowrie shells or animal head carved out of wood. It displays many things derived from the forest such as snail shells, animal skins and palm fronds, a symbol of Christianity. When on procession the masquerade dances in front whilst the members stay behind singing and clapping with wooden clappers.

The first hunting society founded in The Gambia was the Diamond Hunting Society, then the Akpata Hunting Society a break away from Akpata. All three societies were based in Banjul. A fourth, Ebo Town Hunters, was founded in Serrekunda by the late Alex Metzger, a re-known hunter. The early pioneers of this culture in The Gambia included names such as Pa Shegun Grant, Dux Cole,

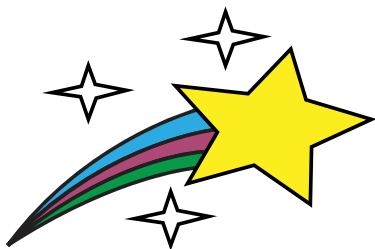


Pa Buckle, Pa Dayo, Uncle Gati, Master Williams and Dragingbug Cole.

Hunting masquerades perform on such occasions as the wedding of members, members' immediate relatives, the anniversary of the society, a deceased member and other occasions related to the hunters.

The best time to see the hunting mask in full action is around Christmas and New Year time when the streets of Banjul and much of urban Gambia are agog with festivities marked by masks parades, drumming and dancing. At this time of the year also the various hunting groups in Banjul hold their annual outings and ceremonies and guests could get invited or simply bump into one of the street hunting parades. Some hotels in the strip also have hunting as part of their regular nightly entertainment.





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L-R: The late Paps Touray, legendary Gambian Vocalist of Super Eagles and Ifangbondi fame. Musa 'Afia' Ngum lead vocalist for Gelewarr Band

L-R: Miss Mirabelle Carayol, Miss Gambia 1984. Mrs Yamiday Renner, nee Thomas, Miss Gambia 1965

## Excellence in the Arts Awards 2016

As part of the 2016 Tourism Awards the National Centre for Arts and Culture (NCAC) will co-host the '2016 Excellence in the Arts Awards Night' which is designed to honour deserving living and deceased achievers who have made invaluable contributions in the development of arts and culture in The Gambia.

It is envisaged that the Excellence in the Arts Awards will become an annual event organised NCAC on behalf of the Government of the Gambia to recognize the outstanding achievements of artists, arts organizations and groups both within and outside the country.

## Miss Gambia 2016

The first Miss Gambia Beauty Pageant was held in Bathurst, now Banjul, in 1964. The event thereafter took successive turns to be organized annually. With time the pageant became a prestigious national event that was well organized and patronized by Gambians. The crowned Beauty Queen for each year became an ambassador of good will for the country, representing the Gambia in sub-regional and other international beauty contests. She also attended other fora of national import and spoke on various platforms relevant to the national development agenda. The crowned Miss Gambia was a personality that extolled Gambian virtues and values, mirroring as it were, the unique qualities and credentials of the smiling coast in terms of culture, tourism, economy and social life.

2016 will see the re-birth of the Miss Gambia Pageant. The National Centre for Arts and Culture in collaboration with partners in the public and private sector will be organising the pageant after a fifteen year hiatus.



Illustration of new Albreda -Juffreh Information Centre

## Jufureh Revamp

As part of efforts to improve the Roots product, the GT Board with support of the MOTC is collaborating with the NCAC to revamp the Roots experience. Following consultative engagements with the stakeholders and subsequent feasibility studies, a French consulting company with long standing experience for developing heritage sites in Africa and other parts of the world CRATerre is providing technical assistance.

The second phase of the implementation of the project i.e. installation of state of the art and child friendly information panels at Kunta Kinteh Island, san Domingo, Portuguese chapel, CFAO building and design of the Albreda – Juffreh Info Centre were completed. The third and final phase which involves the construction works is expected to be completed in 2016.



## Bike For Africa 2016

### HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS

In 2016, we will be heading to West Africa, as this part of the continent has so much to offer and needs our support so badly. The third edition of Bike for Africa will bring a group of 70 Brussels Airlines employees and friends to Senegal and The Gambia. The cyclists have all have a soft spot for sports, for Africa and for helping others : together we aim to raise €150,000 for three humanitarian projects.

### “THE HORIZONS CLINIC” (THE GAMBIA)

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## Tourism Award Night

In the bid and strive to promote, recognize and appreciate quality tourism products and services, Gambia Tourism Board evaluates annually the product suites and corresponding services with the intent to honour, celebrate and award most deserving and performing establishments and personalities.

Through a panel of professional based judges, the celebration focuses on success stories, outstanding performances, innovation and creativity. Under the different award categories, establishments and personalities are assessed in fairness and equitable

manner to promote responsible competition and create the appropriate business environment for growth and development.

The tourism award night brings together all the players in the tourism sphere under one roof in a celebratory spirit and promote partnership, networking, and sharing best experiences and practices. Alongside the celebrations, the night event also celebrates spectacularly the culture, folklore and people of the destination, “the smiling coast of Africa”.





# KOMBO REAL ESTATE

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- BRUFUT TINTINTO HOUSING ESTATE
- BRUFUT GHANATOWN HOUSING ESTATE
- BRUFUT/ MAIAMA KUNDA HOUSING ESTATE
- BRUFUT HEIGHT HOUSING ESTATE
- BRIKAMA SANCHABA HOUSING ESTATE
- BRIKAMA MANDUWARR HOUSING ESTATE
- BRIKAMA JALANGBA HOUSING ESTATE
- KITTY HOUSING ESTATE
- GUNJUR/SIFOE HOUSING ESTATE PHASE1&2
- JAMBAJELLY HOUSING ESTATE PHASE1&2
- MAKUMBAYA HOUSING ESTATE1,2,3, & 4
- GUNJUR SANDALLY HOUSING ESTATE
- SANYANG COASTAL HOUSING ESTATE PHASE
- LAMIN HOUSING ESTATE
- SUKUTA/AIRPORTHIGHWAY HOUSING ESTATE PHASE 1&2
- OLD YUNDUM HOUSING ESTATE
- SUKUTA/ BIJILLO HOUSING ESTATE

PROPERTY VALUATION AND CONSTRUCTION // BUILDING MATERIAL EG. CEMENT,RODS ZINC ETC  
PROPERTY SALES // HOUSING FURNISHING // ESTATE DEVELOPMENT // LEASING // RENTINGS

### AFFORDABLE PRICE STRUCTURE

#### BRUFUT HOUSING ESTATE PHASE 1&2

Plot Size: 20mx20m  
Plot Cost (mortgage) D350,00.00  
Cash Payment: D300,00.00  
Deposit: 50% Down Payment  
\*Payment within 36 Months\*

#### BRUFUT HEIGHT HOUSING ESTATE

Plot Size: 25m X 25m / 20m X 20m  
Plot Cost: D1,600,000.00  
Cash Payment: 95%  
Deposit: 90%  
\*Pay within 3 Months\*

#### BRIKAMA MANDUWARR HOUSING ESTATE

Plot Size: 20m X 20m  
Plot Cost (mortgage): D99,000.00  
Cash Payment: 75,000.00  
Deposit: 2,000.00 / 6,000.00  
\*Pay within 36 Months\*

#### BRIKAMA JALANGBA HOUSING ESTATE

Plot Size: 20m X 20m  
Plot Cost (mortgage): D99,000.00  
Cash Payment: 75,000.00  
Deposit: 2,000.00 / 6,000.00  
\*Pay within 36 Months\*

#### JAMBAJELLY HOUSING ESTATE PHASE 1&2

Plot Size: 20m X 20m  
Plot Cost (mortgage): D99,000.00  
Cash Payment: 75,000.00  
Deposit: 2,000.00 / 6,000.00  
\*Pay within 36 Months\*

#### SANYANG HOUSING ESTATE PHASE 1&2

Plot Size: 20m X 20m  
Plot Cost (mortgage): D275,000.00  
Cash Payment: 225,000.00  
Deposit: 6,000.00  
\*pay Within 36 Months\*

#### SUKUTA HOUSING ESTATE PHASE 1&2

Plot Size: 20m x 20m  
Plot cost (Mortgage): D450,000.00  
Cash payment: 400,000.00  
Deposit: 50% Down Payment  
\*Pay within 12 months\*

#### OLD YUNDUM HOUSING ESTATE

Plot Size: 20m X 20m  
Plot Cost (mortgage): D325,000.00  
Cash Payment: 300,000.00  
Deposit: 50% Down Payment  
\*Pay within 6 Months\*

#### SUKUTA / BIJILLO HOUSING ESTATE

Plot Size: 25m X 25m / 30m X 30m  
Plot Cost (mortgage): D650,000.00 / 850,000.00 / 950,000.00  
Cash Payment: 80%  
Deposit: 90%  
\*Pay within 6 Months\*

#### GUNJUR "SALA" HOUSING ESTATE

Plot Size: 20m X 20m  
Plot Cost (mortgage): D99,000.00  
Cash Payment: 75,000.00

#### MAKUMBAYA HOUSING ESTATE PHASE 3&4

Plot Size: 20m X 20m  
Plot Cost (mortgage): D99,000.00  
Cash Payment: 75,000.00  
Deposit: 2,000.00 / 6,000.00  
\*Pay within 36 Months\*

#### BRUFUT / MARIAMA KUNDA HOUSING ESTATE

Plot Size: 20m X 20m  
Plot Cost (mortgage): D350,000.00  
Cash Payment: 275,000.00  
Deposit: 6,000.00  
\*Pay within 36 Months\*

and etc



# GETTING TO THE GAMBIA

## Entry Requirements

THIS

INFORMATION WILL HELP

YOU TREMENDOUSLY

Citizens of the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other nations with a reciprocal visa abolition agreement with The Gambia do not require a visa to enter the country, whether on holiday or on a business trip not exceeding 90 days. All other nationalities should possess a visa, which is available from any of the Gambian embassies and consulates: London, Paris, Washington DC, Brussels, Taipei, Rabat, Jeddah, Havana, Dakar, Lagos, Freetown and Guinea Bissau. Citizens from France, Portugal, Switzerland, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Belgium, Poland and Russia are exempted from visa from October to April.

Tourists and others travelling on last minute bookings will be allowed entry but will be required to submit their passport to the Department of Immigration in Banjul within 48 hours to be issued a proper visa.

### For further information, contact:



#### United Kingdom

The Gambia Tourism Board  
92 Ledbury Road, London  
W11 2AH, UK.  
Tel: 0044 207 229 9633  
Fax: 0044 207 229 9042  
Email: [ukgtb@gtboard.gm](mailto:ukgtb@gtboard.gm)  
Web: [www.go-gambia.com](http://www.go-gambia.com)  
[www.visitthegambia.gm](http://www.visitthegambia.gm)

The Gambia High Commission  
92 Ledbury Road, London  
W11 2AH, UK.  
Tel: 0044 207 229 8066  
Fax: 0044 207 229 9225  
Email: [gambiahighcomuk@btconnect.com](mailto:gambiahighcomuk@btconnect.com)

#### USA

Embassy of The Gambia  
2233 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Georgetown Plaza, Suite 240  
Washington, DC 20007, USA  
Tel: (202) 785 1399  
Fax: (202) 785 1430  
Email: [info@gambiaembassy.us](mailto:info@gambiaembassy.us)  
Web: [www.gambiaembassy.us](http://www.gambiaembassy.us)

#### Belgium

Gambia Embassy Brussels  
Avenue Franklin D, Roosevelt  
126, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

#### Spain

Gambia Embassy Spain  
C/ Hernández Iglesias No. 20B  
Madrid, 28027  
TEL: (00) 34-91 4361792  
FAX: (00) 34-91 4087529  
Email: [info@gambiaembassy.es](mailto:info@gambiaembassy.es)  
Web: [www.gambiaembassy.es](http://www.gambiaembassy.es)

#### France

Embassy of The Gambia  
7 ter, rue Leonard De Vinci  
75016, Paris, France  
Tel: +33 1 7274 8261

## Nigeria

The Gambia High Commissioner  
in Nigeria  
No 7 Misratah Street  
Off Parakon Crescent  
P.M.B 5058 Wuse 11  
Abuja

## Health Requirements

An International Certificate of Vaccination is no longer compulsory for visitors to The Gambia. However, a yellow fever vaccination will be required for visitors from Europe and North America. The last outbreak of yellow fever in The Gambia was in 1978 and there is no immediate danger to visitors. Anti-malaria medicine is however recommended and visitors should consult their doctors on which pills to take. Visitors are also advised to bring along insect repellents, sun screen, anti-fungal creams and disinfectant. As they may prove expensive or unobtainable in certain parts of the country. There are several hospitals and clinics operated by the Government as well as by private practitioners which provide both therapeutic and preventative healthcare.

## Travel Insurance

Visitors are advised to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering the following:

- Injury
- Death
- Illness
- Personal belongings
- Baggage damage/loss or delay

## Duty Free

The following goods and quantities may be imported into The Gambia duty free:

- Cigarettes – 200
- Cigars – 50
- Tobacco – 250 grams
- Alcohol – spirits: 1 litre; beer or wine: 1 litre.
- Other goods – up to a value of D1000.00.

For further information on duty free restrictions, please contact the Director General of Customs and Excise in Banjul.

## By Air

There are a number of tour operator chartered flights to The Gambia. Most of these operate only in the winter months (November to April). Some charters operate throughout the year, as do some scheduled airlines serving Banjul International Airport.

### From the USA

Brussels Airline, Connecting flights available from Europe

### From the UK

Thomas Cook, Gambia Experience.

### From Morocco

Royal Air Maroc.

### From Scandinavia

Thomas Cook Scandinavia, Brussels Airline

### From Belgium

Brussels Airline

## From Holland

TUI Holland (Arke fly),  
Travelpoort, Sundio Group,  
Corendon

## From Spain

Vueling, Binter Canaries

## From Germany

Brussels Airline and Vueling, connecting flights available from other European Countries

## From the United States

Connecting flights available from Europe.

## From the West African sub-region

Arik Air, Royal Air Maroc, Senegal Airlines.

## By Sea

Banjul has a deep-sea port, which receives several cruise ships a year.

Container ships and other freighters call into Banjul Port from all over the world.

## By Road

There is a road link between Dakar and Banjul; the journey takes between five and six hours. There is also a road link with Ziguinchor, in Southern Senegal, and Bissau. A four-wheel drive vehicle is highly recommended for these journeys.



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# NATIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ACTIVITY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE
<b>Banjul Cultural Festival</b> By Banjul City Council	25th December -1st January Annual	It's a long-standing display of the local Banjul culture and masquerade parade each Christmas day to New Year's in January.	Showcase the traditional masks and masquerades of the ethnics in Banjul both Christians and Muslims living in harmony.
<b>Bike for Africa</b>	January 2016	Bike for Africa will bring a group of 70 Brussels Airlines employees and friends to Senegal and The Gambia. The cyclists have all have a soft spot for sports, for Africa and for helping others. Together the aim is to raise €150,000 for three humanitarian projects.	THE HORIZONS CLINIC" (THE GAMBIA) Training of midwives, invest in cleaning staff and products to lower infection rates and decrease mortality in 5 Gambian childbirth facilities over a period of 5 years.
<b>Sanyang International Cultural Festival</b> By Sanyang Village Development Committee	January (Last weekend) Annual	This festival showcases the Sanyang's cultures and traditions in their diversity from the 4 human life cycle ceremonies of birth, circumcision, marriage and burial till day break.	A celebration of diverse cultures living in peace and harmony and showcasing their cultural and traditional rituals to the visitors.
<b>Kartong Festival</b> By Kartong Community Development Association	February (2nd weekend) Annual	This festival includes a cultural display of various choreographic dances and traditional music of the two border communities of Kartong in the Gambia and Casamance in Senegal for a long weekend.	Raise revenues for the local community as well as putting Kartong and Casamance on the same platform to showcase their similarity.
<b>Independence Day Celebration</b> By the State	18th February Annual	A public holiday for a national celebration, the day commemorates the date of independence from British colonial rule in 1965.	It marks the date the Gambia became a sovereign nation.
<b>Food and Beverage Festival</b> By Gambia Tourism Board	February (first week) Annual	This festival showcases the Gambia's hospitality and culinary art in its diversity.	.The proceeds from the car auctions are given to local charities which address the basic needs of the under-privileged or less fortunate Gambians, especially in the rural areas supported by JFP.
<b>Amsterdam/ Plymouth Banjul Rally</b> By Jammeh Foundation for Peace	March (1st week) Annual	Plymouth Banjul Rally is a charity rally that starts from Plymouth, UK, through other countries with Banjul as its ultimate destination.	Geared towards poverty alleviation. The proceeds from the car auctions are given to local charities which address the basic needs of the under-privileged or less fortunate Gambians, especially in the rural areas supported by JFP.



<b>Trade Fair</b> By Gambia Chamber of Commerce (GCCl)	March Annual	A trade fair organized to expand business opportunities for enterprises and create private sector jobs	The trade fair allows exhibitors to showcase what their Institutions / businesses have to offer to the general public and their clientele.
<b>Bureng (Koosee) Cultural Festival</b> by Bureng Cultural Society	March (mid ) Annual	A Mandinka festival with the quest to preserve traditional cultural practices after the harvest period.	The reborn of this festival has awakened the new generation of Mandinka on the need to take pride in their cultural traditions.
<b>Maribantang/ Dankunku Cultural Festival</b> By Maribang Society	March Last weekend Biennial and routine with Essau	Held in Dankunku village, this two-day event is aimed at showcasing the cultural heritage of this manding settlement in Maribantang.	To maintain and preserve its rich cultural heritage for the younger generation. The young learn the rituals, norm and values from the older generations.
<b>Essau Worosso Cultural Festival</b> By Essau Cultural Society	March / April Last weekend Biennial and routine with Maribantang	The Worosso Festival is a celebration of the first manding settlers of the Gambia River banks from the Great Mali Empire.	A celebration of their ancestral lineage from the 7 pillars of Nuimi and re unification to showcase their common heritage.
<b>May Day Sports</b> By the State	May 1st Annual	This is a national holiday where workers across the length and breadth of greater Banjul area converge at the Independence Stadium to take part in various sporting activities.	Workers of various institutions come together, socialize and show solidarity in physical exercises.
<b>International Roots Festival</b> By the Ministry of Tourism and Culture	May (2nd week) Biennial	The Gambia's most popular international festival. Organized once in every two years, the festival programme is characterized by visits to heritage sites relating to slavery; the futampaf, a Jola traditional initiation/rites of passage ceremony from youth to adulthood in which visitor's can partake; and diverse cultural performances.	This is designed to encourage and provide opportunity for Africans in the Diaspora to re-discover their roots and re-connect, re-affirm and re-embrace their ancestral identity.
<b>Kanilai International Cultural Festival</b> By the President	May/ June Biennial (alternates with Roots)	Held in the village of Kanilai, the President's birth place. The festival programme features music, dance, masquerades, drama, wrestling and mystical displays in the form of competitions.	Showcase Africa's rich and diverse mystical cultural heritage to the world as part of the President's Pan-Africanist agenda.
<b>Jamoral Cultural Festival</b> By the Jamoral Society	June (beginning )	The Jamoral Festival is a biannual re-union of the Bojang, Manga, & Badjan families of Senegal & The Gambia who share the same ancestral lineage, totems and cultural beliefs.	To re-unite the Bojang & Manga families in the sub-region. It is geared towards celebrating and strengthening family ties.
<b>July 22nd Celebrations</b> by the State	22nd July	This is a celebration of the July 22nd Revolution and the birth of our Second Republic .	The nation celebrates the July 22nd revolution and the birth of the second republic of the Gambia.
<b>Tobaski / Koriteh Day</b>	Islamic Calendar Annual	Depending on the sight of the moon Muslims observe the month of Ramadan fasting and end after a month with a religious celebration and solidarity with the family. Tobaski is further punctuated with ram sacrifices in tandem with the pilgrimage in Mecca.	A religious observation and celebration that is enshrine in the Muslim's Holy Book and observed by Muslims all over the world.

<b>Kayong Kalon Cultural Festival</b> By Kayorn Kalorn Association	October (held in the dry season)	It is a festival of the Karoninka clan. They come together annually to showcase their performance traditions as part of a desire to sustain their language and culture which is on the verge of extinction.	To celebrate and maintain the Karoninka ancestral linkages and revival of their culture for the young generations.
<b>Open Mic Festival</b>	December	This is the most celebrated Gambian youth musical festival held under the backdrop of rising Gambian musical talents and showcasing the best of music of the year.	Identifying the best of Gambian talents also assist in marketing Gambian music beyond Gambian borders.
<b>Christmas Celebration</b>	25th December -1st January Annual	The annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth held every December 25.	Christians all over the world celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. In the Gambia, It is celebrated by both Christians and nominal Muslims to showcase
<b>Bajana Marathon</b>	1st week in April	Bajana International Marathon and Cultural festival has been initiated by The Gambia Volunteers Trust (GVT) in 2013. It is an annual event which aims to promote rural sports activities, a display of traditional Gambian cultural activities and to promote tourism in the rural villages of The Gambia. The event takes place at Bajana Village in Foni Berefet.	Bajana International Marathon and Cultural Festival promotes The Gambia globally which helps to bring tourists to The Gambia and contributes to meeting Gambia's vision 2020.
<b>Fishing competition</b> (Beach Casting)	11th -16th November	The boat competition is for sea fishing and includes the Anglers as well as the Skippers. It is also an annual event with prizes given to specific categories.	The boat fishing competition is helping to provide an enhanced nature product
<b>Upcoming International African Bird Fair</b>	21ST -25th October, 2016	Gambia diversity of habitats and ecosystems, varying from riverine forest, dry savannahs, rivers, wetlands to estuaries, rice fields, saltmarsh, mangroves and almost 80 km shoreline, these mosaic of habitats and ecosystems altogether support a staggering 550 species of birds, a third of which are migrant species	An all year round birding destination that will promote conservation of wildlife in The Gambia. This will increase number of bird watchers to the Gambia and help to develop bird watching as a niche tourism product
<b>Niumi Badiya Festival</b>	1st weekend of April yearly in Juffureh, but Alternatively with Toubacouta, Senegal	The Gambia and Senegal both share deep historical, cultural and ancestral ties. The villages of Juffureh and Albreda are situated in the North Bank Region of the River Gambia. Tourists have been visiting these villages since 1976, when Alex Haley's book 'Roots' was first published.	It is the need to preserve such cultural values allowing our communities to live in peace and harmony that the "Nuimi Badiya"



# SPEAK THE LANGUAGE

## A few words of Wolof and Mandinka...

**Most common greeting: Salaam aleikum, which means "Peace be upon you". The reply is Maleekum salaam which means "and peace be upon you" (Arabic)**

## Making conversation

### ENGLISH

Farewell  
Good morning  
Good afternoon  
Good evening  
Good night  
How are you?  
How is it?  
I am fine  
How is your family?  
They are fine  
What is your name?  
My name is Modou  
Where are you going?  
Where do you come from?  
I come from Banjul  
I am going to the beach  
No  
Yes  
Thank you

### WOLOF

Be Bennen Yon  
Naka subasi  
Naka bechek bi  
Naka ngon si  
Fanan Jamma  
Naka nga deff  
Nakam  
Mang fi rek  
Naka wa kerr gi  
Nyunchi Jamma  
Nakaga Tuda?  
Sama Tur Modou La  
Foi Dem?  
Fan nga jogey  
Mangey jogey Banjul  
Mangey dem si beach bi  
Dedet  
Waaw  
Jerejef

### MANDINKA

Foo Watido  
Esama  
Etinyang  
Ewulara  
Suto Yediya  
Kori tanante  
Kairabe  
Tenante  
Sumoo Lee  
Sumolu Kontou  
Elondi?  
Nto mu Modou Le ti  
Eka ta minto le?  
Ebata minto le  
Nboto Banjul le  
Hani  
Ha  
Abaraka



# Social Media and e-Platforms

In today's business environment, social media and e-Platforms have proved that they are marketing forces to be reckoned with.

**"Get onboard or be left behind!"** This is the view that the Gambia Tourism Board has adopted and we are committed to setting the pace in The Gambia on social media using this powerful electronic marketing tool. We believe in the 'value for money' concept that social media accords tourism destinations like ours especially amidst the ever growing uncertainty of the true value inherent in international media advertising of Tourism Destinations.

***The Gambia Tourism Board invites you to visit its numerous e-Marketing and Social Media platforms, which includes:***

- **Our Website at [www.go-gambia.com](http://www.go-gambia.com)**

We are currently working on bringing you an interactive website with capabilities that would ensure social media networking, enquiries, downloading of forms, uploading of forms, and intelligence generation, amongst others.

- **Our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/gogambia](http://www.facebook.com/gogambia)**

Visit this page to read the various testimonials of tourists that have visited the destination and to see breathtaking pictures of the various vacation highlights of tourists. Also read interesting comments and keep abreast of developments in Destination Gambia.

- **Our Newsletter at <http://mad.ly/signups/93794/join>**

Want to know what is going on in Destination Gambia? Want to know the latest product development initiatives? Want to be in the know of our marketing and promotional activities around the world? Want to know about Government plans for the industry and what the movers and shakers of the industry are up to? If yes, then you cannot afford not to subscribe to our Newsletter. Visit the website and place your subscription today for regular periodic updates on destination Gambia

- **Our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/gogambia1>**

If you are a 'seeing is believing' type individual then this is for you. On our YouTube platform, you can learn at first hand unfolding events on Destination Gambia. Within this platform you will get to see our new Destination Promotional Video, some videos showcasing outdoor activities that you can engage in whilst in The Gambia, and off course a video showcasing tourists having a splendid vacation amidst the confusion of Ebola in West Africa – Yes, we are Ebola Free and we pray it stays that way.

- **Our Twitter feed at <https://twitter.com/gogambia>**

If you are the 'posting' type then follow us on LinkedIn and keep abreast of the views, reviews, comments, positives and negative posts all well intended and in efforts to make Destination Gambia a better holiday spot for you the Tourist.

***Equally, follow us also on:***

Pinterest at [www.pinterest.com/visitgambia6](http://www.pinterest.com/visitgambia6)

Google Plus at <https://plus.google.com/+visitgambiagogambia/posts>

LinkedIn at <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/gambia-tourism-board/83/773/673>



# Tourism Industry Associations

## Gambia Hotel Association

This is the umbrella organisation for most of the hotels in the country. The association plays a leading role in the promotion of tourism in The Gambia, financing its activities through an annual membership subscription based on the number of rooms and other special contributions when necessary. Meetings are held every month to review matters affecting its members or the tourism sector in general. The Chairman of the association is elected every year with the possibility of re-election.

[www.gambiahotels.gm](http://www.gambiahotels.gm)

## Tourism and Travel Association of The Gambia

The Tourism and Travel Association of The Gambia (TTAG) was originally formed as the Association of Ground Tour Operators to ensure safe passage of visitors in The Gambia. The TTAG has since opened its doors to other sectors of the Tourist Industry such as restaurants, bars, car hire and shops. Members are committed to following the Code of Conduct which has been set out by the Gambia Government in order to protect and ensure the safety of all Citizens and tourists alike.

[info@ttaggambia.com](mailto:info@ttaggambia.com)

## Association of Small Scale Enterprises in Tourism (ASSET)

ASSET was established in April 2000 to bring together, advocate for, and promote the interests of small enterprises in the tourism industry in The Gambia. These businesses include craft market vendors, tourist taxi drivers, official tourist guides, juice pressers and fruit sellers, as well as a number of small hotels, guest houses and ground tour operators.

ASSET has been recognised by the Gambia Tourism Board (GTB) as an important voice for the previously voiceless, and has become a leading player in the Gambian Responsible Tourism Partnership programme that is being led by the GTB. This programme brings together the principal stakeholders in the tourism industry (government, tour operators, ground handlers, hoteliers and small scale businesses) in order to ensure that the adverse impacts of tourism are minimised and that maximum benefits are gained by local people and their communities.

[Info@asset-gambia.com](mailto:Info@asset-gambia.com) ; [www.asset-gambia.com](http://www.asset-gambia.com)

## Gambia Craft Market Federation

The Gambia Craft Market Federation, launched on 15th July, 2012, is an association of 1,000 craft vendors and artisans. The primary objective of the federation is to bring all craft vendors and artisans under one roof for the production, marketing and promotion of Gambian arts and crafts in the Tourism Industry.

There are six Craft Markets in country and these can be found within the Senegambia Strip, Fajara area, Kombo Beach/ Bungalow Beach area, Banjul Market, Bakau Market, and Brikama.

Cape Point Craft Market

Tel: (220) 774-2929/994-4450/778-4537/994-0278



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