



Ennedi, Archei Guelta and Ounianga Lakes

CHAD



16 days

01 - 16 October 2026

English speaking tour leader



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The impenetrable canyons, oases and magical conformations of the **Ennedi region**
- The **gazelles of the Oued Achim** and the **rock paintings** in the **Terkei massif**
- The bizarre **rock formations of Deli, Chigeou and Tokou**
- The **Guelta d'Archei**, one of the most fascinating natural spectacles in the Sahara Desert
- The caravans along the road to the **salt flats of Demi and Teguedeï**
- The enchantment of **Lake Ounianga Kebir**, an unexpected mirage in the **Mourdi Depression**



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
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Day 1: Thursday 01 October

Outward flight/Ndjamena (NDJ)

Flight to Ndjamena.

Day 2-4: from Friday 02 to Sunday 04 October

Ndjamena/Moussoro/Oued Achim/Kalait

Arrival at NDJAMENA airport and meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff, assistance with the exchange of Euros and the possible purchase of a local phone card. Departure to the north-east via the BAHR EL GHAZAL, "the river of the gazelles", an ancient effluent of Lake Chad, now dried up, linking the Muslim north with the Christian and animist south, once travelled by caravans linking the great kingdoms of black Africa with the Mediterranean. We will cross a typical Sahelian landscape characterised by rich vegetation, a climatic transition point between savannah and desert. This region is inhabited by the Kanouri, Peulh, Dazi and Arabs, who entered Chad some eight centuries ago after defeating the Christian Dongola kingdom in what is now Sudan. We will also meet the Kareda, cattle breeders who are easy to spot with their herds along the water wells. Continue east through the OUED ACHIM, frequented by numerous gazelles, before heading back towards Ennedi. We will cross arid expanses inhabited by Arab nomads dedicated to farming and breeding dromedaries, used for caravans and sold in the Cufra oasis in Libya. We will refuel at OUM CHALOUBA (ancient name of present-day Kalait) and continue our exploration in the direction of the TERKEI MASSIF. Breakfasts, lunches and dinners prepared by our cook, overnight stays at the camp in igloo tents.



Ndjamena



Expedition to Ennedi



Nomads at the well



Meetings along the way



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Day 5-7: from Monday 05 to Wednesday 07 October

Terkei/Ennedi Region

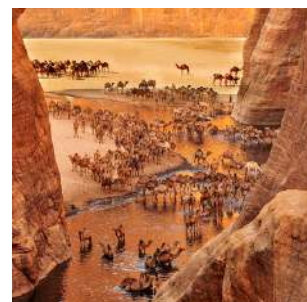
We continue into the TERKEI, where caves and natural shelters conceal an impressive amount of cave paintings depicting scenes of everyday life or hunting, priceless works of prehistoric art dating back over 4,000 years BC. We will visit the cave of the 'giant cow', the cave of the 'men with big heads' (probably ceremonial masks) where giraffes are also depicted, and the cave of the 'horsemen'. We enter the ENNEDI MASSIF, a sandstone plateau rich in hidden waters held in the guelte, riches that earn this region the nicknames of 'Saharan garden' or 'Eden'. We encounter dark-skinned peoples such as the Gaeda and the Zagawa. We glimpse the magnificent sandstone formations of DELI, CHIGEOU and TOKOU, with spires, arches and chimneys creating majestic natural cathedrals and intricate labyrinths. We are reminded of the words of Th odore Monod, naturalist and great lover of the Sahara: 'one feels respect for these unspoilt landscapes that have asked nothing of us, that would gladly do without our presence and that are there anyway simply majestic'. On the third day, we arrive in the heart of the impenetrable Ennedi, the long-awaited destination, the famous GUELTA D'ARCHEI, the bed of an ancient river that winds for some thirty kilometres and ends in a natural amphitheatre characterised by reddish walls that narrow to the place where there is one of the most important water points in the region, where the Gaeda and Bideyat nomads bring their herds to water. Early in the morning, you can admire the spectacle of hundreds of dromedaries trooping along the water holes. Archei is also home to a colony of Nile crocodiles, the last survivors of the ancient Saharan fauna, living fossils that remind us that this harsh and arid region was a lush savannah more than four thousand years ago. These reptiles are considered sacred by the Bideyat nomads, and can exceed 3 metres in length. Breakfasts, lunches and dinners prepared by our cook, overnight stays at the camp in igloo tents.



Terkei rock paintings



Bizarre Ennedi formations



Guelta d'Archei



Nile crocodile



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Day 8-9: from Thursday 08 to Friday 09 October

Archei/Fada/Bichigara/Mourdi

Departure through the monumental and mysterious rock formations eroded by Ennedi time, to reach the oasis of FADA, the region's capital, heralded by the remains of tanks and missile launchers, sad souvenirs of the 1980s conflict with Libya. The oasis is characterised by a beautiful palm grove and earth and thatch houses, typical of Sudanese architecture. We continue to BICHIGARA, where we can admire the latest cave paintings and evocatively shaped arches and peaks. We will then move in the direction of Way's well for water and take the track to the MOURDI DEPRESSION, a windswept area of the harmattan and characterised by barkane dunes, from which much of the salt transported by the dromedary caravans comes. Breakfasts, lunches and dinners prepared by our cook, overnight stays at the camp in igloo tents.



Ennedi Landscapes



Mourdi

Day 10-11: from Saturday 10 to Sunday 11 October

Mourdi/Teguedei/Ounianga Lakes

Departure for the DEMI SALINES, a village whose economy is based on the trade of 'red salt' transported to the Ouaddai market, and TEGUEDEI, a palm grove inhabited during the guetna, the date harvest season. We continue our journey towards the OUNIANGA LAKES region, a UNESCO World Heritage site, water basins surrounded by palm groves rooted in soil drenched by fossilised water, all around yellow and orange dunes, cliffs ranging from white to red. Blue, green and red mirrors of water, due to the salinity of the waters and the plankton in them. We will discover the OUNIANGA SAKHER LAKE, one of the rallying points for the many caravans that cross the region, where we meet Bideyat and Ounia nomads, and the marvellous OUNIANGA KEBIR, with its clear, metallic-blue waters, surrounded by palm groves and set by the wall of dunes of the Mourdi Depression, which plunge directly into its waters. Breakfasts, lunches and dinners prepared by our cook, overnight stays at the camp in igloo tents.



Ounianga



Lake Ounianga Kebir



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Day 12-14: from Monday 12 to Wednesday 14 October

Ounianga/Faya/Erg Djourab/Moussoro

Leaving the lake region, we will make the slow and gradual crossing of the BEMBECHÉ ERG, in the direction of the FAYA OASIS, about 70 km long and inhabited by Toubou and Kamadja, who live on the salt and date trade with the Libyan towns of Cufra (Koufra) and Sebha. Here we will refuel with provisions, water and petrol and have a few hours to rest and take a shower in a campement. We continue in the direction of KOUBA, crossing the golden crescent-shaped 'barkane' dunes of ERG DJOURAB, where in the early 2000s the remains of one of the oldest hominids, *Sahelanthropus tchadensis*, dating back some 7 million years, were found. It was called 'Toumai', which means 'hope of life' in the Gorean language, which in fact candidates Chad to be considered as the 'cradle of humanity'. Continue to Moussoro through the savannah dotted with small rural villages along the ancient caravan route connecting the south with the salt flats of the north. Breakfasts, lunches and dinners prepared by our cook, overnight stays at the camp in igloo tents.



Lake Region



Djourab erg

Day 15: Thursday 15 October

Moussoro/Ndjamena

Departure southwards towards the capital. Lunch en route and arrival in N'Djamena. Accommodation at the Hotel Irrisor or similar. Overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 16: Friday 16 October

Ndjamena/Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



Elder Tebu



Goodbye Chad



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

3,390 €/pax

**in promotion at € 3,290
for booking before 01/07/2026**

Supplements:

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

The fee includes:

- French-speaking local drivers/guides;
- English speaking tour leader (from 6 pax);
- Cook and field kitchen;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- All transfers by 4x4 Toyota or Nissan (maximum 4 pax/car), including petrol and tolls;
- Full board except meals in Ndjamená;
- Field equipment except sleeping bag and pillow;
- 14 overnights (1 in hotel and 13 in igloo tents);
- Day use in Ndjamená (1 room every 4 pax)

The fee does not include:

- The visa for Chad;
- Immigration tax and permits to be paid locally (about 100 €/pax);
- Cancellation, health, covid, baggage insurance;
- Air flights;
- Meals in Ndjamená;
- Mineral water and beverages;
- Any overnight stays or day use in Ndjamená;
- Photographic permits;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in 'the fee includes'.