

ADVENTURE IN THE BISSAGOS ISLANDS - 9 DAY CRUISE FROM DAKAR

In the secret lands of the Atlantic, off the coast of Guinea-Bissau, where the infinite blue of the ocean meets the lush green of the islands, a rare jewel hides: the Bijagos. Designated as both a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a UNESCO World Heritage Site , this preserved archipelago of 88 islands, mostly inhabited uninhabited and sacred, offers a unique immersion in pristine nature. Between pristine beaches, mangroves, and tropical forests , let yourself be captivated by this living spectacle. On Caravela, Carache or Canhabaque, encounters with the Bijago people reveal a culture where nature is sacred. Every bird call, every reflection on the water becomes an ode to the beauty and harmony of these exceptional lands.



ITINERARY

Day 1 - Dakar

On the tip of the African continent, the buzzing capital of **Senegal** stretches along the narrow **peninsula of Cape Verde**. You may be overwhelmed by its sheer size, but **Dakar** will win you over with its richly diverse districts, appealing cultural scene and rich natural surroundings. In the historic centre, you'll enjoy the pell-mell of colours and tasty delights in **Kermel market**. Far from the effervescence of the city, **Gor ee Island**, a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site, is known as a place of remembrance, having once been a slave trade outpost. On the other side of the plateau, the wild Madeleine islands are protected by a national park.

Day 2 - At sea



During your journey at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This journey without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, depending on the activities offered, or to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

Day 3 - Carache Island, Bijagos

In the midst of a rich natural environment, you will enjoy a fascinating encounter with the Bijagos, who have been successful at taming their environment and preserving their ancestral way of life. Five **villages** provide a home for the island's few thousand inhabitants, who rely on a **subsistence economy** : they take from nature only what they need, they cultivate rice, breed chickens and pigs, fish on a small scale and use all the parts of the oil palm. Cob huts with thatched roofs are the traditional dwellings. Among other things, you will be able to enjoy a wonderful show of authentic**traditional dancing**.

Day 3 - Caravela Island, Bijagos

Dotted with authentic and wild landscapes, the **Bissagos archipelago** is a constellation of islands covered in savannah, forests of palm trees, mangrove trees, silk-cotton trees, baobabs and, in large part, mangrove swamps. From the island of Caravela, you will be able to set out in a Zodiac® dinghy to explore the **mangrove** and observe the African grey hornbill, the palm-nut vulture, the kingfisher, the weaverbird and some of the many species that fly to this region each year. It is the second most important site for migratory birds in West Africa, after Banc d'Arguin in Mauritania: herons, curlews, red-chested swallows. In full immersion, far from the beaten track, your discovery of the archipelago will take on an air of adventure.

Day 4 - Uno Island, Bijagos

Covered in beautiful **savannah** , **paddy fields** and **lush forests** , the island of Uno, or Ilha de Uno, is one of the most populated in the Bissagos archipelago. In its many **villages** , life follows the pace of the **everyday scenes** and **traditions** of the Bissago people. The lifestyle of these island people remains relatively untouched by colonial domination and external influences, and still honours **animist** **beliefs** and **rites,** such as the fanados, which are coming-of-age initiations for young men and women that involve them spending four months in the forest with the village elders. By sanctifying the natural environment, the islanders are protecting the archipelago's unique **biodiversity**.

Day 5 - Bolama

Bolama, the capital of Portuguese Guinea from the late 19th century to the end of the 1930s, is shrouded in the surreal and poetic atmosphere of a ghost town forgotten by time. Along the streets covered in ochre earth, the **vestiges of neoclassical colonial buildings** hint at what was once the sumptuous government palace or the governor's residence. Now neglected, this hard-to-reach natural harbour surrounded by **mangrove** swamps once served as an outpost for keeping



a close eye on the Guinean population that had come to seek refuge on these remote islands of the Bissagos archipelago to escape their colonisers.

Day 5 - Canhabaque, Bijagos

Canhabaque Island, also known by the name **Roxa** , is covered in **lush vegetation** and boasts **pretty beaches** alternating with rocky formations. The first island in the archipelago to be inhabited, it is today home to a community of around 2,500 inhabitants, spread across various tabancas (rural villages). Long closed to tourism, it is considered the most traditional island in the whole archipelago in terms of customs and lifestyle. It competes with Caravela for the reputation of the most beautiful island. It has an **animist and matrilineal society** ; women are highly predominant in the management and maintenance of balance in the tabancas.

Day 6 - Caravela Island, Bijagos

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Day 7 - Carache Island, Bijagos

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Day 7 - Kere, Bijagos

The private island of **Kere** is an unspoiled Eden, a one-hectare (two-acre) stretch of tropical forest in the heart of the Bissagos Islands. One original feature of this island is that a small, **sustainable and fair-trade ecotourism** business was developed upon it. On the island's magnificent beach, a



Frenchman has set up a business to show people around this exceptional natural environment or to take them out for some game fishing, particularly in search of tarpon, a fish weighing over a hundred kilos (220 pounds). The bungalows made from earth and straw blend into the idyllic setting and reflect the mindset of the islet's owner: **authentic and respectful of nature** and people.

Day 8 - Dakar

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Day 9 - Dakar

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Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

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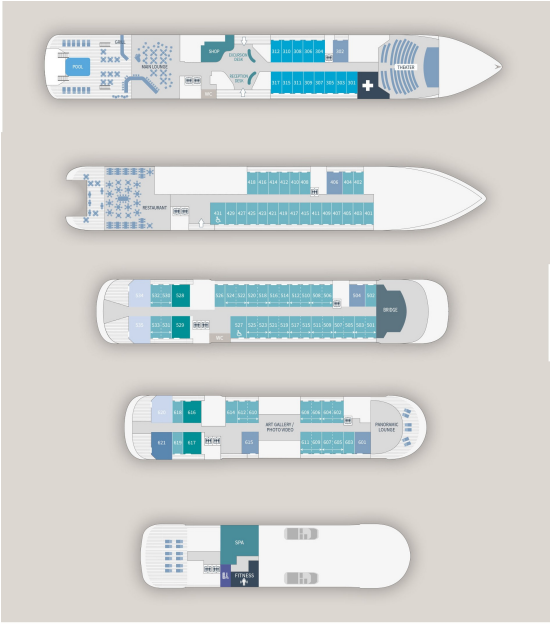
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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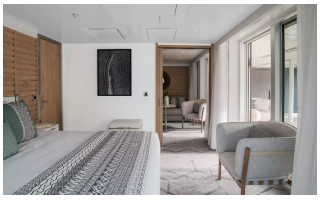
Deluxe Suite Deck 6



Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 5



Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 6



Prestige Deck 4





Prestige Deck 5



Prestige Deck 5 Suite



Prestige Deck 6



Prestige Deck 6 Suite



Privilege Suite Deck 5



Privilege Suite Deck 6





PRICING

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Deluxe Suite Deck 3	£7125 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 4	£7125 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 6 Suite	£10035 GBP pp
Privilege Suite Deck 5	£10515 GBP pp
Privilege Suite Deck 6	£10515 GBP pp
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Prestige Deck 5 Suite	£9555 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 5	£7125 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 6	£7125 GBP pp
Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 6	£11535 GBP pp
Deluxe Stateroom	£4265 GBP pp

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Privilege Suite Deck 5	£9895 GBP pp
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Prestige Deck 6	£4895 GBP pp
Privilege Suite Deck 6	£9895 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 6 Suite	£9445 GBP pp
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PRICING

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Prestige Deck 6	£4895 GBP pp
Deluxe Stateroom	£4035 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 5	£4655 GBP pp
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Privilege Suite Deck 5	£9895 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 5 Suite	£8995 GBP pp
Deluxe Suite Deck 6	£6715 GBP pp
Prestige Deck 6 Suite	£9445 GBP pp
Privilege Suite Deck 6	£9895 GBP pp

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Prestige Deck 6 Suite	£13005 GBP pp
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