



CAP SKIRRING • CASAMANCE • SENEGAL

LE PAPAYER ECOLODGE

Press kit

An ecolodge born of a simple bet: live off the grid, in harmony with Casamance — and tell honestly what that takes.

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Le Papayer Ecolodge in one minute

Le Papayer Ecolodge is a 3-star eco-friendly hotel right on the sand at Cap Skirring, in Casamance, southern Senegal. It runs without any connection to the power grid or mains water: solar and wind energy, filtered well water, organic short-circuit cooking. The project was designed and built by its founder, with a stated ambition: to become, in time, a protected natural area of Casamance.

100%

solar and wind energy, off-grid

0

generator

1 ha

of tropical garden facing the ocean

3 ★

hotel classification

4.7 / 5

average rating, 53 Google reviews

10 min

from Cap Skirring airport

Address

Kibalaou, Cap Skirring, Casamance 27014, Senegal — GPS 12.435368, -16.7803266

Access

Seafront, ~10 min from Cap Skirring and its airport, ~1 h from Ziguinchor

Accommodation

Large traditional multi-storey hut, outbuildings and a seafront bungalow; thatched-roof paillotes

Food

Local specialities (mangrove oysters, lobster, crab), organic short-circuit food

Services

Free Wi-Fi, direct beach access, sea kayak, shop, 4x4 pickup transfers, babysitting, 24/7 security

Groups

Seminars, incentives, ceremonies, retreats (yoga, kitesurf, water sports)

Rates & payment

€25 to €100; EUR and XOF; cash, Visa, MasterCard

Hours

Check-in 2 pm, check-out 11 am; reception 8 am – 10 pm; open all year

Website languages

French, English, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese

Casamance, a complete guide written from the field

Beyond the ecolodge, Le Papayer Ecolodge publishes on lepapayer.com a travel guide to Lower Casamance, available in 7 languages: eleven detailed stops, Jola culture, mangrove, history, seasons, way of life — and à-la-carte excursions with local guides, organised from the ecolodge.

11

detailed stops, with
visiting tips

7

excursions on video

4

in-depth guides (fishing,
mangrove, forests,
biodiversity)

7

languages

Inside the guide

- **Eleven stops:** Carabane, Pointe Saint-Georges, Oussouye, Énampor, Niomoune, Ziguinchor, Cap Skirring, Diembéring, Affiniam, Essaout, Boudédiète
- **Peoples and traditions:** the mosaic of ethnic groups, animism, customs to respect in Jola country
- **History:** the forgotten war, the sinking of the Joola
- **Nature:** mangrove, bolongs, biodiversity, the living calendar through the seasons
- **Way of life:** a philosophy of less, born on the spot
- **Practical:** getting there, best season, safety, length of stay, FAQ

À-la-carte excursions

No fixed package: outings are composed with a guide, according to the length of stay and your wishes. Pirogue through the bolongs and mangrove, 4x4 safari (up to 8 people), sport fishing at sea and in the mangrove, hikes, animist villages, Karone Islands, kitesurfing, night activities.

Getting there (details in the guide)

Paris-Only → Cap Skirring	direct flight, about 6 h
Dakar → Cap Skirring or Ziguinchor	domestic flight, about 45 min
Dakar → Ziguinchor	overnight ferry
Dakar → Cap Skirring	road via Gambia, 7 to 8 h

Respectful travel: the guide reminds visitors to ask permission before photographing, to prepare questions with a local guide and to respect sacred places.

Guide: lepapayer.com/casamance-discovery-senegal.html

Excursions: lepapayer.com/casamance/casamance-en.html

Free travel notebook (PDF): lepapayer.com/carnet/travel-journal-casamance.pdf

Our commitment to the living world

To talk about Casamance without talking about its fragility would be dishonest. Le Papayer Écolodge commits in three ways: understand and share (four in-depth guides published on the site), act on the spot, and travel respectfully.

Four guides to understand

Fishing in Casamance

Estuarine wealth, depleted resources, the central role of women processors, marine protected areas, fishing to be discovered with respect.

Mangrove and bolongs

Nursery of marine life and carbon sink; threats (hyper-salinisation, overharvested wood, destructive practices) and community replanting.

Forests and wood species

Kapok, Senegal mahogany, dim, vène; classified forests and the forestry administration; impluvium houses; sacred woods, where destroying a forest means erasing a culture.

Protection and biodiversity

Three rich but vulnerable habitats; restoration and participatory management; ecotourism as an economic lever for biodiversity.

Acting on the spot

- A little forest coming back to life: more than 250 trees and 250 flowers actually planted on one hectare, funded by an annual lodge budget
- An off-grid site: solar and wind, no generator, filtered well water, solar water heater
- Zero-waste approach (compost, recycling), organic short-circuit cooking
- An online educational game “plant a tree or flower” (playful points, no carbon equivalence) and real plantings for guests who wish

Travelling with respect

The same message in every guide: explore the bolongs safely with a local pirogue guide, ask permission before photographing, respect sacred woods and customs, get informed before leaving.

The living calendar of Casamance

November – January

Cool dry season

Bougainvillea, frangipani, desert rose, mango blossom, vène

February – April

Hot dry season

Hibiscus, ixora, lantana, kapok, coconut palm

May – June

Before the rains

Allamanda, jasmine, flamboyant, cashew, rônier palm

July – October

Rainy season

Balisier, plumbago; baobab and Senegal mahogany to plant in the rains; papaya tree, our emblem

The Casamance guide details this calendar season by season; each guide has its own (sea and fishing, mangrove, botanical, ecological actions).

THE STORY

From a well to solar panels: autonomy won step by step



At the beginning, there was no question of welcoming guests, but of surviving in the middle of paradise: dunes, sand, sea, birds — and no water, no electricity. The very first off-grid equipment was not a solar panel: it was a well and some seeds. Water first, then food. The rest came later.

For months, water was drawn by rope and bucket. A precious school: it taught the founder the real questions — what area to water, what reserve, what pressure — before buying anything.

THE SALT

On the seafront you don't build on dry land: you live on a boat. Stainless steel, aluminium, treated wood, thatched roofs — every material is chosen against the salt.

THE WATER

A 12 m tower stores the water, pre-heats it in the sun (black tank) and pressurises it by gravity alone, with no pump.

IDLE DRAIN

The big lesson: size an installation not on what it produces, but on what it consumes while doing nothing.

TODAY

Two Victron inverters (lodge / pumping), two MPPT controllers, eight 24 V lead-acid batteries, remote monitoring, a wind turbine as a night-time complement.

“I never tamed anything: not the sun, not the rainy season, not the salt, not the sea. I learned to live with almost nothing, in tune with a place bigger than me.”

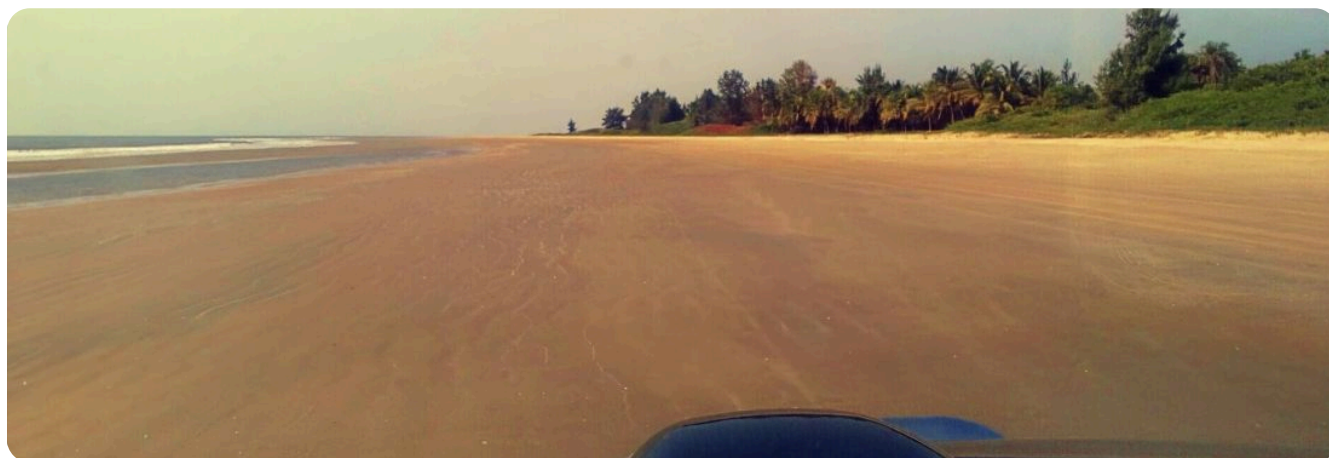
Founder of Le Papayer Écolodge — adapted from “Off-grid autonomy in Casamance” (lepapayer.com)

What makes this story different

No “100% green” promise without nuance here. The founder tells of his buying mistakes, breakdowns, the cheap inverter that burned out, the pump that tripped the whole system — and even what he thinks of wind power: a complement, not a miracle.

He also writes that total autonomy does not exist: an –80% carbon balance, counting the manufacture and transport of the equipment, would take more than fifteen years of operation — exactly the lifespan of the installation. The direction matters more than the figure: making visible what we consume without seeing it.

For guests, a single rule: leave very power-hungry appliances (large hair dryers) at home. And one symbolic gesture: switch the light off when you leave.



Copy-ready texts

Le Papayer Ecolodge is a 3-star eco-friendly seafront hotel in Cap Skirring, Casamance (Senegal). Autonomous in solar and wind energy, with no grid connection, it offers organic short-circuit cooking, direct beach access and excursions by pirogue and 4x4.

Link: <https://www.lepapayer.com/ecolodge-hotel-cap-skirring-casamance-senegal-en/>Le Papayer Ecolodge – eco-friendly hotel in Cap Skirring, Casamance

Five stories to tell

Slow travel & sustainable tourism

An off-grid ecolodge, against mass tourism: silence, slowness, autonomy.

An off-grid adventure

From a well to a 12 m water tower: mistakes, lessons, sobriety as the condition of autonomy.

Casamance: the complete guide

Eleven stops, Jola culture, mangrove, seasons, history: a guide written from the field and à-la-carte excursions with local guides.

Food & short circuits

Mangrove oysters, lobster, local organic produce: eating what Casamance offers.

Nature & protection

Guides on fishing, mangrove, forests and biodiversity; a place aiming to become a protected area.



Thatched huts and garden in the evening



Bar-restaurant in the garden facing the ocean



Direct access to Cap Skirring beach



Long Casamance beach, travelled by 4x4

Kibalaou, the “little forest” coming back to life

The land was called Kibalaou, “the little forest” in Jola. Cut down over the years, it has been replanted ever since: more than 250 trees and 250 flowers actually planted on one hectare between rice fields and ocean (80 m of seafront, 125 m deep). The day his former gardener told him “it has become a forest”, the founder knew Kibalaou was being reborn.

On lepapayer.com, an educational game lets you “plant” a tree or flower virtually, with a first name and a date; guests who wish can plant a real tree during their stay. Game points are playful: they are worth neither kilos of CO₂ nor carbon credits.

250+

trees actually planted

250

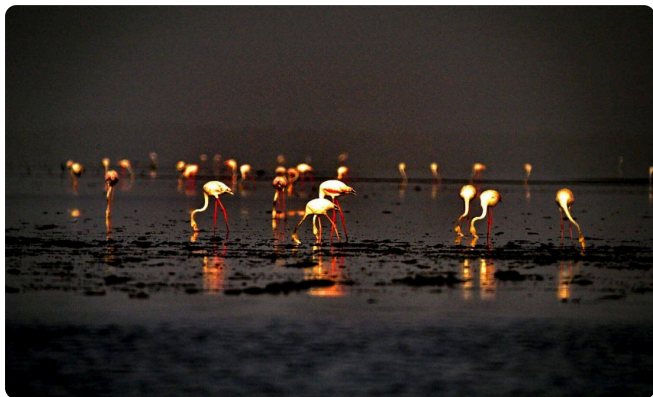
flowers actually planted

1 ha

facing the ocean

lepapayer.com/foret-papayer/forest-le-papayer-ecolodge-casamance.html

Visuals for editorial use



Flamingos in the bolongs



Rice harvest in the Karone Islands



Kankourangs, Jola culture



Giant kapok tree in a Casamance village

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