



Gerewol of the Bororo

CHAD

Photo by I. Fornasiero



6 days

27 September - 02 October 2026

English speaking tour leader



Who would ever think that in Chad, in the middle of the driest and most desolate savannah, a male beauty contest is organised every year?

A surreal landscape, for a surreal event, in a surreal atmosphere. This is the Gerewol of the nomadic Bororo shepherds. The most beautiful young men, after a careful make-up session with natural pigments, which enhance the whiteness of their teeth and eyes, put on their typical ornaments of cauris, coloured fabrics, ostrich feathers and begin a real beauty contest, whose jury is represented by the girls of the clan. Under the effect of natural excitants, the young people begin to dance non-stop with slow, hypnotic movements, accompanying themselves with even more hypnotic verses and grimaces highlighting their teeth and eyes, reaching a sort of trance. Definitely it's one of the most impressive traditional events in all of Africa.



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
+223 76723946 - www.kanaga-at.com

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Day 1: Sunday 27 September

Outward flight/Ndjamena (NDJ)

Flight to Ndjamena.

Day 2: Monday 28 September

Ndjamena/Dourbali

After breakfast, depart in a southerly direction to DOURBALI, an area of savannah inhabited by the Bororo, a tribe of Fula herders (also known as the Peulh Wodabee), where once a year at the end of the rainy season the GEREWOL festival is celebrated, in which men participate in a beauty contest to attract the attention of unmarried women. Picnic lunch en route. Visit to the BORORO CAMP, where you can catch a glimpse of interesting moments of daily life among herds of zebu, traditional suudu, fires, women doing household chores, brightly coloured decorations... Dinner at the camp prepared by our cook, overnight stay in double igloo tents.

Days 3-4: from Tuesday 29 to Wednesday 31 September

Gerewol

Breakfasts at the camp and mornings dedicated to visiting the camp, meeting the shepherds, observing daily gestures such as making butter, carving calabasses, weaving nattes... The GEREWOL usually begins in the afternoon, when the young men put on make-up and adorn themselves with feathers to dance the Yakee and show off their elegance and white teeth, synonymous with beauty. At the end of the dance, the women, dressed in indigo tunics and adorned with gris gris (amulets), choose a suitor, who will bring a gourd full of milk to the bride-to-be's family. The Gerewol remains the occasion for the nomads, dispersed throughout the year in the sunny expanses of the Sahel, to meet, exchange news, celebrate baptisms and weddings. At the end of the gathering, men and herds will resume the eternal rhythm of transhumance, dispersing across the yellow expanses of the savannah. Lunches and dinners at the camp prepared by our cook, overnight stays in double igloo tents.



Gerewol



A young Woodabee



Gerewol



Gerewol



Preparations for the festival



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Day 5: Thursday 01 October

Dourbali/Ndjamena

After breakfast at the camp, and a final meeting with the Bororo, we retrace our route towards the capital. Picnic lunch en route. On arrival some rooms in day use. If time permits city tour of NDJAMENA, with its colourful markets and beautiful views of the Chari river, founded in 1900 under the name of Fort-Lamy and renamed in 1.973 by the first president of the Republic Francois Tombalbaye, 'the place of rest'. Transfer to the airport in time for your return flight. Accommodation in a double room with services.

Day 6: Friday 02 October

Ndjamena (NDJ)/Return flight

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by a transfer to the airport in good time for your return flight. End of services.



Transhumance



A suudu, a typical Bororo dwelling



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Individual participation fee in double room/tent (min. 4/max. 12 pax)

2,190 €/pax



Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room/tent: **130 €**
- Visa service: **160 €/pax**
- Immigration tax and permits: **€160/person**
- Extra night in Ndjamen: **€160/room**

The fee includes:

- French-speaking local drivers/guides;
- English speaking tour leader (from 7 pax upwards);
- Cook and field kitchen;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- The visit of the ethnic groups mentioned in the itinerary
- (including photographic and video rights);
- All transfers by 4x4 Toyota or Nissan (maximum 4 pax/car), including petrol and tolls;
- Full board except in Ndjamen;
- Field equipment except sleeping bag and pillow;
- 4 overnight stays (1 in hotel in double room and 3 in double igloo tent);

The fee does not include:

- The visa for Chad;
- Immigration tax and permits to be paid locally (about 160 €/pax);
- Cancellation, health, baggage insurance;
- Air flights;
- Dinners in Ndjamen;
- Mineral water and beverages;
- Non-programme photographic and video tips;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in 'the fee includes'.