



# my KOLKATA



Go back to

NEWS | PLACES | PEOPLE | LIFESTYLE | EVENTS | FOOD | TRY THIS

Home » My Kolkata » Places » A trip to Lake Retba in Senegal, the only 'pink lake' in Africa, is exciting and magical

## NATURAL WONDERS

# A trip to Lake Retba in Senegal, the only 'pink lake' in Africa, is exciting and magical

The pink colour is due to Dunaliella Salina algae, which are found in abundance in this lake

SUBHADIP MUKHERJEE | PUBLISHED 07.12.22, 02:00 PM



Locals extracting salt from the Pink Lake

Photos: Subhadip Mukherjee

Senegal, which lies on the western side of the African continent, is not much of a tourist destination, but this country has some amazing places that one can visit. Unlike other western African countries, Senegal is very safe and has had a stable government for a long time. Wolof is the local language spoken by most people out here, apart from this French is spoken widely and is the official language of the country.

ADVERTISEMENT



WATCH

Mark your calendars – 'Ma Australia' is back!

With a unique new trailer, th surely promises more surpr

Dakar is the capital of Senegal and was once very popular for the famous Dakar Rally that used to take place every year. The annual event had motor enthusiasts travel from Paris to Dakar in an intercontinental challenge of endurance and speed. The competition now takes place somewhere else but the legends of the city remain.



Lake Retba in Senegal is the only Pink Lake in Africa

ADVERTISEMENT

Around 40 kilometres from the capital Dakar is one of the most unique lakes in Africa. Lake Retba or as the locals refer to this place Lac Rose which means “Pink Lake” is indeed pink in color. It has nothing to do with pollution or industrial disaster. This lake is naturally pink in colour. The pink colour is due to Dunaliella Salina algae, which are found in abundance in this lake. These algae thrive in high saline environments as it contains a high concentration of Beta Carotene which helps the algae to protect themselves. These give the lake its pink colour.

A small dune separates this lake from the Atlantic Ocean and is the main reason for the high salinity of the lake. Saltwater from the ocean gathered in the lake and over the centuries was cut off from the ocean and the lake became highly concentrated with salt. There are no direct inlets from the ocean to the lake but the lake gets water from natural sources which helps maintain the steady flow of water. The colour of the lake varies from season to season depending on the volume of fresh water. The pink hue is most prominent during the dry season between November to June and with the onset of monsoon between July to October the lake has a sluggish blue colour.

READ

**Here's a book to celebrate 50th anniversary of Master Blaster**

'Sachin @50' will share stor... illustrious career that made modern-day cricketing lege

LAUGH

**Aakash Mehta's comedy spe... with the best of toilet humo**

'No Smoking' is free to watc

SHOP

**This quirky clutch bag is all**

With bright colours and seq... bag is so fun!

ATTEND

**Visit Mrs. Wilsons' Café for... home-baked goodies**

Indulge in delish delicacies... food pop-up

ADVERTISEMENT



Local boats

---

During the dry season, the salinity increases in the water, and the algae starts to release more and more pink pigments. This lake is extremely salty and the water from this lake cannot be consumed. The water is so salty that there are no fish in this lake, the high salt concentration makes it difficult for fish to survive so there are no fishing industries associated with this lake. This lake can be compared to the Dead Sea. Similar to the Dead Sea, no one sinks in this

lake due to the high salinity, so even if you do not know swimming you can easily float around. You don't even have to swim in this lake as you would simply float.

Lake Retba is more saline than the Dead Sea and is counted as the second highest in terms of salt concentration. But be careful, the extremely salty water along with the scorching sun can make your skin extremely dry.



A local extracting salt from the bottom of the lake

Apart from tourism, the locals scoop out salt from the bottom of the lake and load them on wooden boats and then let them dry on the banks of the lake. After drying, the salt is then sold in the market. Due to the huge fishing industry around the Atlantic coast, there is a constant demand for salt, which is used for drying up the fish for storage.

You can enjoy boating around the lake on the traditional boats or can even take the speedier option with the motor boats. To make it more adventurous, you can hire a quad bike and drive around the lake crossing the dunes.

This place has now been developed into a tourist destination and lots of tourist resorts have developed around the lake for tourists to spend overnight instead of a day trip from the capital Dakar. Newly built four-lane highways will let you reach this tourist place in no time.

## Travel Information



A child playing around the salt mounds

A round trip from Dakar to Lake Retba will cost you around 25,000 CFA (CFA franc) which is roughly around 3,200 Indian Rupees.

There are resorts around the lake and if you wish to enjoy the lake overnight, then you can safely stay here.

There are restaurants around the lake, so you can enjoy some fresh seafood caught from the Atlantic Ocean.

If you plan to take a dip in the lake to experience the effect of floating then it's advisable to check into some hotels nearby or make necessary arrangements for a freshwater shower after the bath to wash away the salt.

French is widely spoken around the country so it's advisable to note down a few words which will help in negotiating. In tourist places, the locals do understand a few words of English. Use language translator apps on your mobile for easy communication.

*Working for more than a decade in the book retail and publishing industry, Subahdip Mukherjee is an IT professional who is into blogging for over 15 years. He is also a globetrotter, heritage lover, and photography enthusiast.*



PLACES

Travel diary: 24 hours in Nairobi



PLACES

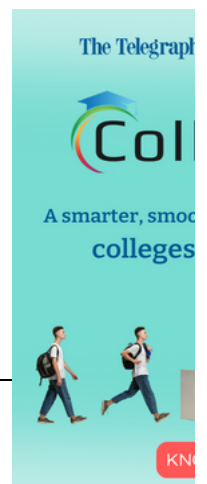
In pictures: Visiting Kenya's Nairobi National Park and Maasai Mara Game Reserve

LAST UPDATED ON 07.12.22, 02:10 PM

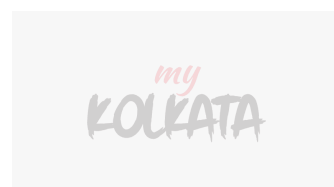
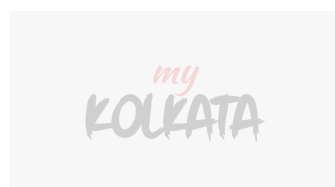
Tags: [Natural Wonders](#) [International Travel](#) [travel](#) [Africa](#) [Senegal](#) [Lake Retba](#) [Dakar Rally](#)

Share:   

ADVERTISEMENT



## MORE FROM MY KOLKATA



NEWS

**In pictures: Astro Night at Victoria Memorial, Duare Sarkar camps and more Kolkata news**

EVENTS

**In pictures: Shreedevi Sunil enthral children with a puppet show at the Indian Museum**

NEWS

**In pics: Zakaria Street, bird nest workshop & more news from Kolkata**

NEWS

**Click Your Township: Views in our backyard**

**AT 61, OBAMA'S NEW HOUSE IS FAR FROM WHAT YOU'D EXPECT, TAKE A LOOK NOW**

INTERESTICLE | SPONSORED

**WHAT IS THE AVERAGE SALARY FOR CAREGIVER JOBS IN 2023?**

LOOKING FOR A CAREGIVER JOB? APPLY NOW (NO EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED)

CAREGIVER JOBS | SEARCH ADS | SPONSORED

Search Now

**AMERICA'S MOST EXPENSIVE MILITARY VEHICLE IS TERRIFYING**

BRAKE FOR IT | SPONSORED

**ASIAN DATING AGENCIES NEAR CALCUTTA**

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET YOUR LIFE PARTNER TODAY

BEST ASIAN DATING | SEARCH ADS | SPONSORED

Search Now

**NVEDA CALCIUM MULTIVITAMIN PACK OF 2 BOTTLES**

REGULAR CONSUMPTION OF NVEDA CALCIUM SUPPLEMENT CAN HELP PREVENT CALCIUM DEFICIENCY, WHICH CAN LEAD TO WEAKENED BONES AND TEETH. IT CAN ALSO PROMOTE HEALTHY MUSCLE FUNCTION AND SUPPORT NERVE IMPULSES.

NVEDA SUPPLEMENT | SPONSORED

Shop Now

**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FUNDS YOU DON'T HAVE TO REPAY (SEE THE LIST)**

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME. APPLY FOR A FUND TODAY.

FUNDING FOR BUSINESS | SEARCH ADS | SPONSORED

Search Now

**BELLY FAT REMOVAL WITHOUT SURGERY IN CALCUTTA: THE PRICE MIGHT SURPRISE YOU**

LASER LIPOSUCTION | SPONSORED RESULTS | SPONSORED

**BEST GUARANTEED INCOME PLAN**

PLAN YOUR REGULAR SOURCE OF INCOME WITH ABSLI NISHCHIT AAYUSH PLAN.

ADITYA BIRLA SUN LIFE INSURANCE | SPONSORED

Get Quote

**INVESTMENT PLANS FOR LONG TERM**

PLAN YOUR REGULAR SOURCE OF INCOME WITH ABSLI NISHCHIT AAYUSH PLAN.

ADITYA BIRLA SUN LIFE INSURANCE | SPONSORED

Get Quote

**THIS LADY IN A WHEELCHAIR COULDN'T CLIMB THE STAIRS, BUT WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHE PUSHES THE BUTTON**

TIPS AND TRICKS | SPONSORED

### THIS WOMAN THROWS VINEGAR IN HER TOILET AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!

GOOD TO KNOW THIS | SPONSORED

### 20 BEST BEACHES IN THE WORLD

BEST-JOURNAL.XYZ | SPONSORED

### COURTENEY COX, 58, LEAVES HER HOUSE WITHOUT MAKEUP AND WE ARE IN SHOCK

CELEBRITY HQ | SPONSORED



Follow Us On



#### Quick Links

- News
- Places
- People
- Lifestyle
- Events
- Food
- Try This

#### More from ABP Group

[আনন্দবাজার পত্রিকা](#) [অনলাইন](#)