



# NIGER

## THE LAND OF THE TRIBES AND VISTAS

January 23 - February 02, 2025

Led by Tour Manager, Nancy Weber

Can be combined with Ghana, Togo, Benin tour (January 08 - January 22, 2025) **AND** Nigeria (February 03 - February 12, 2025) **AND** Ivory Coast (February 12 - February 22, 2025) **OR** Cameroon and Chad "Mock Gerewol" tour (February 04 - February 16, 2025)

As one of the world's poorest African countries, Niger is a challenging destination but a rewarding experience for the few who wish to learn more about this fascinating country. Ancient Saharan trade routes have created a wonderful fusion of Arab and African traditions and provided a home to many ethnic groups, including the nomadic tribes of Tuareg and Fulani. Situated along the eastern banks of the Niger River, from where the country gets its name, lies Niamey, the capital and largest city of Niger. The city's great open-air markets provide ample opportunity for watching the tribes buy and sell colorful fruits and vegetables. At the Niger National Museum, discover cultural, ethnological, and archaeological artifacts from the region and a display of traditional dwellings from various cultures. See the impressive Grand Mosque with spectacular views of the surrounding city from the top of the minaret. In Kouré, see the last herds of an endemic giraffe subspecies in West Africa and sail down the Niger River on a stylish pinnace to spot hippos while gliding past riverside pottery villages.

The 15th-century market town of Agadez was once an important trading center during the trans-Saharan caravan trade and is now one of the most important Tuareg cities in Niger. From the historic city center, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, see the unique traditional mud-brick structures, including the town's 88.5-foot-high minaret, and lose yourself in the labyrinth streets that divide its irregularly shaped quarters. The Air Mountains are centered right in the heart of Tuareg culture, a large Berber ethnic group known as the "blue people" due to the indigo-dyes that stain their skin. This region's beautiful oases, towns, and villages offer incredible scenes of lush fruit orchards surrounded by dramatic sand dunes. These mountains are also known for their rock art images that date back to around 6,000 B.C. Traverse the lunar-like landscape known as "the Moon" and explore the former French army fort, one of the starting points for caravanners transporting salt through the Ténéré Desert. Join us to discover the ancient cities, natural scenic beauty, fascinating nomadic cultures, and wildlife that makes this welcoming country so captivating.

**Ihab Zaki**  
Managing Director

Thursday, January 23  
Arrive in Niamey (NIGER)



Upon arrival in **Niamey**, a former cluster of small agricultural villages and established as the capital of **Niger** in 1926, meet the local representative and transfer to *Noom Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner, and overnight. The city lies mainly on the northern banks of the **Niger River** and is occupied by merchants, Yoruba and Hausa traders, and artisans. **(D)**

Friday, January 24  
Niamey (Kouré)



Begin the day with an early morning drive to **Kouré**, best known for its population of West African giraffes, an endemic subspecies of West Africa. Conservation efforts since the 1990s have led to a sizable growth in population and a reintroduction program at the **Gadabeji Reserve**. Spend time observing these magnificent creatures before returning to Niamey for lunch. Enjoy a free afternoon at leisure either relaxing or exploring the colorful and lively **markets**. Dinner and overnight at the *Hotel*. **(B,L,D)**

Saturday, January 25  
Niamey (Cruise on Niger River)



After breakfast, embark on a motor **pinnace** ride along the **Niger River** to spot the massive hippos that make this river their home. Stop at several charming pottery villages, including **Kanazi**, the only inhabited island on the Niger River, and **Boubon**, a major pottery center selling a large variety of brightly decorated pottery. Enjoy a picnic lunch under the mango trees and then return to Niamey, have free time at leisure, dinner and overnight at the *Hotel*. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, January 26  
Niamey - Agadez



After a very early breakfast, transfer to the airport for our morning flight to **Agadez**, founded in the 15<sup>th</sup> century by the Tuareg and Hausa ethnic groups as a trading post. It gradually became one of the most important Tuareg cities in the country by expanding around the trans-Saharan trade. Today, the city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with intriguing structures made of mudbrick. Upon arrival, transfer to *Pension Tellit Hotel or similar* for check-in and freshen-up. Then head out to explore the historic center including the **Grand Mosque** and its imposing **minaret** and wander through the original labyrinth streets. Agadez is also a major market town known as the "**city of crafts**" and for its **camel market**. Bargain for local crafts from the Tuareg, who love their jewelry and beautiful clothing. Enjoy dinner at *Le Pillier*, the famous Italian restaurant, then return to the *Hotel* for overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Monday, January 27  
Agadez - Timia



Begin the day with a drive to the mountainous region of **Aïr Massif** (the Air Mountains) in the heart of Tuareg culture. The Air Mountains are known for their **Rock Art** including images of large mammals that date back to around 6,000 B.C. Stop to visit the beautiful oases towns of **Azel** and **Aouderas** and then continue through the "Moon," named for its lunar-like landscape, and via the volcanic massif to the beautiful oasis town of **Timia**. Here, orange and pomegranate-laden trees, with sand dunes in the background, offer a spectacular sight. Spend time exploring the village and its blue-green **waterfall**. Visit the former **French Army fort**, one of the starting points

for caravanners that once carried salt through the **Ténéré Desert**. Transfer to *Village Inn or similar* for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Tuesday, January 28**

**Timia**



The **Tuareg people** are a large Berber ethnic group that inhabit the Sahara in a vast area stretching from far southwestern Libya to southern Algeria, Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso. The Tuaregs of Timia have managed to hold on to their culture and traditions and preserve their ancestral rites for many generations. There will be a chance to meet and interact with them while they share their fresh produce with the group. In the evening, gather around the **campfire** to enjoy a **traditional dance** ceremony and listen to the **anzad**, a famous Tuareg poetry instrument (a one-string guitar) the women play. A trained cook will prepare the meals. Return to the *Inn* for overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Wednesday, January 29**

**Timia - Agadez**



Begin the drive back to Agadez on a scenic drive, stopping en route at the small village of **El Mekki** for a visit. Once we arrive in Agadez in the late evening transfer to *Pension Tellit Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Thursday, January 30**

**Agadez**



After breakfast, spend the day with the Tuaregs and be warmly welcomed in front of the court of Tambari, supreme chief of the great culture of **Bianou ceremonies**, an ancient ancestral custom and tradition celebrated every year in Agadez. Attend a demonstration and initiation of the great **Indigo Tuareg turban** in the company of Agadez women groups wearing traditional dress for a taste of this intriguing ceremony. This evening, in the family courtyard, attend a **Tuareg dance performance** featuring the sounds of the **tendé**, a drum made out of a mortar and a drumhead made from goatskin. Enjoy dinner at *Le Pillier* and then return to the *Hotel* for overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Friday, January 31**

**Agadez - Niamey**



Enjoy a free morning at leisure, then transfer to the airport for our flight to Niamey, and upon arrival transfer to *Noom Hotel or similar* for check-in, dinner, and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Saturday, February 01**

**Niamey**



After breakfast, begin a city tour of Niamey with a visit to the **Niger National Museum**, featuring exhibits that represent the region's ethnological, archaeological, and cultural artifacts including replicas of traditional dwellings from different Niger cultures. Visit the **Grand Mosque**, built in the 1970s with aid provided by Libya.

Its minaret features 171 steps to climb up for beautiful views from the top. Also, wander through the **bustling markets** for a glimpse into the everyday lives of the locals. **(B,L,D)**

**Sunday, February 02**

**Niamey - USA**



Enjoy breakfast and then head to visit some of the **museums**, or **art galleries** outside of Niamey. head back to the *Hotel*, free afternoon at leisure, have dinner and then transfer to the airport for your flight back to the US. **(B,D)**

*Note: For those continuing the adventure to Nigeria, you will spend the night in Niamey and transfer the following morning to the airport for your flight to Abuja.*

*If you continue the adventure to Cameroon and Chad, you will require an extra night pre tour in Cameroon.*

*"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".*

#### **Special trip remarks:**

- *Tourist infrastructure and facilities outside the cities are very limited & often quite primitive.*
- *Hotels may change at the last minute without prior notice due to reasons beyond our control.*
- *Twin rooms are very limited, especially at Noom Hotel in Niamey.*
- *Air-conditioners in this part of the world do not cool a room to American standards of comfort.*
- *In the more remote areas, hotels may be basic with few amenities and possible equipment failure such as no hot water, clogged drains, etc.*
- *Mosquito-borne illnesses such as malaria are prevalent in Niger. Documentation of yellow fever immunization is required.*
- *Brownouts or blackouts may occur or there may be limited electricity available.*
- *The Niamey-Agadez-Niamey flight may change without prior notice that may necessitate amending the itinerary.*
- *This trip involves long drives in hot weather over poorly maintained and very bumpy roads. Those with bad spines, knees or other medical conditions may find the drives uncomfortable.*
- *There are a lack of modern medical facilities and chronic health problems should be discussed with your physician before joining this tour.*
- *A high level of flexibility, tolerance, respect, open-mindedness, sense of adventure, and willingness to go with the flow if things change is expected while visiting this country.*

## Tour Cost (Land Only):

6-8 travelers \$6,495.00

9+ travelers \$5,995.00

Per person sharing in double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$995.00

Price based on group size minimum of 6 participants and maximum of 12 participants

Trip Grade: II Lodging Level: \*\*-\*\*\*\*

those countries that see very few tourists/travelers. She is thrilled to lead our groups to these beautiful parts of the world and is excited to introduce their fascinating culture, people, and unmatched hospitality. She has been rated so highly by our travelers as a kind and efficient coordinator and does a superb job ensuring the smoothness of these programs.

### Tour Includes:

- Airport/Hotel/airport transfers.
- Accommodation at *Hotels* mentioned or similar.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner.)
- Transportation in an A/C mini-bus bus & 4x4 vehicles.
- All visits to sites, villages, monuments, and museums.
- English-speaking guide and local guides at the various villages.
- Niamey - Agadez - Niamey flight.
- Bottled water on touring days.
- Escort of a tour manager (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, hotel & restaurant staff, and porters (provided minimum number of travelers is reached).

### Trip Grade:

**II Active:** Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule, and some very long rides. A few times you may be delayed by the security personnel at some check points, and this necessitates a tolerant and patient attitude.

### Lodging Level:

**\*\*-\*\*\*\* Basic to Superior:** Lodges and hotels with simple amenities in Timia and Agadez while western standard refined service and comfort at superior level Niamey Hotel.



**About your Tour Manager, Nancy Weber...** Nancy loves to travel, learn languages, people, and sparkling wines! Nancy worked in the chemical industry in the US and Canada, and she lived in Jordan and Iraq for eight years, working as a training consultant and as Iraq's Country Director for an NGO. She speaks Arabic and a few other languages. Moreover, she loves the Middle East and genuinely appreciates the people and culture in that part of the world. Nancy also lived and worked in Russia for four years as a business training consultant. She speaks Russian, is passionate about Russia, and adores the people living there. She traveled on our first STS North Caucasus adventure in 2017 - she was so happy to see and experience Chechnya and Dagestan finally! Nancy has been managing a few of our tours, and she enjoys visiting off-the-beaten-track places the most, especially

### Tour does not include:

- International air USA - Niamey - USA.
- **Niger Visa** (obtainable through Washington DC - approx. \$250.00 - subject to change).
- Vaccinations, yellow fever immunization, anti-malaria (all highly recommended).
- Beverages other than water with or without meals.
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Trip surcharge to operate below required minimum participants.
- Items of a personal nature (Laundry, email, souvenirs, etc.).
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Travel protection insurance (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED).

