

MAURITANIA

The Hidden Jewel of the Sahara

Guaranteed Departure - 2026 (All year round)
Led by Local Guides

Mauritania, once the seat of the Almoravid movement that spread Islam throughout North Africa, boasts many natural wonders and ancient cities. Highlights include bustling markets, fascinating “ksours” (fortified villages), isolated nomadic camps, medieval Berber trading centers, the mystical Guelb Errichat (Africa’s “Eye”), beautiful green oases, and impressive Neolithic rock cave paintings. Mauritania is a picturesque country that is famous for blue-robed men roaming the parched lands, a vast Sahara with small villages and palm groves and canyons and an abundant group of lost cities in a mystical land and some of Africa’s most hospitable nomadic people.

Ihab Zaki
Managing Director

Day 01
Arrive in Nouakchott (MAURITANIA) 
Upon arrival at **Nouakchott** International Airport, meet and transfer to *Sunset Hotel* or similar for check-in and overnight.

Day 02
Nouakchott Banc d’Arguin - Iwik (5hrs.) 
After breakfast, begin the scenic drive south toward **Iwik Village**, nestled within the **Banc d’Arguin National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This vast nature reserve is a vital sanctuary for migratory and breeding birds, including flamingos, herons, pelicans, and terns. Its nutrient-rich waters rank among the best fishing grounds

in West Africa and host pristine seagrass beds—some of the most untouched in the world. Motorboats are prohibited here to preserve the ecosystem, and only the indigenous **Imraguen tribe** is permitted to fish using traditional, sustainable methods. The area is also home to rare marine life such as monk seals, dolphins, and whales. En route, make a stop at **Cape Tifariti** for a beachside lunch. Enjoy the therapeutic coastal breeze and take time to relax or swim in the tranquil waters. Continue onward to **Iwik Village**, and upon arrival, transfer to *Iwik Fixed Camp* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Day 03**Iwik - Chami Benichab - Akjoujt (7 hrs.)**

After breakfast, set out on a unique and memorable experience, **sailing** in a traditional wooden boat alongside the local Imraguen fishermen. Considered to be the guardians of the Banc d'Arguin's fragile ecosystem. Cruise through the tranquil waters of the park and witness the spectacular colonies of **migratory birds**, spread across the sandbanks and islets, an unforgettable birdwatching encounter. After returning to shore, begin the overland adventure into the **Saharan interior**, traveling deep into the heart of the **Inchiri region**. Stop for lunch in the small desert town of **Benichab**, then continue to **Akjoujt**, the regional capital known for its ancient, yet modern gold and copper mining heritage with mining activity here dating back to around 1,000 BC. Upon arrival in the desert town of **Atar**, transfer to *Sahara Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Day 04**Akjoujt - White valley - Atar (5 hrs.)**

Begin the day with a scenic drive through the dramatic landscapes of the **Adrar Massif**, a region of rugged mountains and ancient geology. Make our way toward the breathtaking **Dunes of Azouega**, where vast golden sands stretch into the horizon, creating a surreal and mesmerizing panorama. Continue to the **Tivoujar Pass**, a winding route carved through steep rock formations, offering sweeping views over deep valleys and wind-shaped terrain. From here, descend into the peaceful **White Valley**, known for its pale, moonlike rock formations and soft sands, a stunning contrast against the deep blue desert skies. Return to **Atar**, the bustling capital of the Adrar region, and enjoy sometime exploring the local **markets**, where traditional crafts and desert spices bring the town to life, or simply absorb the atmosphere of this charming Saharan outpost. Then, transfer to *Etoile du Nord Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Day 05**Atar - Azougui - Amogjar Canyon - Ouadane (4 hrs.)**

Start the day in **Atar**, the gateway to the Adrar region, and head toward **Azougui**, a site steeped in history. Once the capital of the powerful **Almoravid dynasty**, Azougui is home to ancient ruins nestled within stark and majestic desert landscapes—offering a glimpse into Mauritania's medieval Islamic heritage. Continue to the dramatic **Amogjar Canyon**, where towering rock formations conceal **prehistoric cave paintings** discovered by renowned French naturalist **Théodore Monod**. These remarkable Neolithic artworks depict a time when the Sahara was a green savanna, alive with giraffes, antelopes, and early human life. After exploring the canyon, journey across the desert toward **Ouadane**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Mauritania's most historically significant towns. Once a thriving center of trans-Saharan trade, Ouadane's winding alleyways & stone architecture speak to its ancient commercial and Islamic legacy. Upon

arrival in **Ouadane**, transfer to *Auberge Agoueidir* or similar for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Day 06**Ouadane - Richat Structure - Chinguity (4 hrs.)**

Begin the day with a drive to the amazing **Guelb Er Richat**, famously known as "**Africa's Eye**." This vast circular geological formation resembles a giant blue eye when seen from above. Its origin has fascinated scientists for decades, with theories ranging from an asteroid impact to volcanic activity. Today, it is widely believed to be the result of uplifted rock shaped by millennia of erosion. Continue the journey through the stark and breathtaking landscapes of the **Adrar region**, arriving in **Chinguetti**, an ancient Berber city and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Revered as the seventh holy city of Islam, Chinguetti is a living museum with its collection of ancient manuscripts, an iconic stone mosque, and timeless Saharan architecture. Upon arrival, transfer to *Auberge Eden* for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Day 07**Chinguity - Emheirith Oasis - Atar (5 hrs.)**

Begin the day with a scenic drive from **Chinguetti** to the enchanting **Emheirith Oasis**, a hidden desert gem framed by dramatic sand and rock formations. Experience the serene beauty of this lush heaven, where palm trees and flowing water offer a striking contrast to the surrounding arid landscape. Continue to the famous **Terjit Oasis**, nestled within a secluded canyon. Known as one of Mauritania's most iconic natural retreats, Terjit provides cool springs, shaded groves, and a peaceful sanctuary beneath towering palms. Take the time to relax here, savor a traditional mint tea, and immerse yourself in the timeless rhythms of desert life. Drive back to **Atar**, the vibrant regional hub, where lively **markets** and rich cultural heritage invite exploration. Transfer to *Etoile du Nord Hotel* or similar for check-in, dinner, & overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Day 08**Atar - Nouakchott (5 hrs.)**

After breakfast, begin the drive back to **Nouakchott** stopping en route for lunch at a local restaurant famous for its fresh seafood, where we can enjoy the vibrant scene of fishermen navigating colorful pirogues—long, narrow canoes carved from trees and painted in bright hues. After lunch, head to visit the **National Museum** to explore its fascinating archaeological and ethnographical exhibits, featuring arrowheads, ancient pottery fragments, and traditional Mauritanian costumes. Take a leisurely stroll through the traditional gold and handicraft **market** then transfer to *Sun Set Hotel* or similar for check-in and have some rest. In the evening, transfer to the airport for your flight back to the US. **(B,L)**

"We reserve the right to change the order of activities/visits or sites due to unexpected events such as flight cancellations or changes of schedule, or any other reasons beyond our control. We will do our best to ensure that any necessary changes when/if needed to meet the needs of our clients".

Tour Cost (Land Only):

1 traveler \$3,995.00

2-3 travelers \$3,295.00

4-6 travelers \$2,695.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$495.00

Price based on maximum of 6 participants

Trip Grade: II Lodging Level: **.***



Tour Includes:

- Airport/Hotel/Airport transfers.
- Accommodation in standard first-class hotels & lodges.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Transportation by 4-WD or vans.
- Bottled mineral water during the visits and drives.
- All entrance fees to mentioned sites, activities, and safaris.
- English-speaking guide throughout.

Tour does not include:

- International airfare in and out of Madagascar.
- **Mauritania Visa** (Either E-visa or upon arrival for approx. \$45 - subject to change).
- alcoholic drinks with or without meals.
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel staff, etc.
- Travel protection insurance (Highly recommended).

Trip Grade:

II Active: Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides.

Lodging Level:

**** Basic:** Comfortable yet on the Spartan side, usually small but generally with private facilities. Some such lodges and motel-style need repairs, added cleaning, and improvements but they are suitable for one-night stays even if they lack western style amenities (2 or 3 stars).

*****Superior:** Lodges & hotels with additional amenities, refined service, and comfort level acceptable to western standards (3 or 4 stars).

