

The Extreme North Africa Tour 23rd Nov – 13th Dec 2026



INTRODUCTION:

We'll start this adventure off in the most rugged of these North African countries — Mauritania. In this huge country that is 90% Saharan desert, we'll see incredible monoliths and deserts, sunsets from sand dunes, and ancient brick cities with rich histories. And of course, we'll take an epic journey across the Sahara on the iron ore train.

After Mauritania, we'll fly on to Algiers, feeling unbelievably modern and bustling by comparison. The highlight will be the centuries-old alleyways of the Kasbah. From there, we'll fly to North Africa's most breathtaking city, Constantine, before heading to the well-preserved Roman ruins of Timgad. Flying south to Djanet, we'll see striking rock formations, red sand dunes, and 8000-year-old rock art, taking in some Tuareg customs along the way.

Before we head to Libya, we'll make a quick stop in Tunisia — visiting ancient Carthage and the picturesque town of Sidi Bou Said, and exploring the bustling market streets of the Tunis Medina, one of the best-preserved medinas in the Arab world.

Finally, we head to Libya! We'll see magnificent Roman ruins, from the massive site of Leptis Magna to the well-preserved theatre of Sabratha, as well as fascinating Berber granaries and villages, before heading south to the old city of Ghadames. In Tripoli, we'll visit the newly renovated Martyr's Square and hang out with locals before one last group dinner and our goodbyes the next morning.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Experience the wonders of the Sahara in three different countries

Explore the Roman ruins of Leptis Magna, Sabratha, Timgad and Tipasa

Delve into the little known Berber lifestyle, deep in the Libyan and Algerian desert

Ride the famous iron ore train through the desert

Excited? Come with SAIGA on the Extreme North Africa Tour!



Tour Details:

DATES: 23rd Nov – 13th Dec 2026

PRICE: EUR 5,195 (Twin Share)
Single Supplement EUR 1,295

INCLUSIONS:

- Visa pre-approval for Algeria and LOI assistance for Libya
- Accommodation in twin share at roughly 3 star hotels/guesthouses, breakfast included
- Transport, beginning and ending in Tripoli
- Entrance fees to all sites mentioned in the itinerary
- Western and local guides, and all required security precautions

EXCLUSIONS:

- Visa fees for Algeria (paid at airport), Mauritania (paid online) and Libya (paid online)
- Meals other than breakfast
- Flights from Nouakchott to Algiers
- Flights from Algiers to Tunis
- Return flights from Tunis to Tripoli
- Personal expenses such as souvenirs or any optional activities



Itinerary:

Day 1: Nouakchott, Tergit — Monday 23rd November

- 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 Amoujar 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 — Friday 27th November

- A full day of driving back to Nouakchott, with lunch by the sea in Banc D'Arguin National Park. Overnight in Nouakchott.

Day 6: Nouakchott, Algiers — 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 take the direct flight from Nouakchott to Algiers.

Day 7: 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. Overnight in Algiers.

Day 8: Algiers — Monday 30th November

- We'll explore the vibrant Algerian capital, starting with the botanical gardens, then a gondola ride up to the Martyrs' Memorial.
- In the afternoon, we'll head to the kasbah to navigate its windy streets and taste street food. Free evening for dinner.

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, 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 striking rock formations changing 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 and the famous Crying Cow rock carving.
- We'll 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, Tunis — Sunday 6th December

- This morning we'll fly to Tunis for an overnight stop before continuing to Libya the following day.
- We'll head out to see the highlights of Tunis, including Sidi Bou Said and the ancient site of Carthage, and get lost in the winding alleys of the old Medina. Overnight in Tunis.

Day 15: Tripoli — Monday 7th December

- We'll take the early morning flight from Tunis to Tripoli, checking into the hotel and spending the rest of the day exploring — the Red Castle Museum, the Arch of Marcus Aurelius, and the main souq.
- In the evening we'll queue for Tripoli's favourite takeaway burger shop, then wander through a nearby park to soak in the evening atmosphere.

Day 16: Sabratah, Tripoli — Tuesday 8th December

- We'll visit the UNESCO ancient Roman site of Sabratah, on the Mediterranean coast, famous for its magnificently preserved amphitheatre. Overnight in Tripoli.

Day 17: Tripoli, Berber Granaries and Villages, Ghadames — Wednesday 9th December

- We'll head south towards Ghadames, stopping at Berber granaries and villages through the Nafusa mountains, including Qasr Haj, a 13th-century round granary, and a clifftop Amazigh village.
- We'll arrive in Ghadames in the evening for a traditional Libyan meal at an outdoor café. Overnight in Ghadames.

Day 18: Ghadames — Thursday 10th December

- We'll explore the fascinating old city of Ghadames — a unique double-storey maze of covered ground-level walkways and rooftop pathways.
- We'll take 4x4s into the desert to slide down the dunes and watch the sunset over the Sahara, with the option of dune-bashing. Overnight in Ghadames.

Day 19: Ghadames, Gharyan, Tripoli — Friday 11th December

- We'll make our way back to Tripoli via Nalut, stopping to see more Berber architecture and Saharan scenery, with lunch in an underground troglodyte home. Overnight in Tripoli.

Day 20: Leptis Magna, Tripoli — Saturday 12th December

- We head to the highlight of every trip to Libya, the UNESCO site of Leptis Magna, one of the largest Roman ruin sites in the world.
- In the afternoon we'll return to Tripoli for any last-minute souvenir shopping. Overnight in Tripoli.

Day 21: Tripoli, End of Tour — Sunday 13th December

- This brings us to the end of our tour. For those who would like to explore more of this vast and fascinating region, please get in touch about organising an extension.

**Visas:**

Many nationalities can visit Mauritania visa free. We provide visa pre-approval support for Algeria and LOI assistance for Libya. Visa fees for all three countries are paid separately and are not included in the tour price — get in touch and we can confirm the requirements for your nationality.

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, and all required security precautions will be in place. This allows for greater security 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.