

RIVERS OF WEST AFRICA 2026

- Aboard the 25-cabin M/Y Harmony V
- Jan - Feb 2026
- 8-day cruises from Dakar, Senegal



AT A GLANCE



The Rivers of Gambia & Senegal, 7-night cruise sure to satisfy your curious minds. Experience outstanding wildlife viewing on a yacht cruise along the West Africa Coast and upstream the Gambia River, deep inside the African continent. Discover the waterways of Senegal and Gambia with visits to no less than 4 Natural Reserves: Sine Saloun Delta, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a birdwatcher's paradise; Djiffere fishing village; River Gambia National Park; Wassu mysterious stone circles, another UNESCO World Heritage site; Bao Bolong Wetland Reserve and Kiang West National Park in Gambia.

Highlights include:

Dakar (Senegal) - Saloum and Gambia Rivers - Djiffere fishing village - Tendaba Nature reserve Banjul-Bakau



Dakar to Dakar on the Saloum and Gambia Rivers ON THE M/Y HARMONY V | 2026



DAY 1 - DAKAR, SENEGAL

Late afternoon embarkation at 3 to 4pm. After dinner, we set sail southward towards the Saloum River Delta. Overnight at sea, south along the coast.

DAY 2 - DJIFFERE, SENEGAL – BANJUL, THE GAMBIA

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

Dakar to Dakar on the Saloum and Gambia Rivers

ON THE M/Y HARMONY V | 2026



DAY 3 – BANJUL – BAKAU– TENDABA, THE GAMBIA

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

DAY 4 - TENDABA, THE GAMBIA

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

DAY 5 - GAMBIA RIVER – KUNTAUR – RIVER GAMBIA NATIONAL PARK

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

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

Dakar to Dakar on the Saloum and Gambia Rivers

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DAY 6 - KUNTAUR– JANJANBUREH – KAUR, THE GAMBIA

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

DAY 7 - KUNTA KINTEH ISLAND – BANJUL, THE GAMBIA

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

DAY 8 - DAKAR, SENEGAL

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



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SAILING DATES & GROSS CRUISE FARES



From Dakar to Dakar Saturday Sailings	2026 Jan 10, 17, 24 2026 Feb 14
M/Y HARMONY V CABIN CATEGORIES	GROSS EURO RATES PER PERSON IN DBL/TWIN
Cat C Main Deck, Double beds	€ 2.650
Cat B Main Deck, Double or flexible beds	€ 3.400
Cat A Upper Deck, Twin or double beds	€ 3.850
Cat P Upper Deck, Twin or double beds	€ 4.500
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	50%
3 rd person discount in Cat P	30%
“Children policy/Family offer as below*”	
Port Charges	€ 410

Early Booking Discounts

-10% To ALL reservations made from February 1, to June 30, 2025

RIVERS OF WEST AFRICA 2026

TERMS & CONDITIONS



EBD Conditions & Restrictions:

- Bookings must be secured by paying upon confirmation 25% deposit on cruise fares per passenger
- Balance - max 60 days before departure
- All reservations are on request and on first-come-first-served basis
- **THEY DO NOT APPLY FOR ANY EXISTING BOOKINGS!!**
- The offers do not apply a/ for the Owner's Suite on Variety Voyager programs and b/ for group bookings
- Port charges are excluded from these discounts
- Please mention "EBD WEST AFRICA 2025/26" at the moment of your booking. Otherwise, Full Rates will apply
- Offers cannot be combined with any existing or future offers
- EBD is subject to occupancy levels and may be withdrawn at any time
- For FIT bookings the regular cancellation policy will apply

A/ What's INCLUDED:

- Accommodation in double or twin cabins with private SH/WC & air conditioning
- Full-board onboard M/Y HARMONY G: Buffet breakfast and two meals daily, including a Welcome Cocktail, a Local Theme Evening, and Captain's Dinner
- Regular (filter) coffee, tea and drinking water free all day
- Use of fishing and snorkelling equipment (subject to availability)
- English-Speaking Cruise Escort

Not included:

- Beverages (except those mentioned above)
- Shore excursions on the islands or other land arrangements
- Crew tips
- Passenger personal expenses
- Wi-Fi (available at charge)

*** Children Policy**

Children discounts apply to children 5-17 years old, sharing a triple cabin with two paying adults. Port taxes are not discounted.

Children 5-10 years old: 50% discount on the gross per person twin cabin fares

Children 11-17 years old: 35% discount on the gross per person twin cabin fares

In case of more than one cabin, full adult rates apply.

*** FAMILY OFFER**

- **SINGLE** parent with 1 or max 2 children in same cabin: The parent pays Single cruise fare & children cruise for FREE
- **COUPLE** with 1 child sharing the same cabin: No charge for the child up to 10 years old
50% reduction for the child 11-17 years old
- **COUPLE** with 2 or 3 (regardless of age) children: Both cabins will be charged at Single rate (single adult rate)
- Children (5-17 years old) **having pre-booked** the Family offer:
25% reduction on all optional excursion

***The offer needs to be requested at the time of reservation,** it is subject to availability and occupancy levels. Port taxes are excluded.

Conditions & Restrictions for the Family offers:

- They apply for children 5-17 years old
- They are valid for new bookings only
- They are on request and on first come-first served basis
- "Special Family offer" to be mentioned at the time of booking so that the discounted rates will apply for the reservation. Otherwise, Full rates will apply
- No reduction offered on port taxes which are additional for all participants
- They cannot be combined with any existing or future early bird discounts or special offers including Club exclusive offers
- Standard payment and cancellation policies apply

B/ Conditions and restrictions

PROOFREADING

Tour Operators featuring our Cruises in their Catalogue or Internet site by itinerary, vessel's description and images, will send VARIETY CRUISES a draft for error-checking of the contents prior publication as well as two brochure copies when printed, in order to secure correct information given to our clients and to keep our high customer satisfaction levels. Variety Cruises will not bare any responsibility for inaccurate information or misrepresentation of our vessels or cruise itineraries without having accepted a draft prior to the brochure going to print or internet page published.

PAYMENT

25% deposit is required 7 days from confirmation.

75% Balance of payment no less than 60 days prior to day of embarkation.

CANCELLATIONS

240 days to 120 days from embarkation: €120 / US\$140

Administration fee (per booking)*

119 to 90 days from embarkation 15% of the cruise fare

89 to 60 days from embarkation 25% of the cruise fare

59 to 30 days from embarkation 50% of the cruise fare

29 to 00 days from embarkation 100% of the cruise fare

Cancellations must be confirmed by VARIETY CRUISES in writing in all cases.

***In case of cancellation the administration fee per booking will be converted to a future cruise credit redeemable on bookings made up to 12 months after cancellation, valid for any cruise and date of cruise.**

AMENDMENTS

There may be a charge for amendments of cruise date or decreasing pax number received less than 60 days prior to sailing. Amendments must be confirmed by VARIETY CRUISES in writing.

NOT INCLUDED IN CRUISE FARE

Such personal expenses as drinks (other than included in the rate), laundry, spa-where applicable-, boutique items and gratuities, (gratuities are optional but as a rule, satisfied clients are expected to give to the captain, at the end of the cruise, approximately Euro 13-15 per person per day for distribution among all crew members) medical expenses, port taxes, shore excursions (shore excursions are proposed and arranged on board by the tour leaders), use of the on board Wi-Fi (available at a charge), expenditures incurred ashore, and anything not mentioned in cruise program.

YOUR BOAT



M/Y HARMONY V

Mega Yacht

GENERAL INFORMATION

Length: 55 m

Launched: 2009 | Renovated: 2017

Cabins: 25

Capacity: 49 passengers

Crew: 16-18

The M/Y HARMONY V is a 183 ½ ft-wide elegant yacht and was rebuilt/launched in July 2009. HARMONY V complies with EUROSOLAS safety regulations, ISPS (International Ships Port Safety Code) ISM, (International Safety Management), while its powerful engines, generators and state of the art stabilizers will allow for safe and comfortable cruising.

Service on board is provided by your Captain, the Cruise Coordinator and your experienced Marine and Hotel crew members. Service will be attentive or unobtrusive according to your requirements and priority is always given to the safety and comfort of passengers. Organized excursions are available for most ports of call and can be pre-booked or reserved 24 hours in advance.



YOUR BOAT



M/Y HARMONY V

Mega Yacht

360°
SUN DECK



INFINITY
UPPER DECK



RIVIERA
MAIN DECK



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

YOUR BOAT



M/Y HARMONY V

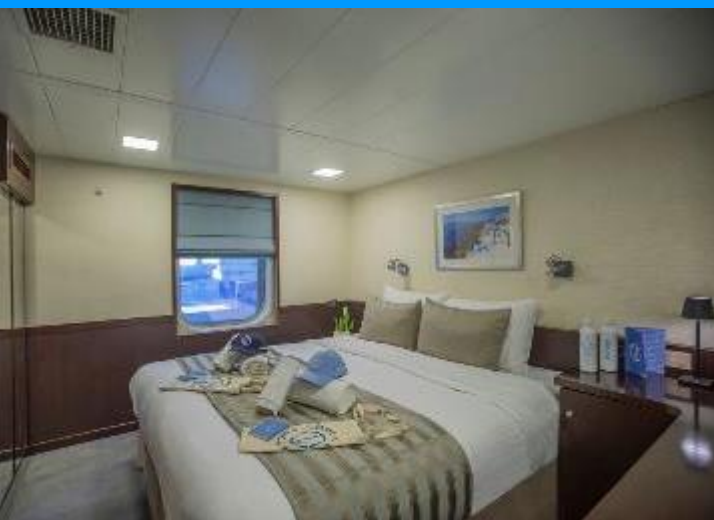
Mega Yacht

CABIN SPECIFICATIONS

The 25 cabins of the M/Y HARMONY V are located on the Main deck (9 cabins) and on the Upper Deck (16 cabins). All cabins are premium and contemporary and are decorated with soft color furnishings. All 16 cabins on the Upper Deck offer flexible bedding configuration, which can be set to offer either two twin beds or a double bed. All cabins offer large windows and ensuite bathrooms with shower and elegant Corian finishing on walls and floors. Each cabin is equipped with flat-screen TV, DVD player, mini-fridge, hairdryer, individually controlled A/C, and safe deposit box.

LIFE ON BOARD

During the day, life on board centers around the Bar Lounge and Dining Room at the Main Deck and meals are also served “al fresco” depending on the weather and the ship location. The Mega Yacht accommodate all guests at one single seating and provide a high standard of cuisine, always with some local flavor. The classy dining room is surrounded by large windows providing beautiful views of the ports of call. The Sun Deck is the ideal place to bask under the sun, read a good book or just gaze at the scenery.



YOUR BOAT



M/Y HARMONY V

Mega Yacht

Main deck lounge & dining room

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

Sun deck

Outdoor/Indoor Dining Room & Loungers

Located on the Upper Deck, the outdoor dining area, also convertible into indoor area provides beautiful views of the ports of call visited and meals are served alfresco weather permitted. Sun loungers are available to bask under the sun, read a good book or just gaze at the scenery.

<https://my.thevivestia.com/tour/voyager-harmony>



