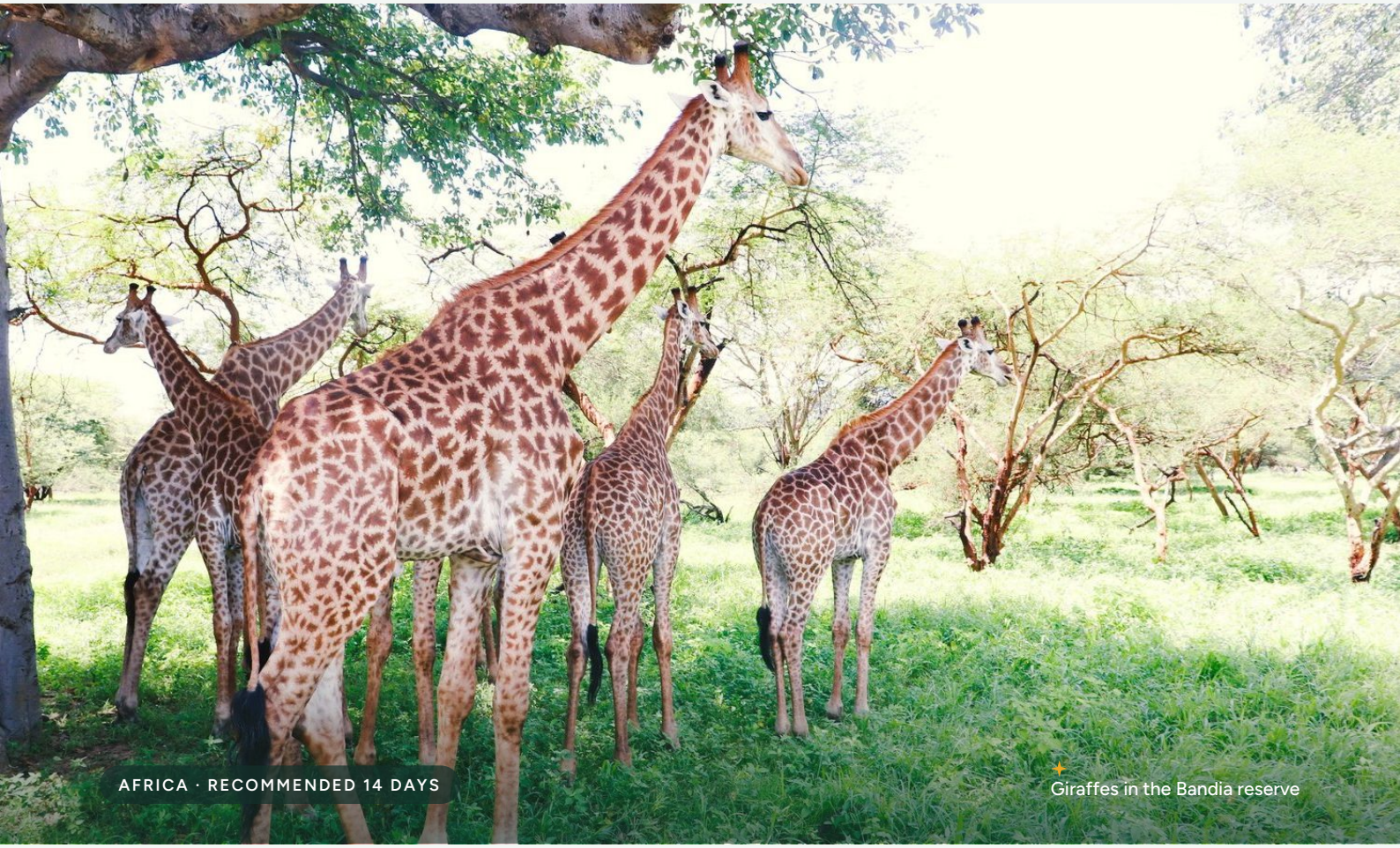
Steennot Travels

FULLY ARRANGED PRIVATE TRIP
NO FIXED DEPARTURE DATES



Giraffes in the Bandia reserve

Northern Senegal

From Gorée and Lac Rose past the Lompoul dunes and colonial Saint-Louis to the baobabs of Bandia and the mangroves of the Saloum

RECOMMENDED LENGTH	DATES	TRANSPORT	ESTIMATED FROM, EXCL. FLIGHT
14 days	**Your choice** you pick the dates	**Private driver** and private transfers	**€1,680** p.p.

I arrange this 14-day round trip in full for you. You start in Dakar and on Gorée Island, see Lac Rose and stay overnight in Lompoul near the orange dunes. In colonial Saint-Louis you stroll past balconies and shutters, watch the painted pirogues of Guet Ndar and glide among thousands of pelicans and flamingos in the Djoudj bird sanctuary. Then you drive to the quiet Somone lagoon and the Bandia reserve, with giraffes and rhinos among the baobabs. Via the shell island of Fadiouth you travel on to the Sine Saloum Delta, explored by pirogue, and in Toubacouta the Bamboung marine reserve, a game drive in Fathala and thousands of birds at sunset await. You choose your own departure date and adapt the route as you like.

- ✓ Personally composed
- ✓ No group travel
- ✓ At your own pace
- ✓ Leave out or add what you like
- ✓ Dates of your choice
- ✓ Eat wherever you like

Highlights

- Gorée Island (UNESCO) and the House of Slaves
- Salt harvesting at Lac Rose and a night in Lompoul near the orange dunes
- Saint-Louis (UNESCO): colonial houses with balconies and the painted pirogues of Guet Ndar
- The Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (UNESCO): by pirogue among pelicans and flamingos (mid-October to end of April)
- Giraffes, rhinos and zebras among ancient baobabs in the Bandia reserve, and by pirogue or kayak through the mangroves of the Somone lagoon
- Shell island Fadiouth, pirogue trips through the Sine Saloum Delta mangroves and the Palmarin salt flats
- Toubacouta: the village-run Bamboung reserve, a game drive in Fathala with the rare giant eland and thousands of birds at sunset

Best time to travel

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

best time to travel: advice only, you travel when you like

TRAVELLERS
Only your own party, from 1 traveller. No group travel, no fellow travellers you don't know.

LENGTH
Recommended: 14 days · shorter or longer is always possible

DATES
Completely flexible: you leave on the day that suits you.

Your route on the map



Map: Natural Earth (public domain) · the arcs show the order of the route, not the exact road

1. **Dakar**
   2 nights · day 1–2
- Lac Rose (visit on the way) day 3
2. **Lompoul dunes (between Mboro and Lompoul)**
   1 night · day 3
3. **Saint-Louis**
   3 nights · day 4–6
4. **Somone**
   2 nights · day 7–8
- Joal-Fadiouth (visit on the way) day 9
5. **Sine Saloum (Palmarin/Ndangane)**
   2 nights · day 9–10
6. **Toubacouta**
   2 nights · day 11–12
7. **Dakar (near the airport)**
   1 night · day 13

overland, arrow = direction of travel · day trip
airport / connection



DAY 3 Salt boats on pink Lac Rose (Retba), seen from above



DAY 4 The iron Faidherbe Bridge to Saint-Louis island



DAY 9 The shared cemetery on a shell mound at Fadiouth

My recommended route

This is the route as I put it together for you. It is a starting point, not a fixed programme: leave out what doesn't appeal to you, add what you would like to do and travel at your own pace. Everything below is arranged for you in advance.

DAY 1 **Arrival in Dakar** DAKAR

Flight to Dakar (direct flight of approx. 6 hours, arriving late afternoon). Your private driver waits in the arrivals hall of Blaise Diagne airport (AIBD) with a name board and takes you in about an hour to your hotel on or near the Corniche, the coast road along the ocean. The evening is free: I give you my favourite places for a first yassa poulet, chicken in a tangy onion and lemon sauce, and you choose where to eat.

DAY 2 **Dakar and Gorée Island** DAKAR

Your driver drops you at the ferry (20 min) to Gorée. You walk at your own pace through the car-free lanes, past the pastel houses and the House of Slaves, a moving memorial to the transatlantic slave trade. In the afternoon your driver takes you along the Corniche, past the African Renaissance Monument and to the Soumbédioune craft market.



The pastel-coloured houses of Gorée, seen from the water

DAY 3 **Via Lac Rose to the Lompoul dunes** LOMPOUL

Your driver takes you in about an hour to Lac Rose (Retba), where salt harvesters scoop salt by hand from the pink water; a 4x4 drives you over the dunes to the ocean. Then north along the Grande Côte to the orange sand dunes between Mboro and Lompoul (approx. 2 hours), close to the ocean. You stay in Lompoul: at Comfort and Premium in a lodge at the edge of the dunes, with dinner at your lodging (there are no restaurants nearby); at Budget in a guest house in the seaside fishing village, with breakfast (dinner at your own cost, restaurant on the spot). Sunset on the dunes.

DAY 4 **To Saint-Louis** SAINT-LOUIS

Early risers see the sun come up over the dunes. After breakfast your driver takes you in about 2 hours to Saint-Louis, the old capital at the mouth of the Senegal River. You cross the iron Faidherbe Bridge to the island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and explore at your own pace the streets of colonial houses with balconies and shutters. The evening is free: I give you my addresses for a thieboudienne, rice with fish, the national dish that was born here.

DAY 5 **Saint-Louis and the fishermen of Guet Ndar** SAINT-LOUIS

On the Langue de Barbarie, the narrow spit between the river and the ocean, lies Guet Ndar, one of the busiest fishing quarters in West Africa. In the late afternoon you watch hundreds of painted pirogues come ashore. The rest of the day is free: a walk around the island, a terrace by the river or your hotel pool. A local guide is possible if you wish (on request).

DAY 6 **The Djoudj bird sanctuary** SAINT-LOUIS

Early start with your driver for the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (approx. 1–1.5 hours), one of the most important wintering grounds for migratory birds in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In one of the park's pirogues you glide past thousands of pelicans, flamingos, herons and cormorants. The park is open from mid-October to the end of April, with most birds from December to March; if you travel between May and mid-October, this becomes a free day in Saint-Louis. Back to Saint-Louis in the afternoon.



Pelicans on an islet in the Djoudj bird sanctuary

DAY 7 **To the Somone lagoon** SOMONE

A travel day: your driver takes you via Thiès and the motorway to the Petite Côte (approx. 4.5 hours). Somone is a quiet village by a lagoon that the community itself manages as a nature reserve. Free evening on the beach.

DAY 8

The Bandia reserve and the lagoon SOMONE

You leave early, as the animals are most active in the morning: in a quarter of an hour you reach the Bandia reserve. In one of the reserve's 4x4s, with the compulsory Bandia guide on board, you drive for about 1.5–2 hours among ancient baobabs and acacias, looking for giraffes, rhinos, zebras, buffalo and eland. In the late afternoon you glide by pirogue or kayak (your choice) through the mangroves of the lagoon, where pelicans, herons, terns and, in season, flamingos rest.

DAY 9

Via shell island Fadiouth to the Sine Saloum SINE SALOUM (PALMARIN/NDANGANE)

A short travel day along the Petite Côte (approx. 1.5–2 hours' driving in total). In Joal you walk across the long wooden bridge to Fadiouth, the island literally built on shells, with its granaries on stilts and the shared Christian-Muslim cemetery that symbolises Senegalese religious tolerance; a young local from the village tourist office walks with you, which is part of the entrance fee. After lunch at your own pace your driver continues to the Sine Saloum Delta, a UNESCO biosphere reserve of mangroves, bolongs (creeks) and islands. Stay in a waterside lodge, dinner included (there are no restaurants nearby).

DAY 10

Pirogue through the delta and the Palmarin salt flats SINE SALOUM (PALMARIN/NDANGANE)

Morning trip in a private pirogue with a local boatman through the mangroves, past fishing villages and oyster beds. In Premium you spend 4 hours on the ecolodge's own pirogue, with a picnic on their private beach on the island of Mar Lodj (drinks included). After a midday rest you explore the Palmarin area by bike or horse cart: the salt wells in the tannes (salt flats), where the village women harvest salt under colourful tarpaulins, the lagoons of the community reserve and a Serer village. Sunset over the lagoon and dinner at the lodge.



Mangroves along a creek in the Sine Saloum Delta

DAY 11

To Toubacouta and the Bamboung marine reserve TOUBACOUTA

Via Kaolack to Toubacouta in the south of the delta (approx. 3 hours). In the afternoon a private pirogue with a boatman from the villages takes you to the community-managed Bamboung marine protected area; with luck you will see dolphins. Sunset over the bolongs and dinner at the lodge.

DAY 12

The Fathala reserve and the birds of the bolongs TOUBACOUTA

Early in the morning, when the animals are most active, a 15-minute drive takes you to the Fathala reserve, 6,000 hectares of dry forest on the edge of the Saloum Delta National Park. The game drive is in the reserve's open vehicle with a ranger at the wheel: giraffes, rhinos, buffalo, red colobus monkeys and above all the rare giant (Derby) eland, for which Fathala runs a conservation programme. I deliberately do not book the 'lion walk' with tame lions. After a quiet afternoon at the lodge a pirogue takes you to the reposoir des oiseaux, a mangrove islet where thousands of herons, egrets and cormorants settle for the night at sunset. Dinner at the lodge.

DAY 13

Back to Dakar DAKAR (LUCHTHAVEN)

After breakfast your driver takes you via Kaolack and Mbour to your hotel close to Dakar airport (approx. 3.5 hours): that way you fly home tomorrow without stress. The pool or a nearby beach is the place to rest after the trip.

DAY 14

Free day and flight home

A quiet last day: sleep in, the pool or a nearby beach, and after check-out you can leave your luggage at the hotel until you leave. In the evening your driver takes you to Dakar airport for your flight home. You are home the next day. In the week after you get home I call you for a debrief: how was it, and what could be better?

What I arrange for you

1 **Pickup on arrival**
Your driver waits for you with a name board in the arrivals hall of Blaise Diagne airport (Dakar) and takes you to your hotel in about 1 hour.

2 **Hotels**
Every night is booked and confirmed in advance, at the level you choose: Budget, Comfort or Premium. Prefer another hotel? I change it.

3 **Transport**
A private driver and private transfers for the whole route, with domestic flights, trains and boats where they make sense. All booked in advance.

4 **Activities, at your pace**
The activities and entrance tickets on the route. No guide or group travels with you: you set the pace, and anything you would rather skip, you simply leave out.

5 **Eat wherever you like**
Breakfast is included, as are the meals at remote camps and lodges where there is no alternative. For the rest I give you my restaurant tips, but you are completely free to choose where you eat. I never recommend a place because I earn a commission on it.

Estimated prices per person

PER PERSON, BASED ON 2 TRAVELLERS, EXCL. INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

ACCOMMODATION LEVEL	Self-drive rental car, everything pre-booked	Private driver private transfers and driver
Budget simple, clean and well located	–	**€1,680** p.p.
Comfort characterful mid-range	–	**€1,970** p.p.
Premium the best addresses on the ground	–	**€2,930** p.p.

WITH 3 OR 4 TRAVELLERS	the price per person is calculated per party size: you share rooms and transport. E.g. Comfort, private driver: 3 travellers €1,850 p.p., 4 travellers €1,740 p.p.
TRAVELLING SOLO	calculated price for 1 traveller, with your own room and transport. E.g. Comfort, private driver: €3,630 p.p.
INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT	I'm happy to book your flight for you, or you book it yourself; if I book it, the flight price for your dates is in your personal quote. International return flight to Dakar not included; I am happy to book it for you, or you book it yourself.

SELF-DRIVE: NOT OFFERED ON THIS ROUTE
I deliberately do not offer self-drive in Senegal. Traffic is unpredictable (overloaded trucks, livestock and unlit vehicles) and the distances between the dunes, Saint-Louis and the Saloum are long. With a dedicated driver who knows the roads and the people, you travel more safely and see more.

WITH A PRIVATE DRIVER
You travel in an air-conditioned private car with a driver who knows the route, helps where needed and stops wherever you like. On day 1 he waits for you in the arrivals hall of Blaise Diagne airport, and on the evening of day 14 he takes you back to the airport.

ESTIMATED PRICES Estimated prices: per person, based on 2 travellers sharing a room, excl. international flight, estimated from desk research (2027 price level). The binding price is the one in your personal proposal and booking confirmation.

Estimated price. In high season the price can be higher, in low season lower; your exact price is in your personal quote.

Three accommodation levels

Budget

Small, simple guesthouses, B&Bs and lodges, often with a pool or garden, air-conditioned where possible: a guesthouse in Dakar, a guest house in the seaside fishing village near Lompoul, a guesthouse in the old town of Saint-Louis, a small guesthouse with a pool in Ngaparou, next to Somone, a small lodge on the lagoon in the Saloum, a guesthouse in Toubacouta and a small hotel on the coast at Toubab Dialaw for the last night, not far from the airport.

Comfort

Characterful mid-range hotels, eco-lodges and maisons d'hôtes, often with a pool: a welcoming hotel in Dakar, a comfortable dune lodge near Lompoul, a maison d'hôtes in the old town of Saint-Louis, a villa guesthouse in Somone, a waterside eco-lodge in the Saloum, a lodge in Toubacouta and a guest house close to the airport.

Premium

The best available in each place: a five-star seafront hotel in Dakar, a comfortable dune lodge near Lompoul, an atmospheric boutique hotel in Saint-Louis, a charming boutique villa in Somone, the finest eco-lodge in the Saloum (with its own pirogue), a lodge on the edge of a wildlife reserve near Toubacouta and a villa hotel close to the airport. In small places 'premium' stays small-scale and charming rather than international luxury.

Possible guided moments

Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

Included

- ✓ 13 nights at your chosen level (Budget, Comfort or Premium), double room with breakfast; on the last day you can leave your luggage at the hotel near the airport after check-out until you leave
- ✓ Breakfast every day, and dinner in Lompoul (day 3, Comfort and Premium only) and at the remote lodges in the Sine Saloum and Toubacouta (days 9–12), where there are no restaurants nearby
- ✓ Pickup at Dakar airport with a name board on day 1 and the transfer to the airport for your flight home on day 14
- ✓ Private air-conditioned car with driver for the whole route, fuel and tolls included
- ✓ All listed excursions and entrance fees: Gorée ferry, Lac Rose (4x4), Djoudj (the park's pirogue), Bandia (4x4 with the compulsory reserve guide), pirogue or kayak on the Somone lagoon, Fadiouth (with the young local from the village tourist office), private pirogues in the Saloum (in Premium with a beach picnic on day 10), Bamboung and the bird roost, bike or horse cart in Palmarin, Fathala game drive

Not included

- – International return flight to Dakar (I'm happy to book it for you, or you book it yourself)
- – Vaccinations and malaria prophylaxis
- – Lunches (except the day-10 picnic in Premium) and the dinners not listed: I give you my restaurant tips and you choose freely where to eat
- – Tips for drivers, boatmen and rangers
- – A local guide for an activity, if you would like one (on request)
- – Travel and cancellation insurance

Practical information

VISA

Senegal: no visa required for tourist stays up to 90 days (passport valid at least 6 months). Senegal announced a reciprocal e-visa in 2025 for countries that require visas from Senegalese nationals (incl. Schengen states), but according to France Diplomatie (September 2026) EU citizens are still exempt. Check before departure.

HEALTH

Yellow fever: vaccination recommended for Senegal (ITG/Wanda); certificate mandatory when arriving from a risk country and often checked in practice, so always get vaccinated, at least 10 days before departure. Malaria: present, especially June–December; prophylaxis depends on season and region (recommended in the Sine Saloum and around Toubacouta). Consult a travel clinic or wanda.be.

CURRENCY & PAYMENT

West African CFA franc (XOF, fixed at 655.957 per euro). Euros easy to exchange; ATMs in towns.

FLIGHT TIME

Direct flight to Dakar: approx. 6 hours, both ways. On the evening of day 14 your driver takes you to the airport for your direct flight home. Alternatives for the international flight: Royal Air Maroc via Casablanca, TAP via Lisbon, Vueling via Barcelona.

TIME DIFFERENCE

GMT: 1 hour behind Western Europe in winter, 2 hours behind in summer.

LANGUAGE

French (official) and Wolof.

MEALS

Breakfast is included every day, and, at Comfort and Premium, so is dinner in Lompoul (day 3) and at the remote lodges in the Sine Saloum and Toubacouta (days 9–12), where there are no restaurants nearby. For the other meals I give you my addresses and favourite restaurants, but I don't include them: that way you choose where and when you eat.

GUIDES

By default you travel without a guide. Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

As of September 2026: check your own country's travel advice and health information before you travel.

Travelling responsibly

I work with small-scale eco-lodges and campements that employ local staff. The Somone lagoon and the Bamboung marine reserve are managed by the villages themselves: part of the entrance fees goes directly to the community. In the Djoudj bird sanctuary you travel with the park's own pirogues. Bandia and Fathala are fenced private reserves where animals have been (re)introduced; Fathala takes part in the conservation of the endangered giant eland. I deliberately do not book Fathala's 'lion walk' with tame lions: walking with lions habituated to people as cubs keeps that model going, and visitors describe lions being driven on with sticks. You only do the game drive. Your driver, the boatmen and the rangers are paid fairly. I ask you to minimise plastic (refillable filter bottle). On Gorée I ask you to visit the House of Slaves with respect: it is a place of remembrance.

Steennot Travels

Contact

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Personally composed, down to the last detail.

No group travel and no fixed dates: you travel privately, at your own pace. Leave out what doesn't appeal to you, add what you like. I give you my restaurant tips, but you choose freely where you eat: nobody sends you to expensive restaurants for a commission.

ESTIMATED PRICES

Estimated prices: per person, based on 2 travellers sharing a room, excl. international flight, estimated from desk research (2027 price level). The binding price is the one in your personal proposal and booking confirmation. Interested? Join the no-obligation list at steennot-travels.be or email info@steennot-travels.be. Other dates, more or fewer days, something left out or added? Everything can be adapted.

This brochure is informational and not an offer. The final price and programme are in your personal proposal. Before you book, you receive the standard information form and the terms and conditions. Steennot Travels BV is insured against insolvency with MSIG Europe SE (policy number LXX050365), in accordance with the Act of 21 November 2017 on package travel. All prices are indicative, errors excepted.

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COVER

Giraffes in the Bandia reserve · Photo: Josi Salgado · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Girafe_dans_la_réserve_de_Bandia_Sénégal_01.jpg · *cropped, resized*



DAY 2

The pastel-coloured houses of Gorée, seen from the water · Photo: Fawaz.tairou · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Côtes_de_l'île_de_Gorée_au_Sénégal_11.jpg · *cropped, resized*



DAY 3

Salt boats on pink Lac Rose (Retba), seen from above · Photo: Jeff Attaway · CC BY 2.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Salt_Boats_(5990890819).jpg · *resized*



DAY 4

The iron Faidherbe Bridge to Saint-Louis island · Photo: WILLAV-FR · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:WL-Sénégal-St_Louis-Pont_Faidherbe.jpg · *cropped, resized*



DAY 6

Pelicans on an islet in the Djoudj bird sanctuary · Photo: Manu25 · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Djoudj_ile_pelican.jpg · *resized*



DAY 9

The shared cemetery on a shell mound at Fadiouth · Photo: AdjoEsse · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Le_Cimetière_mixte_de_Joal-Fadiouth_06.jpg · *cropped, resized*



DAY 10

Mangroves along a creek in the Sine Saloum Delta · Photo: By cheikh pic · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mangrove_du_parc_de_delta_du_SINE-SALOUM.jpg · *resized*