



## Tour Destinations in The Gambia

### Introduction

Bax Birding Tours can arrange trips of any length to anywhere within The Gambia. Whether you have purely a casual interest and are only looking for a 'day out', or you are more serious about your interest and need an extensive field visit we can make all the arrangements. We collect you from your hotel, using reliable transport, and, with our local expertise, you are ensured of having the best opportunities to find what you are looking for.

### Some of Our Favourite Trip Destinations

The following will give you a flavour for the places we regularly get asked to take visitors to The Gambia. This is by no means all we offer. Short excursions can be arranged in the locality in which you are staying, as can trips lasting many days taking you inland to see specialist species and habitats. We can also cater for those with other interests, including: photography, local culture, history, amphibians, reptiles and plants.

#### Abuko Nature Reserve

The best known and most accessible nature reserve in The Gambia, only a short distance away from many of the tourist areas. Although the area of the reserve is fairly small it holds a rich diversity of wildlife and plant species. The area is easily explored using the network of paths that meander around the reserve. As well as being good for birds (e.g. Giant Kingfisher, Eagle Owl, Hooded Vulture, Violet Turaco) you may also see Vervet Monkey, Western Red Colobus Monkey, Nile Monitor Lizard and Nile Crocodile.

#### Lamin Rice Fields

An excellent site very close to many of the tourist areas along the coast. This site holds numerous bird species including: Black Crane, Black Egret, Pearl-spotted Owlet, African Jacana, Black-shouldered Kite, as well as many species of Bee-eater and Kingfisher.

#### Georgetown, Janjanbureh Island

This lovely island, almost 300km upstream from Banjul, is surrounded by fresh water. Birds and other wildlife are everywhere, including hippos. The site is good for African Fish Eagle, Swamp Flycatcher and Egyptian Plover (the Crocodile bird!). It is also a good location to find out more about the history and culture of The Gambia.

#### Tendaba

This site is located around the small village of Tendaba and many species of birds can be found in the locality. It is a good area to see African Fish Eagle, Abyssinian Ground Hornbill, African Finfoot, Goliath Heron, White-backed Night Heron, Egyptian Vulture and African Blue Flycatcher. As well as birds, a trip to this traditional area is certainly a cultural experience.

#### Kamphanti

This is a recent addition to the extensive list of good bird watching sites within The Gambia. This area of woodland is about 75km inland, near the village of Tendaba, and is very good for producing sightings of raptors, including Martial Eagle, Dark Chanting Goshawk and Long-crested Eagle.

### Further Reading

- A Birdwatchers Guide To The Gambia. Ward, R. (1994). Prion Ltd, Great Britain. ISBN 187 1104 041
- Birds of The Gambia and Senegal. Barlow, C & Wacher, R. (1997). Christopher Helm, London. ISBN 978 0 7136 7549 8
- The Gambia. Emms, C. and Barnett, L. (2006). Bradt Travel Guide. ISBN 13: 978 1 84162 137 1