

## **Naturefriends International Invitation to the Landscape of the Year**

### **Virtual trip**

**20 January – 3 February 2010**



### **The Landscape of the Year Senegal/The Gambia**

On January 13th, 2018, more than 800 people celebrated the opening of the first African Landscape of the Year in the Senegalese village Koumbidja Socé close to the Gambian border. A memorial stone and hundreds of fruit trees, which were planted after the festivities by African and European Naturefriends together with the local communities, remind us of that big day which marked the beginning of many activities to follow.

An international trip called “Tour d’Horizon” started after the opening event, with the participation of 40 Naturefriends from 9 countries. The travellers also actively helped to plant 2000 fruit trees in the villages. As ambassadors of the Landscape of the Year, the participants in another three trips have meanwhile got to know the Landscape of the Year and shared their experiences.

Thanks to the great commitment of Senegalese and Gambian Naturefriends and numerous European Naturefriends, much has been achieved since the opening event in the Landscape of the Year: Around 2,500 trees were planted to create better living conditions for the population and support climate protection; civil society in both countries was strengthened and initiatives for regional, sustainable tourism were promoted, and a student exchange was organised between a Senegalese and a Gambian school.

**Detailed information on the Landscape of the Year and the activities already carried out can be found under:**

<https://www.nf-int.org/themen/landschaft-des-jahres/aktivitaeten/landschaft-des-jahres-senegalgambia-2018-2020>

**And now the programme of the trip:**

## **Programme:**

### **Wednesday, 20 January**

Arrival at Dakar

Check-in at Naturefriends House at Petit Mbao near Dakar, where we stay for two nights. At the end of our trip we will come back for three more days and nights

### **Thursday, 21 January**

Welcome – introduction to the trip

Morning: Sightseeing at Dakar: Bus tour along the two Corniches, various stops

Afternoon: Walk through the city centre

### **Friday, 22 January**

Transfer to **Janjanbureh**, the Gambian centre of the Landscape of the Year

On the way: Visit to “Gambia Women’s Initiative” at Njaw

Late afternoon: Check-in at Baobolong Camp where we stay for four nights

### **Saturday, 23 January**

Morning: Informal start of the Kankurang Festival, procession of masked figures to the Kankurang Museum

Official opening of the Kankurang Festival

Afternoon: Sightseeing in Janjanbureh, with Gambian Naturefriends

Evening: Major performance of the Kankurang Festival

### **Sunday, 24 January**

Further sightseeing in Janjanbureh, meeting with members of Gambian Naturefriends

Hiking on the “Baobab River Hiking Trail”

### **Monday, 25 January**

Visit to families who had planted fruit trees with Naturefriends, excursion to Yorobelekunda; information about the German-Gambian project “Mbe Gambia makoila – We help Gambia”

Short hiking tour in “Kunkilling Forest Park”, interesting plants and birds

On the banks of the Gambia River we board a boat, where a delicious meal is expecting us and which takes us back to Janjanbureh

### **Tuesday, 26 January**

Visit of the Wassu Stone Circles

Boat trip on the River Gambia and information on a chimpanzee project carried out in the River Gambia National Park (“Baboon Island”), lunch on board

Afternoon: Border crossing at Maka Gouye, transfer to **Koungheul**, the Senegalese centre of the Landscape of the Year

Arrival at Koungheul, check-in at Campement Le Bambouck

### **Wednesday, 27 January**

Morning: Leisure time, pool

Afternoon: Sightseeing in Koungheul, with local Naturefriends

#### **Thursday, 28 January**

Walk through Koumbidja Socé village, local history, visit of some compounds where Naturefriends planted fruit trees

Meeting with young Naturefriends at the school where took place the opening event of the Landscape of the Year in 2018, stop at the memorial stone

#### **Friday, 29 January**

Excursion to Maka Gouye, visit to families who planted fruit trees with Naturefriends

Walk to a side arm of the Gambia River with the guides trained by Naturefriends – explanations about village life, agriculture and vegetable growing

#### **Saturday, 30 January**

Return trip to Petit Mbao

#### **Sunday, 31 January**

Detailed information about the Naturefriends House – its facilities, activities, tree nursery

Walk to Mbao village and its coast

#### **Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February**

Morning: Visit to the wildlife reserve “Réserve de Bandia” on safari vehicles

Afternoon: Visit to the monastery of Keur Moussa

#### **Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

Morning: Visit to the “Women of Kamb”, an agricultural cooperative

Afternoon: Feedback session, followed by departure

#### **Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

Arrival in Europe

#### **Accommodation:**

Maison des Amis de la Nature (Naturefriends House), Petit Mbao near Dakar (Environmental Education Centre, guest house, tree nursery), managed on a voluntary basis by Senegalese Naturefriends

Baobolong Camp at Janjanbureh and Campement le Bambouck at Koungheul: both lodges are owned by Africans, African management and staff

#### **Meals:**

Full board, dinner always at the hotels, lunch sometimes picnic or at the restaurants of the visited sights, buffet during boat trips

