

Language

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COLONIAL LANGUAGES

The sheer number of indigenous tongues spoken in Gambia and Senegal means that a common language is essential. Whereas Swahili developed in East Africa as a way for all the tribes to communicate, in West Africa the languages of the former colonial powers – French in Senegal and English in Gambia – have become each country's common language (or 'lingua franca').

We assume most readers of this book have a comfortable grasp of English, but some pointers for survival in French are provided here. Note that the French of France often differs from the French of Africa: for starters the French of Africa is pronounced with an accent that makes it easier to understand for English ears. Conversely the French you speak with an *accent terrible* is more likely to be understood in *les marchés de Dakar* than on *les boulevards de Paris*.

FRENCH

Though we've generally only included the polite form of address with the following phrases – *vous* (you) – the informal mode *tu* is used much more commonly in West Africa; you'll hear less *s'il vous plaît* and more *s'il te plaît* (which may be considered impolite in France unless spoken between good friends). If in doubt in Africa (when dealing with border officials or any older people) it's always safer to use the polite *vous* form.

If you fancy getting stuck into your *français* to a greater extent than is possible

with what we include here, Lonely Planet's compact *French Phrasebook* offers a handy, pocket-sized guide to the language that will cover all your travel needs and more.

Pronunciation

Most of letters in the French alphabet are pronounced more or less the same as their English counterparts. Here are a few that may cause confusion:

- j** **zh** in the pronunciation guides; as the 's' in 'leisure', eg *jour*, *zhoor* (day)
- c** before **e** and **i**, as the 's' in 'sit'; before **a**, **o** and **u** it's pronounced as English 'k'. When undescored with a 'cedilla' (ç) it's always pronounced as the 's' in 'sit'.
- r** pronounced from the back of the throat while constricting the muscles to restrict the flow of air
- n, m** where a syllable ends in a single **n** or **m**, these letters are not pronounced, but the preceding vowel is given a nasal pronunciation

The pronunciation guides included with each French phrase should help you in getting your message across.

Accommodation

I'm looking for a ...

<i>Je cherche ...</i>	<i>zher shersh ...</i>
camping ground	
<i>un camping</i>	<i>un kom-peeng</i>
guesthouse	
<i>une pension (de famille)</i>	<i>ewn pon-syon (der fa-mee-ler)</i>
hotel	
<i>un hôtel</i>	<i>un o-tel</i>
youth hostel	
<i>une auberge de jeunesse</i>	<i>ewn o-berzh der zher-nes</i>

Where is a cheap hotel?

Où est-ce qu'on peut trouver un hôtel pas cher?
oo es-kon per troo-vay un o-tel pa shair

What is the address?

Quelle est l'adresse?
kel e la-dres

Could you write the address, please?

Est-ce que vous pourriez écrire l'adresse, s'il vous plaît?
e-sker voo poo-ryay ay-kreer la-dres seel voo play

SIGNS

Entrée	Entrance
Fermé	Closed
Interdit	Prohibited
Ouvert	Open
Renseignements	Information
Sortie	Exit
Toilettes/WC	Toilets
Femmes	Women
Hommes	Men

Do you have any rooms available?

Est-ce que vous avez des chambres libres?
e-sker voo-za-vay day shom-brer lee-brer

I'd like (a) ...

<i>Je voudrais ...</i>	zher voo-dray ...
single room	
<i>une chambre à un lit</i>	ewn shom-brer a un lee
double-bed room	
<i>une chambre avec un grand lit</i>	ewn shom-brer a-vek un gron lee
room with two beds	
<i>une chambre avec des lits jumeaux</i>	ewn shom-brer a-vek day lee zhe-w-mo

How much is it ...?

<i>Quel est le prix ...?</i>	kel e ler pree ...
per night	
<i>par nuit</i>	par nwee
per person	
<i>par personne</i>	par per-son

May I see it?

Est-ce que je peux voir la chambre?
es-ker zher per vwa la shom-brer

Where is the bathroom?

Où est la salle de bains?
oo e la sal der bun

Where is the toilet?

Où sont les toilettes?
oo-son lay twa-let

air-conditioning

climatisation
klee-ma-tee-za-syon

bed

lit
lee

blanket

couverture
koo-vair-tewr

hot water

eau chaude
leeo shod

key

clef/clé
klef/klay

sheet

drap
drap

shower

douche
doosh

toilet

les toilettes lay twa-let

Conversation & Essentials

In common with many other predominantly Muslim groups, the Wolof and Mandinka use the traditional Arabic Islamic greetings: *salaam aleikum* (Peace be with you); the response is: *aleikum asalaam* (And peace be with you).

Hello.	<i>Bonjour.</i>	bon-zhoor
Goodbye.	<i>Au revoir.</i>	o-rer-vwa
Yes.	<i>Oui.</i>	wee
No.	<i>Non.</i>	no
Please.	<i>S'il vous plaît.</i>	seel voo play
	<i>S'il te plaît. (inf)</i>	seel ter play
Thank you.	<i>Merci.</i>	mair-see
You're welcome.	<i>Je vous en prie.</i>	zher voo-zon pree
	<i>De rien. (inf)</i>	der ree-en
Excuse me.	<i>Excusez-moi.</i>	ek-skew-zay-mwa
Sorry. (forgive me)	<i>Pardon.</i>	par-don

(Have a) good evening.

Bonne soirée. bon swa-ray

What's your name?

Comment vous appelez-vous? ko-mon voo-za-pay-lay voo

Comment tu t'appelles? (inf) ko-mon tew ta-pel

My name is ...

Je m'appelle ... zher ma-pel ...

Where are you from?

De quel pays êtes-vous? der kel pay-ee et-voo

De quel pays es-tu? (inf) der kel pay-ee e-tew

I'm from ...

Je viens de ... zher vyen der ...

I like ...

J'aime ... zhem ...

I don't like ...

Je n'aime pas ... zher nem pa ...

Directions

Where is ...?

Où est ...? oo e ...

Go straight ahead.

Continuez tout droit. kon-teen-way too drwa

Turn left.

Tournez à gauche. toor-nay a gosh

Turn right.

Tournez à droite. toor-nay a drwat

How many kilometres is ...?

À combien de kilomètres est ...? a kom-byun der kee-lo-me-trer

e ...

Emergencies

Help!

Au secours! o skoor

There's been an accident!

Il y a eu un accident! eel ya ew un ak-see-don

I'm lost.

Je me suis égaré/e. (m/f) zhe me swee-zay-ga-ray

Leave me alone!

Fichez-moi la paix! fee-shay-mwa la pay

Call ...!

Appelez ...! a-play ...

a doctor

un médecin un mayd-sun

the police

la police la po-lees

Health

I'm ill.	<i>Je suis malade.</i>	zher swee ma-lad
antiseptic	<i>l'antiseptique</i>	lon-tee-sep-teeek
aspirin	<i>l'aspirine</i>	las-pee-reen
condoms	<i>des préservatifs</i>	day pray-zair-va-teef
contraceptive	<i>le contraceptif</i>	ler kon-tra-sep-teef
diarrhoea	<i>la diarrhée</i>	la dya-ray
medicine	<i>le médicament</i>	ler may-dee-ka-mon
nausea	<i>la nausée</i>	la no-zay
sunblock cream	<i>la crème solaire</i>	la krem so-lair
tampons	<i>des tampons</i>	day tom-pon
	<i>hygiéniques</i>	ee-zhen-eek

I'm ...

asthmatic	<i>Je suis ...</i>	zher swee ...
	<i>asthmatique</i>	(z)as-ma-teeek
diabetic	<i>diabétique</i>	dee-a-bay-teeek
epileptic	<i>épileptique</i>	(z)ay-pee-lep-teeek

I'm allergic

to ...	<i>Je suis allergique ...</i>	zher swee ...
antibiotics	<i>aux antibiotiques</i>	o zon-tee-byo-teeek
nuts	<i>aux noix</i>	o nwa
peanuts	<i>aux cacahuètes</i>	o ka-ka-wet
penicillin	<i>à la pénicilline</i>	a la pay-nee-see-leen

Language Difficulties

Do you speak English?

Parlez-vous anglais?

par-lay-voo zong-lay

Does anyone here speak English?

Y a-t-il quelqu'un qui parle anglais?

ya-teel kel-kung kee par long-lay

I don't understand.

Je ne comprends pas.

zher ner kom-pron pa

Could you write it down, please?

Est-ce que vous pourriez l'écrire, s'il vous plaît?

es-ker voo poo-ray lay-kreer seel voo play

Can you show me (on the map)?

Pouvez-vous m'indiquer (sur la carte)?

poo-vay-voo mun-dee-kay (sewr la kart)

Numbers

0	<i>zero</i>	zay-ro
1	<i>un</i>	un
2	<i>deux</i>	der
3	<i>trois</i>	trwa
4	<i>quatre</i>	ka-trer
5	<i>cinq</i>	sungk
6	<i>six</i>	sees
7	<i>sept</i>	set
8	<i>huit</i>	weet
9	<i>neuf</i>	nerf
10	<i>dix</i>	dees
11	<i>onze</i>	onz
12	<i>douze</i>	dooz
13	<i>treize</i>	trez
14	<i>quatorze</i>	ka-torz
15	<i>quinze</i>	kunz
16	<i>seize</i>	sez
17	<i>dix-sept</i>	dee-set
18	<i>dix-huit</i>	dee-zweet
19	<i>dix-neuf</i>	deez-nerf
20	<i>vingt</i>	vung
21	<i>vingt et un</i>	vung tay un
22	<i>vingt-deux</i>	vung-der
30	<i>trente</i>	tront
40	<i>quarante</i>	ka-ront
50	<i>cinquante</i>	sung-kont
60	<i>soixante</i>	swa-son
70	<i>soixante-dix</i>	swa-son-dees
80	<i>quatre-vingts</i>	ka-trer-vung
90	<i>quatre-vingt-dix</i>	ka-trer-vung-dees
100	<i>cent</i>	son
1000	<i>mille</i>	meel

Question Words

Who?	<i>Qui?</i>	kee
What?	<i>Quoi?</i>	kwa
What is it?	<i>Qu'est-ce que c'est?</i>	kes-ker say
When?	<i>Quand?</i>	kon
Where?	<i>Où?</i>	oo
Which?	<i>Quel/Quelle?</i>	kel
Why?	<i>Pourquoi?</i>	poor-kwa
How?	<i>Comment?</i>	ko-mon

Shopping & Services

I'd like to buy ...

Je voudrais acheter ... zher voo-dray ash-tay ...

How much is it?

C'est combien? say kom-byun

I don't like it.

Cela ne me plaît pas. ser-la ner mer play pa

May I look at it?

Est-ce que je peux le voir? es-ker zher per ler vwar

I'm just looking.

Je regarde. zher rer-gard

It's cheap.

Ce n'est pas cher. ser nay pa shair

It's too expensive.

C'est trop cher. say tro shair

I'll take it.

Je le prends. zher ler pron

Can I pay by ...? *Est-ce que je peux* es-ker zher per
payer avec ...? pay-yay a-vek ...

credit card *ma carte de* ma kart der

travellers *des chèques* day shek
cheques *de voyage* der vwa-yazh

more *plus* plew

less *moins* mwa

smaller *plus petit* plew per-tee

bigger *plus grand* plew gron

I'm looking for ... *Je cherche ...* zhe shersh ...

a bank *une banque* ewn bonk

the ... embassy *l'ambassade* lam-ba-sahd
de ... der ...

the hospital *l'hôpital* lo-pee-tal

the market *le marché* ler mar-shay

the police *la police* la po-lees

the post office *le bureau de* ler bew-ro der
poste post

a public phone *une cabine* ewn ka-been

téléphonique tay-lay-fo-neek

a public toilet *les toilettes* lay twa-let

the telephone *la centrale* la san-tral

centre *téléphonique* tay-lay-fo-neek

the tourist *l'office de* lo-fees der

office *tourisme* too-rees-mer

Time & Dates**What time is it?**

Quelle heure est-il? kel er e til

It's (8) o'clock.

Il est (huit) heures. il e (weet) er

It's half past ...

Il est (...) heures et demie. il e (...) er e
day-mee

in the morning *du matin* dew ma-tun

in the afternoon *de l'après-midi* der la-pray-mee-dee

in the evening

du soir dew swar
today *aujourd'hui* o-zhoor-dwee
tomorrow *demain* der-mun
yesterday *hier* yair

Monday *lundi* lun-dee
Tuesday *mardi* mar-dee
Wednesday *mercredi* mair-krer-dee
Thursday *jeudi* zher-dee
Friday *vendredi* von-drer-dee
Saturday *samedi* sam-dee
Sunday *dimanche* dee-monsh

January *janvier* zhon-vyay
February *février* fayv-ryay
March *mars* mars
April *avril* a-vreel
May *mai* may
June *juin* zhwwun
July *juillet* zhwee-yay
August *août* oot
September *septembre* sep-tom-brer
October *octobre* ok-to-brer
November *novembre* no-vom-brer
December *décembre* day-som-brer

Transport**What time does ... leave/arrive?**

À quelle heure part/arrive ...?

a kel er par/a-reev ...

boat *le bateau* ler ba-to

bus *le bus* ler bews

train *le train* ler trun

I'd like a ticket to ...

Je voudrais un billet à ...
zher voo-dray un bee-yay a ...

I want to go to ...

Je voudrais aller à ...
zher voo-dray a-lay a ...

Which bus goes to ...?

Quel autobus/car part pour ...?
kel o-to-boos/ka par poor ...

Does this bus go to ...?

Ce car-là va-t-il à ...?
ser ka-la va-t-il a ...

Please tell me when we arrive in ...

Dites-moi quand on arrive à ... s'il vous plaît.
deet-mwa kon-don a-reev a ... seel voo play

Stop here, please.

Arrêtez ici, s'il vous plaît.
a-ray-tay ee-see seel voo play

the first *le premier* (m) ler prer-myay

la première (f) la prer-myair

the last *le dernier* (m) ler dair-nyay

la dernière (f) la dair-nyair

ticket *billet* bee-yay

ticket office *le guichet* ler gee-shay

timetable *l'horaire* lo-rair

train station *la gare* la gar

daily *chaque jour* shak zhoor

early *tôt* to

late *tard* tar

on time *à l'heure* a ler

I'd like to hire *Je voudrais* zher voo-dray

a/an ... *louer ...* loo-way ...

car *une voiture* ewn vwa-tewr

4WD *un quatre-quatre* un kat-kat

motorbike *une moto* ewn mo-to

bicycle *un vélo* un vay-lo

petrol/gas *essence* ay-sons

diesel *diesel* dyay-zel

Is this the road to ...?

C'est la route pour ...? say la root poor ...

Where's a service station?

Où est-ce qu'il y a oo es-keel ya
une station-service? ewn sta-syon-ser-vees

Please fill it up.

Le plein, s'il vous plaît. ler plun seel voo play

I need a mechanic.

J'ai besoin d'un zhay ber-zwun dun
mécanicien. may-ka-nee-syun

AFRICAN LANGUAGES

The diverse tribes and ethnic groups of Gambia and Senegal are spread across the national boundaries, and each has their own language or dialect. According to the Summer Institute of Linguistics Ethnologue there are up to 50 distinct languages spoken in the region, at least 15 of which have over 15,000 speakers. Some of the native tongues spoken as a first language by a significant proportion of people are listed here (although many people speak at least two indigenous languages). Note that the phrases reflect pronunciation and not correct spelling.

DIOLA

The Diola people inhabit the Casamance region of Senegal, and also southwestern Gambia, where their name is spelt Jola.

Their language is Diola or Jola, not to be confused with the Dioula or Dyola spoken in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire. Diola society is segmented and very flexible, so several dialects have developed which may not be mutually intelligible between groups even though the area inhabited by the Diola is relatively small.

Hello/Welcome. *kah-sou-mai-kep*

Greetings. (reply) *kah-sou-mai-kep*

Goodbye. *ou-kah-to-rrah*

FULA (FULFULDE/PULAAR)

The Fula people are found across West Africa, from northern Senegal to as far east as Sudan and as far south as Ghana and Nigeria. The Fula are known as Peul in Senegal, and are also called Fulani and Fulbe. There are two main languages in the Fulani group:

- Fulfulde/Pulaar, spoken mainly in northern and southern Senegal; includes Tukulor and Fulakunda dialects
- Futa Fula (aka Futa Djalon), one of the main indigenous languages of Guinea, also spoken in eastern Senegal

These far-flung languages have numerous regional dialects and variants that aren't always mutually intelligible between different groups.

The following phrases in Pulaar should be understood through most parts of Senegal. Note that **ng** is pronounced as one sound (like the 'ng' in 'sing'); practise isolating this sound and using it at the beginning of a word. The letter **ñ** represents the 'ni' sound in 'onion'.

Hello. *no ngoolu daa* (sg)
no ngoolu dong (pl)
Goodbye. *ñalleen e jamm* (lit. 'Have a good day.')

mbaaleen e jamm ('Have a good night.')

Please. *njaafodaa*
Thank you. *a jaaraamah* (sg)
on jaaraama (pl)
enen ndendidum
You're welcome. *yaafu* or *achanam hakke*
Sorry/Pardon. *eey*
Yes. *alaa*
No. *no mbaddaa?*
How are you? *mbe de sellee*
I'm fine.

Can you help me please?	<i>ada waawi wallude mi, njaafodaa?</i>
Do you speak English/French?	<i>ada faama engale/faranse?</i>
I speak only English.	<i>ko engale tan kaala mi</i>
I speak a little French.	<i>mi nani faranse seeda</i>
I don't understand.	<i>mi faamaani</i>
What's your name?	<i>no mbiyeteedaa?</i>
My name is ...	<i>ko ... mbiyete mi</i>
Where are you from?	<i>to njejedaa?</i>
I'm from ...	<i>ko ... njejaa mi</i>
Where is ...?	<i>hoto woni?</i>
Is it far?	<i>no woddii?</i>
straight ahead	<i>ko yeesu</i>
left	<i>nano bang-ge</i>
right	<i>nano ñaamo</i>
How much is this?	<i>dum no foti jarata?</i>
That's too much.	<i>e ne tiidi no feewu</i>
Leave me alone!	<i>accam! or oppam mi deej!</i>

1	<i>go-o</i>
2	<i>didi</i>
3	<i>tati</i>
4	<i>nayi</i>
5	<i>joyi</i>
6	<i>jeego</i>
7	<i>jeedidi</i>
8	<i>jeetati</i>
9	<i>jeenayi</i>
10	<i>sappo</i>
11	<i>sappoygoo</i>
12	<i>sappoydidi</i>
20	<i>noogaas</i>
30	<i>chappantati</i>
100	<i>temedere</i>
1000	<i>wujenere</i>

MALINKÉ

Malinké is spoken in Senegal's east. With speakers numbering over 250,000 it is recognised as one of the country's six national languages. While it is similar in some respects to Mandinka, the two are classed as separate languages.

Good morning.	<i>nee-so-ma</i>
Good evening.	<i>nee-woo-la</i>
How are you?	<i>tan-as-te?</i>
Thank you.	<i>nee-kay</i>
Goodbye.	<i>m-ba-ra-wa</i>

MANDINKA

Mandinka, a national language of Senegal, is the language of the Mandinka people

found largely in central and northern Gambia, and in parts of southern Senegal. The people and their language are also called Mandingo and they're closely related to other Manding-speaking groups such as the Bambara of Mali, where they originate.

In this guide, **ng** should be pronounced as in 'sing' and **ñ** represents the 'ni' sound in 'onion'.

Hello.	<i>i/al be ñaading (sg/pl)</i>
Goodbye.	<i>fo tuma doo</i>
Please.	<i>dukare</i>
Thank you.	<i>i/al ning bara (sg/pl)</i>
You're welcome.	<i>mbee le dentaala/wo teng fengti (lit. 'It's nothing.')</i>
Sorry/Pardon.	<i>hakko tuñe</i>
Yes.	<i>haa</i>
No.	<i>hani</i>
How are you?	<i>i/al be kayrato? (sg/pl)</i>
I'm fine.	<i>tana tenna (lit. 'I am out of trouble')</i>

What's your name?	<i>kayra dorong (lit. 'Peace only')</i>
My name is ...	<i>i too dung?</i>
Where are you from?	<i>ntoo mu ... leti</i>
I'm from ...	<i>i/al bata munto? (sg/pl)</i>
Can you help me please?	<i>mbota ...</i>
Do you speak English/French?	<i>i/al seng maakoy noo, dukare? (sg/pl)</i>
I speak only English.	<i>ye angkale/faranse kango moyle?</i>
I speak a little French.	<i>nga angkale kango damma le moy</i>
I don't understand.	<i>nga faranse kango domonding le moy</i>
Where is ...?	<i>mmaa kalamuta/mmaa fahaam</i>

Is it far?	<i>... be munto?</i>
Go straight ahead.	<i>faa jamfata?</i>
left	<i>sila tiling jan kilingo maraa</i>
right	<i>bulu baa</i>
How much is this?	<i>ñing mu jelu leti?</i>
That's too much.	<i>a daa koleyaata baake</i>
Leave me alone!	<i>mbula!</i>

1	<i>kiling</i>
2	<i>fula</i>
3	<i>saba</i>
4	<i>naani</i>
5	<i>luulu</i>
6	<i>wooro</i>
7	<i>woorowula</i>
8	<i>sey</i>

9	<i>kononto</i>
10	<i>tang</i>
11	<i>tang ning kiling</i>
12	<i>tang ning fula</i>
20	<i>muwaa</i>
30	<i>tang saba</i>
100	<i>keme</i>
1000	<i>wili kiling</i>

WOLOF

Wolof (spelt *oulof* in French) is the language of the Wolof people, who are found in Senegal, particularly in the central area north and east of Dakar, along the coast, and in the western regions of Gambia. The Wolof spoken in Gambia is slightly different to the Wolof spoken in Senegal; the Gambian Wolof people living on the north bank of the Gambia River speak the Senegalese variety. Wolof is used as a common language in many parts of Senegal and Gambia, often instead of either French or English, and some smaller groups complain about the increasing 'Wolofisation' of their culture.

In this guide, **ng** should be pronounced as in 'sing' and **ñ** represents the 'ni' sound in 'onion'.

Hello.	<i>na nga def (sg)</i>
	<i>na ngeen def (pl)</i>
Good morning.	<i>jaam nga fanane</i>
Good afternoon.	<i>jaam nga yendoo</i>
Goodnight.	<i>fanaanal jaam</i>
Goodbye.	<i>ba beneen</i>
Please.	<i>su la nexee</i>
Thank you.	<i>jai-rruh-jef</i>
You're welcome.	<i>agsil/agsileen ak jaam (sg/pl)</i>
Sorry/Pardon.	<i>baal ma</i>
Yes.	<i>wau</i>
No.	<i>deh-det</i>



Also available from Lonely Planet:
French Phrasebook

How are you?	<i>jaam nga am? (lit. 'Have you peace?')</i>
I'm fine.	<i>jaam rek</i>
And you?	<i>yow nag?</i>
What's your (first) name?	<i>naka-nga sant?</i>
My name is ...	<i>maa ngi tudd ...</i>
Where do you live?	<i>fan nga dahk?</i>
Where are you from?	<i>fan nga joghe? (sg)</i>
	<i>fan ngeen joghe? (pl)</i>
I'm from ...	<i>maa ngi joghe ...</i>
Do you speak English/French?	<i>deg nga angale/faranse?</i>
I speak only English.	<i>angale rekk laa degg</i>
I speak a little French.	<i>degg naa tuuti faranse</i>
I don't speak Wolof/French.	<i>mahn deggumah wolof/faranse</i>
I don't understand.	<i>degguma</i>
I'd like ...	<i>dama bahggoon ..</i>
Where is ...?	<i>fahn la ...?</i>
Is it far?	<i>soreh na?</i>
straight ahead	<i>cha kanam</i>
left	<i>chammooñ</i>
right	<i>ndeyjoor</i>
Get in!	<i>duggahal waay!</i>
How much is this?	<i>lii ñaata?</i>
It's too much.	<i>seer na torob</i>
Leave me alone!	<i>may ma jaam!</i>

Monday	<i>altine</i>
Tuesday	<i>talaata</i>
Wednesday	<i>allarba</i>
Thursday	<i>alkhyama</i>
Friday	<i>ajuma</i>
Saturday	<i>gaawu</i>
Sunday	<i>dibeer</i>

0	<i>tus</i>
1	<i>benn</i>
2	<i>ñaar</i>
3	<i>ñett</i>
4	<i>ñeent</i>
5	<i>juroom</i>
6	<i>juroom-benn</i>
7	<i>juroom-ñaar</i>
8	<i>juroom-ñett</i>
9	<i>juroom-ñeent</i>
10	<i>fuk</i>
11	<i>fuk-ak-benn</i>
12	<i>fuk-ak-ñaar</i>
20	<i>ñaar-fuk</i>
30	<i>fanweer</i>
100	<i>teemeer</i>
1000	<i>junneh</i>

Glossary

Items marked G or S are used only in The Gambia or Senegal respectively.

auberge – hostel or small hotel

balafon – wooden xylophone typically played by griots

bazin – dyed fabrics that are beaten to a shine with wooden clubs

bolong (G) – literally ‘river’ in Mandinka; when used in an English context it means creek or small river

boubou – common name for the elaborate robe-like outfit worn by men and women (also called *grand boubou*)

bumsters (G) – ‘beach boys’ who usually loiter around the coastal resort zones of The Gambia, trying to make a living by hustling tourists

cadeau (S) – gift, tip, bribe or hand-out

calèche – horse-drawn cart used to carry goods and people, particularly in the rural regions of Senegal

campement (S) – could be loosely translated as ‘hostel’, ‘inn’ or ‘lodge’, or even ‘motel’; it is not a camping ground

campement villageois (S) – rural, village-managed lodgings typical of the Casamance

car mourides – long-distance bus service financed by the Sufi brotherhood of the Mourides

car rapide (S) – usually decrepit yellow-blue minibus, popular public transport of Dakar and symbol of Senegal

case (S) – hut

case à étages (S) – two-storey mud house

case à impluvium (S) – large round traditional house, with roof constructed to collect rainwater in a central tank or bowl

chambres de passage (S) – very basic place to sleep, often near bus stations; with a bed or mat on the floor and little else, and nearly always doubling as a brothel; also called *maison de passage*

climatisée – air-conditioned (often shortened to ‘clim’)

commissariat (S) – police station

compteurs (S) – meters (usually in taxis and *télécentres*)

confrérie – brotherhood

dash (G) – bribe (noun); also used as a verb ‘You dash me something...’

demi-pension (S) – half board (dinner, bed and breakfast); see also *pension complète/simple*

dibiterie – grilled-meat stall

djembe – short, goat hide-covered drum

Ecowas – Economic Community of West African States

essence (S) – petrol (gas) for car

factory – fortified slaving station

fanals – large lanterns; also the processions during which the lanterns are carried through the streets

fête (S) – festival

fromager (S) – kapok tree; also known as silk-cotton tree

garage (G) – bus and bush-taxi station

gare routière (S) – bus and bush-taxi station; also called *autogare* and *gare voiture*

gargotte (S) – basic eating house or stall

gasoil – diesel fuel

gendarmier (S) – police station/post

gîte (S) – used interchangeably with ‘auberge’ and *campement*

grigri – charm or amulet worn to ward off evil (pronounced gree-gree); also written as *grisgris* or *grisgri*

griot – traditional musician or minstrel who also acts as historian for a village, clan or tribe

groupement de femmes – women’s cooperative

harmattan – light winds from the north that carry tiny particles of sand from the desert, causing skies to become hazy from December to February

hôtel de ville (S) – town hall

IMF – International Monetary Fund

Inch’ Allah – God willing, ie hopefully (Arabic, but used by Muslims in Africa)

kora – 21-string harp-lute

lumo – weekly market, usually in border areas

mairie (S) – town hall; mayor’s office

maison de passage see *chambres de passage*

marabout – Muslim holy man

marigot (S) – creek (S)

mbalax – mixture of Cuban beats and traditional *sabar* drumming; the heart and soul of Senegalese music

MFDC – Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de la Casamance

mobylette – moped

ndeup (S) – ceremonies in which people with a mental illness are treated and healed (S)

Ndiaga Ndiaye (S) – white Mercedes bus, used as public transport (S)

ocasion (S) – lift (noun), or place in a car or bus (pronounced oc-cars-ee-on, often shortened to *occas*)

pagne (S) – length of cloth worn around the waist as a skirt

paillote (S) – shelter with thatched roof and walls; usually on the beach or around an open-air bar-restaurant

palava – meeting place

paletuviers (S) – mangroves

patron (S) – owner, boss

pension (S) – simple hotel or hostel, or ‘board’

pension complète (S) – full board (lunch, dinner, bed and breakfast)

pension simple (S) – B&B

pétrole (S) – kerosene

pirogue – traditional wooden canoe, either a small dugout or long, narrow sea-going fishing boat

préfecture (S) – police headquarters

quatre-quatre (S) – literally, ‘4x4’ (4WD car)

quartier – area

Quran – Islamic holy book (also called the Koran)

Ramsar – an international convention concerned with the conservation of wetland habitats and associated wildlife

sabar – tall, thin, hourglass drum

sai-sai – Wolof term for a womaniser; also used for youngsters smooth-talking women, usually with sexual but sometimes criminal intentions

sous-verre (S) – reverse-glass painting; technique in

which images are drawn onto the back of a glass surface, particularly in Saint-Louis/Senegal

Sentram (S) – Senegal’s maritime-transport organisation

sept-place – usually a Peugeot 504 or 505, with seven seats

serviette (S) – towel (in bathroom)

serviette hygiénique (S) – sanitary pad (see also *tampon hygiénique*)

serviette de table (S) – table napkin, serviette

signares – women of mixed race who married wealthy European merchants during colonial times, particularly in Saint-Louis/Senegal

Sonatel (S) – Senegal’s phone company

syndicat d’initiative (S) – tourist office

tampon (S) – stamp (eg in passport)

tampon hygiénique (S) – tampon (also *tampon périodique* and *serviette hygiénique*)

taxi-brousse (S) – bush taxi

telecentre (G) or **télécentre** (S) – privately owned telephone bureau

toubab – white person

ventilé (S) – room with a fan

village artisanal (S) – craft market

zouk – style of music, originally from Guadeloupe, that mixes African and Latin-American rhythms

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