



RIVERS OF WEST AFRICA 2023-24

A river cruise with an Expert Cruise Escort / Gambian River Naturalist

ABOARD THE 21-CABIN MEGA YACHT *HARMONY G*

DEC 2023 – FEB 2024 | 8-day cruises

Saturdays | From Dakar, Senegal

Mondays | From Banjul, Gambia

Highlights: Dakar (Senegal), the Saloum and Gambia Rivers, the Djiffer fishing village, Tendaba Nature reserve, Banjul and the Abuko and Makasutu Nature Reserves



THE HARMONY G MEGA YACHT

The **M/Y HARMONY G** is a modern elegant yacht with a sleek high-tech look very similar to the private yachts to be found in the famous ports of the world.

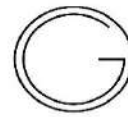
GENERAL INFORMATION:

Length: 54 m
 Launched: 2001 | Renovated: 2013
 Cabins: 21
 Capacity: 44 passengers
 Crew: 16-18

The **M/Y HARMONY G** is a 54-meter/21-cabin elegant yacht that was launched in 2001 and renovated in 2012-2013. This sleek high-tech looking yacht complies with the most stringent SOLAS safety regulations.

Service on board is provided by your Captain, the Cruise Coordinator and your experienced Marine and Hotel crew members. Service will be attentive or unobtrusive according to your requirements and priority is always given to the safety and comfort of passengers.

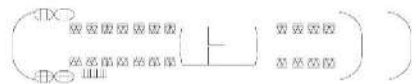
Organized excursions are available for most ports of call and can be pre-booked or reserved 24 hours in advance.



HARMONY G
OUR PRISTINE PERFECTION



360°
SUN DECK



INFINITY
UPPER DECK



RIVIERA
MAIN DECK



OCEANS
LOWER DECK





THE MEGA YACHT HARMONY G

CABIN SPECIFICATIONS:

The 21 cabins of the M/Y HARMONY G are located on the Upper Deck (4 cabins), the Main Deck (11 cabins) and the Lower Deck (6 cabins). They are upscale, intimate and decorated with soft color furnishing. The cabins are equipped with twin or queen size beds, with two of the cabins being triples, and have large windows (two portholes on the Lower Deck). All cabins offer en suite bathrooms with shower, flat-screen TVs, CD/DVD players, music channels, mini fridges, hairdryers, individually controlled A/C and safe deposit boxes.



LIFE ON BOARD

During the day, life on board centers around the Bar Lounge and Dining Room at the Main Deck and meals are also served "al fresco" depending on the weather. The Captain will drop anchor at secluded bays and beautiful uninhabited islands where, weather permitting, guests enjoy swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking. The Mega Yacht accommodates all guests at one single seating and provide a high standard of cuisine, always with some local flavor.



MAIN DECK LOUNGE & DINING ROOM

The classy dining room is surrounded by large windows providing beautiful views of the ports of call. The spacious dining room seats all passengers in a single, unassigned seating and food is served at the table or displayed on the state of the art hot & cold buffet which.

UPPER DECK LOUNGE AREA & DINING ROOM

The interior lounge has relaxing couches and comfortable lounge chairs where you can have a drink and gaze out of the large windows at the breathtaking sceneries you are cruising into, read a book, watch television on the satellite TV or one of our documentaries on the next place you are visiting. Also located on the Upper Deck, the outdoor dining area provides beautiful views of the ports of call visited.



SUN DECK

The vessel features a Sun Deck with a sitting area to relax and enjoy unobstructed views and with ample Sun loungers' space to bask under the sun, read a good book or just gaze at the scenery.



Rivers of West Africa Cruise 2023/24 on the M/Y Harmony G

Saturdays embarkation | 7-night cruises

Dakar to Dakar on the Saloum and Gambia Rivers

Day 1 | Saturday: Dakar/Senegal

Late afternoon embarkation at 14:00-18:00. After dinner, we set sail southward towards the Saloum River Delta. Overnight at sea, south along the coast.

Day 2 | Sunday: Djiffer/Senegal – Banjul/the Gambia

This morning we reach the Sine – Saloum Delta in Senegal, an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and also an Important Birding Area, as designated by Birdlife International and natural habitat for many bird species but also such aquatic animals as marine turtles, dolphins, West African manatees and crocodiles. Our **Joal Fadiout optional excursion** starts at the fishing village of Djiffer from where we reach the village of Joal Fadiouth, set on an island of clam shells that also are used in local buildings and crafts. In the afternoon, we leave Senegal and the Saloum Delta and sail south to Gambia to reach Banjul, the capital of Gambia and gateway to the 700-mile Gambia River. **Fishermen Night - Overnight in Banjul.**

Day 3 | Monday: Banjul - Abuko Nature Reserves/the Gambia - Tendaba

The morning in Banjul will give you the opportunity to take the **optional 1/2 day excursions** offered to Bakau with its crocodile "katchikaly", its Botanic Garden and a short Banjul Tour. Mid-afternoon, we leave Banjul and sail upstream to Tendaba. We reach Tendaba late into the evening. **African Night - Overnight at dock in Tendaba.**

Day 4 | Tuesday: Tendaba/the Gambia

From the ship we take motor pirogues in order to reach Tendaba, located on the South Bank in the Lower River Division, our starting point of our **Tendaba morning optional excursion**. It is a small fishing village of mainly Muslim faith with approximately 600 inhabitants whose main occupation is fishing. From there we will walk through to Batelling, a small village at the entrance to Kiang West National Park. The area boasts of over 250 species of birds, many of which are difficult to observe anywhere else. Other residents include Guinea baboons, bushbuck, warthogs, Senegal bushbaby and marsh mongoose. After a refreshing stop in Batelling, we will board an open safari truck which brings us back to Tendaba. On the way we pass again local villages where you get an impression of local life in The Gambia. In the afternoon, we are picked-up from the ship by motor pirogues for the **afternoon Tendaba optional excursion** to the Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve. This reserve, lying across from Kiang West National Park features six major bolongs (creeks) that provide great birding and boating opportunities. Numerous rare and migratory birds also reside here including the Pel's fishing owl, African fin foot and brown-necked parrot. **Overnight docked in Tendaba.**

Day 5 | Wednesday: Gambia River – Kuntaur - River Gambia National Park/the Gambia

Early morning we leave Tendaba and sail upstream on the Gambia River all morning to reach Kuntaur. Early afternoon arrival to the bustling Gambian port town of Kuntaur, the last inland stop along the river that is navigable for ocean-going ships. Later in the afternoon we board a large motor pirogue for a **3 hours optional excursion cruise on The Gambia River**. First we head to the southernmost tip of Baboon Island, one of the five islands of The Gambia National Park. There a local national park ranger is joining us onboard in order to give more information about the park and its fauna & flora. Then we turn, the motor pirogue slows down and sails slowly back to Kuntaur following closely the shores of Baboon Island. This island is home of the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Project. If we are lucky from our motor pirogue we can closely observe the chimps with minimal intrusion. There is also the possibility of seeing hippos, crocodiles, Red Colobus, Green Vervet monkeys and also The Gambia's famous birdlife. We return to Kuntaur where we are met by the "Kankurang" and a local dance group on the pier. Believed to have spiritual powers the "Kankurang" dispenses justice and wards off evil spirits. **Overnight docked in Kuntaur.**

Day 6 | Thursday: Kuntaur – Janjanbureh – Kaur/the Gambia

This morning, our **optional excursion by bus takes us to the ferry station of Janjanbureh**. There we board the local ferry for a short cruise over The Gambia River to Janjanbureh. We continue our excursion with a visit of one of the oldest towns of The Gambia,

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formerly called Georgetown. During the walk you get an impression of this laidback town and see the residence of the governor, the market and the Methodist church with its school. Afterwards we take the ferry back and re board the bus to reach Lamin Koto. Through the generosity of Variety Cruises and of many of its clients, a new school building is being built. Later in the morning we stop at the mysterious stone circles in Wassu, a megalithic site believed to be a burial ground thousands of years ago. You will visit the little museum of this archaeological site, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. In the afternoon, after lunch, we sail downstream to Kaur a small fishing village on the banks of the Gambia. You will have the opportunity to walk around this small community and see how Gambians live today. In the evening we leave Kaur and sail downstream towards Banjul.

Captains Farewell Dinner

Day 7 | Friday: Kunta Kinteh Island – Banjul/the Gambia

This morning we anchor at St. James Island in the middle of the Gambia River, which was an important slave trading post under the British rule in The Gambia. In 1976 James Island became famous due to the author Alex Haley and its bestseller book "Roots" and the story of a slave, called Kunta Kinteh. The island is now called and is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. **Optional walking tour:** After disembarking by local tenders your local guide will tell you more about the history of James Island and afterwards you will have some time to explore this island by yourself. After lunch, we leave "Kunta Kinteh" to reach Banjul around 4pm. After formalities, later in the evening, we will sail out of the Gambia estuary into the Atlantic Ocean northwards to Dakar.

Gambian Night with Kora instrument Concert - Overnight at sea to Dakar.

Day 8 | Saturday: Dakar/Senegal

Early morning arrival in Dakar. Disembarkation at 9:00 am after breakfast.

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The Rivers of West Africa – 2023/24

7 nights cruise Banjul - Banjul Gambia River program
Monday-Monday program

Day 1 | Monday: Banjul - Abuko Nature Reserves/the Gambia

Embarkation 4pm. We leave Banjul and sail upstream to Tendaba. We reach Tendaba late into the evening.

African Night - Overnight at dock in Tendaba.

Day 2 | Tuesday: Tendaba/the Gambia

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January 3, 2023

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Gambian Night with Kora instrument Concert - Overnight at sea to Dakar.

Day 6 | Saturday: Dakar/Senegal

Early morning arrival in Dakar. After breakfast, we will take you in an **optional excursion to Goree Island and Dakar city tour**, an exploratory adventure of Dakar surroundings, inviting you to discover the traces of slave trading, and its transformation into today's African modernity. The history makes room for the present development. Lunch outside the ship. Returning to the ship in late afternoon and preparing for dinner. After dinner, we set sail southward towards the Saloum River Delta. Overnight at sea, cruising south wards along the coast.

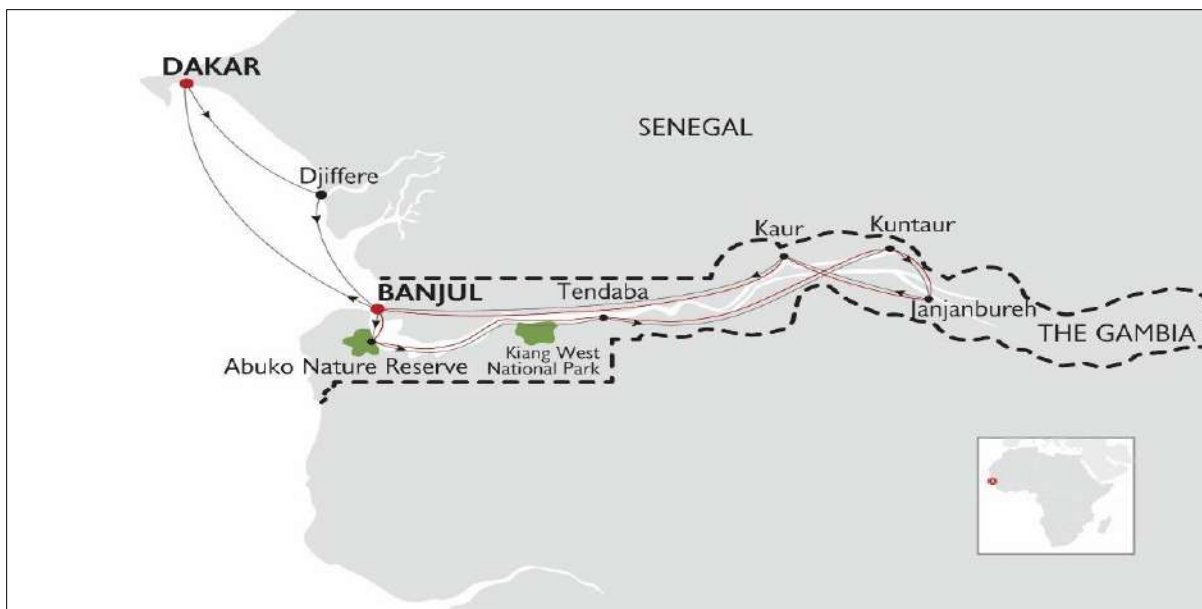
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Day 8: | Monday: Banjul/the Gambia

Disembarkation at 9:00 am after breakfast.

Itineraries can be changed at the discretion of Variety Cruises and of the Vessel's Captain in case of adverse weather conditions - winds of 6/7 beaufort or more depending on the vessel- on port authorities not allowing a vessel to leave port or in case of other extraordinary conditions. Such itinerary changes do not automatically entitle passengers to any refunds, but Variety Cruises guarantees that passengers are disembarked at the advertised port of disembarkation on time for their flights.



January 3, 2023

The Rivers of West Africa 2023/24 on the M/Y Harmony G SAILING DATES	
From Dakar to Dakar On: Saturdays	23, 30 Dec. 2023 06, 13, 20, 27 Jan. 2024 03, 10, 17 Feb. 2024
From Banjul to Banjul On: Mondays	25 Dec. 2023 01, 08, 15, 22, 29 Jan. 2024 05, 12 Feb. 2024

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