Hands On Learning
with Reading Museum Service

GAMBIA G130

Gambia is the smallest country on mainland Africa. It is surrounded on three sides by Senegal and by the Atlantic Ocean on the other. Many tourists come to visit the Gambia River that flows through the country.

The country was once central to the slave trade because of its position on the Atlantic Ocean. Many people were transported against their wishes by Europeans to North America and Carribean plantations.

Gambia was a British colony from the nineteenth century until its independence in 1965.

Senegalese kaftan



Many Gambian men wear the Senegalese kaftan. It is an ankle-length, long-sleeve item of clothing. The chest, sleeves and back are often embroidered with elaborate gold. The men wear many different colours like the greens and blues in the box.

African men, especially the younger ones, are often seen in clothing British people would wear in the streets. Many males wear a kaftan or waramba on Fridays, dressing up for the customary visit to the mosque.





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Sokoto



The kaftan is worn with matching drawstring pants called sokoto. It is pronounced show-cowtow. Normally these are made of cotton or synthetic fabrics. The robes are common throughout West Africa.



A matching kaftan and sokoto is called a kaftan suit. It is worn with a kufi cap.

Kufi

The kufi is a brimless, short, rounded hat. It is part of the traditional clothing worn by men in Western Africa. Many older men wear these in Gambian society to show they are respected elders.





A skull cap, like the one in the box, is usually embroidered in elaborate designs along the rim.

