

UNESCO CLUBs HERITAGE SITES VISIT



Greater Banjul UNESCO Club



National Federation of The Gambia UNESCO Clubs & Centers (NAFGUC)

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Motto: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

INTRODUCTION:

The National federation for the Gambia UNESCO Clubs and Centers is the voluntary body that oversee the activities of the UNESCO Clubs and Centers in the Gambia. The federation aims among other things: to create awareness on the essence of peace and tolerance among its members and the general public at large, to promote understanding of the ideals of UNESCO at grass root level. (I.e. promotion of peace through education, science, culture and communication).

Greater Banjul UNESCO Club is a registered community base UNESCO Club under the National Federation.

Under the coordination of National Federation of The Gambia UNESCO Clubs and Centers, some UNESCO Clubs embarked on a heritage site visit to UNESCO Heritage sites in the Gambia

On the 6th October, 2018 and 17th, 18th and 19th January 2019, as part of our summer package to explore some of the historical and cultural of the Gambia. As the world is becoming a global village and there is need to encourage our young people on cultural diversity particularly in our heritage sites to ensure that we promote peace together.

As UNESCO encourages international peace and universal respect for human rights by promoting collaboration among nations. Its mission is to contribute to the building of peace and the eradication of poverty, at the same time as encouraging sustainable development and intercultural dialogue.

To us UNESCO Clubs members World Heritage sites represent some of the world's greatest treasures and explained what exactly what UNESCO is advocating.

Heritage is the full range of our inherited traditions, monuments, objects, and culture. Most important, it is the range of contemporary activities, meanings, and behaviours that we draw from them.

Heritage includes, but is much more than preserving, excavating, displaying, or restoring a collection of old things. It is both tangible and intangible, in the sense that ideas and memories--of songs, recipes, language, dances, and many other elements of who we are and how we identify ourselves--are as important as historical buildings and archaeological sites.

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Heritage is, or should be, the subject of active public reflection, debate, and discussion. What is worth saving? What can we, or should we, forget? What memories can we enjoy, regret, or learn from? Who owns "The Past" and who is entitled to speak for past generations?

Active public discussion about material and intangible heritage--of individuals, groups, communities, and nations--is a valuable facet of public life in our multicultural world.

What is a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

A UNESCO World Heritage Site is a site that is listed by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). To be included on the World Heritage List the site must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten natural and cultural selection criteria. The list began in 1978 when 12 sites from Canada, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Poland, Germany, Senegal and As of 2017 there are 1073 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the world which of course Gambia's Stone Cycle is part of.

The list is revised every year – in 2017 26 new sites were added and in 2016 21 new sites were inscribed to the list. 54 of the 1073 sites are listed as in danger meaning that they are experiencing conditions which threaten the characteristics for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List. To date, only two sites have been delisted – these were the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in Oman and the Dresden Elbe Valley in Germany.

PURPOSE: as part of our summer package to explore some of our cultural and heritages. As the world is becoming a global village and there is need to encourage our young people on cultural diversity particularly in our sub region to ensure that we promote peace together. The team left Banjul Monday 6th October, 2018 board with kunta kinteh ferry by 900hrs and arrived in Wassu, (STONE CYCLE) by 02:30 PM. Other team left the opposite site Soma LRR through CRR south on the 17th, 18th and 19th respectively visiting the UNESCO Heritage sites.

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Members were welcomed by Pa Sanyang (**stone man**) introduced himself and informed the club members how important is being a member of such noble organisation.



UNESCO are in charge of the heritage site he said. The cycles are ten in numbers and each cycle has number of stones as follows:

One with 24 stones, 17 stones, 10 stones, 10 stones, 10 stones, 11 stones, 12 stones, 13 stones, 13 stones and last cycle with 13 stones. The tallest stone is 2m 60 cm height.

Stone man took the members round to see the stone cycles for the first



time which was amazing and educative with questions. One of the question which he cannot answer was when was the stones establish in wassu? Among some of the most incredible things we've seen on our travel. Of course not all UNESCO sites are equal and,

while it's easy to understand their cultural or natural significance, there are some that are quite an effort to get to and don't have much to see when you do make it!



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Part of the visit was to also clean the site to preserve it.



Members clearing the grasses around the stones.



Tour continue with (12) stone cycle (3) fallen remains with (9) under (9) main branches tree.

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Gallery



Members in the ferry heading to Barra faces looking excited as buying power banks for android phones for more pictures to be taken and recording the interviews. WWW



Landing with UNESCO and heritage logo while Stone Man explained members recorded and listened



National museum visited

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The team A school in Lower River region



Recommendations

1. UNESCO should strengthen their support to develop the site for more tourist to visit.
2. The historian should be given more attention by the ministry of tourism through National Art and culture.
3. UNESCO Clubs should be encourage to create more awareness on the heritage site as clubs are in many schools through National federation.
4. The sites should be well fence to protect it.
5. A sitting or waiting place should be built were the visitors and the historian will meet to discuss or narrate.
6. UNESCO should help UNESCO Clubs not be paying to visit the heritage sites sponsored by UNESCO.

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