



# Kadjamor Cultural Study Tour Senegal 2010

## Tour Dates

Monday 29th March 2010 (village location)

Monday 12th April 2010 (beach location)

\*Participants will need to arrive the weekend prior to workshop dates to travel to location

## Tour Costs

1 week \$1000

2 weeks \$1500

3 weeks \$2000

The price includes accommodation, food, group tuition (2 classes per day - 1 drum, 1 dance) and group transfers from airport to workshop location. The price does not include airfares, insurance or beverages.

## Tour Location

THONCK ESSYL - Fode's home village in the Casamance region in the south of Senegal.

TOUBAB DIALAW - a beachside village less than an hour from Dakar. This leg of the tour will depend on minimum bookings.

DAKAR - the capital of Senegal and West Africa's most vibrant city. This is an optional extra that can be arranged for before or after the workshop.

## Cultural Tour

Yes it's a drum and dance tour... but it's also about experiencing a country and culture so different from our own. You will be living alongside a genuine African family, immersed in the daily lifestyle of an African village. You'll be amazed and inspired by the cultural beliefs and traditions, and you will leave with a new appreciation and understanding of the drumming and dancing you have been learning here.

## Flight Routes

There are flights direct to Dakar from Australia via Johannesburg with South African Airways/Qantas, or you can fly via Europe or the US.

Flights are available from most European cities to Dakar, ie. London, Paris, Rome, Milan, Lisbon, etc for around \$1000 return

It's also possible to fly into The Gambia or to get an internal domestic flight from Dakar to Ziguinchor.

## Visas and Health

Visas are required for Australian citizens. These are cheap and easy to obtain however there is no Senegal embassy in Australia.

Vaccinations for Yellow Fever and anti-malarial medications are recommended. You should make an appointment with your GP to discuss the best options for you.

## Info about Senegal

Population - The population of Senegal is estimated at 13 million, with the large proportion living along the west coast and in the nation's capital Dakar

Religion - The majority of Senegalese are Muslim. It is a somewhat relaxed version of Islam. There are also a small percentage of people that follow Christianity and traditional indigenous religions.

Ethnic groups - There are many different ethnic groups in Senegal, each having their own language, cultural beliefs and traditions. Some of these include Wolof, Fulani, Serrer, Lebou, Mandinka and Diola

Language - The official language is French, and the dominant native language is Wolof. In Fodé's region they speak Diola.

Currency - The unit of currency is the CFA (pronounced 'sefa'). Depending on the exchange rate of course, it is approximately \$1 AU = 385 - 400 CFA.

## Info about Thionck Essyl

Thionck Essyl is situated in the Casamance region in the south of Senegal - known for its lush scenery and relaxed pace. The local people are Diola (pronounced Djola). It's the largest village in Senegal with a population of 10 000 plus. Situated on a river, it's ideal for fishing, swimming etc. The Lonely Planet guidebook describes the Casamance as a "Lush inland delta, stunning coastline and charming people - Senegal's most beautiful region".

# **Bakalama de Thionck Essyl**

Before Fodé came to Australia, he trained and performed with Company Bakalama for over 15 years. He was the Choreographer for the last 3 or 4 years before he left.

Bakalama de Thionck Essyl is a performing arts troupe created by Fodé's father, Lamine Mane in 1972.

It was started as a charitable organisation to aid the development of the village of Thionck Essyl as well as to preserve and promote the traditional music, dance and song of the region.

They are an award winning company with a very good reputation in Senegal. They also regularly perform at world music and folk dance festivals across Europe.

## **Workshop Lessons**

Classes will run only on weekdays. There will be two classes per day - 2 to 3 hours duration. Dance class in the morning. Drum class in the afternoon. Classes take place under the mango trees - very beautiful! Instruction will be shared between Fodé, his brother Landing Mane (UK) and the artists of Bakalama.

## **Accommodation**

In Thionck Essyl, you will be hosted by Fode's family. It's basic, but clean and comfortable. Share rooms (2 or 3 together, depending on numbers). Amenities are very simple.

## **Food**

Meals are a communal affair, eaten in the outdoor area. Breakfast includes french bread, butter, spreads, tea and coffee. Lunch is a hot meal, usually rice with fish or meat, vegetables & tasty sauces. Dinner is usually a combination of salads, meat or fish, cous cous, beans and vegetables. There is also fresh seasonal fruits available. All foods are grown locally and prepared by the family. Vegetarians can be catered for. Bottled drinking water is available to purchase locally.

## **Climate**

The climate is generally warm to hot, with average temperatures of 27 – 32, however it can get cool in the evenings so it is recommended you bring something warm as well.

## **Weekends**

Classes will run on weekdays only, so that weekends will be free to relax and explore the village and local area. We will be organising informal tours to visit local attractions and places of interest, eg, a daytrip on the river, visit the local gardens, the mosque, the rice fields, etc. This is included in the price.

## **Cultural Activities**

There will be the opportunity to participate in cultural activities such as the weekly blessing ceremony under the Sacred Tree, as well as traditional dances, the Festival de Thionck Essyl and Independence Day celebrations (April 4<sup>th</sup>).

## **What to expect**

This is your chance to experience the real thing - life in a traditional West African village. Our only advice is to travel with an open mind and heart. Sometimes things can happen or not happen or plans change. We will endeavour to make your trip as enjoyable, memorable and safe as possible. Help us help you by letting us know what you want or need.

## **Special Interests**

If you have any special interests, personal projects or ideas you want to explore on this trip, please let us know so we can help facilitate this.

## **Donations or Gifts**

It's not necessary, but if you have any toys, clothes or shoes that you don't need anymore, bring them along. Somebody will love them. Pens, pencils and exercise books also never go astray. We do not encourage sweets or anything like that.

## **Questions??**

If you have any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions, please let us know. We are more than happy to discuss the trip with you. It is a substantial investment and we are excited to be able to share Fodé's culture with you.

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