

Practical information – Dakar

Dakar

Dakar, capital of [Senegal](#) and one of the chief seaports on the western African coast. It is located midway between the mouths of the [Gambia](#) and [Sénégal](#) rivers on the south-eastern side of the [Cape Verde Peninsula](#), close to Africa's most westerly point. Dakar's harbour is one of the best in Western Africa, being protected by the limestone cliffs of the cape and by a system of breakwaters. The city's name comes from *dakhar*, a Wolof name for the tamarind tree, as well as the name of a coastal Lebu village that was located south of what is now the first pier.

King Fahd Conference Centre

The meetings will be held at the [King Fahd Conference Centre](#) which also houses the King Fahd Hotel. Those of you staying at the King Fahd Hotel can move from the lobby to the Conference Centre without leaving the building. The Yaas Hotel is the closest recommended hotel to the venue and is only 5 minutes away. Attached is a map of the King Fahd Conference Centre for reference.

The Airport

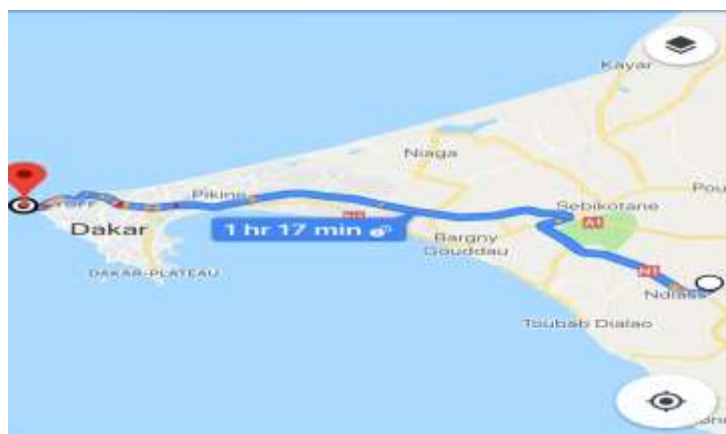
The main airport in Dakar is the **Blaise Diagne International (DSS)**. Blaise Diagne International Airport is located on the east of the downtown of Dakar near the town of Diass. It is linked to the city via taxis, busses and shuttles.

Travel to and from the Airport

The Government of Senegal has kindly offered shuttle busses between the airport and the hotels recommended to the Secretariat. Please send Leah Krogsund (LKrogsund@eiti.org) your arrival and departure dates and times should you require the use of these services.

Other means of transport

- **Airport pick-up:** It is possible to arrange airport transfer with the hotel at the time of reserving your accommodation. This is the preferred means of travel if not using the provided shuttle busses.
- Official **yellow-and-black taxis** are available at the ranks outside the terminal. They do not have a taximeter and any ride outside Dakar must be negotiated with the driver before entering the vehicle. For a ride to Dakar and its suburbs (Ouakam, Ngor, Yoff, Mermoz) official rates are displayed in the hall of the airport and is fixed (around 7.5€ the ride). The journey can take about an hour depending on traffic.



General Information

Visa:

The below countries do not need a visa for travel to Senegal. For a complete overview of visa requirements for Senegal, see [here](#).

The Government of Senegal will arrange for visa on arrival for all those who need a visa. Please send Leah a copy of your passport and your arrival and departure dates should you need a visa on arrival after which you will receive a letter of embarkation allowing you to board the flight. Note that without this letter, some flights may not allow you to board.

All European Union citizens, and nationals from the following countries **do not** require visa entry to Senegal: Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, **Burkina Faso**, Burundi, **Cameroon**, Canada, Cape Verde, **Central African Republic**, **Chad**, Comoros, **Congo**, **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, Costa Rica, **Côte d'Ivoire**, Egypt, El Salvador, **Ethiopia**, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, **Ghana**, Grenada, **Guatemala**, **Guinea**, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, **Honduras**, Iceland, India, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lesotho, **Liberia**, Liechtenstein, **Madagascar**, **Malawi**, Malaysia, **Mali**, Marshall Islands, **Mauritania**, Mauritius, Micronesia, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, **Niger**, **Nigeria**, **Norway**, Oman, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, **Seychelles**, **Sierra Leone**, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, **Suriname**, Swaziland, Switzerland, Thailand, **Timor-Leste**, **Togo**, **Tunisia**, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, **Ukraine**, United Arab Emirates, **United States**, Vanuatu, Vatican City, **Zambia**, Zimbabwe.

In addition, your passport must be valid for at least 3 months from the date of entry into Senegal.

Health

Please check with your practitioner the precautions you need to take prior to departure. Some nationalities may need to provide a yellow fever certificate.

Malaria, dengue fever and other tropical diseases are common in Senegal especially during the rainy season (June – October). Malarial prophylaxis is recommended.

Currency: The official currency in Dakar is the West African CFA Franc (XOF), which is divided into 100 centimes. It is the only legal currency issued by the Bank of West African States (*Banque des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest*).

There are ATMs in Dakar, but banking facilities are limited in the rest of the country. Credit cards are only accepted by major establishments catering to the tourist trade, with American Express being the most widely accepted; commission is charged. Travellers cheques can be cashed in Dakar.

The King Fahd Hotel has an ATM in the lobby.

Read more: <http://www.wordtravels.com/Travelguide/Countries/Senegal/Currency>

Exchange rate: 1 EUR = **656** XOF (www.xe.com) 02/10/2018.

Climate: Senegal benefits from a warm and tropical climate which sees temperatures hovering from warm to extremely hot throughout the year. From May-November, a hot monsoon wind blows from the north to the south bringing some rain.

Clothing: Light-weight long sleeved clothing is recommended to shield from the hot weather and the mosquitoes. **Remember that the reception will be held out-doors so bring some repellents.**

Language: French is the official language. English is spoken by most people.

Time: GMT

Dial codes: +221

Electricity: Electricity: 230 volts AC, 50/60Hz. Plugs are of the European round two-pin type.

Local Tourism authority: for all information concerning tourism in Senegal, try <https://www.visitezlesenegal.com/en/bienvenue>

Some recommended sights and activities

Gorée Island

Gorée is a tiny, car-free island off the coast of Dakar, in Senegal. It's known for its role in the 15th- to 19th-century Atlantic slave trade. On the narrow streets, colonial buildings include the House of Slaves, now a museum. The 19th-century Fort d'Estrées houses the IFAN Historical Museum, with exhibits on Senegal's past. The Henriette Bathily Women's Museum considers the role of women in West African society.

Musée Théodore Monod

Opening hours – 08:00-12:30 and 15:00-18:30 – closed on Mondays

For more information: <http://www.tourisme-dakar.com/mus%C3%A9e-th%C3%A9odore-monodmountain>

Île de N'Gor

For a quick escape from the frenetic streets of Dakar, head to peaceful Île de N'Gor, a tiny island just off Dakar's north shore. It has a few calm beaches on the bay side, and some legendary surf on the northern coastline. Most visitors just come for the day, to relax on the beaches, stroll the sandy lanes of the village and have lunch in one of the waterside eateries, but there are several appealing guesthouses here as well.

Pirogues leave every hour or so between 10am and 7pm from [Plage de N'Gor](#) for the 400m trip across to the island (CFA500, 10 minutes). It's a wet landing on both sides, so wear sandals and prepare to roll up your pants.

Village des Arts

An arts tour around Dakar is simply not complete without a visit to this famous art complex, where some of Senegal's most promising and established painters, sculptors and multimedia artists create, shape and display their works in individual studios scattered around a large garden space. There's also an on-site gallery, which exhibits works by artists both home-grown and from abroad.

Médina

A bustling popular quartier with tiny tailor's shops, a busy Marché Tilène and streets brimming with life, the Médina was built as a township for the local populace by the French during colonial days. It's the birthplace of Senegalese superstar and current minister of culture Youssou N'Dour. Besides being a very real neighbourhood, where creative ideas and new trends grow between crammed, makeshift homes, it's also home to Dakar's 1664 Grande Mosquée, impressive for its sheer size and landmark minaret.

Lac Rose (aka Lake Retba)

The saline content in the lake can be as high as 40% (more than in Jordan's Dead Sea), which means you simply can't sink. Bobbing atop its waters, legs and arms splayed, is mandatory, and if you arrive for late afternoon you can enjoy the lake's other party piece: when conditions are right, the water's

algae starts to bloom and the whole thing turns a shocking pink colour. It's akin to floating in a giant, warm raspberry sorbet.

As you submerge your body, any cut and scrape will really sting, reminding you that ten minutes bathing is enough. Salt harvesters protect themselves from the corrosive salt by covering their bodies in oil and shea butter, but the lake's 'dipping zone' has fresh running water to wash yourself with afterwards, so try to stay around there.