



Just south of Les Almadies is Ouakam, arguably the region's best reef break. Backed by a towering and ornate city mosque, it offers world-class barrels on its day, breaking both left and right (top, left). A local surfer checks the waves at Secret Spot (top, right). Fishing boats line the shoreline in front of N'Gor village (bottom, right). Karim Diouf and Demba Gueye share a wave at Vivier Left (opposite).

A few doors down, the scene's most influential figure, Oumar Seye, runs a surf shop and restaurant, complete with a pool cut into the rocky shoreline where he played as a child. At a time when surfing was still considered a distraction from real work, Seye broke ground, becoming the country's first professional and standing as an inarguable demonstration of how the sport could pave a pathway to success. He's spent the last few decades mentoring the next generation, including Cherif Fall, who has developed into one of the continent's finest surfers,

with international sponsorships and a place on the World Qualifying Series. He too has become a prominent local trendsetter, with shades of his unmistakably explosive and elastic style visible in the country's many promising up-and-comers. Another local surfer representing Senegal on the global stage is Khadjou Sambe. When she first paddled out, aged 14, women were still a very rare sight in the lineup, but now her profile has ensured that's a thing of the past. In 2018, she seized an offer to fly to Santa Cruz to train with

the organization Black Girls Surf. It was her first time leaving the country, and despite having no money and little English, she threw herself in with full determination. When she returned to Dakar, she co-founded a surf school with the organization on her local beach. Its goal is not only to teach Senegalese girls to surf but to "inspire them to be whatever they want"—a byproduct that is perhaps surf culture's finest legacy of all. ~

