



# TRAVEL ADVICE

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TRAVELLING TO THE GAMBIA

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To help you prepare for your flight, we've provided this booklet containing important information and handy tips, such as your luggage allowance, what to expect when you arrive at Banjul Airport, health, currency and contact numbers, which we hope you'll find useful.

We recognise that you have a choice and would like to thank you for choosing to fly with The Gambia Experience. We wish you an enjoyable flight.

## **PASSPORT**

A full 10 year British passport is required for entry into The Gambia, which must be valid at least until the date of your arrival back in the UK.

Visas are not required by British citizens for durations of less than 28 days. For longer stays, guests must renew their visitor's visa every 28 days at Serrekunda or Banjul police posts, subject to change without notice (approximate cost 2000 dalasi). We recommend that all other nationals please contact:

*High Commission of The Gambia*  
57 Kensington Court, London, W8 5DG Tel: 0203 928 9770

Please check current FCDO advice for latest entry regulations [gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/the-gambia](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/the-gambia).

## **INSURANCE**

Adequate holiday insurance is a must. If not already covered, you must arrange this before you travel. Please remember to take your policy and contact details with you.

Please note that all our flights are ATOL protected for your financial security, however this does not cover medical repatriation and other benefits provided by personal travel insurance.

## **MEDICAL**

There are no compulsory inoculations for entry into The Gambia from the UK, but you should always consult your doctor before travel, for up-to-date information on inoculations. If you're travelling on to Senegal you'll need to show your yellow fever certificate at the border. We would advise you to take medicines for dehydration, small ailments, stomach upsets, insect bites and cuts, along with mosquito repellent and sun creams, as such items are expensive and not always available in The Gambia.

## **MALARIA**

Malaria is an avoidable illness, and we would urge you to take anti-malarial tablets before you depart and continue after your trip, as per your GP's instructions. You can order your malaria medication online direct from Lloyds Pharmacy for same day in-pharmacy pick up, or next day home delivery.

They'll make an 8% donation to our Community Development Fund for every purchase made.

Please see [gambia.co.uk/medication](http://gambia.co.uk/medication) for more details.

## **PREGNANCY**

Airlines require women 28 weeks or more into pregnancy, at the time of return travel, to have a medical certification of fitness to travel. Normally after 32 weeks permission to travel is refused.

## **AIRPORT HOTELS & PARKING**

We can provide prices for our customers for airport car parking, hotels and lounges. To book visit [gambia.co.uk/holidayextras](http://gambia.co.uk/holidayextras)

## **FLIGHT TIMINGS**

Your actual flight timings and airport terminal are those shown on your travel documents, please check these carefully. We would suggest that if you are in The Gambia on a long duration ticket, you check with the resort/UK office in case of time changes to your return flight. Occasionally there may be a delay which is beyond our control, so please bear this in mind when planning any onward travel.

## **CHECK-IN AT UK AIRPORTS**

Please allow plenty of time for your journey; for help on how to get to the airport if you're travelling by road or public transport please visit [gambia.co.uk/airports](http://gambia.co.uk/airports).

Please ensure that you check in at least two hours prior to your departure time; check-in desks will open at least three hours prior to your scheduled departure. At Gatwick, there's a dedicated desk for our upgraded passengers.

Please ensure that you go to the gate in plenty of time; late arrival at the gate may result in you being refused boarding and your luggage being offloaded.

## LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Our standard included luggage allowance is 20kg, which is indicated on your travel documents. Customers travelling on a flexible ticket from Gatwick and in Star Class receive 30kg free luggage allowance. Each piece of luggage must be under 32kg or will be refused by the airline. Airlines charge around £15 per kilo for excess luggage, although this price may vary depending on the policy of the airline and we cannot guarantee that it will be accepted on the flight. For information on sending excess baggage by freight, please contact our Administration Department on **01489 866 901**.

## HAND LUGGAGE

For security and safety reasons only one item of hand luggage is permitted in the cabin (this includes a handbag), which must not be larger than 55cm x 40cm x 20cm (although this may vary depending on the airline) and must weigh no more than 10kg for Ascend and TUI flights, and no more than 5kg for most other airlines. Please remember not to pack any sharp objects in your hand luggage. Passengers are only allowed to carry liquids in containers no more than 100ml in capacity, contained in a single, transparent, re-sealable plastic bag – itself no more than a litre in capacity.

Once through security, passengers can buy items in the departure lounge and take them on board. Prescription medicines in liquid form sufficient and essential for the flight (e.g. diabetic kit) are permitted through security as well as baby milk and liquid baby food, but the accompanying passenger may be asked to taste them. We recommend all medication and valuables be carried in your hand luggage.

## DRUGS AND HOMOSEXUALITY

It's illegal to have any involvement with or possession of even a minimal amount of drugs, including cannabis and codeine in The Gambia; do not agree to carry any parcels through customs for other people. The penalties are extremely harsh and you may face up to 15 years in prison. There's also zero tolerance towards LGBTQ+ people in the country and any person found participating in a same gender relationship is guilty of a crime and could face 14 years' imprisonment.

Please also note that consular support under either of these circumstances is not guaranteed. However should you need

to contact the British High Commission in The Gambia for any reason their telephone number is **00 220 449 5133 / 449 4508**.

## **IN FLIGHT**

The direct flying time to The Gambia is approximately six hours from Gatwick and slightly longer from Manchester. On flights with Ascend Airways you will receive complimentary soft drinks, a light meal and tea or coffee. A buy-on-board service may operate with other airlines such as TUI. There is no in-flight entertainment on any of our flights so please ensure that you download anything you wish to view to your phone or tablet in advance and don't forget your headphones.

## **ARRIVAL IN BANJUL**

On arrival in the terminal building, a \$20 security levy (or sterling/dalasis equivalent) is payable in cash. Please note that a lower fee of D1000 is applicable for Gambian passport holders. You'll then go through to passport control where you may have your fingerprints or photograph taken by Immigration. From here, you proceed to the baggage carousel to wait for your luggage.

The baggage system can sometimes be chaotic and you may find it easier and quicker to use a porter through customs, where your bags will be put through an X-ray machine. Porter service is approximately £1 or 50 dalasi per case, irrespective of whether a porter uses a trolley or carries the bags himself. They'll accompany you outside the terminal building where taxis are available. The individual excise duty allowance per passenger into Banjul, is as follows:

- 288 cigarettes or cigars, cheroots, cigarettos. Tobacco and snuff not exceeding 250g in weight.
- One litre of spirit or two litres of wine.

Duty will be charged on anything above this limit, as well as on gifts and charitable items so please bear this in mind and buy locally where possible. Please note, duty must be paid on mobile phones brought into The Gambia that are not for personal use.

## **MOBILE PHONES**

Some mobile phones work in The Gambia, others will not, so it's best to check with your provider and ensure you use WiFi where possible to avoid charges for data usage. You can buy a pre-paid SIM card for your phone in The Gambia and you'll be given a local number.

## CURRENCY

The currency in The Gambia is the dalasi. There are no regulations restricting the amount of currency taken in or out of the country, up to \$10,000 cash. We recommend taking sterling cash, which can be exchanged locally. Credit cards, in particular Visa and MasterCard, are becoming more widely accepted within the tourist areas, however please remember to check in advance if your card will be accepted and whether there would be any surcharge. Visa debit cards may also be used in some ATM machines.

## FLEXIBLE TICKET

If you've purchased a Flexible Ticket and wish to amend your return date please contact our office located at the Senegambia Hotel on [00 220 446 1104](tel:002204461104) / [44603 17](tel:4460317).

All flight changes are subject to availability and must be made at least 72 hours prior to travel.

## BANJUL AIRPORT

Please ensure that you check and comply with UK entry regulations or boarding may be denied. The check-in desks close one hour before the flight departs. If the check-in desk has closed when you arrive at the airport, you'll need to purchase another ticket for the next available flight to the UK.

Immediately after check-in, and payment of the \$20 security levy (or sterling/ dalasis equivalent), please proceed through passport control, as the tannoy announcements are not always clear. You'll need to show your passport with boarding card and you may have your fingerprints and photograph taken by Immigration.

Upgraded passengers are invited to use the First Class Lounge which is located on the first floor in the departure lounge, upon production of the invitation issued with your travel documents. Please note that lounge entry cannot be purchased directly from the lounge on the day of departure; either visit our resort office at the Senegambia Hotel during your stay or our reps may be able to arrange this when you check in for your flight.

There's a snack bar and duty free shop in the departure lounge area, please refer to the previous Arrival in Banjul section for your duty free entitlement. Please listen for your flight boarding announcement; when you hear the announcement make your way to the boarding gate ready to proceed to the aircraft.

You'll need your passports with your boarding card ready for inspection at both the boarding gate and at the bottom of the aircraft steps.

## **SUSTAINABLE TOURISM & CHARITY**

We, at The Gambia Experience, believe in Sustainable Tourism and working positively towards maintaining the natural beauty, culture and wildlife of The Gambia, so that future generations of residents and visitors alike can continue to enjoy them.

We would ask that you:

- Support the local economy wherever possible by buying local products and services including school supplies.
- Respect the culture and traditions of the local people by dressing modestly when out and about and by asking permission before taking photographs.
- Respect the habitat and natural behaviour of wildlife when you're in their environment.

Many of our clients over the years have become involved in charity work or have donated money and gifts to the many charity projects we support. We'll match donations from our customers and if you would like to know more about our Community Development Fund, please enquire in our resort office at The Senegambia Hotel, where our staff will be happy to help; they can also advise on distribution of any donations you may like to make.

If you plan to bring charitable gifts from the UK please bear in mind your luggage allowance and consider buying locally.

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