

GAMBIA

The Gambia is both a country and a river and one of the better sun destinations for the European winter period. So when we put on our gloves for the winter temperatures here in The Gambia the shorts and T tops are worn. Here you have a great location where you can go fishing for a very nice price and catch some nice fish on the side as well.



The river The Gambia starts in Guinea and flows further through Senegal and reaches the sea near the capital of The Gambia called Banjul. In the meantime, the river has covered 1125 kilometres and has become over 4 kilometres wide when reaching the sea. And it is on the always changing dividing line between fresh and salt water that many and extensive creeks are created with mangroves that provide shelter for the breeding fish. But also other obstacles such as rocks and sandbanks make this fishing very interesting here. Partly because of the tidal currents you can imagine that there are also large fish in this region. Think for example of barracuda, threadfin, guitarfish, thornback ray, catfish, cassava croaker, jack crevalle, pompano, queenfish, rays and also the tarpon is caught here. In addition, you can also target open sea (blue water) fishing for dorado (mahi mahi), sailfish, white marlin, tuna and shark.



All in all, many types of predators of the salty water that with light material give the necessary action and make it a wonderful winter break. Gambia is a 6 hour flight and has direct connections with TUI and Corendon. It has a lovely sub tropical climate and has a rainy and dry season. The dry season falls from November to May exactly in our winter period. Partly because of this, The Gambia is a popular location in our winter to enjoy the sun, sea and fishing.



Not only the weather is a reason to go to The Gambia but also the fishing. You can fish here in many different ways and that makes it extra fun. You can fish in the following ways:

1. Beach fishing
2. Creek fishing by boat
3. Sea fishing in the estuary of the river and around dog island
4. Blue water (wreck) fish
5. A trip to Casamance in Senegal
6. Tiger fishing inland
7. And of course all the combinations you wish for yourself

Our local partner is Bernard and he is originally from England and is a former world champion in beach fishing. In addition, Bernard has been at home in The Gambia for many years where he has his own home and knows the different locations and ways of fishing like the back of his hand. He is therefore the perfect host to welcome and guide you during your fishing days. Bernard works together with local partner Tony who has many local contacts and takes care of all these things in the background.



Creek and sea fishing takes place from Denton bridge. This is where the fishing boats take you to the location of the fishing you booked. This can be off the coast, in the creeks, Dog Island or further out to sea. For this you have a choice of different types of fishing boats.





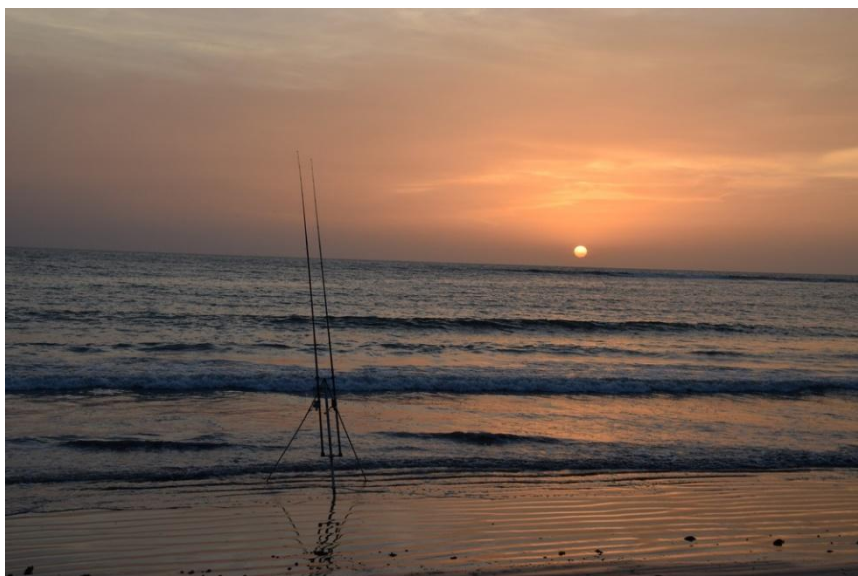
Beach fishing:

This fishing can be done during the day as well as in the evening. You coordinate this on the spot with Bernard because it depends on the tides. He knows exactly when it is best to start and end and he will adjust this to the local circumstances. Generally this fishery is in the afternoon and/or evening. You will be picked up by Bernard or his staff from your hotel and brought to the relevant location. Also included is the bait for fishing like shrimps or pieces of fish.



There are several beach fishing locations where Bernard fishes. They are all at a maximum of 1 hour drive from your accommodation location. You really get to the most beautiful beaches where you rarely meet other people. Bernard also has rod supports so you do not have to bring your own. From the beach you have a chance to catch a lot of species where the guitar ray is a very appealing species. But also butterfly, threadfin, catfish, ray, groupers and sharks are all present and belong to the target fish.

The fishing is mainly with natural bait. There are only a few locations where there are some rocks and some more structure. Here you can try to hook a Jack Crevalle, tarpon or barracuda with some surface bait as poppers. Let Bernard advise you if, where and when the best spots can be fished.



Creek and sea fishing:

Creek and sea fishing: Creek fishing takes place in the river mouth of the Gambia River. The system of mangroves here is so immense and extensive that you can literally get lost in it. The mangroves are a sheltered place for smaller fish to spawn and of course larger fish come to the mangroves to find the smaller baitfish. All in all, these are ideal fishing spots where you can expect both small and large specimens. The most commonly used method is bottom fishing with shrimp or bonga. But a crankbait or popper towards the mangroves can provide the necessary variety.



Sea fishing takes place in and before the estuary of the river and around dog island. Just like the creek fishing it is a fun and varied fishery where you can make nice catches with bottom fishing with shrimps. Offshore there is also regular trolling with large Rapalas and other deep diving crankbaits such as the Manns stretch.

As you fish in the creeks, off shore or in the open sea, the size of the fish generally gets a bit bigger and the rods and lines to be used also become a bit heavier. If you go fishing in the estuary and off the coast, barracuda mahi mahi and bonito are regularly caught trolling. So it is often a choice between trolling and bottom fish at sea.





The last alternative is tarpon fishing.

The large specimens are best fished from October to mid February and the smaller specimens from April to June. It is best to use live bait. Provide small hooks with a float or a mackerel / herring paternoster to catch small bait like mullets. And if you can't get them alive the alternative is to fish with dead bait. This can also be done from the shore, but then the chances are a bit smaller. With a float it is easy to offer the bait at the right depth and if you mount it on a 20/30 lbs rod with a braided line of 25 to 30 kilos and a leader of 100 lbs fluocarbon you are ready to chase the tarpon.



Blue water fishing:

We also recently started fishing in "blue water". This fishery is done at least 15 miles from the coast and focuses on trolling and jigging. There are several hotspots that are visited during a day of blue water fishing. There is targeted fishing for species such as sailfish, dorado (Mahi Mahi), white marlin, tuna, shark, barracuda, groupers and snappers. This fishery only takes place with the large Angler Center Console. All equipment is included. (See also "boats").





Casamance Senegal

A trip to the Casamance River in Senegal. The fishing pressure here is lower and the specimens to be caught are generally larger. Therefore it is ideal to combine with a stay in The Gambia. The river Casamance is located in northern Senegal and about 90 minutes drive from Banjul. You can choose to do this as a day trip but you can also make a two or more day trip of it.



There are two ways to fish here, either from the beach or from the boat. On a multi-day trip you will stay at this location in a double room in a 3 star hotel near the Casamances. From here both beach fishing and fishing from the boat is perfect.

When you choose for this trip the following is included: the return transfer from Banjul to the hotel, the border passage, guide, bait, fishing equipment, accommodation, breakfast and packed lunch. If you want to add this part to your trip, you need to know at least 4 weeks before departure. For travelling to Senegal a vaccination against yellow fever is necessary. The better period for fishing here is October to December and March to May.



Tiger fishing

For this fishery you travel inland from Gambia to Georgetown. This trip goes over a route of 380 kilometers and takes about 5 hours from Banjul. You leave early (08.00) in the morning and on the way there will be one or two breaks. Then you will arrive at the hotel around 1 pm. On the spot there will be a lunch and you will have the whole afternoon and evening to target the tigerfish. At the hotel you will stay in simple double rooms where breakfast and packed lunch are included during your stay.



Fishing is done from 4 to 5 meter polyester boats with 10 to 20 HP outboard motors which are steered by a captain. Fishing is done both casting and trolling. Use a steel leader at all times. The huge teeth of the tiger fish are very unforgivable! Sturdy Manns and Rapala crankbaits from 10 to 15 cm are the preferred materials here. The alternative is to fish with a float and baitfish. This construction is comparable to pike fishing as we know it in Europe. The better period for this fishing is from November until May.



The Gambia River in all its beauty offers a beautiful scenery that is etched in your memory after a fishing trip to this place. You will also encounter a large number of animals along the river. After all, it is the main source of food for all the animals in the area.





Lodging

We work with three different levels of hotels here;

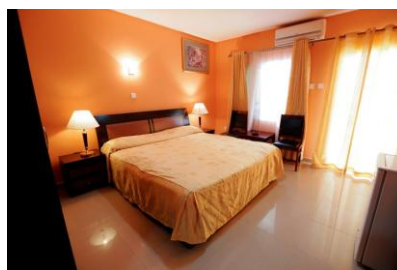
Budget level: Dandimayo

It's a decent hotel with friendly people. There are double rooms available with a small living room with TV, fridge and small kitchen. There is a small terrace overlooking the swimming pool. The bedroom has a double bed which can be pushed apart and has a fan as standard and you can use the air conditioning for a small extra charge. This accommodation is good and you can also eat here and get a cold beer so for us anglers this is fine.



- Medium Level: Mansea Beach Hotel

For lovers of a little more comfort, this hotel is a good option. This hotel has a lovely African atmosphere. The rooms are spacious and there is also a neat bathroom. The hotel is conveniently located at a 5-minute walk from the beach and the entertainment centre. If you walk out of the hotel you will feel like you are directly in Africa. The staff is waiting for you and you can relax in the beautiful garden or take a refreshing dip in the pool.



- Luxury level: Senegambia hotel

The Senegambia hotel is located directly on the Senegambia strip where all the nightlife of Banjul takes place. Yet it is quiet and offers comfort. This is a very well-known hotel in The Gambia, thanks to the beautiful tropical garden and a perfect location in the heart of Kololi. It has spacious African-style hotel rooms and of course there are several swimming pools to cool down. After swimming you dry up with a cocktail at the pool bar. In the garden you sit among the exotic birds and monkeys and imagine yourself in another world. And when the sun has disappeared on the African horizon, you'll be on the Senegambia Strip with all the fun included.





Material

If you want to take all your equipment yourself, the following is advisable:

- Beach rod 4 metres + 100 to 200 grams with a 5000 reel and 12 -15 kilo braided line
- 20 - 30 lbs boat rod for sea with a 6000 reel and 20 kilos braided line
- 10 - 20 lbs boat angel for at sea with a 5000 reel and 15 kilos braided line
- 100 - 150 grams spinning rod of 2.4 to 2.7 metres with a 4000 reel and 10 kilos of braided line
- 50 - 100 grams spinning rod of 2.1 to 2.4 metres with a 3 to 4000 reel and 8-10 kilo braided line for fishing tiger fish.

With this equipment you can do all fishing in The Gambia and you are not dependent on the local equipment. There is local material but in general it is for tourists and not for fishermen. For fishing from the Angler Center Console boat from Denton Bridge the equipment is good and suitable for anglers!

For fishing in the creeks and at sea there are several possibilities. Usually you will anchor and go bottom fishing but also try to cast a crankbait or popper to the mangroves with a surface lure. That will definitely bring action. Plugs, jigs, surface lures, some hooks, floats, weights it all can be used here.

Furthermore a lot of fish here have rather sharp teeth. That's why they often fish with steel leaders. Especially the butterfish with its sharp jaws cuts a nylon line without any effort. But also the barracuda doesn't leave a nylon line in one piece. Because of the always present butterfish, fishing with steel wire is a must. Bernard even uses hard steel clips!



Boats

At this location we have several boats available:

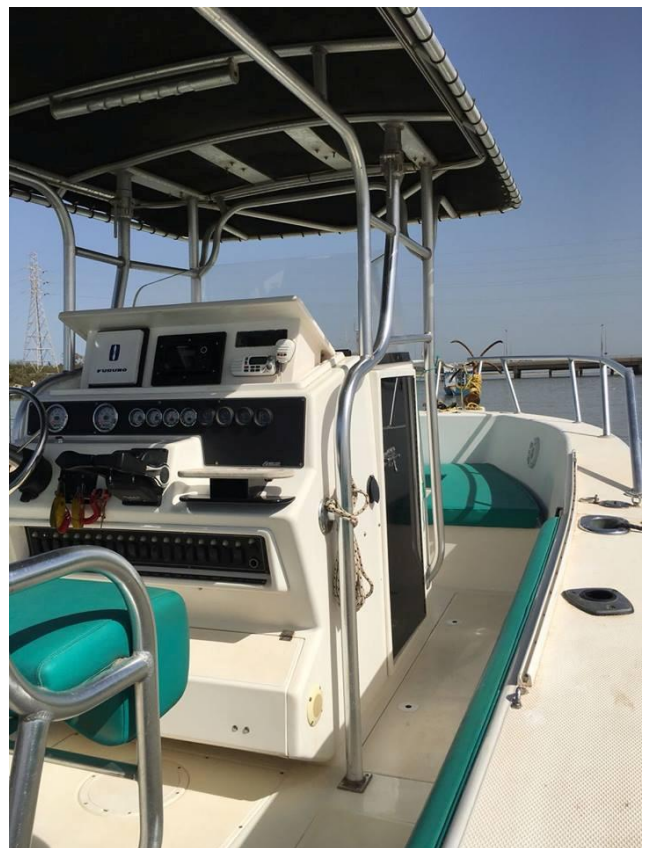
1. Warrior 165 with 60 HP engine. Are you with two fishermen than this is a good boat to go fishing. Together with the captain you can go in the creeks or off the coast for bottom fishing or trolling. This boat also has navigation on board so that you can go out to sea.
2. Several open panga's of 6 tm 8 metres with engines of 50 tm 75 HP. These boats are perfect for coastal and creek fishing. They do not have navigation and are therefore not allowed on the open sea. They are fast and offer space for small groups of fishermen.
3. Angler Center Console of 9.5 metres with 2 x 200 hp engines, GPS, many rod stands, a sun deck, toilet and can accommodate up to 10 people (incl. crew). Perfect for groups of more than 2 persons and for open sea and blue water (15 miles offshore). On this boat all materials, guidance, bait and water are included.



Warrior 165



Open panga



Angler Centre Console



Weather & Season

	Max	Min	Hours sun	Rain	Sea temp
January	32	16	8	None	22
February	34	17	9	None	21
March	35	18	9	None	21
April	36	18	10	None	22
May	35	20	10	*	24
June	34	23	8	***	27
July	33	24	7	*****	28
August	32	24	7	*****	28
September	32	23	7	*****	28
October	33	22	8	***	28
November	33	19	9	*	28
December	32	17	8	None	25

The Gambia has two distinct seasons: a very dry period and a real rainy season. From the end of October until the beginning of June it is dry in The Gambia. It rarely rains then and if it does, the quantities are generally very small.

From the 2nd or 3rd week of June you see a clear change in the weather. The humidity rises and the chance of rain increases. From the second half of June until the second half of October. This is a rainy season with about half the days of rain. This rain almost always comes in the form of (heavy) showers, which mainly occur at the end of the afternoon or after sunset.

	jan	feb	mrt	apr	mei	jun	jul	aug	sep	okt	nov	dec
Rog	G	G	G	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	G	G
Haai	G	G	G	P	P	R	R	R	R	P	G	G
Tarpon klein	R	R	R	R	G	G	G	G	R	R	R	R
Tarpon groot	G	G	R	R	R	R	M	M	M	R	G	G
Snapper	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
Croacker longneck	G	G	G	G	G	R	R	R	R	R	G	G
Kapiteinsvis	G	G	G	G	R	R	R	R	R	G	G	G
Jack Crevelle	G	G	G	G	G	R	R	R	R	G	G	G
Gitaarrog	G	G	G	G	R	R	R	R	R	R	G	G
Croacker casave	G	G	G	G	G	R	R	R	R	R	G	G
Barracuda	G	G	G	R	R	R	M	R	R	R	G	G
Butterfish	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
Triggerfish	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
Catfish	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
Dorado	G	G	G	R	R	M	M	M	R	R	G	G
Witte marlijn	G	G	G	R	R	R	M	M	R	R	R	G
Tonijn	G	G	G	G	G	R	R	R	R	R	G	G
Zeilvis	G	G	G	R	R	M	M	M	R	R	R	G
Tijgervis	G	G	G	G	G	R	M	M	R	R	R	G
Meerval	G	G	G	G	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	G

G Goed
R Redelijk
M Matig

Not only in terms of weather you have to be in The Gambia in our winter period. Also in terms of fishing this is the better period. November to April are the better periods for most species.



Other

You don't need much when you go fishing in The Gambia. A pair of flip-flops, shorts, t-shirt and fishing cap and you will go a long way.

To be able to travel in The Gambia you need a valid passport that is valid for at least 6 months upon arrival in The Gambia. There is no visa required to enter the Gambia and if the stay is shorter than 90 days. However, you must have a return ticket.

If you stay in The Gambia a yellow fever vaccination is only necessary if you travel from a country with yellow fever. If you are also going to Senegal, it can be checked at the border. That is why we advise you to arrange this vaccination. DTP and hepatitis A vaccination are recommended. Make sure you always check with your local GP or health clinic what is necessary.



A world plug / adapter is convenient as in Gambia English electricity plugs are used. In that case, in addition to the adapter, also bring a power strip so that you can charge multiple devices at the same time. A travel and cancellation insurance is a must for these types of countries and we definitely recommend it.

Be sure to wear long-sleeved t-shirts at this location in combination with a fish cap, sunglasses and sun lotion. A glove to grab a fish or get it on board. A windproof jacket, light summer clothing or a fleece jacket can certainly come in handy and a headlamp (with spare batteries) for beach fishing at night is a must. A bottle of mosquito repellent is also handy.

Drink the water here only from bottles and take some loperamide with you, just to be on the safe side. Drink plenty of water or soda and be moderate with alcohol (preferably not at all) while fishing.

You are not going to catch hundreds of fish here, but it is a lovely relaxed location where you can spend the winter and catch beautiful fish in time and experience varied fishing. And that with nice weather and friendly people makes this a wonderful fishing location!



Travel & Price

The final price depends on the number of participants, number of fishing days, type of fishing, available flights, period and type of stay. The closer you get to the holiday periods like Christmas, spring and May holidays, the higher the prices of course.

The average price outside the more expensive season for a stay of 7 days with 5 days fishing of which 2 days at open sea, 1 day in the creeks and 2 days from the beach comes in you at the Mansea Beach hotel including breakfast at a price of around 1000 euro per person with 2 participants. Extra costs are international flights, tips for crew and staff, lunches and dinners.

Of course we can also put together combined packages of coastal and boat fishing according to your wishes.

Would you like to inquire about the availability of this location or would you like an offer, please contact us:

Worldsbestfishingtrips
De Kruijin 1C
3471 Br Kamerik
The Netherlands
E-mail : mail@worldsbestfishingtrips.com
Tel : 0031 – 348 702 620 (CET from 08.30 to 17.00 hours)

