

Blog Post Asia Gray

Entry 1

Senegal's has a 160-foot African renaissance monument. It sits high on a hill, it is bronze statue of a man, woman and child overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and over takes the horizon of the capital, Dakar.

When I went to visit I was told that the president spent \$27 million on the statue. I was told that the statue symbolizes the triumph of African liberation from centuries of ignorance, intolerance and racism, and he wanted it built to rival the Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower in Paris as a tourist destination.

What I found really interesting is that it is built and designed by North Korean. To me this statue is great but to most of the people of Senegal they disagree with it. Our tour guide told us People are upset by this statue. He said the statue is the product of an ignorant president because they have water issues, the education system is in a crisis. The health system is in crisis. And yet our president is squandering public money some people don't have electricity but he spent \$27 million on a statue.

Entry 2

Senegal has an electricity issue. The power goes out frequently but I don't understand why. There are so many energy source in Africa but yet they have not obtain them yet. You have solar energy wind energy and there is plenty of sun and wind so why not us it. I took the time to research some information on the power issue in Senegal and this is what I found. Despite significant potential for biomass, solar and wind production, Senegal currently depends on imported fossil fuels for much of its power supply. The country has about 864 MW of installed generation capacity to serve a population of more than 14 million people, resulting in frequent outages. The Government of Senegal has made power sector development a key component of its Plan Senegal Emergent, which aims to make Senegal an emerging economy by 2035. The country's ability to achieve this ambitious goal depends in large part on tackling key challenges including moving away from dependence on imported fossil fuels, ensuring affordability, and expanding electricity access – particularly in rural areas.

Entry 3

I had Senegal famous baobab drink and I have to say that it was very good. The baobab tree is the Senegal nation's symbol. I believe that the baobab is known throughout much of sub-Saharan Africa. Its resilience and size have made it resistant to most of the effects of weather and environment, and it is steeped in mysteriousness, story and legend. This is a tree whose elements have been providing food, water, clothing, shelter, medicine and even a burial site for West African Griots. The baobab fruit, also known as monkey bread, comes from the giant green pods of the tree. The six- to eight-inch-long furry oval-shaped seedpods have a pulp with six times more vitamin C than an orange, 50 percent more calcium than spinach, and plenty of flavor to ratchet up any traditional fish and rice dish.

Entry 4

Ceebu jen is my favorite dish in Senegal. It is a traditional dish from Senegal. It is made from fish, rice and tomato sauce. Other ingredients often include onions, carrots, cabbage, cassava and peanut oil. The national dish of Senegal, is flavored combination of fish, rice, and vegetables simmered in tomato sauce is a hearty one-pot meal. You can make it with any fish or vegetables you have on hand, including potatoes, cassava, squash or pumpkin, and plantains.

Entry 5

Senegal is devotedly referred to by the people as the land of Taranga, in Wolof means hospitality. The country's national language is Wolof and everyone in the street and in their home speaks Wolof. Many countries' tourism campaigns make considerable noise about how hospitable their people are make you feel, but in Senegal I really would consider their kind of hospitality, which was warm and family oriented, and a way of life and to be something to pride in. During my visit here I was fortunate enough to experience Taranga for myself in the homes of both the affluent and humble, and it filled me with an enthusiasm to engage with and learn from the local people.

Entry 6

The Universities in Senegal are very big with many students. We visited two university and they were very big with lots of trash thrown on the ground. I remember watching a documentary about students coming from Africa to a US university and they needed a host to show them to not throw trash out of the window. I cannot remember the name of the documentary but now I can relate to why certain things are done. The University students study more in my opinion than student in the US. They seem to more dedicated to their studies than the party side of college.

Entry 7

The HLM market is a fabric market is has wax prints in different qualities, a rainbow of different fabrics, lightweight khartoum cloth, lingerie and belly beads, shoes, buttons, beads, zippers anything you can think of they have. Go with a guide. It's a faster way of getting a handle of what's available, where to find it and how much to pay for it. But I think I did pretty good compared to some in my group. What I found funny was that the Senegalese count on fingers in the French way. So if you want two meters, hold up your thumb and index finger. For three meters, hold up your thumb, index and middle finger.

Entry 8

I have learned many thing from the people in Senegal. One friend likes to tell me all about his culture. Things he taught me are things that you should do and what you shouldn't do. Do take many quick showers. He showers 4 times a day because you never know when the next water cut will be! Everyone should have a fan aimed on you. Don't let the fan oscillate. Point it right at your face. Do drink a lot of water. Every morning you drink a lot of water to hydrate yourself. Don't stop exercising because of the heat and humidity outside. Sweating for your health feels so much better than sweating just to sweat. And once you're out there, it's never rarely ever as bad as you think it will be.

Entry 9

Today was the first day of my Senegal Unit. The students asked many questions. I told them about my experience and they seem to be more interested because I just came back from Senegal and they FaceTime me so that they could see my surrounding. It was dark so they couldn't see as much as I would like for them to see. The Funny thing is they said why are all the people dressed like Indians. I told them that their not dressed like a Indian and they have on their traditional clothes. Then they went on with a list of things they wanted me to bring them back. They mostly wanted key chains. So I set out to get them some souvenirs from Marché soumbédioune. I gave the students that asked for them. I believe that is what got them interested the most.