

your
Experience
magazine

May 2012

**The ideal winter
honeymoon
in The Gambia**

**Getting away
from it all in Senegal**

**Earn £100 voucher
for your experiences**



**25
YEARS**

1987-2012
SERVING THE GAMBIA

The Gambia, Senegal & The Islands of Cape Verde

Features

4 What's new

5 Images of The Gambia

View photographs of The Gambia and share yours via our Flickr group

6 The ideal winter honeymoon

Chris Haines, our web developer, and his new bride on honeymoon in The Gambia

8 The Sandele birthday (re)treat

Jonathan Tullett and his girlfriend, Rae, enjoy a week at Sandele Eco-Retreat

10 Blue sky thinking

Tim Metcalfe in search of winter sun

12 Help a Gambian Family

Find out how just £20 can really help

13 Birdwatching with Chris Packham

14 Images of Senegal

Beautiful images of Senegal on our Flickr group

15 Getting away from it all in Senegal

One of our customers, Susan Greenwood, tells us about a relaxing holiday in Senegal

16 Images of Cape Verde

View wonderful photographs of Cape Verde on our Flickr group

17 Shooting Sal

Marketing executive and photographer Heidi captures Cape Verde

19 What's Your Experience?

Earn £100 for your travel experiences...

front cover:

Waxbill, *The Gambia* by Keith Mitchell

opposite: Kombo Beach Sunset, *The Gambia* by Jon Banfield



Contributors



Chris Haines

joined Serenity Holidays in 2004 as a web developer. This year he got married and honeymooned in The Gambia.



Jonathan Tullett

a risk manager by day, writes about his 32nd birthday spent at Sandele Eco-Retreat and dreams of returning there soon.



Tim Metcalfe

Editor of Oxfordshire Limited Edition writes about his first trip to The Gambia.



Susan Greenwood

is a library assistant from Sherborne who is making up for all the travel she missed out on when she was younger, read about her recent holiday to Senegal.



Heidi Page

works in our marketing department and has just returned from her first photography trip to Cape Verde. Read what she thought and see some of her photos.



What's new

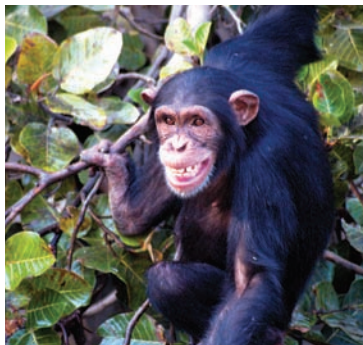
Tall ship sailing in Cape Verde

Join one of the 12-day cruises round the Islands of Cape Verde on board the tall ship Oosterschelde, stopping off on the islands of Sal, Santiago, São Vicente, Santo Antão, São Nicolau and Boa Vista. You can be hands on or just sit back and relax. To find out more go to CapeVerde.co.uk/Oosterschelde or call 0845 330 2046.



Chimp Camp

The Camp at Baboon Island will be making a welcome return for Winter 2012/13 – keep an eye out for our new brochure coming soon. Spend a few days at the Camp for the chance to see the chimps and other wildlife in their natural habitat on Baboon Island in the River Gambia National Park.



Big game day trips

The chance to spot a wide variety of wildlife such as antelopes, buffalo, giraffes, white rhino, monkeys, baboons, jackals, warthogs etc in the Fathala Reserve, now available from Sitanunku Lodge or as a day trip from other hotels in The Gambia. Open to the public since 2003, the Reserve covers some 20 sq km of thick tree savannah within the Saloum Delta National Park.

Private tours to Senegal

Individual tailor-made tours of either 3 or 7 nights can now be added to any hotel-based stay in The Gambia. To find out more about suggested itineraries and prices go online

Senegal.co.uk/Tours or call **0845 338 8700**.

Lamantin Beach Hotel reopens

The fabulous 5* Lamantin Beach Hotel in Saly, Senegal, has reopened and now has its own beach club complete with floodlit tennis courts, beachside Jacuzzi and an exquisite à la carte restaurant. To find out more visit Senegal.co.uk/Lamantin

New 2012-13 brochures

Our new brochures featuring holidays to The Gambia, Senegal and Cape Verde for 2012-13 will be available from June. To make sure you receive a copy order online at Gambia.co.uk, Senegal.co.uk or CapeVerde.co.uk or call **0845 330 4567**.

New properties in Cape Verde

For winter 2012-13 we will have a couple of new hotels on Boa Vista in Cape Verde, namely the eco-lodge Spinguera situated on the north coast and Orguidea Guesthouse, a small ten-bedroom hotel in Sal Rei.



The Gambia on Flickr

Kunta Kinteh Island (formerly James Island),
River Gambia

by Helen Jones-Florio

One of many beautiful images from The Gambia
View more at: The Gambia Experience's Flickr group
[Flickr.com/groups/thegambiaexperience](https://www.flickr.com/groups/thegambiaexperience)

Web developer Chris Haines and his new bride left cold England for the warmth of West Africa in January and divided their time between an old favourite Ngala Lodge, and the new Sitanunku Lodge on the North Bank.

The ideal winter honeymoon



Sitanunku Lodge



Ngala Lodge

After working on The Gambia Experience website for more than six years, an opportunity to visit the 'Smiling Coast' at last afforded itself. I thought it probably best to take with me my wife (it was to be our honeymoon, after all) though she knew barely anything of it right up until the eve of our departure. It was all rather romantic.

January in England is of course lovely, yet cold. In contrast, stepping out of Banjul airport into the cheery sun is so uplifting. The drive to Mandina Lodges (from where we were to catch a boat ride to Sitanunku Lodge, our first base) provided opportunity for us to take in something of the landscape and culture. There was no doubting that we were in Africa.

After a brief respite and refreshing Julbrew beer (or two) at Mandina, we launched off onto the river for what was to be a real highlight of the stay. The boat journey had such a calming effect on us that we were already thoroughly relaxed by the time we reached our destination.

The engine throbbed and gurgled, lulling us into a kind of waking sleep; occasionally we murmured to one another as a heron rose from the water, or a kingfisher dove from a mangrove perch. It stirred in us a sense of undeserved privilege, thankful to be able to simply float along the otherwise unflustered river. And then, at just the right

moment, we found ourselves edging slowly towards a solitary jetty, laden with smiling porters ready to welcome us like royalty to what would be – for a short while at least, and perhaps for not long enough – our new home.

Sitanunku Lodge is a complete haven, an almost textbook honeymoon paradise, so wonderfully isolated and tranquil. In all honesty, there's not a lot to do, which is perfect if you ask me. There are of course kayaks freely available to use at will, and more than once we took to the river to explore the nearby island. On several occasions I even came close to trying my hand at fishing, tempted by the promise of any potential catch being

cooked and served fresh that evening. But alas, it seemed like it might require some degree of effort, and I was enjoying the whole 'doing nothing' thing too much. Maybe next time...

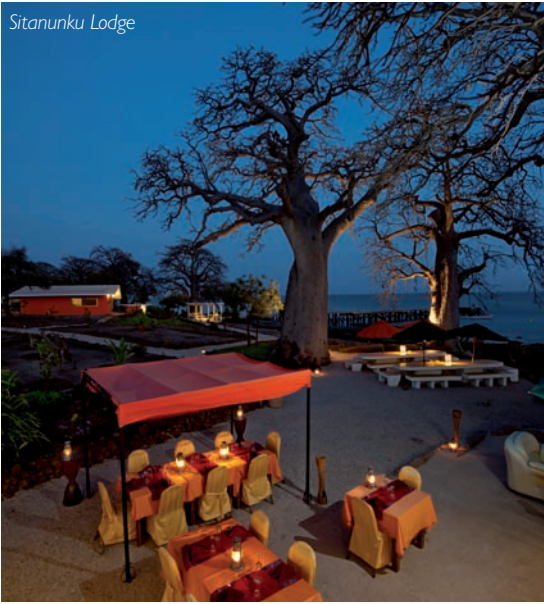
The Senegalese chef deserves mention for his gentle and composed command of the open

kitchen, faithfully turning out dish after dish of mouth-watering Senegambian and international cuisine, with which we spoiled ourselves at every opportunity. His speciality chocolate mousse is by itself worthy of the journey.

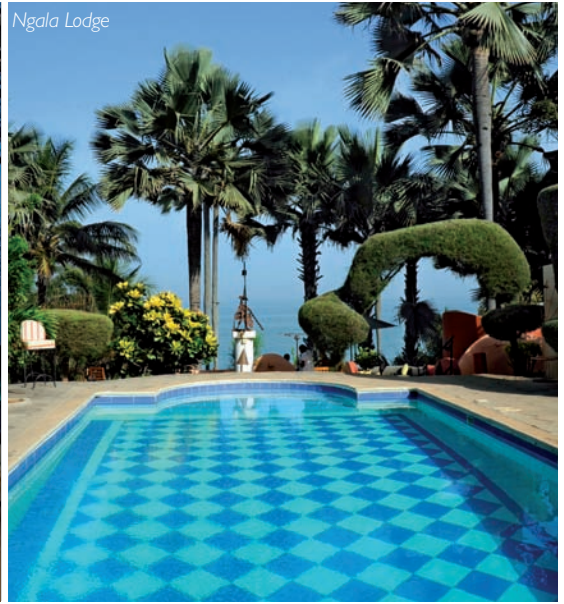
On the last evening of our stay, a small, private bonfire was lit especially for us to sit and watch the stars whilst sipping champagne and talking into the night. I've tried to

“ On the last evening of our stay, a small, private bonfire was lit especially for us to sit and watch the stars whilst sipping champagne and talking into the night. ”

Sitanunku Lodge



Ngala Lodge



find a word for how Sitanunku made me feel, and I keep coming back to 'enchanted' – we spent three days there as if under a kind of warm and welcoming spell. Neither of us wanted to leave. And yet on the other hand, we were now sufficiently uncoiled that we probably needed a change to liven us up a bit...

And so it was that we journeyed back across the river towards our second destination - Ngala Lodge. The days kind of blurred into one another – days of relaxing, swimming, eating, and being served gin and tonic on the terrace. We tested our private Jacuzzi briefly only a couple of times; it just didn't feel necessary.

The food was so good it felt a shame not to eat at Ngala at least as many times as we slept there, but we were drawn too by the tantalising variety of restaurants within a short taxi ride, and the vouchers in our guidebook made sure we sampled as many of them as possible. Normally we wouldn't bother with Indian food abroad (surely it can't be as good as in England?), but the nearby Clay Oven really is exceptionally good, and reasonably priced too. El Sol, a Mexican restaurant slightly further away, was another favourite of ours – again, really scrummy, good value grub; certainly a lot better than any we've tried in the UK. Surpassing all else, however, was Jo Jo's restaurant, run by Peter, the ex-chef from Ngala. We have never tasted (and probably never will taste again) a starter so exquisite as the fresh lobster and chicken we had that

day. This was followed by perfectly cooked steak, and a delicious chocolate mousse for dessert.

Naturally we felt obliged to try out a few excursions, lest we be accused of doing absolutely nothing for ten days. Mama Ida taught us how to cook Fish Benechin (yum!) on her home cooking course. Then there was a trip to Senegal to see rhino and other exciting wildlife. These were good fun and a happy distraction from all that sunbathing.

But of course, what we really enjoyed – what you really go to The Gambia for – was doing absolutely nothing. I keep pinching myself, trying to grasp how fortunate we were to enjoy ten days of such blessedness and bliss. This was the ideal honeymoon, and my wife agrees!

NEW wedding & honeymoon brochure

Our new brochure specialising in weddings and honeymoons is available online now!
Gambia.co.uk/Weddings



Jonathan Tullett and his girlfriend Rae spent a week at Sandele Eco-Retreat – bird watching, visiting a Senegalese school and sharing a chocolate and beetroot (!?) cake to celebrate Jonathan's birthday.

The Sandele birthday (re)treat



I haven't properly celebrated my birthday since 2000. Last year, as far as I was concerned, wasn't to be any different. Rae, however, had other plans and quickly organised spending an entire week in The Gambia, at an eco-resort called Sandele (which roughly translated means, 'now be still').

Landing in The Gambia to 30 degrees heat in November was nothing short of amazing. Unzipping the legs on my trousers, we quickly found the private taxi which was to take us to the retreat. The retreat itself is beautiful. Run by a husband and wife team, Maurice and Geri, it's been built in conjunction with the local village of Kartong and over 90% of the staff come from the village itself. Leasing the land for 25 years, once the time is up, the couple will hand over the retreat and the running of it to the locals; quite a legacy!

After being greeted with a local drink made from the crushed fruits of an indigenous tree, we were taken to the lodge which would be our home for the following eight days.

Giving me prior warning – knowing that sometimes surprises don't work well with me – Rae said that there was an excursion planned on the Thursday – my birthday – and another activity which would be done the following day. I was intrigued. Thursday morning I awoke, bleary

eyed, and was promptly presented with some gifts and a card. The card said she hoped the experiences would remain with me for a long time. Curious...

One gift was a card saying I was to be taken net fishing, by the local fisherman. For those who hadn't had the joy of hearing me talk about the upcoming trip, net fishing was the thing I most wanted to do. Casting a net around and trying to catch dinner, is there anything more manly? I think not!

Walking to breakfast, everyone we met greeted me with a cheery, 'Happy birthday!'. After eating a brief three course breakfast, Rae shared the main plans for the day: a trip in a dug-out canoe down the Gambia River to south Senegal, where we'd stop for lunch, visit the local village and then make the journey back mid-afternoon.

Setting off it was apparent why the area is famed for its bird watching. Being paddled up river by Amdul, past the mangrove plants, every few minutes a new

species was pointed out; sometimes large herons, other times small kingfishers. Every short while we'd hear a slapping of water and a shoal of jumping fish would be leaping from the water, travelling some distance before gracefully diving back in and continuing their journey through the salty waters.

“ We walked back through the rice fields and enjoyed the feast prepared for us. After sipping the last of our drinks, we commenced the journey back to The Gambia.”

A couple of hours after we departed, we spotted a small jetty; we'd arrived at our destination. Having been surrounded by English speaking Gambians or by Gambians speaking any one of the local tribal languages, being greeted in French was a surprise. I last spoke French during my G.C.S.E back in 1996, but both Rae and I were pleased to discover I had remembered enough to a) order the food we wanted, and b) compliment the cook on the quality of the meal; both of which were appreciated by our hosts.

While lunch was being cooked, we were taken around the village. There were a couple of Dutch guys who were out for their second visit building a new school, the children were finished for the day and kicking a ball around the common area. The school was just a single classroom, with maps around the walls and rows of small desks for the children to sit in.

We walked back through the rice fields to enjoy the feast which had been prepared. After sipping the last of our drinks, we commenced the journey back to The Gambia.

Inspired by Amdul, or maybe just from the caffeine I'd imbibed during lunch, I decided that I'd 'help' paddle on the way back. And try I did; for about half an hour

(Rae swears it was only ten minutes, but I'm sure I did better than that!), at which point my stomach muscles pleaded with me to stop. Finally I understood the work required to get a six-pack. I'll never have a six-pack.

At around 3pm we arrived back where we'd started our journey, with the sun still shining brightly in the sky. And there I thought we were at the end of my birthday treats. But no, there was more to come. We were eating dinner, as usual on our own table but with other guests and Maurice and Geri on neighbouring tables, and the waiter came to collect the plates from the main course. I started talking to Rae about the day's events – still very excited by what we'd done – and the place went quiet. The next thing I knew everyone was singing, 'Happy Birthday!', and out came a specially prepared chocolate and beetroot (don't knock it until you try it!) cake, complete with candles!

The story you've just read is my recounting of the day. It doesn't capture in any way, however, how special I felt, and just how much it meant to me. Birthdays are for celebrating!

Discover more

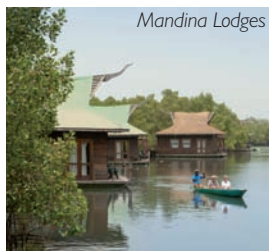
To read this article in full and view more images:
www.jkt.im/2011/12/28/the-sandele-birthday-retreat



Sandele Eco-Retreat

In search of winter sun, Oxfordshire Limited Edition's editor Tim Metcalfe took advantage of an invitation to visit The Gambia.

Blue sky thinking...



Mandina Lodges



Sitanunku Lodge

Walking along Sanyang beach with my feet in Atlantic surf, I fell into conversation with one of The Gambia's so-called 'bumsters' who makes a living selling trinkets to tourists. These conversations usually result in an exchange of cash for an item you do not need. And that is exactly what happened here — but in the course of my chat I learned that his dream was to become a teacher and build a school in his village of Sanyang. Was this a line he spun to all the tourists dropping in to sample the delights of his country, I wondered?

Pondering this question later it seemed to me that this young man scraping a living on the beach appeared pretty genuine. The beauty of the palm-fringed beach and the circumstances of the man summed up the contradictions you may discover on a visit to this still developing West African country.

I stayed at Coco Ocean, a 'village'-style resort right on the beach in the tourist area of Bijilo. Designed using a Moroccan architectural theme, it has a spa, several swimming pools, bars and restaurants, with rooms and suites to suit most pockets. Coco Ocean is billed as The Gambia's most luxurious hotel, and has attracted royal visitors from the Middle East and has proved a wonderful location for weddings with a difference, with couples

tying the knot in beautifully appointed marquees on the beach. My suite was decorated Moroccan-style, with an amazingly comfortable bed, essential air-con, and a tiled bathroom with a wetroom-style shower.

If you wished, you could spend an enjoyable winter break in the sun without moving away from your hotel. But, by not stepping outside your hotel, you would miss experiencing the colourful, fascinating and sometimes chaotic culture of The Gambia found away from the tourist areas. My trip coincided with the Muslim festival

of Tabaski, in commemoration of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son in the name of Allah. Every married man or head of household is expected to buy a sheep or other suitable animal for sacrifice. Gambians wear their finest clothes and visit their family and friends. Flocks of goats lined the roadsides and the local markets were packed with people doing last-minute shopping. Imagine our supermarkets on Christmas Eve, add the smells, sounds and bright colours of Africa, and you will get the idea.

I experienced the crush first-hand on a bewildering whistle-stop tour of the busy market in the conurbation of Brikama — a labyrinth of stalls and meandering alleyways. You will need the services of a local guide, but this is an experience not to be missed. Stand still long enough amid the bustle and you will also inevitably fall into conversation

“ The beauty of the palm-fringed beach and the circumstances of the man summed up the contradictions you may discover on a visit to this still developing West African country. ”



Coco Ocean Resort & Spa

with friendly passers-by, mostly interested in what you are doing in their country. English remains the main language of The Gambia, and is taught in schools, so communication is not generally a problem.

You can also easily mix a beach resort-style holiday with something a little more adventurous. For example, you can get back to nature within the Makasutu Cultural Forest, a 1,000-acre conservation area which is where you will find the Mandina Lodges, a unique eco-resort set in the heart of the Gambian bush. At Makasutu you can get really close to nature while staying in luxurious lodges, either floating or on stilts over the river, or within jungle lodges set back from the water in the bush. The Mandina Lodges have been voted Best Overseas Development Project by the British Guild of Travel Writers. I enjoyed a trip through the mangroves in a dug-out canoe (known as pirogues) seeing a variety of birds and wildlife. The Gambia has become popular among birdwatchers, with the likes of Autumnwatch presenter Chris Packham leading groups who want to see some of the country's exotic bird life — which includes many species of hornbills, various kingfishers, plus the fantastic glossy blue starling and some beautiful birds of prey, including the osprey.

While The Gambia may not have big cats or elephants — you will encounter many species of monkey. We were lucky enough to see some rare Western Red Colobus monkeys leaping through palm trees in the Tanji reserve. Fishing is another big attraction for visitors

to The Gambia — and a perfect place to base yourself is the new Sitanunku Lodge — a collection of simple (solar-powered) riverside lodges on the north bank of the River Gambia. It will take you a couple of hours to reach Sitanunku by boat. You might be lucky enough to see pods of dolphins surfing the bow wave of your boat. Sitanunku is a wonderfully peaceful place, with two pools to relax in and a bar/restaurant area where you can sit in the shade of 400 year-old baobab trees populated, at certain times of the day, by green parrots. The perfect place to sit and write that best-selling novel if you have one in you. But if you are feeling more active you can loan a kayak and explore the river further. Keen anglers visiting The Gambia can hope to catch Cubera Snapper, Captain Fish, Barracuda, Lady Fish, Cassava and even large rays. The river around Sitanunku is also home to big Tarpon (upwards of 150kg) which provide a real challenge.

Of course, The Gambia does have its problems. People are, largely, very poor and climate change could be having an impact on the country. The water table is falling and there are problems with deforestation — which The Gambia Experience is helping to address by supporting environmental management projects in villages where wood is the primary fuel source. But, only six hours away from UK airports, The Gambia provides a great introduction to West Africa, and, if you get hooked, could be the launch-pad for further exploration. Many people return to the country year-after-year, enchanted by the people and the culture. I think I could be one of them.

Help a Gambian family

For just £20 you can help a Gambian family by donating a new environmentally-friendly stove which uses rice husks, peanut shells and other waste products as fuel, saving time, money and resources. It also helps reduce pollution and health problems associated with traditional stoves. The project is run by sustainable tourism advisor and friend of The Gambia, Dick Sisman.

Your £20 will buy

A new stove
10kg of fuel
Personal training for the family

You will receive

A personal acknowledgement and photograph of the family receiving their stove

To find out more

Gambia.co.uk/Stoves

email dick@dicksisman.com

Donate
a stove for just

£20



Birdwatching holidays...



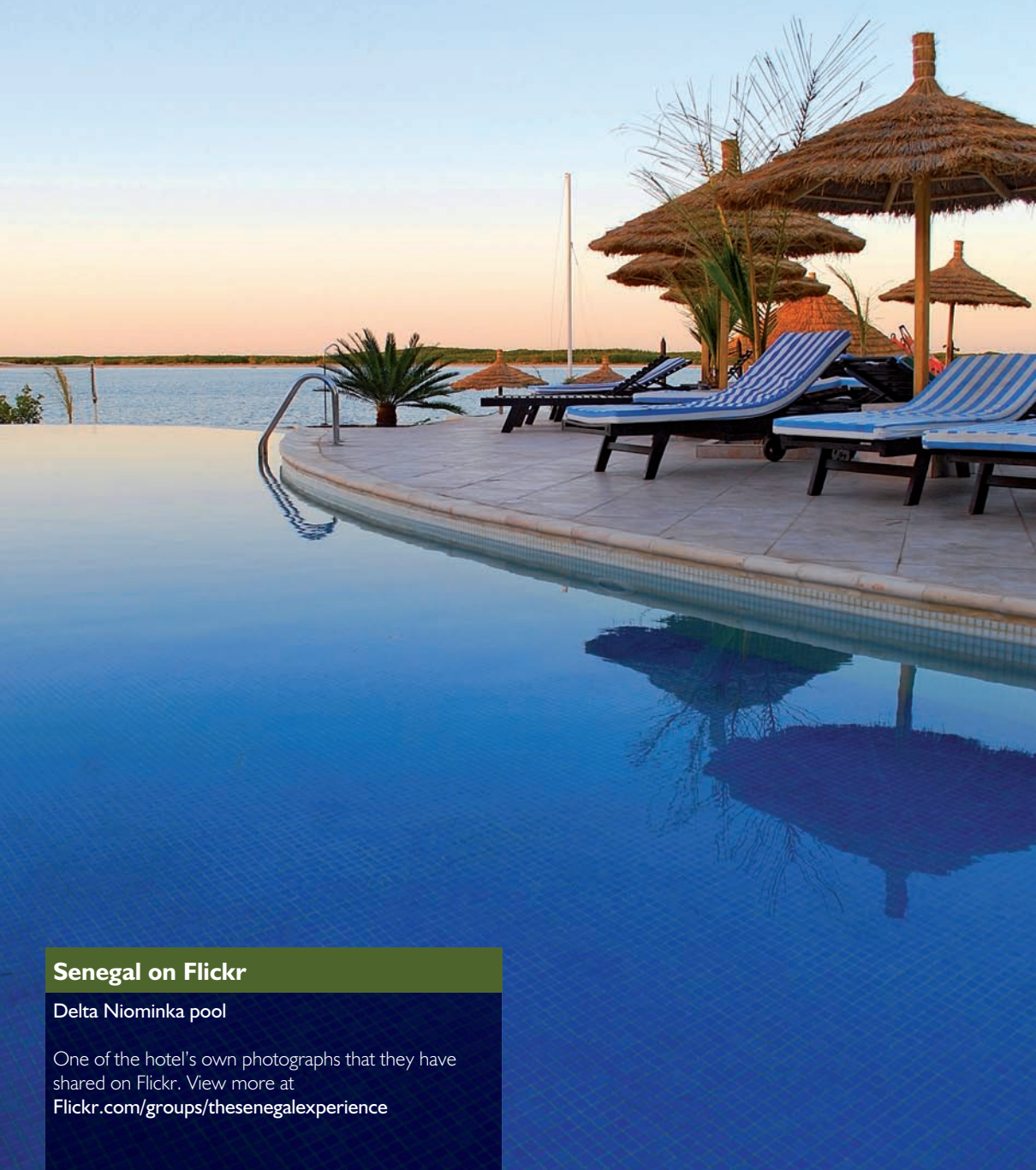
"I've been to The Gambia something like 15 times now and still think of it as one of the greatest birding destinations anywhere in the world." Chris Packham

Join Chris Packham for a birdwatching tour of The Gambia in February 2013. With a maximum of 17 guests, spaces fill quickly so call or email to secure a place.

Chris's local guide in The Gambia, Malick Suso, is also leading four tours with a maximum of 10 guests on each. Dates for this winter are: 17th-20th November 2012, 12th-15th January 2013, 16th-19th February 2013 and 30th March-2nd April 2013. Call or email now to book a place.



Gambia.co.uk
0845 330 4567
holidays@gambia.co.uk



Senegal on Flickr

Delta Niominka pool

One of the hotel's own photographs that they have shared on Flickr. View more at [Flickr.com/groups/thesenegalexperience](https://www.flickr.com/groups/thesenegalexperience)

One of our customers, Susan Greenwood, sent us this article after her recent holiday in Senegal. We loved reading her experience of the two very different hotels and hope you'll enjoy it too, she'll receive a £100 holiday voucher from us as a thank you.

Getting away from it all



Everyone asked me “why?”. And most asked me “where?”. Senegal keeps its attractions very quiet. It is not the easiest of places to get to - two flights from the UK with a few hours hanging about in Brussels Airport.

We were told that there are plans to build another airport near Dakar and that they then hope to have direct flights from here. If that happens then I have no doubt that the number of tourists from Britain will increase dramatically. So my advice is equip yourself with reading and listening matter for the journey and go now!

It has everything that you could wish for in a winter destination. In our two weeks we had an average of 30 degrees every day, with no rain and no humidity. To get the best of both worlds we had arranged for a twin centre holiday with contrasting destinations. Our first week was at the all-inclusive Royal Decameron Baobab at La Somone. A golden beach stretches alongside the hotel, and the rooms are spread cottage-style throughout the bougainvillea filled gardens.

Our second week was spent at the Delta Niominka. Even the transfer journey between the two hotels was a fascinating experience. A driver with a 4WD Toyota met us at the Baobab and we set off. The first hour of the journey was on the main road down the coast but then the road disappeared and our driver headed across the “Serer”, following a map in his head! Rarely encountering another vehicle we passed small farming communities, salt flats, and baobab and palm trees in profusion, eventually reaching the edge of the Delta where we were met by

the hotel boat for a thirty minute crossing to the island of Dionewar.

Delta Niominka is perfect for anyone who likes to get away from it all. Our cottage was idyllically set right onto the beach, so we enjoyed watching local fishermen going out in their pirogues and one evening were entertained by a pod of dolphins. We were the only English people there so a little bit of French came in useful. Some of the staff were keen to improve their English so we had some interesting dual language conversations, with the aid of plenty of sign language!

One “must-do” trip is the two hours in a pirogue to the Ile des Oiseaux and through the bolongs. Pelicans, fish eagles, kingfisher and several different herons were all easily spotted on a very tranquil journey. However, most of our time was simply spent soaking up the sun, and eating the delicious French-style meals. I lost count of the different varieties of fish on offer - all very fresh and tasty.

If you can't do without a daily newspaper, the BBC, or the internet then this may not be the place for you - but for a week of complete relaxation then it definitely fits the bill!

Discover more about Senegal

To find out more about the country, hotels and holidays or to order a brochure visit:

Senegal.co.uk or telephone **0845 338 8700**

View more images and upload yours to [Flickr.com/groups/thesenegalexperience](https://www.flickr.com/groups/thesenegalexperience)



Cape Verde on Flickr

Kite surfing by Heidi Page

One of the many fantastic images that can be found on:
The Cape Verde Experience's Flickr group

[Flickr.com/groups/thecapeverdeexperience](https://www.flickr.com/groups/thecapeverdeexperience)

Marketing executive and photographer Heidi Page took a short trip to Sal, Cape Verde's most popular island for her first glimpse of the archipelago and to capture some images.

Shooting Sal



I never need much persuasion to go abroad for work, whatever the reason, and my most recent assignment was to photograph Sal in March 2012. I've wanted to go to the islands for a while now and given the fact that I love photography, I jumped at the chance. I've travelled the world a number of times and seen some amazing places, so I was keen to find out why so many people are flocking to Cape Verde. The first thing I'll mention is the temperature: I can't think of a more perfect word than, well... 'perfect'. When I was there (and for most of the year) it remains in the 20s; it wasn't too hot or sticky and I didn't get chilly, in fact I couldn't have asked for more idyllic weather either to work in, or in fact if I was on holiday.

I stayed for two nights in Santa Maria, the hub for a lot of Sal holidaymakers. It is a quaint little place with a few shops and restaurants including Sical Gelateria on the main street which does amazing ice-cream. When I was wandering around the streets I often chuckled to myself as I kept hearing people say "Cabo Verde, no stress", the local equivalent of "It's nice to be nice" in The Gambia. I always find myself repeating these little phrases after I've returned home and I'm sure I'm probably already annoying my friends and colleagues! To be honest I found the town quite sleepy during the day, although between 11am and 1pm the pier is full of life and excitement when the local fishermen bring in the catch of the day – definitely worth a look.

My personal highlight of the trip was walking along the beaches and dunes on the south western tip of the island

– the coastline is pretty raw. It was breezy and warm in the sunshine with the most immense waves rolling and crashing in; I found myself stood in the same spot for a while watching and listening to the waves which was incredibly relaxing, even if I didn't have the courage to join the many, braver than I, who had ventured out into the waves. I hadn't walked very far before I was mesmerised again by the surfers, watching them battle against the current, diving through waves to get further out, to then ride the white horses back in. I got some cracking photos!

Having travelled throughout the world, I often find myself judging places I've visited on both the food and how aesthetically pleasing they are. Sal is so flat and arid that although I didn't return with many landscape shots, I did capture some beautiful beaches. A few days was enough to catch a glimpse of Sal although I'd definitely want to do some island hopping next time to see the diversity between islands – the vast dunes of Boa Vista, maybe the authentic life and music scene in Mindelo or the green valleys of Santo Antão... but one thing I know, I will definitely return.

Discover more about Cape Verde

To find out more about the country and holidays or to order a brochure visit:

CapeVerde.co.uk or telephone 0845 330 2046

View more images and upload yours to [Flickr.com/groups/thecapeverdeexperience](https://www.flickr.com/groups/thecapeverdeexperience)



Do you have an experience of The Gambia, Senegal or Cape Verde that you would like to share with us? We are looking for guest writers to contribute to our magazine and also to feature on our blog site TheGambiaBlog.co.uk

What's your experience?

Perhaps you have worked with a charity in The Gambia; or you are one of the many people who have been travelling to The Gambia for years; you may have honeymooned in Senegal or been hiking in Cape Verde.

Whatever your experience, however long ago it was, if you fancy yourself as a bit of a travel writer please send your articles (of either 350 or 700 words) to: Your Experience, Serenity Holidays, Atlantic House, 3600 Parkway, Solent Business Park, Fareham, Hampshire, PO15 7AN or email experience@serenityholidays.co.uk If you have any photographs that you would like to share, please upload them to [flickr.com/groups](https://www.flickr.com/groups) and search for The Gambia Experience, The Senegal Experience or The Cape Verde Experience.

Any article chosen to feature in our magazine will receive a £100 holiday voucher valid against any holiday with Serenity Holidays.



Discover *the* islands of beauty



Wide range of villas, apartments & hotels
Large choice of flights from the UK
New Stansted to Figari flight

SARDINIAN
PLACES

CORSICAN
PLACES



IslandPlaces.co.uk/YE
0845 330 2345



Gambia.co.uk
0845 330 4567



CapeVerde.co.uk
0845 330 2046



Senegal.co.uk
0845 338 8700



The Gambia Experience, The Senegal Experience and The Cape Verde Experience are all trade names of Serenity Holidays. We also offer holidays to the Mediterranean islands of Corsica and Sardinia and European short breaks with Great Escapes.

Corsica

0845 330 2345

Corsica.co.uk

Sardinia

0845 330 2056

SardinianPlaces.co.uk

Great Escapes

0845 330 3434

GreatEscapes.co.uk

Serenity Holidays Limited, Registered in the UK 01744872
Serenity Holidays Limited, Atlantic House, 3600 Parkway, Solent Business Park,
Fareham, Hampshire PO15 7AN

