



EO'LEN

Center of West African Arts

"A doorway to Africa"

LAMIN VILLAGE, The Gambia, W-AFRICA

The Gambia

One of the smallest countries in Africa, situated on its most western tip, The Gambia has become "a doorway to Africa" - for many people seeking to experience African culture through music, crafts and art. A culture that has been passed down from generation to generation by geriatrics, masters of history and narration. Originating from a time long before slavery and colonialism, the culture is very much alive, living in harmony with the modern technology that is The Gambia of today.

Welcome

A beautiful quiet site situated on the bank of the Gambia river, shaded by age old trees, is the setting for EO'LEN Center of West African Arts, (ECWAA), a multifunctional camp, specialising in traditional arts and the interchange with the west - a short drive from the capital Banjul and the Atlantic beaches, with easy access to the International Airport.

Culture

The Gambia is one of the most concentrated multicultural countries in Africa. In an area of 12.000 sq.km, and a population of less than a million, there are many different language and cultural groups, with the majority being Mandinka, Wolof, Djola and Fula.



Accommodation

The EO'LEN center of West African Arts is built in traditional style of local materials with modern "western" toilet and kitchen facilities. Offering residential accommodation to individuals and groups of up to ten students / visitors, with non residential catering and activity possibilities for over a hundred guests.

Experience

Because of its small scale set-up the EO'LEN Center of West African Arts makes it possible to experience the Gambian culture in an intimate, unspoilt setting, whether on the site, or exploring other parts of the Gambia.

We have many years of experience catering for student groups and individuals in their quest for information, organizing contacts with teachers or colleagues in their specific fields.

Teachers

The EO'LEN Center of West African Arts is associated with a large number of families that have been involved with traditional arts for generations, and who can teach students at all levels. Programmes can be adapted to personal needs of those studying at ECWAA. Teachers from ECWAA have also held seminars and worked as guest-lecturers at academies in Europe and Scandinavia

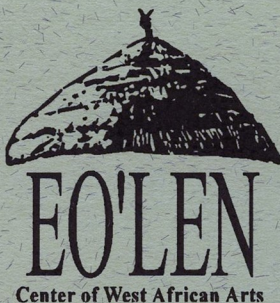
A doorway to Africa



**Helge Linaae:
"To meet, learn and exchange ideas"**

The Norwegian musician Helge Linaae visited The Gambia for the first time in 1971. As a guest of the Super Ballet Afric, a multicultural group of artists, representing the four main ethnic groups of The Gambia, he listened and learnt for five years. Together with the drummer Miki N'Doye he travelled to Norway and introduced traditional West-African rhythms to Norwegian jazz. EO'LEN meaning "wake up" in the wolof language became synonymous with interplay between traditional cultures. As a result of 15 years of touring, teaching and introducing numerous West African artists to Scandinavian audiences, the EO'LEN Center of West African Arts was established to create a platform and outlet for West African Traditional Arts. ECWAA enables artists and students to meet, learn, exchange ideas and interact widening the cultural bridge that leads to understanding and creativity.

**For more information
about the possibilities and prices:**



**Eo'len Center of West African Arts
c/o Helge Linaae P.O.Box 59
Banjul, The Gambia**