[Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef" \o "Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Senegal** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en);[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) [Template:Lang-fr](/wiki/Template:Lang-fr)), officially the **Republic of Senegal** ([Template:Lang-fr](/wiki/Template:Lang-fr) [Template:IPA-fr](/wiki/Template:IPA-fr)), is a country located in [West Africa](/wiki/West_Africa). Senegal is bordered by the North African country of [Mauritania](/wiki/Mauritania) in the north, [Mali](/wiki/Mali) to the east, [Guinea](/wiki/Guinea) to the southeast, and [Guinea-Bissau](/wiki/Guinea-Bissau) to the southwest. Senegal further borders the country of [The Gambia](/wiki/The_Gambia), a sovereign enclave occupying a narrow sliver of land along the banks of the Gambia river, which separates Senegal's southern region of Casamance from the rest of the country. Senegal also shares a maritime border with the country of [Cape Verde](/wiki/Cape_Verde). Senegal's economical and political capital is [Dakar](/wiki/Dakar). It is the westernmost country in the mainland of the [Old World](/wiki/Old_World), or [Afro-Eurasia](/wiki/Afro-Eurasia),[[3]](#cite_note-3) and owes its name to the [Senegal River](/wiki/Senegal_River), which borders it to the east and north. The name "Senegal" comes from the [Wolof](/wiki/Wolof_language) "Sunuu Gaal," which means "Our Boat." Senegal covers a land area of almost [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and has an estimated population of about 13 million. The climate is [Sahelian](/wiki/Sahel), but there is a rainy season.

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## Cultures and influences[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The territory of modern Senegal has been inhabited by various ethnic groups since the [Prehistory](/wiki/Prehistory). Organized kingdoms emerged around the seventh century, and parts of the country were ruled by prominent regional empires such as the [Jolof Empire](/wiki/Jolof_Empire). The present state of Senegal has its roots in European colonialism, which began during the mid-15th century, when various European powers began competing for trade in the area. The establishment of coastal trading posts gradually led to control of the mainland, culminating in French rule of the area by the 19th century, albeit amid much local resistance. Senegal peacefully attained independence from France in 1960, and has since been among the more politically stable countries in Africa.

Senegal's economy is centered mostly on commodities and natural resources. Major industries are fish processing, phosphate mining, fertilizer production, petroleum refining, construction materials, ship construction and repair. As in most African nations, agriculture is a major sector, with Senegal producing several important cash crops, including [peanuts](/wiki/Peanut), [sugarcane](/wiki/Sugarcane), [cotton](/wiki/Cotton), [green beans](/wiki/Green_bean), [tomatoes](/wiki/Tomato), [melons](/wiki/Melon), and [mangoes](/wiki/Mango).<ref name=fas>Ndiaye, Mbalo. ["Senegal agricultural situation country report"](http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200701/146279961.pdf). U.S. [Foreign Agricultural Service](/wiki/Foreign_Agricultural_Service) (January 17, 2007). [Template:PD-notice](/wiki/Template:PD-notice)</ref> Owing to its relative stability, tourism and hospitality are also burgeoning sectors.

A multiethnic and secular nation, Senegal is predominantly [Sunni Muslim](/wiki/Sunni_Islam) with [Sufi](/wiki/Sufism) and [animist](/wiki/Traditional_African_religion) influences. French is the [official language](/wiki/Official_language), although many native languages are spoken and recognized. Since April 2012 Senegal's president has been [Macky Sall](/wiki/Macky_Sall). Senegal has been a member of the [Organisation internationale de la Francophonie](/wiki/Organisation_internationale_de_la_Francophonie) since 1970.

## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

Senegal is named after the [Senegal River](/wiki/Senegal_River), the etymology of which is contested. One popular theory (proposed by David Boilat in 1853) is that it stems from the [Wolof](/wiki/Wolof_language) phrase *sunu gaal*, which means "our canoe" (or [pirogue](/wiki/Pirogue)), resulting from a miscommunication between 15th-century Portuguese sailors and Wolof fishermen. The "our canoe" theory has been popularly embraced in modern Senegal for its charm and its use in appeals to national solidarity (e.g. "we're all in the same canoe") are frequently heard in the media.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Modern historians believe the name probably refers to the [Sanhaja](/wiki/Sanhaja), [Berbers](/wiki/Berbers) who lived on the northern side of the river. A competing theory is that it derives from the medieval town of "Sanghana" (also spelled as Isenghan, Asengan, Singhanah), described by the Arab geographer [al-Bakri](/wiki/Al-Bakri) in 1068 as located by the mouth of the river. Some [Serer people](/wiki/Serer_people) from the south believe the river's name is derived from the compound of the [Serer](/wiki/Serer_language) term *Sene* (from Roge Sene, Supreme Deity in [Serer religion](/wiki/Serer_religion)) and *O Gal* (meaning "body of water").

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Early and pre-colonial eras[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

Archaeological findings throughout the area indicate that Senegal was inhabited in prehistoric times and has been continuously occupied by various ethnic groups. Some kingdoms were created around the 7th century: [Takrur](/wiki/Takrur) in the 9th century, Namandiru and the [Jolof Empire](/wiki/Jolof_Empire) during the 13th and 14th centuries. Eastern Senegal was once part of the [Ghana Empire](/wiki/Ghana_Empire).

Islam was introduced through [Toucouleur](/wiki/Toucouleur_people) and [Soninke](/wiki/Soninke_people) contact with the [Almoravid dynasty](/wiki/Almoravid_dynasty) of the [Maghreb](/wiki/Maghreb), who in turn propagated it. The Almoravids, with the help of Toucouleur allies, used military force for conversion. This movement faced resistance from ethnicities of traditional religions, the Serers in particular.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) In the 13th and 14th centuries, the area came under the influence of the empires to the east; the Jolof Empire of Senegal was also founded during this time. In the Senegambia region, between 1300 and 1900, close to one-third of the population was [enslaved](/wiki/Slavery_in_Africa), typically as a result of captives taken in warfare.[[6]](#cite_note-6) In the 14th century the Jolof Empire grew powerful, having united [Cayor](/wiki/Cayor) and the kingdoms of [Baol](/wiki/Baol), [Sine](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Sine), [Saloum](/wiki/Saloum), [Waalo](/wiki/Waalo), [Futa Tooro](/wiki/Futa_Tooro) and [Bambouk](/wiki/Bambouk). The empire was a voluntary confederacy of various states rather than an empire built on military conquest.<ref name=charles/>[[7]](#cite_note-7) The empire was founded by Ndiadiane Ndiaye, a part [Serer](/wiki/Serer_people)[[8]](#cite_note-8)[[9]](#cite_note-9) and part [Toucouleur](/wiki/Toucouleur_people), who was able to form a coalition with many ethnicities, but collapsed around 1549 with the defeat and killing of Lele Fouli Fak by Amari Ngone Sobel Fall.

### Colonial era[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

In the mid-15th century, the Portuguese landed on the Senegal coastline, followed by traders representing other countries, including the French.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Various European powers—Portugal, the Netherlands, and Great Britain—competed for trade in the area from the 15th century onward. In 1677, France gained control of what had become a minor departure point in the [Atlantic slave trade](/wiki/Atlantic_slave_trade)—the island of [Gorée](/wiki/Gorée) next to modern Dakar, used as a base to purchase slaves from the warring chiefdoms on the mainland.[[11]](#cite_note-11)[[12]](#cite_note-12) [thumb|160px|Slave traders in](/wiki/File:Marchands_d'esclaves_de_Gorée-Jacques_Grasset_de_Saint-Sauveur_mg_8526.jpg) [Gorée](/wiki/Gorée), 18th century. European missionaries introduced Christianity to Senegal and the [Casamance](/wiki/Casamance) in the 19th century. It was only in the 1850s that the French began to expand onto the Senegalese mainland – they had abolished slavery and promoted an [abolitionist](/wiki/Abolitionism_in_France) doctrine-,[[13]](#cite_note-13) adding native kingdoms like the Waalo, Cayor, Baol, and Jolof Empire. French colonists progressively invaded and took over all the kingdoms except Sine and Saloum under Governor [Louis Faidherbe](/wiki/Louis_Faidherbe).<ref name=charles>Charles, Eunice A. *Precolonial Senegal: the Jolof Kingdom, 1800–1890.* African Studies Center, Boston University, 1977. p. 3</ref>[[14]](#cite_note-14) Senegalese resistance to the French expansion and curtailing of their lucrative slave trade was led in part by [Lat-Dior](/wiki/Lat-Dior), [Damel](/wiki/Damel) of Cayor, and [Maad a Sinig Kumba Ndoffene Famak Joof](/wiki/Maad_a_Sinig_Kumba_Ndoffene_Famak_Joof), the [Maad a Sinig](/wiki/Maad_a_Sinig) of Sine, resulting in the [Battle of Logandème](/wiki/Battle_of_Logandème).

### Independence (1960)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

On 4 April 1959 Senegal and the [French Sudan](/wiki/French_Sudan) merged to form the [Mali Federation](/wiki/Mali_Federation), which became fully independent on 20 June 1960, as a result of the independence and the transfer of power agreement signed with France on 4 April 1960. Due to internal political difficulties, the Federation broke up on 20 August, when Senegal and French Sudan (renamed the Republic of [Mali](/wiki/Mali)) each proclaimed independence.

[Léopold Sédar Senghor](/wiki/Léopold_Sédar_Senghor) was proclaimed Senegal's first president in September 1960. Senghor was a very well-read man, educated in France. He was a poet, a philosopher and personally drafted the Senegalese national anthem, "Pincez tous vos koras, frappez les balafons". Pro-African, he advocated a brand of African socialism.[[15]](#cite_note-15) [thumb|300px|Colonial](/wiki/File:Colonial_Saint_Louis.jpg) [Saint Louis](/wiki/Saint-Louis,_Senegal) c. 1900. Europeans and Africans on the Rue Lebon. In 1980, President Senghor decided to retire from politics. The next year, he transferred power in 1981 to his hand-picked successor, [Abdou Diouf](/wiki/Abdou_Diouf). Former prime minister Mamadou Dia, who was Senghor's rival, ran for election in 1983 against Diouf but lost. Senghor moved to France, where he died at the age of 96.

Senegal joined with [the Gambia](/wiki/The_Gambia) to form the nominal [Senegambia Confederation](/wiki/Senegambia_Confederation) on 1 February 1982. However, the union was dissolved in 1989. Despite peace talks, a southern separatist group ([Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance](/wiki/Movement_of_Democratic_Forces_of_Casamance) or MFDC) in the [Casamance](/wiki/Casamance) region has clashed sporadically with government forces since 1982 in the [Casamance conflict](/wiki/Casamance_conflict). In the early 21st century, violence has subsided and President [Macky Sall](/wiki/Macky_Sall) held talks with rebels in Rome in December 2012.[[16]](#cite_note-16) Abdou Diouf was president between 1981 and 2000. He encouraged broader political participation, reduced government involvement in the economy, and widened Senegal's diplomatic engagements, particularly with other developing nations. Domestic politics on occasion spilled over into street violence, border tensions, and a violent separatist movement in the southern region of the Casamance. Nevertheless, Senegal's commitment to democracy and human rights strengthened. Abdou Diouf served four terms as president.

In the presidential election of 1999, opposition leader [Abdoulaye Wade](/wiki/Abdoulaye_Wade) defeated Diouf in an election deemed free and fair by international observers. Senegal experienced its second peaceful transition of power, and its first from one political party to another. On 30 December 2004 President Wade announced that he would sign a peace treaty with the separatist group in the Casamance region. This, however, has yet to be implemented. There was a round of talks in 2005, but the results have not yet yielded a resolution.

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Macky_Sall_.jpg)[Macky Sall](/wiki/Macky_Sall), President of Senegal (2012–present) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Abdoulaye_Wade_in_16-05-2007.jpg)[Abdoulaye Wade](/wiki/Abdoulaye_Wade), President of Senegal (2000–2012)

Senegal is a republic with a presidency; the president is [elected](/wiki/Elections_in_Senegal) every five years as of 2001, previously being seven years, by adult voters. The first president, [Léopold Sédar Senghor](/wiki/Léopold_Sédar_Senghor), was a poet and writer, and was the first African elected to the *Académie française*. Senegal's second president, [Abdou Diouf](/wiki/Abdou_Diouf), later served as general secretary of the *Organisation de la Francophonie*. The third president was [Abdoulaye Wade](/wiki/Abdoulaye_Wade), a lawyer. The current president is [Macky Sall](/wiki/Macky_Sall), elected in March 2012.

Senegal has more than 80 political parties. The [unicameral](/wiki/Unicameral) parliament consists of the [National Assembly](/wiki/National_Assembly_of_Senegal), which has 150 seats (a [Senate](/wiki/Senate_(Senegal)) was in place from 1999 to 2001 and 2007 to 2012).<ref name=cia>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> An independent judiciary also exists in Senegal. The nation's highest courts that deal with business issues are the constitutional council and the court of justice, members of which are named by the president.

### Political culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

Currently, Senegal has a quasi-democratic political culture, one of the more successful post-colonial democratic transitions in Africa. Local administrators are appointed by, and responsible to, the president. [Marabouts](/wiki/Marabout), religious leaders of the various [Muslim brotherhoods of Senegal](/wiki/Muslim_brotherhoods_of_Senegal), also exercise a strong political influence in the country especially during Wade's presidency. In 2009, [Freedom House](/wiki/Freedom_House) downgraded Senegal's status from 'Free' to 'Partially Free', based on increased centralisation of power in the executive. However, it has since recovered its Free status by 2014.[[17]](#cite_note-17) about 42 percent of whom live in rural areas. Density in these areas varies from about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the west-central region to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the arid eastern section.

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Senegal has a wide variety of [ethnic groups](/wiki/Ethnic_group) and, as in most West African countries, several languages are widely spoken. The [Wolof](/wiki/Wolof_people) are the largest single ethnic group in Senegal at 43 percent; the [Fula](/wiki/Fula_people)[[31]](#cite_note-31) and [Toucouleur](/wiki/Toucouleur_people) (also known as [Halpulaar'en](/wiki/Halpulaar), literally "[Pulaar](/wiki/Pulaar)-speakers") (24%) are the second biggest group, followed by the [Serer](/wiki/Serer_people) (14.7%),[[32]](#cite_note-32) then others such as [Jola](/wiki/Jola_people) (4%), [Mandinka](/wiki/Mandinka_people) (3%), [Maures](/wiki/Moors) or (Naarkajors), [Soninke](/wiki/Soninke_people), [Bassari](/wiki/Bassari_people) and many smaller communities (9%). (See also the [Bedick](/wiki/Bedick) ethnic group.)

About 50,000 Europeans (mostly French) and [Lebanese](/wiki/Lebanese_people_in_Senegal)[[33]](#cite_note-33) as well as smaller numbers of Mauritanians and [Moroccans](/wiki/Morocco)[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) reside in Senegal, mainly in the cities. The majority of Lebanese work in commerce.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Also located primarily in urban settings are small [Vietnamese communities](/wiki/Vietnamese_community_in_Senegal) as well as a growing number of [Chinese immigrant traders](/wiki/Chinese_people_in_Senegal), each numbering perhaps a few hundred people.[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36) There are also tens of thousands of [Mauritanian refugees in Senegal](/wiki/Mauritanians_in_Senegal), primarily in the country's north.[[37]](#cite_note-37) According to the *World Refugee Survey 2008*, published by the U.S. Committee for Refugees and [Immigrants](/wiki/Immigrants), Senegal has a population of [refugees](/wiki/Refugees) and asylum seekers numbering approximately 23,800 in 2007. The majority of this population (20,200) is from [Mauritania](/wiki/Mauritania). Refugees live in N'dioum, Dodel, and small settlements along the [Senegal River](/wiki/Senegal_River) valley.[[38]](#cite_note-38)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|300px|A street market in](/wiki/File:PICT5483.JPG) [Malem-Hodar](/wiki/Malem_Hodar_Department). French is the [official language](/wiki/Official_language), used regularly by a minority of Senegalese educated in a system styled upon the colonial-era schools of French origin (Koranic schools are even more popular, but Arabic is not widely spoken outside of this context of recitation). Most people also speak their own ethnic language while, especially in Dakar, [Wolof](/wiki/Wolof_language) is the [lingua franca](/wiki/Lingua_franca).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) [Pulaar](/wiki/Pulaar) is spoken by the Fulas and Toucouleur. The [Serer language](/wiki/Serer_language) is widely spoken by both Serers and non-Serers (including president Sall, whose wife is Serer); so are the [Cangin languages](/wiki/Cangin_languages), whose speakers are ethnically Serers. [Jola languages](/wiki/Jola_languages) are widely spoken in the [Casamance](/wiki/Casamance).

Several of the Senegalese languages have the legal status of "[national languages](/wiki/National_language)": [Balanta-Ganja](/wiki/Balanta-Ganja_language), [Hassaniya Arabic](/wiki/Hassaniya_Arabic), [Jola-Fonyi](/wiki/Jola-Fonyi_language), [Mandinka](/wiki/Mandinka_language), [Mandjak](/wiki/Mandjak_language), [Mankanya](/wiki/Mankanya_language), [Noon](/wiki/Noon_language) (Serer-Noon), [Pulaar](/wiki/Pulaar_language), [Serer](/wiki/Serer_language), [Soninke](/wiki/Soninke_language), and [Wolof](/wiki/Wolof_language).

[Portuguese Creole](/wiki/Guinea_Creole), locally known as Portuguese, is a prominent minority language in [Ziguinchor](/wiki/Ziguinchor), regional capital of the [Casamance](/wiki/Casamance), spoken by local Portuguese creoles and immigrants from Guinea-Bissau. The local Cape Verdean community speak a similar Portuguese creole, [Cape Verdean Creole](/wiki/Cape_Verdean_Creole), and standard Portuguese. Portuguese was introduced in Senegal's secondary education in 1961 in Dakar by the country's first president, [Léopold Sédar Senghor](/wiki/Léopold_Sédar_Senghor), it is currently available in most of Senegal and in higher education. It is especially prevalent in Casamance as it relates with the local cultural identity.[[39]](#cite_note-39)[thumb|Aerial view of Dakar](/wiki/File:Dakar_Roofs_-_Beach_&_Ocean_(5651584098).jpg)

French, the only official language in the country, is facing a backlash as a consequence of a rising Senegalese linguistic nationalist movement, which supports the integration of Wolof, the common vernacular language of the country, into the national constitution.[[40]](#cite_note-40)

### Largest cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Senegal's capital of Dakar is by far the largest city in Senegal, with over two million residents.[[41]](#cite_note-41) The second most populous city is [Touba](/wiki/Touba,_Senegal), a [*de jure*](/wiki/De_jure) *communaute rurale* (rural community), with half a million.[[41]](#cite_note-41)[[42]](#cite_note-42) [Template:Largest cities of Senegal](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Senegal)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Pie chart](/wiki/Template:Pie_chart) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Senegal is a secular state.[[24]](#cite_note-24) [Islam](/wiki/Islam_in_Senegal) is the predominant religion in the country. Islam is practiced by approximately 94% of the country's population; the Christian community, at 5% of the population, are mostly [Roman Catholics](/wiki/Roman_Catholic) but there are still diverse [Protestant](/wiki/Protestant) denominations. One percent have [animist](/wiki/Animism) beliefs, particularly in the southeastern region of the country.<ref name=cia/> Some [Serer people](/wiki/Serer_people) follow the [Serer religion](/wiki/Serer_religion).[[43]](#cite_note-43)[[44]](#cite_note-44) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Touba_moschee.jpg) [Great Mosque of Touba](/wiki/Great_Mosque_of_Touba), home of the [Mouride](/wiki/Mouride) [Sufi](/wiki/Sufi) brotherhood, it is also one of the finest examples of [Islamic architecture](/wiki/Islamic_architecture) in Africa. [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Dakar_cathedrale.jpg) [Dakar](/wiki/Dakar) Cathedral. Majority of the Muslims in Senegal are [Sunni](/wiki/Sunni_Islam) with [Sufi](/wiki/Sufi) influences. Islamic communities in Senegal are generally organized around one of several Islamic [Sufi](/wiki/Sufi) orders or brotherhoods, headed by a [*khalif*](/wiki/Khalif) (*xaliifa* in [Wolof](/wiki/Wolof_language), from [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language) *khalīfa*), who is usually a direct descendant of the group's founder. The two largest and most prominent Sufi orders in Senegal are the [Tijaniyya](/wiki/Tijaniyya), whose largest sub-groups are based in the cities of [Tivaouane](/wiki/Tivaouane) and [Kaolack](/wiki/Kaolack), and the [Murīdiyya (Murid)](/wiki/Mouride), based in the city of [Touba](/wiki/Touba,_Senegal). 27% are [nondenominational Muslims](/wiki/Nondenominational_Muslims).[[45]](#cite_note-45) Education is compulsory and free up to the age of 16.<ref name=ilab/> The Ministry of Labor has indicated that the public school system is unable to cope with the number of children that must enroll each year.<ref name=ilab/>

[Illiteracy](/wiki/Literacy) is high, particularly among women.[[54]](#cite_note-54) The net primary enrollment rate was 69 percent in 2005. Public expenditure on education was 5.4 percent of the 2002–2005 GDP.

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[thumb|300px|The](/wiki/File:Le_Monument_de_la_Renaissance_africaine.jpg) [African Renaissance Monument](/wiki/African_Renaissance_Monument) built in 2010 in [Dakar](/wiki/Dakar) is the [tallest statue in Africa](/wiki/List_of_statues_by_height).

Senegal is well known for the West African tradition of storytelling, which is done by *griots*, who have kept West African history alive for thousands of years through words and music. The *griot* profession is passed down generation to generation and requires years of training and apprenticeship in genealogy, history and music. *Griots* give voice to generations of West African society.[[10]](#cite_note-10) The [African Renaissance Monument](/wiki/African_Renaissance_Monument) built in 2010 in [Dakar](/wiki/Dakar) is the [tallest statue in Africa](/wiki/List_of_statues_by_height).

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) Because Senegal borders the [Atlantic Ocean](/wiki/Atlantic_Ocean), [fish](/wiki/Fish_(food)) is very important. [Chicken](/wiki/Chicken_(food)), [lamb](/wiki/Lamb_and_mutton), [peas](/wiki/Pea), [eggs](/wiki/Egg_(food)), and [beef](/wiki/Beef) are also used in Senegalese cooking, but not [pork](/wiki/Pork), due to the nation’s largely [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim) population. [Peanuts](/wiki/Peanut), the primary crop of Senegal, as well as [couscous](/wiki/Couscous), [white rice](/wiki/White_rice), [sweet potatoes](/wiki/Sweet_potato), [lentils](/wiki/Lentil), [black-eyed peas](/wiki/Black-eyed_pea) and various vegetables, are also incorporated into many recipes. Meats and vegetables are typically stewed or marinated in herbs and spices, and then poured over rice or couscous, or eaten with bread.

Popular fresh juices are made from [bissap](/wiki/Hibiscus), [ginger](/wiki/Ginger), *buy* (pronounced 'buoy', which is the fruit of the [baobab](/wiki/Adansonia_digitata) tree, also known as "monkey bread fruit"), [mango](/wiki/Mango), or other fruit or wild trees (most famously [soursop](/wiki/Soursop), which is called *corossol* in French). Desserts are very rich and sweet, combining native ingredients with the extravagance and style characteristic of the French impact on Senegal’s culinary methods. They are often served with fresh fruit and are traditionally followed by [coffee](/wiki/Coffee) or [tea](/wiki/Tea).

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|150px|](/wiki/File:Solo_cissokho_DSC_0448.JPG)[Kora](/wiki/Kora_(instrument)) player from Senegal Senegal is known across Africa for its musical heritage, due to the popularity of [mbalax](/wiki/Mbalax), which originated from the Serer [percussive](/wiki/Percussion_instrument) tradition especially the [Njuup](/wiki/Njuup), it has been popularized by [Youssou N'Dour](/wiki/Youssou_N'Dour) and others. [Sabar](/wiki/Sabar) drumming is especially popular. The sabar is mostly used in special celebrations like weddings. Another instrument, the [tama](/wiki/Talking_drum), is used in more ethnic groups. Other popular international renown Senegalese musicians are Ismael Lô, [Cheikh Lô](/wiki/Cheikh_Lô), [Orchestra Baobab](/wiki/Orchestra_Baobab), [Baaba Maal](/wiki/Baaba_Maal), [Akon](/wiki/Akon) [Thione Seck](/wiki/Thione_Seck), Viviane, [Titi](/wiki/Titi_(singer)) and [Pape Diouf](/wiki/Pape_Diouf).

### Hospitality[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

Hospitality, in theory, is given such importance in Senegalese culture that it is widely considered to be part of the national identity. The Wolof[[56]](#cite_note-56) word for hospitality is "teranga" and it is so identified with the pride of Senegal that the national football team is known as the [Lions of Teranga](/wiki/Senegal_national_football_team).[[10]](#cite_note-10)[Template:Or](/wiki/Template:Or)

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

#### Wrestling[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Wrestling is Senegal's most popular sport[[57]](#cite_note-57) and has become a national obsession.[[58]](#cite_note-58) It traditionally serves many young men to escape poverty and it is the only sport recognized as developed independently of Western culture.

#### Football[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[thumb|150px|Painting of footballer](/wiki/File:MurPeint-ElHadjDiouf-Dakar-Sénégal.jpg) [El-Hadji Diouf](/wiki/El-Hadji_Diouf) in Dakar [Football](/wiki/Association_football) is a popular sport in Senegal. In 2002, the team finished as runners-up at the [Africa Cup of Nations](/wiki/Africa_Cup_of_Nations) and became one of only three African teams to ever reach the quarter-finals of the [FIFA World Cup](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup), defeating holders [France](/wiki/France_national_football_team) in their first game. Popular players of this team included [El-Hadji Diouf](/wiki/El-Hadji_Diouf), [Papa Bouba Diop](/wiki/Papa_Bouba_Diop), [Khalilou Fadiga](/wiki/Khalilou_Fadiga) and [Henri Camara](/wiki/Henri_Camara), all of whom played in Europe.

#### Basketball[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Basketball](/wiki/Basketball) is also a popular sport in Senegal. The country has traditionally been one of Africa's dominant basketball powers. The [men's team](/wiki/Senegal_national_basketball_team) performed better than any other African nation at the [2014 FIBA World Cup](/wiki/2014_FIBA_World_Cup), where they reached the playoffs for the first time. The [women's team](/wiki/Senegal_women's_national_basketball_team) won 19 medals at 20 [African Championships](/wiki/FIBA_Africa_Championship_for_Women), more than twice as many medals as any competitor.

#### Motorsport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

The country hosted the [Paris–Dakar rally](/wiki/Dakar_Rally) from [1979](/wiki/1979_Paris–Dakar_Rally) until [2007](/wiki/2007_Dakar_Rally).

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Wikipedia books](/wiki/Template:Wikipedia_books)

* [Outline of Senegal](/wiki/Outline_of_Senegal)
* [Index of Senegal-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Senegal-related_articles)
* [Agriculture in Senegal](/wiki/Agriculture_in_Senegal)
* [Telecommunications in Senegal](/wiki/Telecommunications_in_Senegal)
* [Transport in Senegal](/wiki/Transport_in_Senegal)
* [Water supply and sanitation in Senegal](/wiki/Water_supply_and_sanitation_in_Senegal)

[Template:Portal bar](/wiki/Template:Portal_bar)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

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[Template:Div col end](/wiki/Template:Div_col_end)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Country Profile](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1064496.stm) from [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Senegal Corruption Profile](http://www.business-anti-corruption.com/country-profiles/sub-saharan-africa/senegal/business-corruption-in-senegal.aspx) from the [Business Anti-Corruption Portal](/wiki/Business-Anti-Corruption_Portal)

Trade

* [Senegal 2012 Summary Trade Statistics](http://wits.worldbank.org/CountryProfile/Country/SEN/Year/2012/Summary)
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)

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