



**BEYOND
THE PATH
ADVENTURE**

Niger - Mysteries of the Sahara 15 days

cultural, historical and sightseeing tour

One of the most fascinating and at the same time most inaccessible and least tourist-frequented countries of northern Africa. An expedition which is a unique opportunity to see the enticingly beautiful landscapes of the Sahara – the Ténéré Desert and Aïr Massif. We will visit the ruins of the towns of Djado and Djaba that used to be important centres of the lost kingdoms of northern Africa. Our expedition is an extraordinary opportunity to meet Saharan peoples and get a glimpse at their culture and traditions. We will certainly encounter Tuareg caravans and meet inhabitants of oases and towns whose history has started with the beginnings of human settlements in North Africa. 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 the hotel. After a short rest, we will set off to visit this legendary town on the Sahara desert.



We will visit a famous market that is 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.

❖ **Days 3 and 4 – Agadez – Aïr Massif – Timia**

After breakfast, we will start our Saharan expedition. At the beginning, we will head towards the Aïr Massif. We will stop in one of the most beautiful oases in this part of the Sahara – Auderas and Timia. Then we will set off for the heart of the Aïr Massif where we will meet the inhabitants of this region – the Tuareg people – and we will see the extraordinary rock formations built of Precambrian rocks and materials from long-extinct volcanoes. In the Timia oasis we will see palm groves, waterfalls and remainders of former glory of this ancient crossing of trade routes. We will sleep in tents. B.L.D.

❖ **Days 5 – 6 Kogo Arakao – Anakom**

On these days, we plan to visit the ruins of the 18th century capital of the Tuareg country, Assodé, located in the central part of the Aïr Massif. Then we will drive through a region where blue marbles can be found and we will see the enticingly beautiful Issaouane sand dunes. One of the most interesting places that we will visit will be an area close to the Tamgak Mountains with its “sea of sand”. One of the most fascinating places we will see is Arakao that was named “crab claws” by French colonists. It is an area on the border between the Aïr Massif and the Ténéré Desert. We will see an extraordinary landscape shaped by the remains of extinct volcanoes and dunes up to 200 metres. Since 2006, this area is a UNESCO-protected site. The Arakao area is also famous for its unique



petroglyphs created in the Neolithic era, when it was covered by a savannah and was home to multiple animal species. We will sleep in tents. B.L.D.

❖ **Day 7 – 8 Adrar – Madet – Dirkou – Aney**

We will leave the area of the Ténéré Desert. We will continue our expedition to the north, stopping at the Acheggour wells and crossing small mountain ranges of Adrar Madet. We will stop in Dirkou and Aney – small but very important stops along the trade routes leading to the north, towards Libya. We will sleep in tents. B.L.D.

❖ **Days 9 – 10 Djabo – Bilma**

We will continue our Saharan expedition towards extraordinary ruins in Djado and Djaba. Both towns used to be important fortifications built by the Kanuri people. Since 2006, the ruins of both towns have been under UNESCO protection. We will also visit salt mining sites and we will encounter inhabitants of small oases whose life depends on the austere Saharan nature and caravans crossing the endless desert. We will sleep in tents. B.L.D.

❖ **Days 11 – 12 Fachi – Abre – Ténéré**

We will start our return journey south, towards Agadez. On our return route, we will visit, to get provisions and some rest, the Fachi oasis which is also called Agram by the Kanuri people. The oasis is situated between the Ténéré Desert and Erg of Bilma. In the oasis, we will see the remains of the Kasr fort built of blocks of saline soil. Having left Fachi, we will set off through the Ténéré Desert for a trip of more than 250 km, through a completely deserted area of one of the most picturesque deserts of the Sahara. We will sleep in tents. B.L.D.



❖ **Day 13 Ufagadod Valley – Kel Gress – Agadez**

Whole-day journey to Agadez. We will cross the Ufagadod Valley and we will stop in Kel Gress – a crossing of caravan routes. It will be our last stop before the arrival in Agadez. Well-deserved shower, dinner at a restaurant and night rest at the hotel. B.L.D.

❖ **Day 14 Agadez – Niamey**

Depending on the departure time to Niamey – last visit to the town and shopping. Flight to Niamey. Transfer to the hotel and, after a short rest free time and diner. B.L.D.

❖ **Day 15 – 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 B.L

Dates:

The price per person depends on the group size:

Minimum 5 people

Services included in the price:



- Accommodation in 2- and 3-star hotels
- Accommodation in tents during the Saharan expedition
- Domestic flight Niamey – Agadez – Niamey
- Transfers by off-road vehicles
- Services of a local guide
- Services of the tour leader-guide
- 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:

- Flight to and return 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 fee for extending the trip in the case of the 17-day option

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.
- It is possible to extend the stay up to 17 days (Agadez, Sultanate of Dosso and Niamey sightseeing with a cruise on the Niger River) - please contact the office.

You are welcome to take part! BTP Adventure
