



Festival of Caravan Cities

MAURITANIA



9 days

13 - 21 December 2024

English speaking tour leader



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The magic **Adrar**: the dunes, the encounter with nomads, the starry nights
- **Amogjar rock paintings**, evidence of an ancient past
- The **desert libraries** and the stone mosque of **Chinguetti**
- The **festival of the caravan cities**, amidst dromedary races and traditional dances
- The labyrinth of alleyways in the ancient **fortress city of Ouadane**
- The verdant **oasis of Terjit**, where you can cool off in its clear waters
- The wild **Atlantic coast**, when the dunes meet the ocean
- The **Banc d'Arguin park**, a birdwatcher's paradise
- The picturesque **Nouakchott fish market**



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
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Day 1: Friday 13 December

Outward flight/Nouakchott

Flight to Nouakchott. Meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff who will arrange transfer to Hotel Sunset or similar. Overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 2: Saturday 14 December

Nouakchott/Akjoujt/Aouja Dunes

After breakfast we set off, via an asphalt road, towards Akjoujt, which is about 250 km from the capital. Stop for final shopping and refuelling and continue along the track to the AMATLICH ERG. Picnic lunch along the way. In the afternoon, we will continue our transfer with a stop at the village of GRARET LEVRAS, with its few inhabitants dedicated to pastoralism and especially date production. Accommodation in the tented camp opposite the magnificent AOUJA DUNES, certainly one of the most impressive desert sites in Mauritania. We will savour one of our first green mint teas before climbing this authentic 'wall of sand' and enjoying a superb view of the palm grove at sunset. The splendour of the SAHARA will forever stand out in our eyes and in the evening, under millions of stars and around the fire, our guide will introduce us to the secrets of the nomadic people. Dinner at the camp prepared by our cook and overnight stay in a traditional Mauritanian tent (khaima) or igloo tent.

Day 3: Sunday 15 December

Aouja/Tivoujar/White Valley/Atar

After breakfast, depart in the direction of Atar via the IRICH VALLEY, a place favoured by nomads due to the presence of numerous acacias and grasses for camels and goats, and the lush GLEITAT millstone. We continue to the TIVOUJAR Pass, where we enjoy a magnificent view of the surrounding landscape of rocks and sand. We descend on foot along the walls to reach a shady spot in the canyon where we will have a picnic lunch. In the afternoon, we continue along the WHITE VALLEY, where the dunes give way to rocky formations resulting from erosion and the palm groves are green patches contrasting with the surrounding aridity. Rejoin the tarmac road at Amatil and, on arrival in ATAR, visit its market and accommodation at the Auberge Les Toiles Maures or similar. Dinner and overnight stay in a tent/double bungalow with shared bathrooms reserved for our group.



Welcome to Mauritania!



Graret Levrass village



Aouja dunes



Infinite space...



Date sellers in Atar



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Day 4: Monday 16 December

Atar/Amogjar/Chinguetti (Festival)

Breakfast at the Auberge and departure in the direction of Chinguetti, penetrating the mountainous reliefs of the Adrar (adrar, from the Berber word for 'mountain') as far as the AMOGJAR Pass, where we will be able to see the SAGANNE FORT, used for the filming of a famous film on colonisation, and the AGROUR ROCK PAINTINGS. These original paintings, eroded by time and wind, show us how millions of years ago these now arid lands were a lush savannah inhabited by elephants, antelopes, lions, giraffes... Picnic lunch. Arrival at the ancient caravan city of CHINGUETTI, the seventh holy city of Islam declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. We will wander through the citadel's alleyways, discovering its famous stone mosque (exterior) and libraries containing ancient manuscripts. We will also take part in the Caravan Festival* (Festival des villes anciennes) where we will be able to enjoy traditional dances and music, camel and donkey races, and exhibitions of local handicrafts. Then departure for the majestic dunes of the ERG OUARANE at the entrance to the town (in a 4x4 or on a camel) to admire the sunset. Accommodation at the Auberge des caravanes or similar, dinner and overnight stay in a double room with services.



The Chinguetti Mosque



Desert libraries



Erg Ouarane at sunset



Camel race at the festival

Day 5: Tuesday 17 December

Chinguetti/Ouadane/Chinguetti (Festival)

Breakfast at the auberge and departure in the direction of OUADANE, along a sandy track where it is easy to come across fennecs (desert foxes) and jackals. On arrival, we visit the city founded by the Berbers in 1,147 and an important caravan centre for the salt, gold and date trade, declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. We will wander through the narrow streets of this historic city, built on the rocky slopes of the hill, see the two mosques (exterior), the ancient street of the 40 wise men, the houses of the city's founders, the fortified wells... Picnic lunch and departure for the TANOUCHERT palm grove, which comes alive especially during the guetna (date picking) season, where we will be able to enjoy freshly milked goat's milk, kindly offered to us by the friendly villagers. Arrival in Chinguetti, participation in the activities of the final day of the FESTIVAL*. Dinner and overnight stay in a double room with services.

**In order to best participate in the activities of the Festival of Caravan Cities of Chinguetti, the order of visits may be reversed. Also, in view of the influx of delegations and local personalities, it may be necessary to stay overnight in a bivouac in Chinguetti or in an Auberge in Atar/Ouadane.*



Ouadane



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Day 6: Wednesday 18 December

Chinguetti/M'Haireth and Terjit/Bennichab

Breakfast and departure for the M'HAIRETH oasis, crossing the most beautiful landscapes in Mauritania. Arrival at TERJIT, a wonderful oasis nestled in a canyon, where you can cool off in a small natural pool formed by two springs gushing from the rock, one hot and one cold, and relax while sipping mint tea in the palm grove. Picnic lunch. Continue along a track to Bennichab. Dinner at the camp prepared by our cook and overnight stay in a traditional Mauritanian tent (khaima) or igloo tent.



Landscapes around M'Haireth

Day 7: Thursday 19 December

Bennichab/Mhaijrat/Atlantic Coast

After breakfast, we depart along the track to MHAIJRAT, a fishing village, where we meet the Imraguen women dedicated to drying fish and producing roe. We continue on to magnificent dunes jutting into the ocean, where we set up our tented camp. Picnic lunch en route. In the afternoon, time at leisure for a refreshing swim or a walk along the coast. Dinner at the camp prepared by our cook and overnight stay in a traditional Mauritanian tent (khaima) or igloo tent.



In the oasis of Terjit

Day 8: Friday 20 December

Atlantic Coast/Banc d'Arguin/Nouakchott

After breakfast we will head along the ATLANTIC COAST, following the rhythms of the tides, to NOUAMGHAR, inside the BANC D'ARGUIN park, to admire the colony of pink flamingos and other migratory species that often inhabit the lagoon. Return along an asphalt road in the direction of the capital. Lunch at Les Sultanes Chez Nico or similar restaurant by the sea, where we can enjoy fresh fish. This was followed by a visit to the most significant places in NOUAKCHOTT, the craft shops and the port de peche, the bustling fish market. Day use rooms on request. Transfer to the airport, end of services.



Between the desert and the ocean

Day 8: Saturday 21 December

Nouakchott/Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



Along the Atlantic coast



Pirogues in Nouakchott



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12 - 20 April 2025

English speaking tour leader

Individual participation fee in double room/tent (min. 4/max. 16 pax)

1,790 €/pax

**in promotion at € 1,690
for booking before 13/09/2024**

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room/tent: **240 €**
- Day use: **on request**
- Day use in Nouakchott: **80 €**
- Transfer out of hours: **30 €/person/one way**

The fee includes:

- French-speaking local guide;
- English speaking tour leader (from 7 pax);
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- All transfers in a 5-seater Toyota Hilux 4x4 (max. 4 clients/car) including driver, fuel and tolls;
- Transfers to/from the airport at the recommended times;
- Full board except dinners in Nouakchott;
- Cook and cook for meals in the desert;
- 7 overnight stays as mentioned in the itinerary (1 in hotel, 3 in auberge*, 3 in tent);
- Field equipment (except sleeping bag).

The fee does not include:

- Mauritanian visa (€55 on arrival);
- Cancellation, health, covid, baggage insurance;
- Air flights;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- Dinners in Nouakchott;
- Possible day use in Nouakchott;
- Transfers to/from the airport out of hours;
- Tips for photos and videos;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in 'the fee includes'.

**If there is no availability in the Auberge in Chinguetti, two extra nights in a bivouac may be provided.*