

Niger – Gerewol Festival 10 days

cultural, historical and sightseeing tour

Once a year, the largest and most important celebration of the Wodaabe people belonging to the Fulbe ethnic group takes place – the Gerewol festival. To get to the agreed festival location, nomads must traverse long distances amidst the Sahel wilderness together with their herds. Presence at this festival is an exceptional experience that will remain in your memory for a long time. The festival that takes place in Niger is much larger and more spectacular than that in Chad. Moreover, the expedition to the Republic of Niger provides a unique opportunity for meeting other ethnic groups integrated in the population of this African country. We will meet Tuaregs and in Dongondoutchi we will see the “possession dance” of the Hausa people. During the expedition we will visit Agadez with its extraordinary historic sights and the capital of Niger, Niamey.

You are welcome to take part in this exceptional journey to places off the beaten path. BTP Adventure

Itinerary:

❖ Day 1 – Niamey

Flights to Niamey usually take place in the afternoon and evening. After arrival, visa formalities. Transfer to the hotel and, after a short rest, an organisational meeting and dinner. D.

❖ Day 2 – Niamey – Agadez

In the morning, transfer to the airport and flight to Agadez. After arrival, transfer to a hotel. After a short rest, we will set off to visit this legendary town on the Sahara desert. We will



visit one of the most famous markets that are the heart of this town, where people from the whole of the West and North Africa meet. The bazaar in Agadez is an extraordinary place – your visit there will remain in your memory for a long time. In the evening dinner in one of local restaurants. B.L.D.

❖ **Day 3 – Agadez**

After breakfast we will set off for a whole-day visit in this city whose history dates back to over 100 years ago, and old town historic sites were entered in 2013 into the UNESCO World Heritage list. We will admire the Grand Mosque and then we will go to the Sultan Palace with a tower made of sun-dried bricks in its courtyard. After lunch, we will go for a walk through the labyrinth of streets. In the evening dinner in one of local restaurants. B.L.D.

❖ **Day 4 – Abalak**

Early breakfast, after which we will set off for the journey to Abalak. We will stop there for a short rest and a meal, and we will replenish our stocks. Then we will set off for the location of the Gerewol festival. Dinner at the festival camp. We will sleep in tents. B.L.D.

❖ **Days 5 / 6 – Gerewol festival**

We will spend two days at the Gerewol festival which is an annual meeting of the nomadic Wodaabe people belonging to the Fulbe ethnic group. During the festival, we will be able to see traditional dances of young men wearing traditional robes, with faces painted according to the tradition of their clan. We will also visit the Wodaabe camp and learn about their everyday life. We will sleep in tents. B.L.D.



❖ **Day 7 – Tabalakh – Tahoua**

After breakfast, we will start taking down the camp and we will set off to the town of Tahoua. We will stop on the way at the lakes near Tabalakh where it is often possible to encounter Tuaregs who bring their animals to the watering place. In the afternoon we will drive to Tahoua where we will stay in a hotel for the night. In the evening dinner in one of local restaurants. B.L.D.

• **Day 8 – Tahoua – Dogondoutchi**

In the morning we will set off to the Yaama Hausa village with a typical local architecture, with a Sudan-style mosque. Lunch in one of the villages or en route. Finally, we will arrive in Dogondoutchi to see the Possession Dance of the Hausa people (Hausa Voodoo). Dancers enter into a trance to find the mystical connection with their ancestors and spirits. For the night, we will go to a hostel near Dogondoutchi. B.L.D.

❖ **Day 9 – Dosso – Kouré – Niamey**

In the morning, we will set off for the Niger capital. We will drive through Dosso where we will visit the Djermakoye Palace belonging to the Dosso sultan. The place of the next stop will be Kouré where we will see the last herds of wild giraffes in West Africa. In the afternoon or evening, depending on the time of our arrival, we will visit Niamey. Dinner and night rest in Niamey.

• **Day 10 – Niamey**

After breakfast we plan to visit Niamey: the local museum, the market, the grand mosque. We will also have an opportunity to see the Niger River. We will be able to see for



ourselves how the Niamey inhabitants can benefit from the riches of this major river in the African continent. We will also see freely living hippopotamuses and local fishers from the Djerma ethnic group. For lunch, we will go to a restaurant (not included in the trip price). After lunch, the last opportunity to purchase souvenirs and local handicraft products. In the evening we will go to the airport. Flight home from Niger

Dates:

The price per person depends on the group size:

Services included in the price:

- Accommodation in 2- and 3-star hotels
- Accommodation in tents at the Gerewol festival
- Domestic flight Niamey – Agadez
- Transfers by off-road vehicles
- Gerewol festival entrance fee
- Services of a local guide
- Services of the Polish tour leader-guide
- Professional security guard services – where necessary
- Meals as specified: B – breakfast, L – lunch, D – dinner
- Invitation necessary to obtain the visa
- Tips
- Entrance fees and permit charges

The price does not include:

- Return flight to Niamey



- Travel insurance
- Visa to the Republic of Niger
- Meals other than those listed in the final itinerary.
- Personal expenses and souvenirs and additional beverages
- Surcharge for a single room 300 euro

Additional information / final notes

- Depending on the political situation, the length of the tour and the order of visited places may change. In a situation of a serious threat to travellers' safety, the tour may be cancelled. We will keep you updated as to whether the expedition is possible.
- We can arrange a self-guided tour – if you are interested, please contact the office.

You are welcome to take part! BTP Adventure
