



# Ghardaia, Assekrem and Tadrart

## ALGERIA

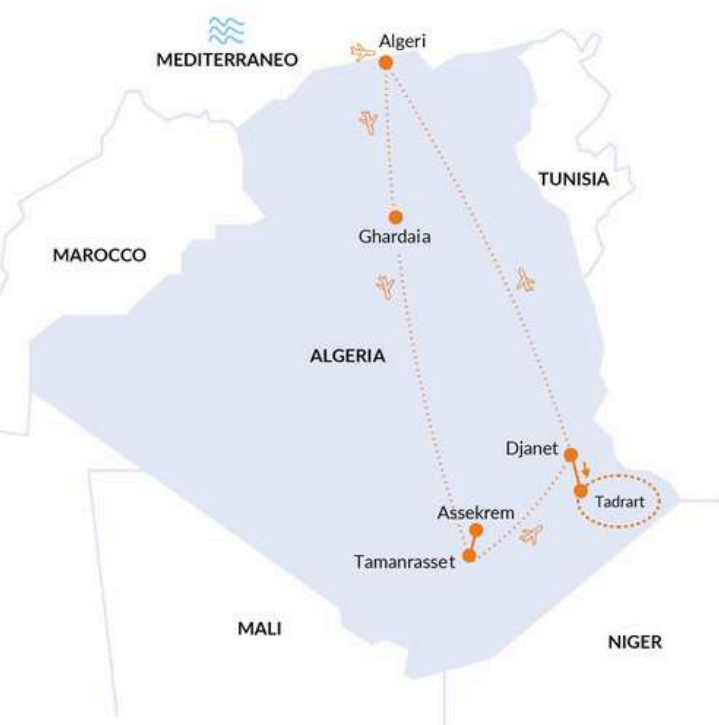
Photo by L. Vezzoni



15 days

07 - 21 February 2024

English speaking tour leader



### The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The charm of **Algiers**, with its kasbah, mosques and white French buildings
- The 'pearl of M'Zab', the **oasis of Ghardaia**, with its markets and 'pyramid' mosque
- The **Assekrem**, 'the end of the world' in the Tamacheq language, from where to admire an unforgettable sunrise
- The **hermitage of Charles de Foucauld**, at an altitude of about 2,800 metres in the **Hoggar Mountains**
- Meeting the **Tuareg**, the 'blue men' around Tamanrasset and Djanet
- The **Tadrart**, an incredible corner of the Sahara desert on the border with Niger
- The '**fairy chimneys**' of **Moul N'Aga** and the **red dunes of Tin Merzouga**
- The magnificent **rock art sites**, including *La Vache qui Pleure*



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### Day 1: Friday 07 February

#### Outward flight/Algiers (ALG)

Flight to Algiers, clearance of formalities and meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff, who will arrange transfer to Hotel ST or similar. In the afternoon, first visits in ALGIERS: the Martyrs' Monument (Makam Echaid) and the Jardin d'Essai, a public garden created by the French in 1832 as a greenhouse where they experimented with growing plants and flowers from all the colonies. Overnight stay in a double room with services.

### Day 2: Saturday 08 February

#### Algiers (ALG)/Flight/Ghardaia (GHA)

Breakfast at the hotel and visit of ALGERI (from the Arabic El Djezair), declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its whitewashed houses, overlooking the Mediterranean and surrounded by verdant, fertile hills. This historic city was first the most powerful of the corsair bases in Barbary in the time of the pirate Barbarossa, then dominated by the Ottomans for three centuries, and later a residential centre during the French colonial period. We will begin with a stroll through the medina of ALGERI, built on the ruins of ancient Icosium: we will wander through the labyrinthine alleyways of the kasbah, most of which dates back to the 16th century, and admire the numerous mosques (exterior) and historic residences known as dar (exterior). We will then continue along the waterfront, where the architectural imprint of the French period is clearly visible, with large tree-lined avenues, arcades, and elegant buildings. Seafood lunch in a restaurant. Transfer to the airport in time for the Air Algerie flight to Ghardaia. Upon arrival, transfer to Hotel Les deux tours or similar. Dinner and overnight in a double room with services.



Welcome to Algeria!



Algiers waterfront



Craftsman at work



View of the medina in Algiers



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### Day 3-4: from Sunday 09 February to Monday 10 February

#### Ghardaia

Breakfast at the hotel. Days are dedicated to visiting the pentapolis of GHARDAIA, the 'pearl of M'Zab', declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its oasis is about 10 km wide and includes the historical towns of Beni Isguen, Melika, Bou Noura and El Atteuf, all situated on a hillock. These towns were founded from the 11th century onwards by the Ibadites, who turned away from orthodox Islam and moved to this rugged and barren territory. Today Ghardaia is the centre of trade for the entire Algerian Sahara, which is why it will be an unforgettable experience to visit its *souk* and the *Marché à la Criée* (auction market) of BENI ISGUEN, where you can buy the renowned, colourful, locally produced carpets. We will also visit the great mosque, with the appearance of a fortress and characterised by its pyramid-shaped minaret, typical of mosques in the region, and the palm grove with its ingenious water distribution system. Lunch in a restaurant, dinner and overnight stay in a hotel.



Ghardaia



View of Ghardaia



Canals in the palm grove

### Day 5: Tuesday 11 February

#### Ghardaia (GHA)/Flight/Tamanrasset (TMR)

Breakfast at the hotel and end of visits to the Ibadite pentapolis. If time permits, excursion to EL GOLEA, famous for its fort and the tomb of Father Charles de Foucauld. Lunch and dinner in a restaurant or hotel. Transfer to the airport in time for the Air Algérie flight to Tamanrasset. On arrival, accommodation at the Hotel Khoja or similar, overnight in a double room with services.



In the mosque of Ghardaia



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## ALGERIA

### Day 6-7: from Wednesday 12 February to Thursday 13 February

#### Tamanrasset/Assekrem/Tamanrasset

After breakfast, we put on our tagelmoust (Tuareg turban) and leave "Tam" to venture out in a 4x4 to the HOGGAR mountains, among which stands out ASSEKREM, which means "the end of the world" in the language of the Tuareg, one of the highest peaks in the massif at around 2,800 metres, a magical place that seems far removed from any form of civilisation. Picnic lunch in the guelta of Afilal, where 'moustached' fish can be observed. Through a lunar landscape of metallic colours, where we will be able to meet the Kel Ahggar Tuareg, we will arrive at the refuge where we will spend the night in simple dormitories with spartan communal bathrooms. From here we will hike (about 1 hour each way) to the CHARLES DE FOUCAULD HERMITAGE, built in 1.911 by this personage who, after exuberant worldly experiences and a period in the French army in North Africa, became first an explorer of the Moroccan mountains, and then a priest who founded the order of the Little Brothers of Jesus, retiring to the desert and dedicating his life to extreme frugality and prayer, as well as to the creation of a Tamacheq (Tuareg language)-French dictionary. Today there are still a few monks in the hermitage, whom we will meet, who celebrate mass every morning in the sober chapel. From this vantage point, we will admire the sunset and sunrise over the Atakor massif, exciting moments that will be difficult to forget. The following day, after breakfast at the hut, we will descend towards Tamanrasset with a stop for a picnic lunch at the Tahabort spring. On arrival, settle into the hotel, time at leisure. Dinner and overnight stay in a double room with services.



The 'end of the world'



Tuareg

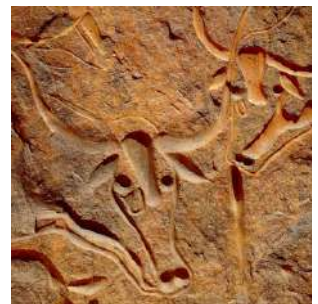
### Day 8: Friday 14 February

#### Ghardaia (GHA)/Flight/Tamanrasset (TMR)

Breakfast at the hotel and end of visits on TAMANRASSET. Transfer to the airport in time for the Air Algerie flight to Djanet. Lunch box lunch. Departure by 4x4 to the SAHARA DESERT where we will begin our visit with the most famous rock art site in the area at TAGHARGHART, that of La Vache qui Pleure (the weeping cow), a work of some 6,000 years ago depicting three long-horned cattle with tears streaming from their eyes. Continuation to the ERG ADMER. Dinner prepared by our cook and overnight stay in double igloo tents.



Sunset on Assekrem



La vache qui pleure



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### Day 9-13: from Saturday 15 February to Wednesday 19 February

#### Tadrart Desert

Early morning flight to Djanet, on arrival rooms at disposal at the Hotel Grotte des Ambassadeurs or similar, overnight stay. Breakfast at the hotel and departure for the desert. Days dedicated to the exploration of TADRART, described as "the most beautiful desert in the world", a fascinating corner towards the border with the Niger, against a backdrop of dunes ranging from yellow to orange and rocks shaped by erosion to create imaginative and bizarre shapes. We will visit IN DJAREN with its cliffs decorated with rock carvings and paintings, the labyrinth of 'fairy chimneys' at MOUL N'AGA, the famous red dunes of TIN MERZOUGA and the white dunes of ERG ADMER. In addition to the spectacular landscapes, we will meet families of NOMADI TUAREG, with whom we can exchange greetings and enjoy the famous desert tea together. Breakfasts, lunches and dinners at the camp prepared by our cook, overnight stays in double igloo tents.



The Wonders of Tadrart



At the camp



Immense Sahara

### Day 14: Thursday 20 February

#### Tadrart/Djanet (DJA)/Flight/Algiers (ALG)

Breakfast at the camp early in the morning and departure for the oasis of Djanet. Shower in a hotel and, a short walk from the airport, we visit the rock art site of TAGHARGHART, the site of La Vache qui Pleure (the weeping cow), a work of some 6,000 years ago depicting three long-horned cattle with tears streaming from their eyes, and a circular pre-Islamic tomb. Transfer to the airport in time for the Air Algerie flight to Algiers. Lunch box. Arrival in Algiers and transfer to Hotel ST or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.

### Day 15: Friday 21 February

#### Algiers (ALG)/Return flight

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport in time for the return flight. End of services.



*\* The travel itinerary may be subject to variations, beyond our control, as the Algerian government reserves the right to close and open certain desert areas without prior notice, as well as internal flight schedules may be changed by the Air Algérie company.*



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## ALGERIA

**15 days**

07 - 21 February 2024

English speaking tour leader

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

**2,590 €/pax**

**in promotion at € 2,490  
for booking before 07/11/2024**

### Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room/tent: **290 €**
- Single tent: **50 €**
- Extra night in Algiers: **120 €**
- Transfer out of hours: **30 €/pax/transfer**
- Pre-visa service: **50 €/passport**
- Ext. Tassili n'Ajjer trek: **from 1,590 €/pax**

### The fee includes:

- English speaking tour leader (6 to 16 people)
- French-speaking local drivers/guides;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- All transfers by minibus in Ghardaia and Algiers, in 4x4 Toyota or similar (max 4 clients/car) in the desert, including diesel;
- Meals are full board except for dinners in Algiers;
- Cook and camp kitchen for meals in the desert;
- 14 overnight stays as mentioned in the itinerary (7 in hotels, 1 in hut, 6 in tents);
- Field material.

### The fee does not include:

- The visa for Algeria (about 90 Euro on arrival if you do pre-visa through us);
- Cancellation, health, baggage insurance;
- Air flights (international and domestic\*);
- Transfers to/from the airport out of hours;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- Dinners in Algiers;
- Sleeping bag and pillow;
- Photo and video tips;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in 'the fee includes'.

### \* DOMESTIC FLIGHTS TO BE BOOKED:

#### AIR ALGÉRIE

08/02/25: Algeri (ALG) 18h30 – Ghardaia (GHA) 20h00

11/02/25: Ghardaia (GHA) 23h35 - Tamanrasset (TMR) 01h15 (+1)

15/02/24: Tamanrasset (TMR) 02h25 – Djanet (DJG) 03h15

21/02/24: Djanet (DJG) 03h40 – Algeri (ALG) 05h55