



Northern Emirates and Durbar

NIGERIA



10 days

28 March - 06 April 2025

English speaking tour leader



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The **emirates of Kano, Kaduna, Jigawa and Bauchi**, amid scintillating architecture
- At the **court of Zaria and Dutse**, in ceremonies of bygone days of an evocative 'African feudalism'
- The **Durbar**, impressive horse parade of the Fulani-Hausa nobles
- **Dambe boxing** and the **Sharo initiation ceremony**
- The encounter with the **Gadawan Kura** acrobats-singers, known as **'hyena men'**
- The **markets of Kano**, amidst indigo fabrics and exotic hides



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
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Day 1: Friday 28 March

Outward flight/Kano (KAN)

Overnight flight to Kano.

Day 2-3: from Saturday 29 March to Sunday 30 March

Kano (Durbar)

Arrival in Kano, encounter with Kanaga Africa Tours staff who will arrange transfer to Hotel Tahir or similar. Days dedicated to visiting KANO, the largest, richest and second oldest Hausa emirate in Nigeria. Kano, a Sahelian metropolis with 5 million inhabitants founded in the 10th century, is a city that can still take travellers back to the Middle Ages when this place was one of the most important trading centres on the entire continent. We visit the Gidan Dan Hausa museum, a superb example of 20th century Hausa architecture with a fine collection of old artefacts inside; the Gidan Makama palace, the former palace of the emir from 1440, now converted into a museum; the Gidan Rumfa palace of the current Emir Aminu Ado Bayero, built in 1471; the central mosque (exterior); the gates of the old city along the ancient city walls (almost completely destroyed by the modern city); Dala Hill, from where one can admire a splendid panorama; the Kurmi market with its leather dyeing section, especially python and caiman leather; and the Dying Dye Pits of Kofar Mata, where the tradition of indigo dyeing is handed down. We will also attend the pageantry of the DURBAR horse parades, where the courtiers show off their turbans and large boubou, with intense colours and rich embroidery, while the horses show off their best vestments, to pay homage to the rulers and guests during the Muslim celebrations at the end of Ramadan. Lunches in restaurants or hotels and overnight stays in double rooms with services.



Hausa architecture in Kano



Meeting with the Emir of Kano



Indigo fabrics in Kofar Mata



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Day 4: Monday 31 March

Kano/Zaria (Durbar)

After breakfast transfer to ZARIA one of Nigeria's oldest emirates, known locally as Zazzau, part of the federal state of Kaduna and traditionally belonging to the Caliphate of Sokoto. It's a city founded around the year 1000, it was one of the epicentres of the trans-Saharan trade, where dromedary caravans coming from the north exchanged salt for slaves, hides and kola nuts. We visit the historical centre, which preserves some richly decorated thatched and mud buildings, including one of the oldest mosques in the country (the vaults of which can still be admired inside the modern Central Mosque, built on the same site), some madrasas (Koranic schools), the market that stands on the exact spot where the caravans used to stop, and what remains of Queen Amina's 16 kilometres of walls. We will then head to the palace to meet Emir Alhaji Ahmed Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli and learn about the current role of these monarchs in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We remain for a long time captivated by the glittering colours of the men's boubou and the women's hijabs, the tens of metres long turbans, the red tunics of the dogarin, the royal guards, in an almost dreamlike vision of an 'African Middle Ages'. In Zaria, too, we will be able to attend DURBAR on the occasion of the In Salah festival. Lunch in a restaurant and overnight stay at the Organo Hotel or similar, in double rooms with private facilities.



Girl with hijab in Zaria



Holyman and royal guards



Inside the Emir's Palace



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Day 5: Tuesday 01 April

Zaria/Dutse (Durbar)

After breakfast, visits to Zaria end. Transfer to the small but charming DUTSE EMIRATE, capital of the federal state of Jigawa, which was part of Kano State until 1991. Along the way, in a beautiful stretch of savannah, we will admire bizarre rock formations that gave the capital its name (Dutsi means 'rocks' in the local language), with here and there a few traditional Hausa farmers' villages. Lunch in a restaurant or hotel. In the afternoon we will attend the colourful DURBAR. Accommodation at the Hotel Tahir Annexe or similar and overnight stay in a double room with services.



Courtier in Dutse



Meeting of dames

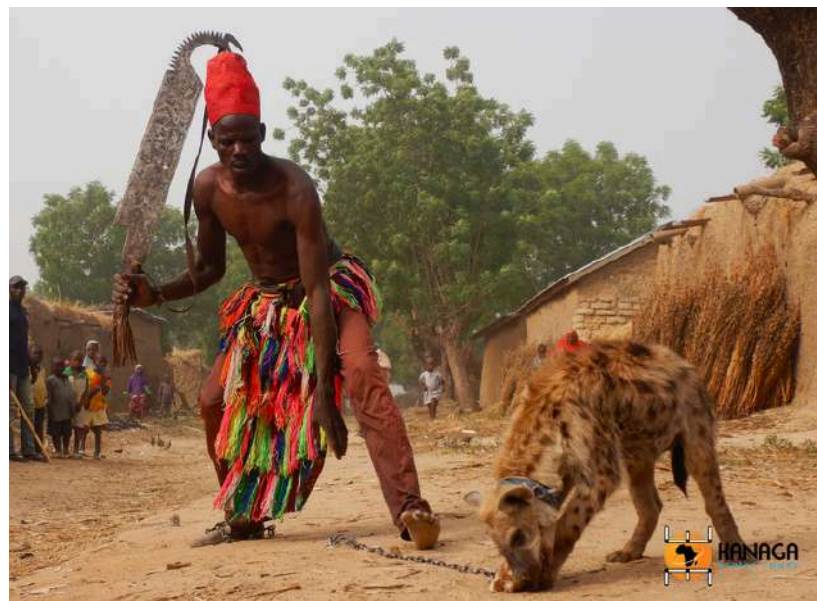


On the streets of Dutse

Day 6: Wednesday 02 April

Dutse

After breakfast, in a traditional village, we will attend a performance by the Gadawan Kura acrobats-saints, known as 'hyena men', admired and feared by the local population for their magical powers, who train hyenas, pythons and baboons, staging frenzied rituals where mothers 'feed' their newborn babies to the hyenas, to mystically protect them and make them stronger. Return to Dutse and lunch in a private house or restaurant. In the afternoon, we will be escorted to the royal palace where we will have an official meeting with His Highness Hameem Nuhu Sanusi and members of the palace. Afterwards, after appreciating the fine traditional architecture of the various rooms and buildings, we will take a walk through the old quarter to meet the friendly inhabitants. In the afternoon we will watch dambe, a kind of Hausa street boxing, whose origins date back to the 10th century. Return to the hotel, dinner in a private house and overnight stay.



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Day 7: Thursday 03 April

Dutse/Kafin Madaki/Bauchi

After breakfast, departure for the federal state of BAUCHI, the seat of the Emirate of the same name, which was created in 1809 by Yakubu Germa, a commander under the orders of Usman dan Fodio during his Islamicisation campaign in the early 19th century. Bauchi (which means 'pagan' in the Hausa language) soon became a centre for the marshalling of slaves to the north, and quarters with elaborate architecture, mosques and madrasas flourished in the city. The city was also the birthplace of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, a central figure in the country's struggle for independence, who became Prime Minister in 1960. On the way, we make a stop at KAFIN MADAKI, to admire its ancient palace, a magnificent example of traditional Hausa architecture, and at SUMU WILDLIFE PARK, for a safari in search of giraffes and antelopes. Arrival in Bauchi, lunch in a restaurant. In the afternoon, visit to the Emir's palace and meeting with dignitaries. Accommodation at the Deno Hotel or similar and overnight.



Palace of the Emir of Dutse



Hausa Architecture

Day 8: Friday 04 April

Bauchi/Zul/Dutse

After breakfast, we depart to a traditional ZUL village, which is particular for its facial tattoos (now only found on the faces of the elderly) and a unique 'dance of the mirrors', which we will witness. Return to Bauchi for lunch in a restaurant. Heading north towards Jigawa, we make a stop at a PEULH village, where we can witness the violent *Sharo* initiation ceremony, where boys are beaten with wooden sticks to test their strength and endurance. Arrival in Dutse and accommodation at the Tahir annexe or similar, dinner in a private house and overnight stay in double rooms with services.



At the Emir's palace



Sharo ceremony

Day 9: Saturday 05 April

Dutse/Kano

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Kano airport in time for your return flight. End of services.

Day 10: Sunday 06 April

Kano (KAN)/Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



View of Kano



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Individual participation fee in double room
(min. 8/max. 16 pax)

3,690 €/pax

in promotion at € 3,590
for booking before 28/12/2024

in promotion at € 3,490
for booking before 28/09/2024

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room: **390 €**
- Day use: **120 €/room**
- Extra airport transfer: **50 €/person/transfer**
- Evisa service: **400 €/passport**
- Extension Niger (Zinder): **from 1.990 €**

The fee includes:

- English speaking tour leader;
- English-speaking local guides;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- Transfers by minibus, including drivers, fuel and tolls;
- Half-board meals as mentioned in the itinerary;
- 7 nights in hotels, in double rooms as mentioned in the itinerary.

The fee does not include:

- The visa for Nigeria;
- Insurance for cancellation, health, luggage;
- Air flights;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- All dinners;
- Airport/hotel transfers and vice versa at times other than those recommended;
- Photographic tips;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'Supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in "the fee includes".