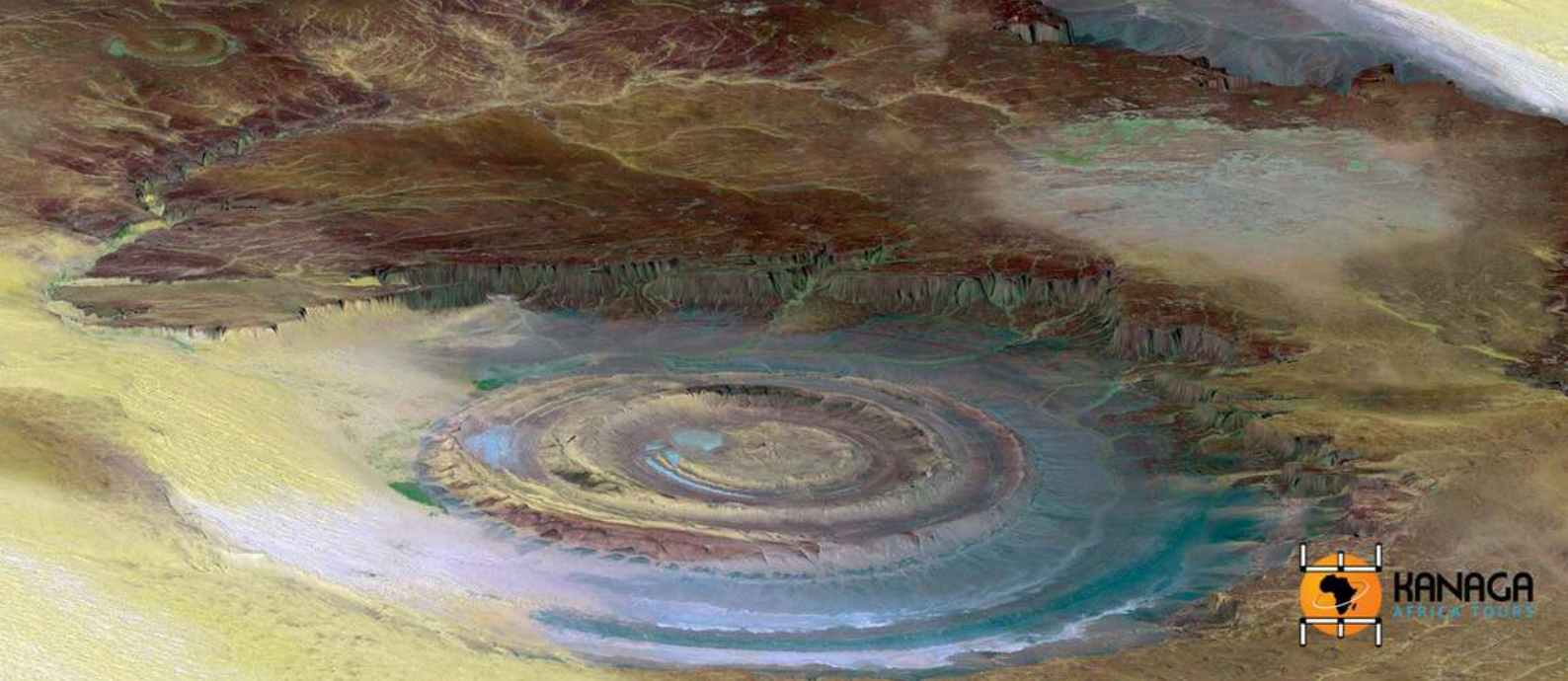




Geological Journey

MAURITANIA



11 days

12 – 22 December 2026
English speaking tour leader



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- The magic of the Adrar: **dunes, encounters with nomads, starry nights**
- The mysterious **monolith of Beni Amera and the desert train**
- The **Paleolithic site** of El Beyedh and the **rock paintings** of El-Gallaouiya
- The **Richat Structure**, “the Eye of the Sahara”
- The maze-like alleys of the ancient **caravan city of Ouadane**
- The **desert libraries** and the **stone mosque of Chinguetti**
- The lush **Terjit oasis**, where one can refresh in its clear waters



Kanaga Africa Tours - info@kanaga-at.com
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Day 1: Saturday 12 December

Outward flight/Nouakchott (NKC)

Flight to Nouakchott. Meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff who will arrange transfer to Hotel Sunset or similar. Overnight stay in a double room with services.

Day 2: Sunday 13 December

Nouakchott/Akjoujt/Aouja Dunes

After breakfast, we will set off along a paved road towards Akjoujt, which is about 250 km from the capital. We will stop for last-minute shopping and to refuel, then continue along the track that leads to ERG AMATLICH. We will have a picnic lunch along the way. In the afternoon, we will continue our journey with a stop at the village of GRARET LEVRAS, whose few inhabitants are dedicated to sheep farming and date production. We will set up our tented camp in front of the magnificent AOUJA DUNES, undoubtedly one of the most impressive desert sites in all of Mauritania. We will enjoy one of our first mint green teas before climbing this authentic "wall of sand" and appreciating a superb view of the palm grove at sunset from above. The splendour of the SAHARA will remain etched in our eyes forever and in the evening, under millions of stars and around the fire, our guide will introduce us to the secrets of the nomadic people. Dinner at the camp prepared by our cook and overnight stay in a double igloo tent.

Day 3: Monday 14 December

Aouja/Tivoujar/White Valley/Atar

After breakfast, departure for Atar via the IRICH VALLEY, a favourite spot for nomads due to the abundance of acacia trees and grass for camels and goats, and the lush GLEITAT palm grove. Continue to the TIVOUJAR PASS, where we will enjoy a magnificent view of the surrounding landscape of rocks and sand. We will walk down the walls to reach a shady spot in the canyon where we will have a picnic lunch. In the afternoon, we will continue along the WHITE VALLEY, where the dunes give way to rock formations created by erosion and the palm groves are green spots that contrast with the surrounding aridity. We rejoin the paved road at Amatil and, once we arrive in ATAR, we visit its market and check into the Auberge Les Toiles Maures or similar. Dinner and overnight stay in double rooms with bathroom facilities.



Day 4: Tuesday 15 December

Atar/Choum/Railway/Beni Amera

After breakfast, we will head north towards the border with Western Sahara. We will stop at Choum, a station in the middle of the desert, where, with a bit of luck, we will be able to admire the SNIM train, famous for being the longest and slowest in the world. We will arrive at the BENI AMERA monolith, second in size only to Uluru in Australia, and discover the granite sculptures of Aisha. Picnic lunch. Afternoon dedicated to exploring the area. Dinner at the camp prepared by our chef and overnight stay in a double igloo tent.

Day 5: Wednesday 16 December

Beni Amera/Atar/Mont Ederg

Breakfast at the camp and return to Atar. Continue through desert areas towards MOUNT EDERG. Picnic lunch during the transfer, dinner at the camp prepared by our chef and overnight stay in a double igloo tent.

Day 6: Thursday 17 December

Mont Ederg/El Beyedh/Gallaouiya

Breakfast at the camp and departure for the small village of EL BEYEDH, one of the most important prehistoric sites of the Palaeolithic era, an area scattered with artefacts such as bifaces, axes, arrowheads and pottery fragments. Here you can also visit the small prehistory museum (not always accessible), run by the village chief who collaborated with the Saharan researcher Theodore Monod. Picnic lunch. Continue to EL-GALLAOUIYA, a remote and long inaccessible area that preserves some exceptional rock paintings, passing by the colonial fort of Bir Ziri. Dinner at the camp prepared by our chef and overnight stay in a double igloo tent.

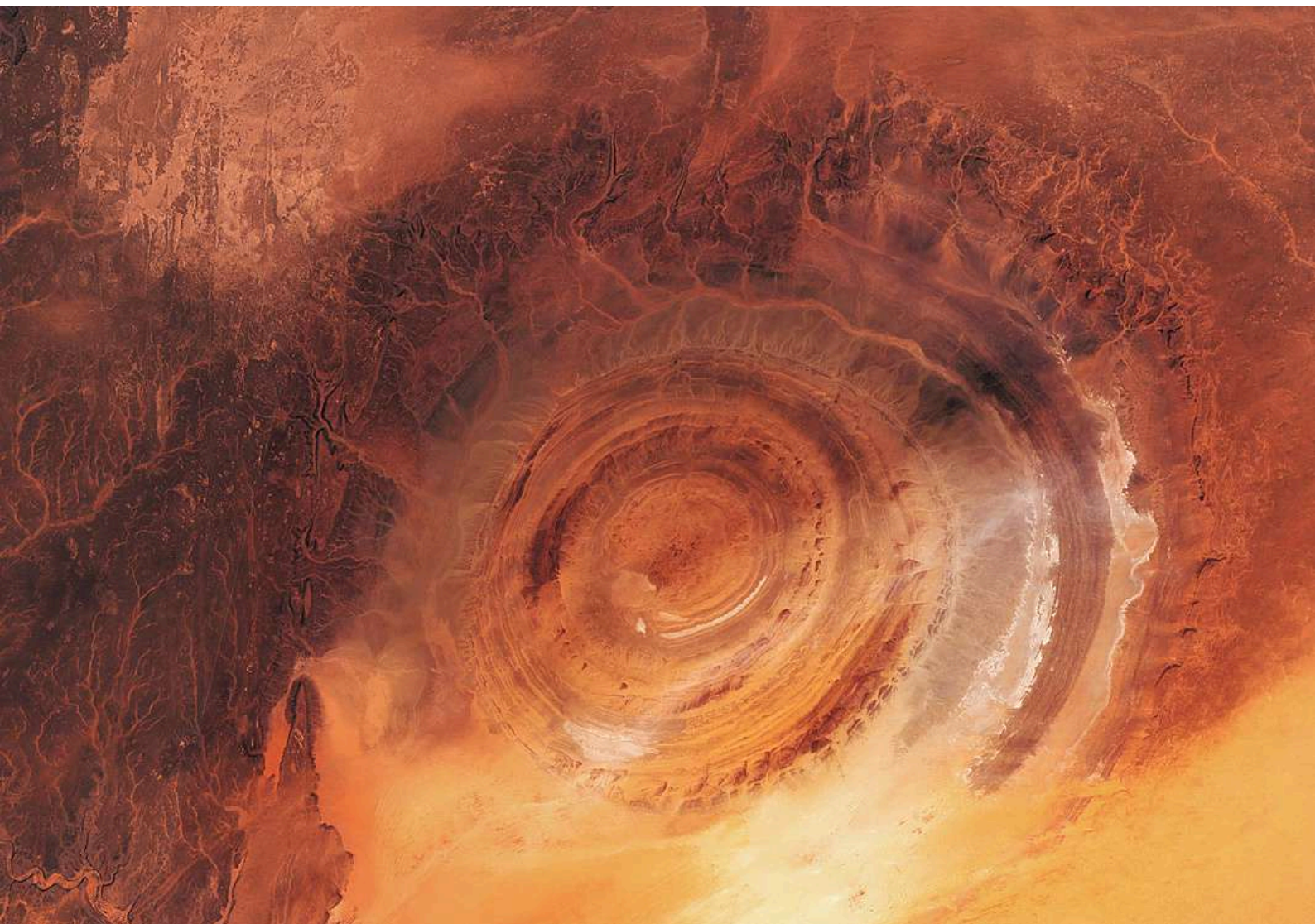


Day 7: Friday 18 December

Gallaouiya/Guelb er Richat

Breakfast at the camp and departure along a track towards the destination of our journey, the legendary GUELB ER RICHAT, 'the eye of the Sahara', a structure 'discovered' in 1916 by the French military. This gigantic structure rises from a sea of golden sand in the Adrar region of northern Mauritania. Once thought to be the site of a meteorite impact, the Richat Structure is now believed to have been caused by the uplifting of a large dome of magmatic rock which, once on the surface, was shaped by wind, sand and water erosion. Geologists agree that the structure is at least 100 million years old. The layered formation consists of a series of concentric rings and resembles the centre of a target seen from space, which is why it is also known as the "Eye of the Sahara" or "Eye of Africa". The Richat structure, with a diameter of 50 km, recognisable in its entirety only from space, is a familiar landmark for astronauts, but we are going to explore it from the inside. Lunch and dinner at the camp, overnight stay in igloo tents.

NOTE: The images used of Guelb er Richat are satellite photos. Participants in the trip will not have the opportunity to take a similar photo, as the diameter of the structure is approximately 40 kilometres.



Day 8: Saturday 19 December

Guelb er Richat/Ouadane/Chinguetti

Breakfast at the camp and departure for OUADANE, a city founded by the Berbers in 1147 and an important caravan centre for the trade of salt, gold and dates, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will walk through the narrow streets of this historic city, built on the rocky slopes of the hill, and see the two mosques (exterior), the ancient road of the 40 wise men, the houses of the city's founders, the fortified wells, etc. Picnic lunch. We will then continue to the oasis of TANOCHERT and watch the sunset over the dunes of ERG OUARANE before arriving in Chinguetti. Accommodation at the Auberge des Caravanes or similar, dinner and overnight stay in a double room with bathroom.

Day 9: Sunday 20 December

Chinguetti/Zarga/Alloul/Ichif

Breakfast at the auberge and visit to CHINGUETTI, the seventh holy city of Islam, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. We will venture into the narrow streets of the citadel to discover its famous stone mosque (exterior) and libraries containing ancient manuscripts. Then we will depart for the two-coloured mountains of ZARGA, a phenomenon caused by the contrast between the rocky peaks and the dunes that invade them. Picnic lunch. We will continue towards Ichif, passing through Alloul, where we will set up camp. Dinner prepared by our chef and overnight stay in double igloo tents.

Day 10: Monday 21 December

Ichif/Terjit/Nouakchott

Breakfast at the camp and departure for TERJIT, a wonderful oasis nestled in a canyon, where you can cool off in a small natural pool formed by two springs flowing from the rock, one hot and one cold, and relax while sipping mint tea in the palm grove. Continue to the capital, picnic lunch along the way. Upon arrival in NOUAKCHOTT, visit the *port de peche*, the lively fish market, to see the colourful fishing boats returning to the beach. Some rooms available for day use. Transfer to the airport, end of services.

Day 11: Tuesday 22 December

Nouakchott/Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



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**Individual participation fee in double room/tent
(min. 6/max. 12 pax)**

2,990 €/pax

**in promotion at € 2,890
for bookings before 12/10/2026**

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room/tent: **190 €**
- Single tent: **50 €**
- Extra night at NKC: **€120 per room**
- Out-of-hours transfer: **€30 per person/way**
- Extension from Nouakchott to Dakar with sightseeing (22–26 December): **on request**

The fee includes:

- English speaking tour leader;
- Local French/English-speaking guide;
- Visits and excursions as per itinerary;
- All transfers in 4x4 Toyota Hilux 5-seater vehicles (**max. 3 clients/vehicle**) including driver, fuel and tolls;
- Transfers to/from the airport at the recommended times;
- Full board except for dinners in Nouakchott;
- Mineral water during transfers and in tented camps (3 litres/day/person);
- Cook and kitchen for meals in the desert;
- Camping equipment (except sleeping bags);
- 9 nights' accommodation as mentioned in the itinerary (1 in a hotel, 2 in an auberge, 6 in igloo tents);
- Day use in Nouakchott (1 room for every 3 guests).

The fee does not include:

- Mauritanian visa (€55 on arrival);
- Insurance for cancellation, health, luggage;
- Air flights ;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- Dinners in Nouakchott;
- Transfers to/from the airport on airlines other than the one recommended;
- Tips for photos and videos;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in 'the fee includes'.

RECOMMENDED AIRLINE: Royal Air Maroc

- Arrival in Nouakchott NKC: 18h55
- Return from Nouakchott NKC: 02h50