Mauritania & Algeria Winter Combo Tour 23rd Nov - 6th Dec 2026

INTRODUCTION:

This journey through the Sahara starts in a capital unlike any you've ever seen — Nouakchott, Mauritania. We'll hit the ground running with some exciting desert driving as we leave the city and head to the lush oasis of Tergit, where we'll stay the night in traditional tents. We'll then explore the ancient library city of Chinguetti, now a UNESCO World Heritage site, before enjoying live traditional music and dancing under the stars.

Next, it's what many people have come to Mauritania for — an epic journey across the Sahara on the iron ore train. We'll disembark in Nouadhibou, and after some much needed rest, explore Mauritania's second-largest city, before returning to Nouakchott and taking a late night flight to Algiers.

Arriving in Algiers, we'll immediately notice a stark contrast from Mauritania in this modern and bustling capital — beautiful French and Ottoman inspired streets and a distinct lack of sand. We'll then head east to the stunning city of Constantine, famed for its hanging bridges, before visiting the sprawling Roman ruins of Timgad.

One of the highlights will be heading back into the Sahara as we visit the southern city of Djanet and Tassili n'Ajjer National Park, with jaw-droppingly beautiful rock formations and prehistoric rock art. Flying back to the north, we'll explore another Roman ruins site and eat at our favourite seafood restaurant in the world, both right on the Mediterranean.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Ride the iron ore train, the longest and heaviest train in the world!
- Explore the brick libraries and winding streets of ancient UNESCO site Chinguetti
- Visit the extremely beautiful Tassili N'Ajjer National Park
- Experience some of the best Roman ruins in Timgad
- Get lost in the windy streets of Algiers' vibrant Kasbah

Excited? Come with SAIGA to Mauritania & Algeria!

Tour Details:

DATES: 23rd Nov - 6th Dec 2026

PRICE: EUR 3,195 (Twin Share)
Single Supplement EUR 795

INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation in twin share at roughly 3 star hotels, breakfast included
- Transport as per itinerary, beginning in Nouakchott
- Entrance fees to all sites mentioned in the itinerary
- Western and local guides
- Dinner at the oasis, and lunch and dinner in Chinguetti

EXCLUSIONS:

- Visa fees for Mauritania (if required)
- Visa fees for Algeria (paid on arrival at airport)
- Meals other than those stipulated
- Transport to Nouakchott at the beginning of the tour
- Flights from Nouakchott to Algiers
- Accommodation and any other services before or after the tour
- Personal expenses such as souvenirs or any optional activities
- Any COVID related expenses

Itinerary:

Day 1: Nouakchott, Tergit — Monday 23rd November

- In the morning we'll depart Nouakchott for our first taste of driving through the Sahara, heading to Tergit Oasis in 4x4 vehicles.
- At the oasis we'll explore nomadic home structures, swim, and have the option to hike up a nearby cliff for sunset over the desert. Overnight camping in traditional tents.

Day 2: Tergit, Chinguetti — Tuesday 24th November

- We'll depart the oasis for Chinguetti, spending the afternoon exploring the UNESCO old town, including the Great Mosque and its ancient libraries.
- Sunset and tea on a sand dune, followed by an outdoor feast, live music, and dancing. Overnight in Chinguetti.

Day 3: Chinguetti, Atar, Iron Ore Train — Wednesday 25th November

- We'll drive to Choum for the highlight of the trip, the Iron Ore Train, stopping at Azoughi Oasis and the Amougjar Pass to see 2000-year-old cave drawings.
- In Atar we'll browse the market for local handicrafts and snacks, then rest and have tea in Choum while waiting for the train. Overnight on the Iron Ore Train.

Day 4: Nouadhibou — Thursday 26th November

- We'll arrive in Nouadhibou between 6am and 10am, filthy and exhausted but full of adrenalin, and head straight to the hotel to clean up.
- In the afternoon, we'll visit Cap Blanc for its white sand dunes and picturesque coastline, with the option for a swim. Overnight in Nouadhibou.

Day 5: Nouadhibou, Nouakchott — Friday 27th November

- A full day of driving back to Nouakchott, with lunch by the sea in Banc D'Arguin National Park, and time to explore the Central Market on arrival.

Day 6: Nouakchott — Saturday 28th November

- We'll visit the fish market and the camel market, then the National Museum to learn about Mauritania's history and culture.
- In the evening, we'll head to the airport for our flight to Algiers.

Day 7: Nouakchott, Algiers — Sunday 29th November

- We'll arrive early morning into Houari Boumediene Airport, going through the visa procedure (roughly an hour), then transfer to our hotel for some well deserved rest.
- In the afternoon you can go out with your Saiga guide to start exploring the city, try a hammam, or wander the local markets. Overnight in Algiers.

Day 8: Algiers — Monday 30th November

- We'll explore the vibrant Algerian capital, starting with the botanical gardens — site of the filming of the original 1923 Tarzan movie.
- We'll take a gondola ride up to the Martyrs' Memorial, then head to the kasbah in the afternoon to navigate its windy streets and taste street food.
- Free evening for dinner at one of Algiers' many restaurants.

Day 9: Djemila, Constantine — Tuesday 1st December

- We'll stop at the ancient Roman ruins of Djemila, a UNESCO World Heritage site, on our way to Constantine, the city of bridges. Overnight in Constantine.

Day 10: Constantine, Djanet — Wednesday 2nd December

- We'll explore Constantine's famous bridges — including the layering of Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, and French bridges — the old town market streets, the Emir Abdelkader Mosque, and the Ottoman palace of Ahmed Bey.
- After dinner we'll fly south to Djanet. Overnight in Djanet.

Day 11: Djanet, Tassili n'Ajjer National Park, Camping — Thursday 3rd December

- Tassili n'Ajjer National Park is home to over 15,000 prehistoric paintings and carvings, with rock formations that change every 10 kilometres.
- Lunch cooked by our travelling Tuareg chef, then camping under an extraordinary night sky, with dinner by the fire.

Day 12: Djanet, Essendilene, Tassili n'Ajjer National Park, Djanet — Friday 4th December

- We'll walk through the Essendilene canyon to a stunning oasis, then see the rolling orange sand sea of the Essendilene dunes.
- We'll visit the famous Crying Cow rock carving, believed to be around 7000 years old, then get ready for a desert party with a local Tuareg band.

Day 13: Djanet, Tipasa, Algiers — Saturday 5th December

- We'll fly back to Algiers midday, then head straight to Tipasa to visit the ancient Roman ruins by the sea and eat at one of Algeria's best seafood restaurants, stopping at the Mausoleum of Cleopatra II on the way back.
- Free evening in Algiers.

Day 14: Algiers, End of Tour — Sunday 6th December

- End of tour. We'll assist in arranging a transfer to the airport for onward travel. If you'd like to see more of the country, let us know and we can arrange a private extension.

Visas:

Many nationalities can visit Mauritania visa free. For Algeria, we provide a Letter of Embarkation to support your visa application, which is processed on arrival. Visa fees, where applicable, are not included in the tour price.

Food:

Apart from breakfast, meals are not included as part of the trip. In our experience people sometimes want to eat different things in different places at different times. We know some great places and will also happily show you some of our favourite restaurants and cafés. Some are luxurious, some are earthier, but all have character. However, we do not pretend to be the arbiters of good taste and are equally happy for you to go off and find your own favourites.

Accommodation:

We do not and cannot offer a uniform accommodation standard on our itineraries. We consider comfort, location, design, character, historical interest and whether the money we spend will go into the pockets of the local community when we make our choices of where to stay. The accommodation is based on people sharing a twin room.

Transport:

When we choose our vehicles and drivers we take into consideration the road conditions, the length of journey and the competence of the man behind the wheel. Your comfort and enjoyment of the journey is the first priority.

Guides:

On this trip you will be accompanied by a SAIGA Tours guide as well as local guides along the route. This allows for a richer, more authentic experience and means there will always be someone on hand to help or assist.

Security:

Trips to this region do create dangers all of their own, and whilst we want you to have as much freedom as possible, the tour leader has the final word with regards to changes in the itinerary for safety reasons. Whilst the route we've chosen passes through areas we consider to be stable, things can change and we may have to alter the route or cancel sections of the trip at short notice. If there is an extra expense incurred due to a change of itinerary, you may be asked to bear part of that cost.