

Riskline / Destination Report

This document was generated on 22 December 2023



SENEGAL

Overall risk level

Low Take normal safety precautions	Moderate Take normal safety precautions	Medium Exercise caution	High Reconsider travel	Extreme Defer non-essential travel
--	---	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	--

The Overall Risk Level will be determined by the higher of the Security Risk Level and Covid-19 Risk Level.

Security risk level

Low Take normal safety precautions	Moderate Take normal safety precautions	Medium Exercise caution	High Reconsider travel	Extreme Defer non-essential travel
Safe, with few security risks	Generally safe, with some predictable security risks	Not completely safe, but typically presents predictable security risks	Can be dangerous and may present unexpected security risks	Extremely dangerous and presents unpredictable security risks
Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays	Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays	Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions	Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions	Chaotic; travel impossible

Covid-19 risk level

Low Take normal safety precautions	Moderate Take normal safety precautions	Medium Exercise caution	High Reconsider travel	Extreme Defer non-essential travel
Travellers should take normal precautions when travelling to Low Risk locations, which have limited or no restrictions on international travel and domestic activities.	Travellers should take normal precautions when travelling to Moderate Risk locations, which have few restrictions on international travel and limited or no restrictions on domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should exercise caution when travelling to Medium Risk locations, and vaccinated travellers should take normal precautions. These locations may have some restrictions on international travel, but few restrictions on domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should reconsider their need to travel to High Risk locations, and vaccinated travellers should exercise caution. These locations may have severely restricted international travel and partially restricted domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should defer non-essential travel to Extreme Risk locations, and vaccinated travellers should reconsider their travel. These locations may have severely restricted international travel and domestic activities.

Overview

Upcoming Events

15 January 2024 - 21 June 2024

- **Moderate risk:** Air Senegal to suspend flights between Dakar's Blaise Diagne Airport in Senegal and Milan Malpensa Airport in Italy on 15 January-20 June 2024

Local sources indicated that Air Senegal will suspend flights between Dakar's Diass-Thies Blaise Diagne International Airport (DSS/GOBD) in Senegal and Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP/LIMC) in Italy, effective from 15 January until at least 20 June 2024. The cause for the suspension remained unclear.

16 January 2024 - 21 June 2024

- **Moderate risk:** Air Senegal to suspend flights between Dakar's Blaise Diagne Airport in Senegal and Marseille and Lyon airports in France on 16 January-20 June 2024

Local sources indicated that Air Senegal will suspend flights between Dakar's Diass-Thies Blaise Diagne International Airport (DSS/GOBD) in Senegal and the airports of Marseille Provence (MRS/LFML) and Lyon (LYS/LFLL) in France, effective from 16 January until at least 20 June 2024. The cause for the suspension remained unclear.

18 January 2024 - 21 June 2024

- **Moderate risk:** Air Senegal to suspend flights between Dakar's Blaise Diagne Airport in Senegal and Barcelona-El Prat Airport in Spain on 18 January-20 June 2024

Local sources indicated that Air Senegal will suspend flights between Dakar's Diass-Thies Blaise Diagne International Airport (DSS/GOBD) in Senegal and Barcelona-El Prat Airport (BCN/LEBL) in Spain, effective from 18 January until at least 20 June 2024. The cause for the suspension remained unclear.

Travel Advisories

● Medium risk: Opposition protests in Dakar, other cities

Exercise caution for travel to the country, particularly in **Dakar** and **Ziguinchor**, until further notice, due to violent opposition protests.

Tensions are high ahead of the February 2024 presidential election in Senegal. In **Dakar**, thousands of supporters of opposition leader Ousmane Sonko, of the African Patriots of Senegal for Work, Ethics and Fraternity (PASTEF) party, have staged several demonstrations since mid-February, as he faces a ban from running for the presidency. Opposition supporters claim that incumbent President Macky Sall is manipulating the judiciary to silence the opposition, despite Sall confirming that he will not run for a third presidential term. On 1 August, government officials announced the dissolution of the PASTEF party, accusing PASTEF leaders of inciting insurrection which has led to the loss of life and looting. The move is likely to guarantee the continuation of protests in the long-term.

Protests by Sonko supporters, which took place sporadically since the 2019 election where he came in third place, flared up on 16 February in **Dakar** following his first court appearance. Another round of protests took place between 14-16 March, leaving more than 130 demonstrators arrested, 50 injured and three killed. Despite a ban on protests in **Dakar** during his next court appearance on 29-30 March, opposition rallies went ahead in the capital, with security forces using tear gas and stun grenades to disperse demonstrators who attempted to block roads. Protest clashes have also erupted in **Ziguinchor**, where Sonko's private residence is located. On 1 June, widespread unrest erupted across urban areas over a trial verdict that would bar him from office, leading to clashes in **Dakar** and **Ziguinchor** as well as other cities including **Saint Louis**, **M'Bour**, **Bayakh**, **Kolda**, **Rufisque**, **Keur Massar**, **Pikine**, **Guédiawaye** and **Thiaroye**. At least 16 people were killed during the unrest between 1-5 June. Following a brief period of calm, renewed protests took place in **Dakar** on 30 and 31 July, amid calls for a shutdown strike, demonstrations and roadblocks by the opposition, after Sonko was detained on 28 July; authorities suspended mobile internet access across the country in response to the protests. Further protests and unrest are expected to continue in the run-up to the 2024 vote.

Despite its reputation as a democratic model in West Africa, Senegal has faced

mounting criticism for the government's suppression of opposition. In his first trial, Sonko was found guilty of libelling Minister of Tourism Mame Mbaye Niang, resulting in a two-month suspended sentence, though this did not disqualify his 2024 candidacy. However, he was found guilty on 1 June of "corrupting the youth" and now faces a two-year prison sentence that would effectively bar him from running for office. PASTEF has since sponsored the party's second-in-command, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, as their candidate for the 2024 elections, after authorities refused to provide Sonko with sponsorship papers, effectively blocking him from running.

Anticipate heightened security and overland travel disruptions during protests across major urban areas nationwide. Avoid all political gatherings and party infrastructure due to the potential for clashes and the risk of incidental violence. Roadblocks are common during protests and demonstrators have set fire to transport infrastructure. Seek shelter at the first signs of unrest. Track local media for situational updates.

● High risk: Casamance region

Reconsider travel to the southern **Casamance**, which comprises the **Ziguinchor**, **Sédhiou** and **Kolda regions**, because of an ongoing separatist insurgency.

The Movement for Democratic Forces in the Casamance (MFDC) has been fighting for autonomy in the southern region of **Casamance** since the 1980s and remains active. It is divided from within into at least three main factions, with the most prominent one based in **Diakaye**, between **Bignona** and **Diouloulou**, controlling the Northern front of the MFDC's zone of action near The Gambia, and led by Salif Sadio. César Atoute Badiate leads the Southern front operating mainly along the border with **Guinea-Bissau**, and a faction previously led by the late Ousmane Niantang Diatta operates across **southeast Casamance**. The threat is highest in areas near the borders with The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, whereas **Ziguinchor** and tourist areas such as **Cap Skirring** are relatively safe.

On 6 January 2018, at least 13 civilians were killed and nine others wounded by unidentified gunmen in the **Bayotte forest**, in the area of **Bourofaye**, prompting military operations in which at least two suspected militants were killed and 16 others arrested between 14 and 20 January. Later, on 25 March 2019, a government vehicle transporting Emergency Program from the Modernization of Frontier Axes and Territories (PUMA) workers was ambushed by suspected MFDC

militants near **Kafinké** village in **Oulampane commune, Ziguinchor region**, with all passengers beaten and robbed on site. MFDC officials did not comment or claim responsibility for either attack. All factions were upholding ceasefires in 2020 amid a lull in fighting. However, military forces captured four MFDC bases in **Bouman, Boussouloum, Badioung** and **Sikoun** following a security operation in January-February 2021. In March 2022, the Senegalese military launched a new operation targeting Salif Sadio's faction in **Sindian, Bignona department**, prompting hundreds of civilians to flee to The Gambia. In August 2022, the government signed a peace agreement with the César Atoute Badiate faction, prompting many fighters to lay down their arms.

Armed clashes between government forces and rebels remain likely, and there is a threat of kidnapping, though foreign travellers are not specifically targeted. Landmines are present in the region, with the majority located in the **Ziguinchor region**. Six civilians were killed due to a landmine blast in **Ziguinchor's Kandiadiou** in October 2021. Bandits also operate in the region and there have been attacks on foreign nationals travelling in the rural areas of **Casamance**, including on 25 January 2018, when at least four Spanish nationals were assaulted and robbed after unidentified gunmen ambushed them at an illegal roadblock in **Diouloulou** town. There have been reports of restrictions on flights and maritime transport to the **Casamance** meaning travel to and from the region may not be possible.

Confirm the viability of travel before departure. Considering hiring a knowledgeable local guide for areas away outside of beach resorts. Avoid travel after dark at all times and comply with the directives of local guides and military/police authorities. Travel only on paved roads or well-marked paths due to the presence of landmines.

Summary

Overall ● Medium Risk

Senegal is a **Medium Risk** destination: exercise caution.

Security ● Medium Risk

Medium Risk locations are not completely safe, but typically present predictable security risks. Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions.

Covid ● Low Risk

COVID-19 cases are decreasing. A massive vaccine rollout is underway alongside public awareness campaigns. The wearing of facemasks may be required in healthcare facilities.

Political Instability ● Moderate Risk

Senegal is one of West Africa's most stable and prosperous nations and has a history of peaceful electoral processes. While Macky Sall was easily re-elected in 2019, opposition to him taking a third term in office is growing. Political instability will increase through the 2023 presidential elections.

Conflict ● Moderate Risk

A long-running, low-level secessionist war between rebel factions and the government has been ongoing since the 1980s in the southwestern **Casamance region**. There have been numerous splits in the separatist camp over the years; while most rebel leaders signed a peace accord with the government in 2004, low-intensity fighting has continued.

Terrorism ● Moderate Risk

No terror attacks have been reported in Senegal. However, al-Qaeda spokesmen have identified Senegal as a target in response to the country's decision to contribute troops to various peacekeeping missions across the Sahel and West Africa, including Mali. Should attacks occur they may target military and security bases or checkpoints, or locations frequented by foreigners.

Unrest ● Medium Risk

Protests tend to be peaceful but can escalate to violence. Security forces may resort to tear gas, batons and live rounds. Protests are increasingly triggered by political developments, but economic issues remain at the fore. Planned demonstrations typically occur on Fridays, often on **Place de l'Indépendance**, **Place de l'Obélisque** and at **University Cheikh Anta Diop** in **Dakar**.

Crime ● Moderate Risk

Levels of violent crime are relatively low in Senegal, however, theft involving the use of violence does occur. Petty crime is common and rates appear to be highest at bus stations, on taxis and in crowded markets in **Dakar** and other urban areas. Credit card and ATM fraud is also a concern.

Natural and Environmental ● Medium Risk

The country's infrastructure is weak and cannot withstand heavy rainfall which periodically results in flash floods and landslides. Droughts also occasionally affect the country. The response of emergency services to natural disasters is very slow, and they lack the resources to effectively deal with major calamities.

Local Travel ● Medium Risk

In general, travel throughout the country by road is safe, however, by most Western standards the roads are poorly maintained and driving standards are unpredictable. Travellers should avoid public transportation when possible in order to stay away from riding in vehicles that often lack basic safety features such as safety belts and headlights. Landmines are a risk in the **Casamance region** and along the **border with Guinea-Bissau**.

Health and Medical ● Medium Risk

Medical facilities are adequate in **Dakar**, but significantly worse outside the capital. Clinics in rural areas can provide basic medical care, but are often underequipped, lacking in medicines and run by poorly trained staff. Malaria, meningitis and yellow fever are present in Senegal.

Political Overview : ● Moderate Risk

In February 2019, incumbent President Macky Sall from the Benno Bokk Yakaar (BBY, United in Hope) coalition was re-elected for a second term after securing 58 percent of the vote. Leaders of several opposition parties contested the results, denouncing "irregularities" in the vote, but chose not to bring the case to the Constitutional Council. At least two people were killed in sporadic protest clashes following the election.

Sall's BBY lost a considerable number of seats in the 2022 legislative elections, leading to the alliance eventually losing its majority in the chamber due to a party defection in August of that year. The newly formed opposition party of Ousmane Sonko, Patriots of Senegal or PASTEF, won 56 seats, making it the second-largest individual party in the legislature. Opposition to a third term for President Sall will continue to drive opposition support – and increasing political instability – through the 2024 presidential elections.

Senegal does not have significant ethnic or religious tensions that could lead to conflict; 94 percent of the population are Muslim. The Wolof, and to a lesser extent, the Serer, ethnic groups have dominated Senegalese politics since independence. However, the secessionist movement in **Casamance region** has often been characterised in ethnic terms. An armed separatist movement in **Casamance** has fought a long-running war for secession since 1982. The Diola, although comprising only five percent of Senegal's population, account for 60 percent of **Casamance's** inhabitants. The Senegalese government has argued that the insurgency is motivated by a Diola separatist agenda but the driving factors are primarily the stark social and economic inequalities between the region and the rest of the country.

Recent incidents

06 October 2023 - 07 October 2023

● **Medium risk:** President Sall dissolves government ahead of elections

Incumbent President Macky Sall announced the dissolution of the Amadou Ba-led government but reinstated Ba as Prime Minister during evening hours on 6 October. The move comes amid political turmoil following the detention of opposition leader Ousmane Sonko ahead of the elections slated for 25 February 2024. The makeup of the new government was yet to be revealed.

01 August 2023 - 02 August 2023

● **Medium risk:** Government dissolves opposition PASTEF party

Government officials announced the dissolution of the Ousmane Sonko-led opposition party, African Patriots of Senegal for Work, Ethics and Fraternity (PASTEF), after accusing PASTEF leaders of inciting insurrection which has led to the loss of life and looting. The move comes amid renewed protests by the opposition following the detention of Ousmane Sonko.

28 July 2023 - 29 July 2023

● **Medium risk:** Opposition leader Sonko detained in Dakar

Patriots of Senegal (PASTEF) officials announced that opposition leader Ousmane Sonko was detained at the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Dakar during evening hours local time. Further details were not immediately available.

03 July 2023 - 04 July 2023

● **Moderate risk:** President Sall rejects running for re-election in 2024 amid opposition protest calls - Update

President Macky Sall announced that he will not run for re-election in 2024 during a televised address to the nation during evening hours local time. No rallies were immediately reported after opposition leader Ousmane Sonko called on supporters to demonstrate nationwide in the coming days to demand the release of himself and political prisoners.

Conflict : ● Moderate Risk

Insurgency: A long-running secessionist war has been waged in the southwestern **Casamance region**, where rebel factions are competing for control of territory. An alliance of rebel factions is currently fighting the hard-line wing of the Movement for Democratic Forces in the Casamance (MFDC).

The MFDC has been fighting for autonomy in the **Casamance** since the 1980s. It is divided into at least three main factions, with the most prominent faction active on the **North Atika** front, near the **Gambian border** and is led by Salif Sadio. While Sadio declared a unilateral ceasefire in April 2014, César Atoute Badiate, leader of the **South Atika** front, and Ousmane Niantang Diatta, leader of the **Balantacounda** base faction, rejected the ceasefire. Since early 2021, the Senegalese army has attempted to finally quash the insurgency, launching an operation around **Ziguinchor** and **Badème** to secure the region and return displaced communities after years of stalemated negotiations.

Travellers to the **Casamance region** are advised not to travel **west of Kolda**. Rebels and government forces have clashed in **Ziguinchor** as well as the resort area of **Cap Skirring**. In the past, the rebels have also attacked foreign nationals travelling in the rural areas of **Casamance**.

Conflict has also periodically erupted over control of the region's lucrative cashew nut industry. Visitors should avoid travel in the region, particularly near nut plantations. Landmines are a risk in the **Casamance region** and along the border with **Guinea-Bissau**.

International Forces on Territory: Approximately 300 French troops are present in the country to staff a military cooperation centre for the West African region. In 2021, anti-French sentiments markedly increased, sparking protests and the looting and torching of French supermarkets, petrol stations and telecommunications infrastructure.

Terrorism

Visitors to Senegal are advised to track local media for events that could change Senegal's security outlook. Travellers should note that terrorist organisations have targeted sites indiscriminately in the past. Particular care should be taken in remote areas of Senegal, as well as **near border areas with Mauritania and Mali**, as well as to the east of the city of **Podor** to the city of **Kidira**.

Response Preparedness: In the event of a terror attack, state security and emergency services would struggle to cope. Emergency services are virtually non-existent in the country although marginally better in **Dakar**. Security services have very little, if any, training in disaster response and emergency services lack a coordinated command structure to respond to possible terror attacks.

Recent incidents

14 December 2023 - 15 December 2023

- **High risk: Deadly landmine blast targets soldiers in Nord Bignona, Ziguinchor region**

Local media reported that at least four government soldiers were killed and three others injured by a landmine blast near the Senegal-Gambia border on the Diokadou-Kadialock road in Nord Bignona, Ziguinchor region, late on 14 December. Further details were not immediately available.

Unrest : ● Medium Risk

Protests and Demonstrations: Since the 2022 legislative elections, anti-government demonstrations have become more frequent, and this trend is expected to continue through the 2024 presidential elections. Anti-government protests have taken place in **Dakar**, other cities as well as in the **Casamance region** in support of opposition leader and presumed presidential candidate Ousmane Sonko. Protesters claim that President Macky Sall is trying to eliminate opposition leading up to the next elections in order to secure another term. Protests have increasingly turned violent since 1 June, after Sonko was given a two year jail sentence for "corrupting the youth", which his supporters claim is politically-motivated.

Economic inequalities in the country and concerns about the lack of future opportunities for the youth also fuel demonstrations. The protests over economic issues in March 2021 left five people dead and targeted French commercial interests in **Dakar**.

Recent incidents

18 December 2023 - 19 December 2023

● Medium risk: Protest clashes reported in Saint-Louis

Local sources reported that several people were injured in Saint-Louis after security forces fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrators during early afternoon hours local time amid a protest by Autonomous Road Maintenance Fund (FERA) workers over work-related grievances, including salary. It was not immediately clear where exactly the demonstration took place and whether it was still ongoing.

17 November 2023 - 18 November 2023

● **Moderate risk: Authorities ban LACOS march in Dakar**

Authorities announced that a planned demonstration by the Leaders of Ousmane Sonko's allies (LACOS) from Jet d'Eau towards Terminus Liberté 5 in Dakar from 15:00-18:00 local time/GMT to demand that opposition leader Ousmane Sonko be allowed to take part in the 2024 presidential election has been banned for security reasons. It was not immediately clear if the demonstrators would proceed despite the announcement, but similar rallies are also likely in other major urban centres.

11 November 2023 - 12 November 2023

● **Moderate risk: Political rally planned in Dakar on 11 November**

Local media indicated that Aliou Sall, brother of incumbent President Macky Sall, announced plans to hold a mass rally at Esplanade du Grand Théâtre in Dakar during afternoon hours local time on 11 November to show his support for Amadou Ba's candidacy in the presidential election scheduled for 25 February 2024. No further details were immediately available.

10 November 2023 - 11 November 2023

● **Moderate risk: Social activists to march in Dakar on 10 November**

Activists plan to gather at Liberté 5 roundabout in Dakar from 15:00 local time/GMT on 10 November, for a march to Jet d'Eau roundabout, to demand the immediate and unconditional release of all political detainees.

Crime : ● Moderate Risk

Petty Crime: Street crime is very common in Senegal, particularly in cities such as **Dakar**. Most reported incidents involve pickpocketing, bag snatching, theft from vehicles and residential burglaries, who are especially active in large crowds and around tourists. Pick-pockets throughout Senegal generally work in groups. Criminals also use scooters, motorcycles, and mopeds to steal purses, backpacks and other items, often resulting in minor injuries. Commercial crimes are on the rise and follow the 'advance fee' or 419 scams common throughout West Africa. Fraud and the use of counterfeit currency (especially US dollars) are common.

Beware of your surroundings, do not leave your belongings unattended and exercise general personal safety for travel. Only carry what is needed, do not flash expensive valuables or large sums of money, and keep cash, identification and mobile phones in front pockets, or in a zipped or concealed pocket or pouch rather than in a bag. Secure belongings when using public transport or when frequenting markets and other crowded public areas; secure bags diagonally across the body against the chest, keep bags within sight and away from the street. Refrain from using mobile phones or laptops in congested public places; avoid putting bags containing valuables on the ground. Avoid walking in poorly lit and isolated areas. Stay in groups. Reject rides or drinks from strangers and never leave drinks unattended. Exercise extreme caution when purchasing and consuming alcohol in public venues. Do not accept pamphlets in the street or shopping centres; these could be impregnated with potent and disorienting drugs, which permeate the skin. If you start to feel unwell, tell staff or close friends and do not leave the venue alone or with strangers. Shout to attract attention, if needed.

Violent Crime: Levels of violent crime are low across Senegal. Although there have been incidents of theft involving the use of weapons, particularly knives, injuries are rare if victims are compliant.

Commonsense measures are best kept to ensure against becoming the victim of a violent crime. Travellers are advised to remain vigilant at all times and exercise general personal safety for travel: avoid walking alone at night, do not venture down roads with poor lighting and few access points. Be careful when using taxis and public transport and plot route bypasses around rowdy crowds. Seek local advice for areas to avoid. If you are held-up by an armed robber do not become confrontational as any resistive behaviour may cause more violence by the attackers.

Kidnapping: Incidents of kidnapping are rare but a threat exists due to the presence of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and other militant groups in Africa's Sahel region. Both groups have kidnapped Westerners – tourists, aid agency workers and diplomats – in the region. The separatist movement MFDC has also carried out numerous kidnappings, normally of security or government personnel in the **Casamance region**.

Travellers should remain aware of their surroundings and follow the latest advisories for their destination. Maintain communications and your itinerary with local contacts, authorities or embassy staff, especially in locations with a higher risk of kidnapping. Consider a local guide or security escort for the highest risk locations.

There are no recent incidents

Law

Overview

Senegal's legal system is based on French civil law. The constitution provides for an independent judiciary and this is generally respected. Judicial officers tend to be poorly paid and could be vulnerable to bribes.

Corruption

Corruption: Foreign nationals can often be solicited for bribes by public officials, especially the police and border/customs officials. Bribery is illegal in Senegal and foreign nationals should never offer bribes to any officials to avoid arrest and prosecution. However, there is weak enforcement of these laws and minimal instances of prosecution. When applying for visas or work/residency permits it is common to be offered 'efficient' service in exchange for a bribe. Using a relocation agency/lawyer is a useful alternative to avoid these situations. Traffic police might demand 'on the spot fines' for supposed infringements. This is illegal and should be refused and reported at a police station. Corporate corruption is relatively uncommon and a highly politicised issue. When applying for government tenders, especially, businesses should avoid offering 'incentives/commissions' to officials involved in tendering processes. European businesses are advised to comply with the OECD conventions and protocols on corruption so as to avoid possible prosecution in their home countries.

Security Services

Security Services: The military plays a large role in domestic security in support of the police. Foreign nationals are likely to encounter military personnel most frequently at roadblocks throughout the country, especially outside of **Dakar** and along the border areas with Guinea, Mauritania and Mali. The military, especially the army, is underfunded, ill-equipped and poorly trained. Foreign nationals should always approach checkpoints slowly and stop when ordered to do so. The military has a history of unprofessionalism, much of it due to poor training and funding and is known for ill-discipline and to participate in corrupt practices. They have also been known to solicit bribes and demand on-the-spot fines at checkpoints. These should be politely refused. The Senegalese military is often used to support law enforcement in public order operations and quelling dissent and protests.

Police: Police services within Senegal are inefficient. In general, police and security personnel lack the manpower, training and equipment to respond effectively to criminal activity and calls for assistance. The police are a small force that are generally suited and used for public order policing rather than crime combating and prevention. They are under-resourced and poorly trained. The capital city of **Dakar** is patrolled predominantly by the police, who can be typically identified by their green/khaki uniforms and either a red/black beret. Gendarmes wear blue uniforms or green fatigues and blue berets, and mainly operate outside the capital. Both law enforcement bodies will only be able to provide rudimentary assistance. Corruption is a widespread problem and senior police officers tend to be loyal to the regime. It is not uncommon to be expected to pay 'spot fines' by low level police officers. Foreign nationals are advised to politely refuse such overtures and report them immediately to your relevant embassy or senior police officials. Apart from lacking the resources and ability to respond efficiently to criminal activity, policing services within Senegal are notorious for extorting compensation to perform mandatory duties. Police are often violent in their public order duties. Protests are frequent and have a tendency to become violent. Foreign nationals should avoid such demonstrations at all times as police often arrest bystanders in addition to protestors. Visitors should also avoid being belligerent when dealing with police officials.

Natural Risks : ● Medium Risk

The country's infrastructure is weak and cannot withstand heavy rainfall which periodically results in flash floods and landslides. Droughts also occasionally affect the country. The response of emergency services to natural disasters is very slow, and they lack the resources to effectively deal with major calamities.

Flooding

A flood is an overflow of water that submerges land that is usually dry. It is normally triggered by an extended period of heavy rainfall and can be exacerbated by poor drainage systems in the affected area.

Floods during the rainy season in Senegal, which runs from July to October, tend to displace thousands of people nationwide, disrupt water supplies and render roads impassable for prolonged periods. Flash flooding is common near streams, drainage channels, and canyons, especially in suburban areas of **Dakar** and **Kaffrine, Matam, Sédhiou** and **Saint-Louis regions**.

If instructed of the possibility that flash-flooding may affect the area you are in, monitor local updates and move immediately to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Though flash-flooding is commonly attributable to excess upstream precipitation, be aware that flooding can occur without typical warning signs of rain clouds or heavy rain. This is especially true near streams, drainage channels, canyons and other areas known to flood suddenly. If you happen across a flooded road in your car, turn around and drive in the opposite direction. When trapped on a flooded road, vacate your vehicle immediately and climb to higher ground.

Landslides/Mudslides

Sometimes referred to as debris flows, mudflows, lahars or debris avalanches, landslides/mudslides are a form of mass soil movement that tends to flow in channels in a surge of water-saturated rock, earth and debris, typically following heavy rainfall.

Landslides are common in hilly areas following periods of heavy rainfall due to soil erosion. Areas prone to landslides include **Dakar, Thies, Diourbel, Kaolack, Fatick, Kafrine, Ziguinchor, Saint-Louis, Louga, Matam, Tambacounda** and **Kédougou**. Landslides can cause severe damage to buildings and block roads for several days. Emergency rescue operations can take several days in remote, hilly areas which are difficult to access. The country does not have an efficient landslide warning system.

Follow local news updates in landslide prone areas for warnings about intense storms and rainfall. If landslide or debris flow danger is imminent, quickly move away from the path of the slide. Seek shelter on the nearest high ground in a direction away from the path. If rocks and debris are approaching, run for the nearest shelter and take cover (if possible, under a desk, table or other piece of sturdy furniture that can provide you with air space if the building collapses). Anticipate disruptions to overland travel in areas affected by landslides. Confirm the viability of intended overland travel routes before departure and remain alert for landslide warning signs including cracks in the soil or the faint rumbling sound of an approaching landslide or debris flow.

Drought

A drought is a period of below-average precipitation in a given region, resulting in prolonged shortages in the water supply. Droughts can have a substantial impact on the agriculture and ecosystem of the respective region, triggering food shortages as well. Extended periods of drought may contribute to social unrest, malnutrition, dehydration and possible famine.

Senegal is periodically affected by drought following periods of poor rainfall. In August 2018, authorities reported severe food shortages affecting over 250,000 people in **Podor, Ranerou, Kanel** and **Matam**, the third drought in the country in a six-year period. Food and water shortages triggered by droughts also have the potential to trigger widespread social unrest and malnutrition in a country with high levels of poverty.

Anticipate severe shortages to water supplies in drought-affected areas. Tap water may not be safe to drink and is likely to require treatment for purposes of consumption. Consult closely with your country's consulate or designated

representative to develop plans for emergency extraction.

There are no recent incidents

Health and Medical: ● Medium Risk

Overview

Medical facilities are adequate in **Dakar**, but significantly worse outside the capital. Clinics in rural areas can provide basic medical care, but are often underequipped, lacking in medicines and run by poorly trained staff. Malaria, meningitis and yellow fever are present in Senegal.

Before you travel

Consult your doctor or a healthcare provider who specialises in travel medicine at least six weeks before your departure. If you have a medical condition, you should also share your travel plans with your doctor.

Outbreaks and Other Diseases

Malaria

Areas with Malaria:

- All

Recommended chemoprophylaxis:

- Atovaquone-proguanil, doxycycline, mefloquine, tafenoquine

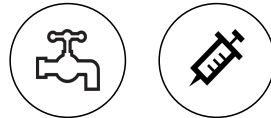
Yellow Fever

There is a risk of Yellow Fever infection in all areas.

Vaccinations, Medicines and Documentation

Note: Requirements and recommendations for vaccines and other medicines as well as Yellow Fever vaccine are based on guidelines from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Yellow Book 2024. All other entry requirements are based on Riskline research.

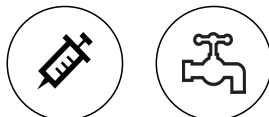
Routine vaccines



Make sure you are up-to-date on all routine vaccines before every trip. Some of these vaccines include

- Chickenpox (Varicella)
- Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis
- Flu (influenza)
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)
- Polio
- Shingles

COVID-19



All eligible travellers should be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

Hepatitis A



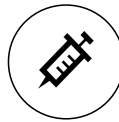
Recommended for unvaccinated travellers one year old or older going to Senegal.

Infants 6 to 11 months old should also be vaccinated against Hepatitis A. The dose does not count toward the routine 2-dose series.

Travellers allergic to a vaccine component or who are younger than 6 months should receive a single dose of immune globulin, which provides effective protection for up to 2 months depending on dosage given.

Unvaccinated travellers who are over 40 years old, immunocompromised, or have chronic medical conditions planning to depart to a risk area in less than 2 weeks should get the initial dose of vaccine and at the same appointment receive immune globulin.

Hepatitis B



Recommended for unvaccinated travellers of all ages traveling to Senegal.

Malaria



CDC recommends that travellers going to Senegal take prescription medicine to prevent malaria. Depending on the medicine you take, you will need to start taking this medicine multiple days before your trip, as well as during and after your trip. Talk to your doctor about which malaria medication you should take.

Find country-specific information about malaria.

Measles



Infants 6 to 11 months old traveling internationally should get 1 dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine before travel. This dose does not count as part of the routine childhood vaccination series.

Meningitis (Meningococcal disease)



Recommended for travellers 2 months old or older traveling to areas of Senegal that are part of the meningitis belt during the dry season.

Polio

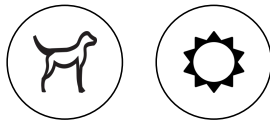


In Senegal poliovirus has been identified in the past year.

Travellers to Senegal are at increased risk of exposure to poliovirus.

Vaccine recommendations: Adults traveling to Senegal who received a complete polio vaccination series as children may receive a single lifetime booster dose of inactivated polio vaccine; travellers who are unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated should receive a complete polio vaccination series before travel. Children who are not fully vaccinated will be considered for an accelerated vaccination schedule.

Rabies



Rabid dogs are commonly found in Senegal. If you are bitten or scratched by a dog or other mammal while in Senegal, there may be limited or no rabies treatment available.

Consider rabies vaccination before your trip if your activities mean you will be around dogs or wildlife.

Travellers more likely to encounter rabid animals include

- Campers, adventure travellers, or cave explorers (spelunkers)
- Veterinarians, animal handlers, field biologists, or laboratory workers handling animal specimens
- Visitors to rural areas

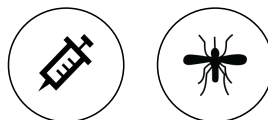
Since children are more likely to be bitten or scratched by a dog or other animals, consider rabies vaccination for children traveling to Senegal.

Typhoid



Recommended for most travellers, especially those staying with friends or relatives or visiting smaller cities or rural areas.

Yellow Fever



Recommended for all travellers ≥ 9 months old.

Required documentation

Yellow Fever entry requirement (Source: USA CDC):

Required for travellers nine months and older arriving from countries with risk for YF virus transmission; this includes airport transits or layovers in countries with risk for YF virus transmission.

Other entry requirements:

None

Note: Documentation requirements are subject to change. Consult your destination embassy or consulate prior to departure for confirmation.

While you are there

Emergency services

Emergency services are available in **Dakar**, although response times can vary significantly. While emergency services do operate in some areas outside of the capital, poor road conditions, unreliable vehicles and inadequately trained staff hamper their operation. Most rural areas are not serviced by emergency services.

Evacuation

Medical evacuation is likely to be required in the event of serious injury or illness.

Routine care

Medical facilities are barely adequate in **Dakar**, and significantly worse outside the capital. Clinics in rural areas can provide basic medical care, but are often under-equipped, lacking in medicines and run by poorly trained staff.

Medicine

Pharmacies may lack essential and prescription medicines. Travellers are advised to bring enough prescription and essential medicines to last the duration of their trip.

Payment

Travellers are likely to be required to provide upfront payment for treatment and medication. Residents are required to have medical insurance, provided by their employer.

Ailments

Traveller's diarrhoea (TD)



Traveller's diarrhoea (TD) is a catch-all term for a number of minor or moderate bacterial, viral and parasitic infections, generally transmitted through infected food or water. In the majority of cases antibiotics or anti-diarrhoeal medication is unnecessary; travellers experiencing TD should ensure that they remain hydrated and well rested until their symptoms dissipate. Most cases of TD last less than three days; if diarrhoea continues for longer periods, travellers should consider consulting a medical professional.

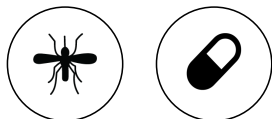
Tuberculosis (TB)



Senegal has a prevalence of over 100 infections for every 100,000 of the population, placing it in the middle range globally for infections. TB is problematic in urban areas of Dakar, especially slum areas.

Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection transmitted via the coughing and sneezing of infected persons. Symptoms – which may take years to develop if a person has latent TB – include fever, night sweats, chest pain, coughing up blood, weight loss and fatigue. TB can be treated with a course of antibiotics; the length of treatment is significantly longer once the disease becomes active and is no longer latent.

Malaria



Malaria is prevalent, particularly during the rainy season from July to October.

Malaria is a serious parasitic infection, transmitted by the bite of the Anopheles mosquito. Symptoms can be flu-like and include a high fever, joint pain, anaemia, chills and headaches; if left untreated, symptoms can quickly complicate and become life-threatening. While pre-departure courses of anti-malarial prophylactics are available, these do not guarantee immunity to malaria. Caught early, malaria can be treated easily with a range of anti-malarial medications.

Cholera



There have been occasional outbreaks of cholera, typically following heavy rains. Water supplies in Senegal are not consistently free of disease-causing micro-organisms. No outbreak has been recorded since 2007, when Saint-Louis, Touba, Louga, Thies, Dakar, Diourbal, Fatick, and Kaolack regions were affected.

Cholera is a bacterial infection transmitted through contact with infected food or water – usually by infected faeces – and is most prevalent in areas with poor sanitary standards. Symptoms include heavy, watery diarrhoea, vomiting and muscle cramps. If left untreated, cholera can rapidly become fatal. Cholera can be treated with a course of rehydration and antibiotics.

Meningococcal Meningitis



Senegal forms part of the so-called African meningitis belt.

Meningococcal meningitis is a serious bacterial infection, transmitted via the

coughing and sneezing of infected persons and is particularly prevalent during the dry season. Symptoms include a high fever, neck stiffness, severe headaches, a rash, nausea and confusion. The onset of symptoms can be rapid, occurring within hours of infection. The disease can be treated with a wide range of antibiotics. Left untreated, meningococcal meningitis has a fatality rate approaching 50 percent; survivors may experience serious complications.

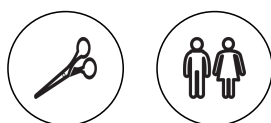
Hepatitis (A, B, C, D and E)



Hepatitis – particularly hepatitis A and B – poses a risk to travellers in Senegal.

Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver. The three main variations (A, B and C) are caused by infections from parasites, bacteria or viruses, but are transmitted by different means.

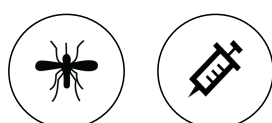
HIV/AIDS



The prevalence percentage of AIDS is estimated at around 0.9 percent of the adult population.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a retrovirus that induces Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and is transmitted through contact with the blood, sexual and rectal fluids of an infected person, usually via sexual intercourse. AIDS weakens the body's immune system, making the body susceptible to numerous other diseases and ailments. There is no cure for AIDS or HIV.

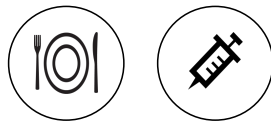
Yellow Fever



Yellow fever is present in Senegal.

Yellow fever is a serious viral infection, transmitted by the bite of the Aedes mosquito, which is most active during early morning and late afternoon hours and commonly found in urban areas. Initial symptoms include a high fever, chills, vomiting nausea and backaches/muscle pain; in some cases those infected may develop potentially fatal complications, including jaundice, severe haemorrhaging and kidney failure. There is no post-infection treatment for yellow fever.

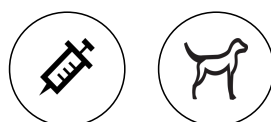
Typhoid



There is a limited typhoid risk in Senegal.

Typhoid is a highly contagious bacterial infection, transmitted by the ingestion of food and water contaminated with infected faeces. Symptoms include a high temperature, a rash made up of small red spots, headaches, stomach pain and diarrhoea; serious complications, including internal bleeding and becoming comatose, are possible. While a typhoid vaccine is available, it does not guarantee immunity.

Rabies



Rabies is present in animals across the country.

Rabies is a serious viral infection, transmitted through close contact with saliva from infected animals (i.e. bites, scratches or licks on broken skin and mucous membranes). Travellers who suspect they may have come into contact with a rabies-infected animal should seek immediate emergency attention: post-exposure treatment has a high success rate if administered early. Late-stage rabies (when symptoms begin to occur) is untreatable and fatal.



While no cases of zika have been reported in Senegal, there remains a risk of transmission.

Zika virus is a viral infection transmitted by the bite of the Aedes mosquito, which is most active during early morning and late afternoon hours and commonly found in urban areas, as well as through sexual contact with an infected person. Most cases of Zika virus are asymptomatic; where symptoms occur they are usually mild and include fever, headaches, conjunctivitis, rash and joint and muscle pain. Zika has been linked to microcephaly in unborn children. There is no treatment for Zika virus, beyond rehydration and bed rest.

Recent incidents

29 August 2023 - 30 August 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Further chikungunya cases reported in the Kédougou region - Update

Health officials reported that 65 new chikungunya cases were recorded in the Kédougou region, bringing the total number of cases to 112 amid an outbreak since the start of the month. Chikungunya cases were reported in Kédougou, Salemata, and Saraya departments, with no related fatalities so far.

18 August 2023 - 19 August 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Surge in chikungunya cases reported in the Kédougou region

Health officials have confirmed a surge in chikungunya cases in the Kédougou region. At least 47 cases were reported during August, with no related fatalities reported so far.

19 July 2023 - 21 July 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Unionised healthcare workers to strike in Ziguinchor on 19-20 July

Members of the Autonomous Union of Physicians, Pharmacists and Dental Surgeons of Senegal (Sames) called for a 48-hour strike at the regional hospital of Ziguinchor from 19 to 20 July, to denounce work-related grievances. Emergency services are guaranteed during the strike.

12 July 2023 - 13 July 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Authorities report fresh case of CCHF in Dakar - Update

Authorities confirmed a case of Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) in a patient who was being treated at the Dalal Jamm Hospital in Dakar, as of 12 July. One fatality and one infection were earlier reported in Fadia, Dakar, and Dahra, Louga region, since 21 April. Health surveillance measures were strengthened.

Covid-19: ● Low Risk



Summary

COVID-19 cases are decreasing. A massive vaccine rollout is underway alongside public awareness campaigns. The wearing of facemasks may be required in healthcare facilities.

What is the current nationwide Policy?: None

Policy starts: 20 March 2021

Policy ends: indef

Policy explanation:

There are no domestic restrictions in place.

Policy source: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/senegal/coronavirus>

Last update: 02 November 2023



Infection

Infection Level: Low

Infection rate: 0.0 cases per 100k in the last 14 days

As of date: 09 November 2023

Hotspots: -



International Travel

International Flights

Is there a ban on international commercial flights? No
Through what date? indef

Flight Ban Explanation:

Commercial flights have resumed.

Last Update: 05 December 2023

Entry and Borders

Is there a ban on entry for any travellers? No
Through what date? indef

Travellers from where are banned?

Land border: Open

Maritime border: Open

Entry Rules Explanation:

All travellers, regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated or previously infected, are allowed to enter without restrictions.

Overland borders are open to travellers. Sea borders are also open.

Entry Rules: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/senegal/entry-requirements>

Last Update:

Testing

Do travellers need to take a COVID-19 test No

When?

Is it mandatory or optional?

Test Type:

Minimum age requirement:

Pre-travel test validity, in hours:

After arrival test days:

Testing Explanation:

Testing Rules: -

Last Update: 05 December 2023

Health and Travel Documentations

Do arriving travellers need any health and/or travel documentation? No

Documentation Explanation:

Last Update: 02 November 2023

Tracing App

Do travellers need to use a contact tracing app after arriving? No

Tracing App Explanation:

There is no mandatory national contact tracing app at this time.

Last Update: 02 November 2023

Quarantine on Arrival

Who needs to quarantine on arrival None

Travellers from where need to quarantine?

How many days is quarantine? 14

Is it self-quarantine or operated by the government? Gov

Quarantine Explanation:

Quarantine Rules: <https://sn.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

Last Update: 2023-12-05

Exit

Is there a ban on exit for any travellers? No

Are there special requirements to exit? No

Exit Requirements Explanation:

Last Update: 05 December 2023

Vaccination

Percent vaccinated with at least one dose: 16.034 as of 08 Oct 2023

Percent fully vaccinated: 8.68 as of 10 Sep 2023

Is vaccination mandatory for entry? No

Fully vaccinated are exempt from: -

Minimum age for vaccine requirements for travel:

Exemptions for vaccine requirements for travel:

"Fully vaccinated" is defined by the destination as:

Accepted vaccines, validity and special age restrictions:

Is mixing of vaccine doses authorised? N/A

Are specific combinations of mixed doses required?

"Boosted" is defined by the destination as:

Accepted boosters:

"Recently recovered" is defined by the destination as:

Recovery status is valid from days until after .

Vaccination certificates accepted:

Vaccination certificates accepted in the following languages:

Recent recovery document required:

Recent recovery document accepted in the following languages:

Explanation:

All travellers, regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated or previously infected, are allowed to enter without restrictions.

Sources:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/senegal/entry-requirements>

**Last change to
vaccination policy:**

Last Update: 02 November 2023

Other International Travel Restrictions

Exit Requirements Explanation:

Last Update:



Domestic Situation



Areas on Lockdown

Last Update:



Areas under Curfew

Last Update:



Domestic Travel

Domestic Travel Explanation:

Last Update:



Other Domestic Restrictions

All businesses have reopened.

Last Update: 02 November 2023

There are no recent incidents

Local Travel : ● Medium Risk

Travel Safety

Air Travel: Dakar is serviced by **Blaise Diagne International Airport (DSS/GOBD)** east of the capital in **Ndiass**. The airport is secure and safe and serves as a regional hub for west Africa.

When travelling to and from the airports in **Dakar**, it is best to arrange for either a shuttle from the hotel or a private chauffeur/guide. If you must take a taxi, it is highly advised that you negotiate the price prior to entering the vehicle, being sure not to hand over your luggage to anyone or to the driver until a fee has been agreed upon. The time of your departure from the airport (night or day), the number of bags and the number of passengers (generally taxis are four-door sedans) will determine the final fee. It is also advised that visitors negotiate the taxi fee directly with the driver and not use a volunteer intermediary. Visitors should not accept assistance from unofficial 'helpers' at the airports and are advised to carry their own luggage or arrange for a local contact to meet them at the airport if possible.

Other commercial airports in Senegal are located in **Cap Skirring (CSK/GOGS)** and **Ziguinchor (ZIG/GOGG)**, both of which handle tourist traffic. There are several smaller airports located throughout the country, but it is advised that these not be used as they are poorly maintained and generally serve only domestic and private aviators with questionable safety records.

Airspace: Commercial flights have resumed.

Borders and Entry: All travellers, regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated or previously infected, are allowed to enter without restrictions.

Overland borders are open to travellers. Sea borders are also open.

Road Travel: Many roads outside of **Dakar** are extensively potholed. Some roads are inaccessible during the rainy season and many rural destinations are only reachable with a sport utility vehicle. Senegal's highway system is based on the French model, and drivers are expected to yield to traffic coming from their right. All roads are utilised by pedestrians and animals that cross the road recklessly, causing many accidents. If one is involved in an accident, one must stop and call the Gendarmerie or the police immediately.

Highways are sometimes used for theft and banditry, particularly at night. Drivers should be especially vigilant when travelling around **Tambacounda** and **Matam**. Bandits often target **RN2 (National Road)** between **Ndioum** and **Kidira** and have also been known to target **RN1** between **Kidira** and **Tambacounda**. The lack of illuminated highways, combined with poorly lit cars, reinforces the recommendation that travelling at night should be avoided.

Gendarmes and customs agents may set-up roadblocks on the national highways and will frequently search luggage for contraband and illegal merchandise. In general, tourists and foreigners are not searched and are seldom harassed by the authorities because of their status as foreigners and because they seldom travel on public transport. In any case, all international visitors should carry photocopies of their passports and various entry documents.

Public Transport

Ferries and Boats: There are several established maritime tour companies that serve popular tourist attractions in **Dakar**, **Saint-Louis** and **Casamance**, in addition to government operated ferries. It is possible to seek a private alternative for those who wish to travel to **Ziguinchor** by boat from **Dakar**. It is recommended, however, that travellers fly as it is safer, faster and more economical.

Buses: **Dakar** has its own public bus system called Dakar Dem Dikk ("Dakar round trip" in Wolof). Seven-seater station wagons are the safest, fastest and most expensive way to travel by bus. There are also 14-seater minibuses that make more frequent stops but are slower as a result. The 32-seater bus, known as the 'mercédès,' is the largest and most inexpensive option; it is also the slowest and most uncomfortable option.

Each destination fee is set for each type of vehicle and is generally posted near the main entrance of the bus station. The main bus depot (gare routiere) in **Dakar** is known as **Pompier**. The transportation fee depends on the type of the vehicle and the destination. What tends to vary from passenger to passenger is how much each individual is charged for their luggage. In general, the 'apprenti,' or assistant to the driver, will attempt to overcharge (especially foreigners) considerably more than the standard price for their luggage. Luggage usually consists of any bags, luggage, or items which you do not intend to carry on your person.

Taxis: Taxis (in general) are yellow or orange and black. Some taxis have functioning taximeters; however, more often than not the meters do not work, or at least the

driver may claim they are broken. In order to avoid unwanted hostility, it is recommended that prior to hiring a taxi without a functioning meter, one should negotiate the fare. It is recommended that unless you know that your destination is less than 5 km (3 miles), you forego the taximeter and try to negotiate your own fare. Taxi drivers may purposely take an extended route in order to run the meter if they know the passenger is unfamiliar with the city.

Route taxis are also present throughout **Dakar** and run along main commuter destinations. Route taxis are a technically unregulated alternative to public transportation, and vehicles used for route taxis include everything from personal cars to elaborately decorated minibuses.

The green and white 'taxis clandos' provide service between **Dakar** and the suburbs. Drivers charge a fixed price per distance, pick up a number of customers for each trip, and drop them off one by one. There are special pickup points in **Dakar**, including on **Avenue Lamine Guèye**, opposite **Sandaga Market**. Many of these taxis are in poor condition, even though they provide extensive services to people in the suburbs. Visitors should never pay the taxi fare until after arriving at their destination.

Vehicle Hire: There are several domestic and international car rental agencies that rent cars with and without drivers located in **Dakar** (including Hertz, Europcar, National, and Avis). Travellers interested in renting a car are encouraged to contact the rental agency prior to travelling to Senegal to ensure the proper compliance with the requirements for insurance and driver's licence.

Recent incidents

15 December 2023 - 18 December 2023

● **Moderate risk:** Service quality improvement works to disrupt power supplies in parts of Dakar from 15-17 December

The national electricity company Senelec announced that power supplies will be disrupted in City Center and Port of Dakar areas, Dakar, from 15-17 December due to service quality improvement works between 07:00 and 18:00 local time/GMT.

14 December 2023 - 15 December 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Heightened security expected for opposition leader Sonko's trial in Dakar on 14 December

Heightened security is expected in Dakar on 14 December, for the case between opposition leader Ousmane Sonko and the State of Senegal at the Dakar High Court over the request for annulment of his removal from the electoral roll.

05 December 2023 - 06 December 2023

- **Moderate risk:** North Korean Embassy suspends operations in Dakar

Local sources reported that North Korean officials indefinitely closed the Embassy of North Korea in Dakar due to an unspecified reason. Unconfirmed reports indicated that the closure was prompted by economic difficulties due to global sanctions against North Korea. Further details were not yet available.

18 November 2023 - 20 November 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Dakar Marathon to trigger disruptions on 18-19 November

Heightened security measures and traffic disruptions are expected in Dakar on 18-19 November, including in the Plateau, Medina, Corniche and Almadies areas, for the annual Dakar Marathon, which will involve several races beginning at the Esplanade of the Museum of Black Civilizations and ending at the Esplanade du Grand Théâtre over the two days.

Destination Hotspots

Cities: Multiple armed robberies have been reported on the **Corniche** in **Dakar**. Assailants armed with knives or machetes make use of overgrown vegetation to conceal themselves and flee via beach access points. Walk on the side of the **Corniche** away from the beach (east side) during the day, and avoid the area during hours of darkness. Do not resist in the event you are the victim of a robbery/mugging as the assailant may be armed.

Regions: Several Embassies (including the United Kingdom and the United States) recommend that their citizens avoid non-essential travel to the **Casamance Region** west of the city of **Kolda**, except direct air travel to the **Cap Skirring resort area** or to the city of **Ziguinchor**. During the early part of 2007 there was a significant increase in fighting in the **Casamance Region** (composed of the **Ziguinchor** and **Kolda Regions**) in southern Senegal and the Senegalese military; these skirmishes involved factions of the Casamance separatist MFDC (Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de la Casamance). Reports of banditry in the area have also increased.

Safety

Emergency Numbers

Police	17	
Fire	18	

Beaches and Public Areas: It is important that visitors to Senegal (especially **Dakar**) be vigilant when walking around town. For the most part, **Dakar** is a safe city; however, petty theft, pickpockets, and harassment from street vendors is somewhat common. It is recommended that modest clothing, no jewellery, and minimal amounts of cash are carried.

When shopping in the traditional markets for gifts, crafts, and other items, it is worthwhile to conduct an initial assessment of some of the items you intend to purchase prior to actually purchasing them. Once you have identified a fair price, you can return to the vendor(s) with the exact amount of cash in order to avoid waiting for change or counting your money in public. Although some of the items in the traditional markets may have a price tag on them, the cost of all items for sale can be negotiated. Both customers and vendors are expected to haggle (*waxalé*), and foreigners should not feel embarrassed or worried about offending the vendor by proposing a low price.

Begging: Senegal is a source, transit and destination country for children being trafficked for the purposes of forced begging. A comprehensive ban on the practice in public places is widely ignored by two types of street children that make up the bulk of who are thought to be living in conditions "akin to slavery" in the urban areas of Senegal: 'talibes' and traditional street children. There are an estimated 30,000 street children living in **Dakar**.

Talibes, or the "Baye Fall", are made up of thousands of members of the influential Mouride Muslim religious group who are often forced to collect alms for the 'marabout' religious instructors. Children and their handlers can be distinguished by the colourful clothes and dreadlocks they wear.

It is best not to become involved and to avoid street children. If giving money, ensure that your contributions are unobserved to avoid being swarmed by others demanding

their share. Contribute with an understanding of where your money will likely end up.

Corruption: Foreign nationals can often be solicited for bribes by public officials, especially the police and border/customs officials. Bribery is illegal in Senegal and foreign nationals should never offer bribes to any officials to avoid arrest and prosecution. However, there is weak enforcement of these laws and minimal instances of prosecution. When applying for visas or work/residency permits it is common to be offered 'efficient' service in exchange for a bribe. Using a relocation agency/lawyer is a useful alternative to avoid these situations. Traffic police might demand 'on the spot fines' for supposed infringements. This is illegal and should be refused and reported at a police station. Corporate corruption is relatively uncommon and a highly politicised issue. When applying for government tenders, especially, businesses should avoid offering 'incentives/commissions' to officials involved in tendering processes. European businesses are advised to comply with the OECD conventions and protocols on corruption so as to avoid possible prosecution in their home countries.

Food and Drink: Senegal's water supply is considered to be of a poor quality as compared to most Western standards. Due to the inferior quality of the country's water supply, waterborne infections occur regularly, particularly cholera.

Visitors are advised to only consume bottled water and to refrain from washing fruit and vegetables from water derived from taps. Travellers are similarly advised to refrain from consuming beverages that contain ice cubes. Visitors are advised to refrain from consuming food prepared by street vendors or meals that are served at room temperature. Visitors are similarly advised to exercise caution when consuming fish, as certain species are known to contain poisonous biotoxins that may be prevalent even after the fish has been cooked. The consumption of unpasteurised milk and dairy products should also be avoided if possible.

Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO): The landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) problem in Senegal has resulted primarily from fighting in **Casamance**. The problem is limited to **Casamance**, and believed to be concentrated mainly in departments south of **Ziguinchor**, between the **Casamance River** and the **border with Guinea-Bissau**, as well as in northern parts of **Bignona department** along the **Gambian border**. Minefields are also suspected to be present in **Sédhiou department, Kolda region**.

Although areas suspected of containing minefields have been clearly marked by the Senegalese government, travellers are advised to refrain from straying off demarcated pathways and walking across open fields in these areas.

Security Services: The military plays a large role in domestic security in support of the police. Foreign nationals are likely to encounter military personnel most frequently at roadblocks throughout the country, especially outside of **Dakar** and along the border areas with Guinea, Mauritania and Mali. The military, especially the army, is underfunded, ill-equipped and poorly trained. Foreign nationals should always approach checkpoints slowly and stop when ordered to do so. The military has a history of unprofessionalism, much of it due to poor training and funding and is known for ill-discipline and to participate in corrupt practices. They have also been known to solicit bribes and demand on-the-spot fines at checkpoints. These should be politely refused. The Senegalese military is often used to support law enforcement in public order operations and quelling dissent and protests.

Police: Police services within Senegal are inefficient. In general, police and security personnel lack the manpower, training and equipment to respond effectively to criminal activity and calls for assistance. The police are a small force that are generally suited and used for public order policing rather than crime combating and prevention. They are under-resourced and poorly trained. The capital city of **Dakar** is patrolled predominantly by the police, who can be typically identified by their green/khaki uniforms and either a red/black beret. Gendarmes wear blue uniforms or green fatigues and blue berets, and mainly operate outside the capital. Both law enforcement bodies will only be able to provide rudimentary assistance. Corruption is a widespread problem and senior police officers tend to be loyal to the regime. It is not uncommon to be expected to pay 'spot fines' by low level police officers. Foreign nationals are advised to politely refuse such overtures and report them immediately to your relevant embassy or senior police officials. Apart from lacking the resources and ability to respond efficiently to criminal activity, policing services within Senegal are notorious for extorting compensation to perform mandatory duties. Police are often violent in their public order duties. Protests are frequent and have a tendency to become violent. Foreign nationals should avoid such demonstrations at all times as police often arrest bystanders in addition to protestors. Visitors should also avoid being belligerent when dealing with police officials.

Culture

Cultural Sensitivities: The act of greeting and asking about one's family and health is customary among Senegalese. Shaking hands when meeting someone is often done between men and women. Men will also tend to shake (and hold hands) longer than is done in most Western cultures. It is important to note that in Senegalese culture and Islamic societies in general that the left hand is considered the 'dirty hand.' It can be interpreted as an offensive gesture to give something to someone using your left hand.

When visiting a household it is customary to offer your guests something to eat and drink, particularly in the rural communities. If food is brought to you, it is best to have a small portion regardless of your hunger and state that you are immediately full if you wish not to eat more. If you deem that the food preparation is unsanitary, you should state that you are sick and unable to eat.

In general there are not many taboos that visitors should avoid in terms of conversation. That being said, it is best to develop a rapport with someone before engaging in sensitive topics such as politics, foreign policy and religion. One conversational taboo is pregnancy. In traditional Senegalese culture (especially in the rural areas) it is customary not to recognise a woman's pregnancy unless she is an intimate acquaintance.

Personal communications in Senegal are indirect and subtle. It is important that visitors are patient and calm, especially on public transport, regardless of delays or unanticipated circumstances that occur. One of the worst insults in traditional Wolof culture is to call someone a liar.

Religious Sensitivities: Senegal is a secular democracy. The majority (92 percent) of the population practices Islam and is significantly influenced by local spiritual leaders known as marabouts. Senegal's small Christian population, mostly Roman Catholic, predominantly lives in **Dakar**. The rest of the population adheres to indigenous religious traditions.

In general, non-Muslim visitors should avoid travel around large mosques especially during Friday prayers. This is not necessarily because they are targets of religious harassment, but because it is recommended that they avoid large public gatherings in general. As in many West African cultures, elders and men generally receive the highest social status.

Specific Traveller Advice

Female Travellers

Local Customs and Laws: There are some local customs and laws that a female traveller should take into consideration in Senegal. Senegal is a Muslim-majority country, although it is acceptable for women to not cover their hair in cities and larger villages. However, travellers should refrain from wearing clothing that could be considered too tight or revealing, especially in conservative areas, including beaches. Dress according to the country's culture, especially when visiting places of cultural and religious importance. Familiarise yourself with your destination prior to travel, and be respectful and mindful of any cultural sensitivities, which may include dress, behaviour and topics of discussions.

Safety: There are some safety concerns that a female traveller should take into consideration in Senegal. Public transportation is safe during the day. However, there are occasional reports of sexual advances onboard buses and taxis, as well as on poorly-lit streets after dark. Do not travel alone at night. Opt for official taxis/chauffeur-driven taxis arranged by a reputed hotel. Opt for private, non-shared taxis; ensure the taxi is empty in the back before getting into the vehicle to mitigate risks of assault. There are also sporadic instances of assault reported at remote hotels. When possible stay only in lodgings that have 24-hour onsite security and ensure that they are not situated in an isolated location, particularly across **Casamance** and including in the area of **Cap Skirring** in **Ziguinchor region**, popular with tourists. Police forces in the country are often inefficient, lacking necessary training and equipment, and also corrupt. Female travellers are advised to contact their home consulate/embassy for legal advice prior to reporting crimes that are sexual in nature to local police.

Health and Wellness: Women have access to some specialised gynaecological and reproductive health services, medicines and products in Senegal, mostly concentrated in major cities like **Dakar**. There is a lack of trained professionals, healthcare clinics, availability of rape kits and gynaecological services outside urban areas. Abortion is illegal in the country, unless performed in order to save the woman's life. However, abortions are still carried out, often in an unsafe manner by untrained individuals. Prescription and emergency contraceptives, as well as female-specific OTC drugs are not readily available outside city limits. Consult a health professional prior to travel, especially if pregnant or planning to become pregnant, due to a potential risk of Zika

virus. Consider bringing an adequate supply of female-specific OTC drugs, feminine hygiene products and oral contraceptive pills.

LGBT+

Homosexuality is illegal in Senegal. It is a criminal and punishable offence, and persons found guilty may be fined up to XOF1,500,000 (USD2,500) and/or sentenced to five years of imprisonment. There are no legal protections for LGBT+ persons in the country, and LGBT+ persons are frequently victims of insults, harassment and even physical aggression. Same-sex marriage is illegal. LGBT+ activity and persons are not socially accepted. LGBT+ travellers are advised to keep their sexual orientation and gender identities private. Prior to travel, review your privacy settings on social media platforms and reconsider the use of dating applications due to the risk of harassment and possible entrapment by local authorities. Refrain from engaging in any conversations about sexuality or LGBT+ issues. Avoid all public displays of affection, including hand-holding. Book separate hotel rooms. Transgender travellers are advised to have a passport and identification changed to reflect their new gender before travelling.

Technology & Communication Risk

Travellers are unlikely to face risks related to information and communication technology (ICT) in Senegal.

Internet access and social media have no restrictions. However, the government has the power to ban foreign news sources without court approval. While there are defamation laws in place, such restrictions are unlikely to affect travellers. There are no concerns related to device searches or sensitive technology. Device searches and inspections at the border are unlikely. There are no restrictions in relation to bringing or operating sensitive equipment, which may include photo cameras, satellite phones, drones, and other GPS systems, in the country. State or criminal penetration of private data is unlikely. Authorities implement minimal state surveillance of ICT networks in the country.

Travellers should ensure that their ICT usage is compliant with local laws and regulations during their stay in the country. Travellers should expect possible restrictions in accessing specific internet websites/platforms and/or digital services. Posting specific content online may also be regulated. Travellers should note that ICT laws and practices are subject to change on short notice, and travellers are recommended to confirm the legality/appropriateness of their specific ICT needs prior to departure.

Legal notice

Any use of this document and its content is subject to the following terms and conditions, which you accept by using the document from Riskline. If you do not accept these terms and conditions, you are not allowed to use the document.

All written and graphic content belong to Riskline. Such content is provided by Riskline to customers, employees, and the general public for lawful purposes only. The document is subject to change at any time at the discretion of Riskline and without prior written notice. You may not modify the document or any Riskline printed matter or images in any way.

No warranty. All information is provided by Riskline on an 'as is' basis only, and does not constitute a warranty of any kind, neither express nor implied. Riskline provides no representations and warranties, express or implied, including the implied warranties of suitability for a particular purpose, merchantability, and no infringement.

Limitation of liability. In no event will Riskline be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, special or other consequential damages for any use of this Document, or on any other hyper linked website, including, without limitation, any lost profits, business interruption, loss of programs or other data on your information handling system or otherwise, even if we are expressly advised of the possibility of such damages.

© Riskline 2023