

The Kindred Experience: Ndoumboudj, Senegal

July 17 – August 8, 2009



CHICAGO TRAVELER ORIENTATION (July 11)

Each Kindred Experience is a unique journey, beginning with a pre-departure opportunity to meet your Kindred Ambassador, Kindred traveling staff, and fellow travelers in a social Chicago-area setting. The orientation includes an introduction to Senegalese culture, a review of logistics, gear/packing suggestions, and of course, a hearty Senegalese meal.

OPENING TRAVEL (Days 1-3)

The overnight trans-Atlantic journey brings you to the city of Dakar, Senegal's vibrant capital. After a night to rest and recoup, the first full day is dedicated to getting acquainted with our new surroundings and preparing for our drive to the village. There will be opportunities at every turn to practice your new French and Wolof language skills, and if you haven't mastered the language just yet, don't worry. A smile will go a long way.

NDOUMBOUDJ VILLAGE HOMESTAY AND SERVICE PROJECTS (Days 4-17)

The vibrant sights, sounds, and flavors of Senegal are captured in the heart of its people. Experience this firsthand as you live for two weeks in Ndoumboudj, a small coastal village just north of the border with Gambia. Settle in with the host families and children who have been eagerly awaiting your arrival, and tour the village meeting extended family and friends. Each weekday morning, travelers will work alongside village members to construct two community-requested additions to the local health clinic. After lunch and a midday rest, join fellow group members for optional afternoon cultural education sessions like cooking lessons, drumming workshops, nature hikes, and more. Or choose to simply spend time with your host family, enjoying the spontaneity of village life.

WEEKEND EXCURSION (Days 9-10, 16-17)

The two weekends during the village homestay provide golden opportunities to explore the region surrounding Ndoumboudj in greater depth. Weekend highlights include visits to neighboring villages, the Toubacouta Saturday market, a drum-making workshop, a refreshing swim and overnight at the Keur Saloum Hotel in Toubacouta, a safari in Bandiala Park, and a boat tour of the islands that dot the nearby coast.

CLOSING TRAVEL (Days 18-23)

Closing Travel marks a return to the road more traveled and is a time for recreation, relaxation, and reflection. The coast of Senegal provides a fascinating historical and cultural backdrop. Visit the picturesque beaches and fishing villages of Mbour and Saly, and spend a day wandering the shores and narrow streets of can't-miss Goree Island. Finally, the hustle and bustle of the capital city Dakar will leave you with a lasting impression of how engaging the country and its people truly are.



Saint-Louis

Senegal

The Gambia

Banjul

Ndoumboudj, SENEGAL 2009

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