The Virgin Islands of the Bijagos-Archipelago:

Untouched Nature and Culture between Mangroves, Savanna, Tropical Forest and the Atlantic Sea

An Introduction on Geography, Nature, Culture of the Indigenous People and the Infrastructure of Tourism
Guinea-Bissau in Africa
Guinea-Bissau in Western Africa between the Senegal and Guinea-Conakry
Guinea-Bissau with the capital of Bissau (Airport) and the Bijagos-Archipelago in the Atlantic
Nature Conservation Areas in Guinea-Bissau: The Bijagos-Archipelago is the Bolama-Bijagos Biosphere Reserve, where the National Park of Orango is the most important reserve. On the mainland there are mainly nature reserves with tropical forests and wetlands.
One of many romantic beaches on the Bijagos-Archipelago on the island of João-Vieira
Typical village in Guinea-Bissau on the route from the airport to the lodge of Biombo
Lodge in Biombo (Small bungalows – connected with a solidarity project for orphaned children).

The photo was taken under construction of the lodge.
Preparation for the departure with pirogues to the Bijagos-Archipelago
River near the lodge of Biombo specially interesting for ornithologists
(There are approximately 518 bird species in Guinea-Bissau)
Mangroves along the river
Travelling with Pirogues to the island of Keré
An alternative is a Speed boat
The heavenly island of Keré
First view of Keré island on the arrival
Bungalows on Keré
Bungalow with the view to the sea in Keré
Typical room of one of the bungalows
Wardrobe in a bungalow
Beach of the Hotel of Keré
Excursion to the island of Caravela – Fresh water spring at the beach
Tropical forest on the island of Caravela
Photo shooting for tourists
Impressive tropical trees
Small wild antelopes can be seen quite often on Caravela.
Children far away from civilization
Fountain for drinking water in one of the villages
These small goats are very important domestic animals for the people of the Bijagos Archipelago.
Climbing tool in order to collect the fruits of the palm trees
Typical wetland on Caravela
Logo of the Orango Parque Hotel
Arrival at Orango Parque Hotel
Entrance to the hotel
Reception and bar of the hotel
One bungalow of the hotel
View on the bungalows
Terrace and dining room of the hotel
One of the guest rooms of the hotel
Typical room in one of the bungalows
Bathroom in one of the guest rooms
Sign in front of the hotel indicating the distances to different cities in the world.
Beach at the hotel
View on the beach in front of the hotel –
The hotel is behind the trees
View from the beach of the hotel when there is low tide
Quad-Excursion crossing the savanna for a visit of the village of Eticoga on Orango
Landing runway for small airplanes near the village of Eticoga
Animistic (natural religion) ceremony in Eticoga.

In Eticoga is also the grave of the famous Queen of Kinka-Pampa.
Meeting of the chiefs of the village
Typical house in Eticoga
Rice fields in Eticoga
Religious temple on Orango
Marine National Park of Joao Vieira and Poilao
Excursion to the island of the sea turtles – Poilao – with rangers of the park
Sacred island of Poilao
Green Turtle nesting
Big tent for the guests on Poilao
Tent with view to the kitchen
Sea turtle nests in front of the tropical forest.
Digging Green Turtle in the early morning
Digging a nest at night
Laying the eggs
Eggs of the sea turtles
A hatchling makes its way to the sea.
Small and large turtles together
Covering of the nest in the early morning
Highlights for ornithologists – Different terns (including rare species) are looking for food at the beach.
Going back to the sea at high tide
Difficult way to the sea when the low tide is starting
Tracks in the sand
The beaches of Poilao island are at some areas surrounded by stones.
Excursion through the mangroves in order to observe the Hippopotamus at the lagoon of Anôr on Orango island
With the boat through the jungle
On the way to the Hippopotamus
Hippopotamus path used only at night
Ranger are with the visitors to observe the Hippopotamus
Curious Hippopotamus
(Distance 150 Meter)
Female Hippopotamus with child
The Hippopotamus-Family – These are the only Hippopotamus of the world which live also in salt water
Excursion through the mangroves of Orango at low tide to the village of Ambuduko (Villages are named on the Bijagos: Tabankas)
The Bijagos-Archipelago is a paradise for ornithologists: Sacred Ibis
Greater Flamingos
Goliath Heron
Often to see: Palm-nut vulture
Sunset at the beach of the Orango Parque Hotel at high tide