



# From the desert to the ocean

## MAURITANIA



11 days

26 December 2024 - 05 January 2025

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 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 mysterious **monolith of Beni Amera** and the desert train
- The **Banc d'Arguin park**, a birdwatcher's paradise
- The wild **Atlantic coast**, when the dunes meet the ocean
- The picturesque **Nouakchott fish market**



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### Day 1: Thursday 26 December

#### Italy/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: Friday 27 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: Saturday 28 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 Levras village



Aouja dunes



Infinite space...



Date sellers in Atar



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### Day 4: Sunday 29 December

#### Atar/Amogjar/Chinguetti

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. Then departure for the majestic dunes of the ERG OUARANE at the entrance to the city (in 4x4 or on a camel) to admire the sunset. Accommodation at the Auberge des caravanes or similar, dinner and overnight in a double room with services.



The Chinguetti Mosque

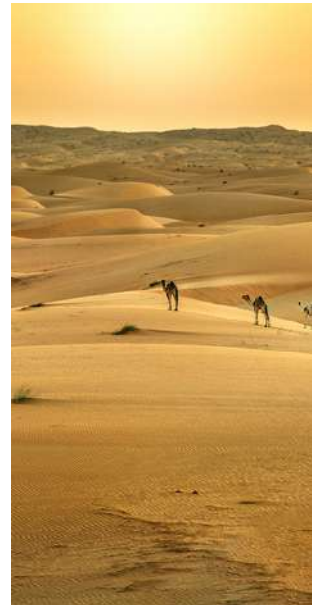


Desert libraries

### Day 5: Monday 30 December

#### Chinguetti/Ouadane/Chinguetti

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 walk 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 palm grove of TANOUCHE, which comes alive especially during the guetna (date picking) season, where we can enjoy freshly milked goat's milk, kindly offered to us by the friendly villagers, and watch a SHOW OF MAURIAN MUSIC AND DANCE. Arrival in Chinguetti, dinner and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Erg Ouarane at sunset



Ouadane



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### Day 6: Tuesday 31 December

#### Chinguetti/M'Haireth and Terjit Oasis/Atar

Breakfast and departure for the M'HAIRETH oasis, crossing the most beautiful landscapes in Mauritania. Arrival in 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. In the afternoon, return to Atar and accommodation at Auberge Les Toiles Maures or similar. Animation with Maurean music and dances to celebrate the arrival of the New Year. Dinner and overnight stay in a tent/double bungalow with shared bathrooms for the exclusive use of our group.



Landscapes around M'Haireth



In the oasis of Terjit

### Day 7: Wednesday 01 January

#### Atar/Choum/Beni Amera/Railway

After breakfast, depart in a northerly direction towards the border with Western Sahara. Stop in Choum, a station in the middle of the desert, where along the tracks we can, with a bit of luck, admire the SNIM train, famous for being the longest and slowest in the world. We arrive at the BENI AMERA monolith, second in size only to that of Uluru in Australia, and discover the granite sculptures of the Aisha. Picnic lunch. Continue across the desert in a westerly direction, skirting the train tracks. Dinner at the camp prepared by our cook and overnight stay in a double igloo tent.



Aisha Sculptures

### Day 8: Thursday 02 January

#### Railway/Banc d'Arguin

Breakfast at the camp and departure for the BANC D'ARGUIN NATIONAL PARK, a UNESCO World Heritage site, a resting and nesting place for millions of birds on their migratory routes between Europe and Africa. Picnic lunch en route. Arrival in CAP TAFARIT where we will admire its magnificent landscapes, meet the Imraguen people in the small village and take a swim in the ocean. Dinner at the camp prepared by our cook and overnight stay in a traditional Mauritanian tent (khaima) of 6/8 places or double igloo tent, in a magnificent setting facing the ocean.



SNIM train



Cap Tafari



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### Day 9: Friday 03 January

#### Banc d'Arguin/Nouamghar/Atlantic Coast

Early in the morning, after breakfast, departure for a SAILING BOAT EXCURSION\* to admire the birdlife of the BANC D'ARGUIN up close. We then head to NOUAMGHAR, to admire the colony of pink flamingos that often inhabit the lagoon, and for a picnic lunch. We continue along the ATLANTIC COAST, following the rhythms of the tides, until we arrive at magnificent dunes that drop into the ocean, where we set up our tented camp. Time at leisure for a regenerating swim or a walk along the coast. Dinner at the camp prepared by our cook and overnight stay in a double igloo tent.

*\*Excursion subject to weather conditions, in particular the state of the tide and wind.*



Sailing boat in the Banc d'Arguin

### Day 10: Saturday 04 January

#### Atlantic Coast/Nouakchott

After breakfast we continue our journey on a paved 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. Arriving in NOUAKCHOTT, visit the port de peche, the bustling fish market, to see the colourful fishing boats returning to the beach. Day use rooms on request. Transfer to the airport, end of services.



Between the desert and the ocean...

### Day 11: Sunday 05 January

#### Nouakchott (NKC)/Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



Dugouts on Nouakchott beach



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**MAURITANIA** (MAU02PS241226)

**11 days**

26 December 2024 - 05 January 2025

English speaking tour leader

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

**2,190 €/pax**

**in promotion at € 2,090  
for booking before 26/09/2024**

**in promotion at € 1,990  
for booking before 26/06/2024**

## Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room/tent: **260 €**
- Single tent only: **50 €**
- 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 6 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;
- 9 overnight stays as mentioned in the itinerary (1 in hotel, 4 in auberge, 4 in igloo 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'.