



DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF THE BIJAGOS ARCHIPELAGO

DAKAR TO DAKAR | 30 APR - 8 MAY 2024



SWANHELLENIC.COM

Pristine Islands of West Africa

Explore the remote beauty of the Bijagós islands on a captivating cruise. Your boutique, 5-star ship leaves from Senegal's lively capital, Dakar, and takes you to some of the least-visited islands in West Africa. This tropical world has deserted beaches, ancient traditions and unique wildlife. You'll never forget your time in this exceptional archipelago – all 88 islands are a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Discover Bolama's decaying colonial buildings and the elaborate rituals of Canhabaque. Walk through Orango National Park's wooded savannah and relax on the pristine beaches of Kere Islands before returning to Dakar, our last stop on this once-in-a-lifetime voyage.

- Encounter the rare and gentle saltwater hippos, also known as African manatees, in the mangrove-lined waterways on Orango Island.
- Experience the vibrant Kumpo dance, a powerful tradition of the Bijagós people, with intricate footwork, dynamic movements and rhythmic drumming in Canhabaque Island's villages.
- Take to the zodiacs and explore Bolama Island, once the capital of Portuguese Guinea, now an eerie ghost town with remnants of its colonial grandeur.

UNMISSABLES

Caravela Island, BA

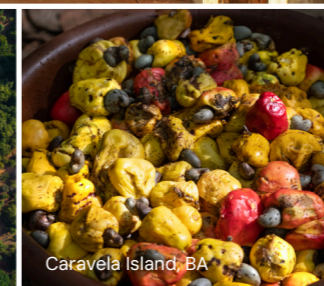
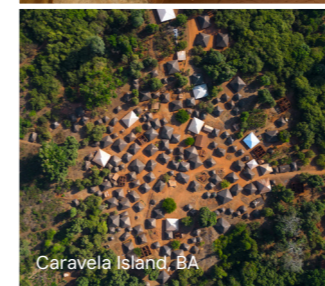
Discover the Bijagos Archipelago

SH Vega 8 nights

30 Apr - 8 May 2024

DAY VISITING

- 1 Dakar
- 2 At sea
- 3 Enter Bijagos Archipelago at Bolama
- 3-4 Canhabaque Island
- 4 Joao Vieira Island
- 5 Orango Island & Uno Island
- 6 Caravela Island
- 6-7 Carache Island
- 7 Kere Island
- 8 Leave Bijagos Archipelago and return to Dakar



The culture of Bijagos Archipelago

You will get to know the local population and learn about a tribal society organized into clans. Following a way of life in harmony with nature, they consider the world around them as sacred and have managed to preserve their ancestral traditions.

PLEASE NOTE

Local conditions will determine when and where we can disembark and explore. But, whatever the program, you can be sure that you will experience the rich diversity of the archipelago up close.






Curated onshore experiences

With deserted beaches, ancient traditions and unique wildlife, our shore excursions ensure an unforgettable time exploring the remote beauty of the awe-inspiring Bijagós islands. Enjoy an adventure like no other on some of West Africa's most treasured and least-visited islands.

EXPEDITION ACTIVITIES

A range of adventures with our Expedition team are available in your sailing:

-  Zodiac landings
-  Kayaking and paddle boarding on the Heavenly Island of Kere
-  Witness ancient ceremonies on the Caravela and Uno islands



OPTIONAL

Goree Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

 Dakar  4 hrs

Board a ferry to Goree island, once the largest slave-trading centre on the African coast. Visit the Fort of Estree, its historic museum, and the House of the Slaves, or stroll through the beautiful alleys of the island, lined with houses which date back from colonial times.

 GUEST FAVOURITE



INCLUDED

Bolama Island

 Bijagos Archipelago  2.5 hrs

Visit Bolama Island, the former capital of Portuguese Guinea. Once a city of majestic buildings, this town has fallen into disrepair and is partly invaded by tropical vegetation, giving it a unique, fairy-tale atmosphere of a ghost town where goats graze.

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INCLUDED

The Heavenly Island of Kere

 Bijagos Archipelago  7.25 hrs

Enjoy a true off-the-beaten-track castaway destination on Kere Island, where earth and straw bungalows blend into this dream setting. Feel like Robinson Crusoe, enjoy a local home-made breakfast, or explore this preserved Eden by kayak or paddle board.

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INCLUDED

Caravela Island Culture and Ceremonial Dances

 Bijagos Archipelago  2 hrs

This tour visits Caravela, the northernmost island of the Bijagos Islands. With less than 1000 inhabitants, see this beautiful island highly forested with mangroves and meet the locals. Learn about ancestral customs, get a glimpse of their daily lives, and experience a magnificent show of authentic traditional and ceremonial dances.

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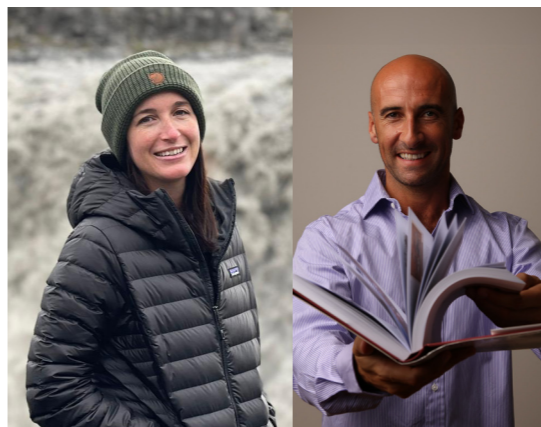
INCLUDED

Uno Island and Vaca Bruto Ceremony

 Bijagos Archipelago  1 hr

See Uno Island, an island covered with savannah, rice fields and lush forests. You'll discover the animist beliefs and rites of the Bijagos tribes, before experiencing a Vaca Bruto (Bull mask) rite of passage acted out by the Bijagos men.

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Onboard lectures with Emily Clarke and Dean Allen

This sailing welcomes 2 acclaimed guest lecturers. Dr Dean Allen is an international motivational speaker, author and historian, who has been published widely on the history and politics of society throughout the British Empire. Emily Clarke has over 15 years' wildlife experience. She specialises in gorillas, and has taken part in conservation and community development projects across Africa addressing human-wildlife conflicts.

GUEST LECTURERS

ACTIVITY DIFFICULTY: ●○○ Easy ●●○ Moderate ●●● Challenging



Thanks for embracing
our travel philosophy



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