



Northern Emirates and Durbar

NIGERIA



9 days

07 - 15 March 2027

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: Sunday 07 March

Outward flight/Kano (KAN)

Overnight flight to Kano.

Day 2-3: from Monday 08 March to Tuesday 09 March

Kano (Durbar)

Arrival in Kano, where you will be met by staff from Kanaga Africa Tours, who will arrange your transfer to the Hotel Tahir or similar. These days are dedicated to exploring KANO, the largest, wealthiest and second-oldest Hausa emirate in Nigeria. Kano, a Sahelian metropolis with a population of 5 million founded in the 10th century, is a city that even today can transport the traveller back to the Middle Ages, when this place was one of the most important trading centres on the entire continent. We will visit the Gidan Dan Hausa Museum, a superb example of 20th-century Hausa architecture housing a fine collection of ancient artefacts; the Gidan Makama Palace, the former palace of the emir dating 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 town along the ancient city walls (almost completely destroyed by the modern city); Dala Hill, from where you can admire a splendid panorama; the Kurmi Market with its section for tanning hides, particularly python and caiman skins; and the Dying Dye Pits at Kofar Mata, where the tradition of indigo dyeing is still practised. We shall also witness the lavish DURBAR horse parades, where courtiers show off their turbans and loose-fitting boubous, in vibrant colours and richly embroidered, whilst the horses display their finest finery to pay homage to the rulers and guests during the Muslim celebrations marking 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: Wednesday 10 March

Kano/Zaria (Durbar)

After breakfast, transfer to ZARIA, one of Nigeria's oldest emirates, known locally as Zazzau, which forms part of the federal state of Kaduna and traditionally belonged to the Sokoto Caliphate. Founded around the year 1000, it was one of the epicentres of trans-Saharan trade, where caravans of dromedaries coming from the north exchanged salt for slaves, hides and cola nuts. We will visit the historic centre, which preserves a number of richly decorated mud-and-straw buildings, including one of the country's oldest mosques (whose vaults can still be admired inside the modern Central Mosque, built on the same site), several madrasas (Koranic schools), the market situated on the very spot where the caravans used to stop, and what remains of Queen Amina's 16-kilometre-long city walls. We will then head to the palace to meet Emir Alhaji Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli and learn about the current role of these monarchs in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We will be captivated for a long time by the dazzling colours of the men's boubous and the women's hijabs, by the turbans tens of metres long, and by the red robes of the dogarin, the royal guards, in an almost dreamlike vision of an 'African Middle Ages'. In Zaria, too, we will be able to witness the DURBAR during the In Salah festival. Lunch at a restaurant and overnight stay at the Organo Hotel or similar, in double rooms with services.



Girl with hijab in Zaria



Holyman and royal guards



At the Emir's palace



Inside the Emir's Palace



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Day 5: Thursday 11 March

Zaria/Dutse (Durbar)

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



Courtier in Dutse



Meeting of dames



On the streets of Dutse

Day 6: Friday 12 March

Dutse/Kafin Madaki/Dutse

After breakfast, we set off for the federal state of BAUCHI, seat of the emirate of the same name, which was founded in 1809 by Yakubu Germa, a commander under Usman dan Fodio during his campaign of Islamisation in the early 19th century. Arrival in KAFIN MADAKI to admire its ancient palace, a magnificent example of traditional Hausa architecture. Here we will also take part in the grand Friday prayer, where the Madaki attends dressed in his most sumptuous robes. Lunch at a local home. In the afternoon, as we head north towards Jigawa, we'll stop at a village of the PEULH ETHNIC GROUP, where we'll witness the violent 'sharo' initiation ceremony, during which the boys are struck with wooden sticks to test their strength and endurance.



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Day 7: Saturday 13 March

Dutse

After breakfast, in a traditional village, we will watch a performance by the *Gadawan Kura* acrobats and shamans – known as ‘hyena men’ – who are both admired and feared by the local population for their magical powers. They train hyenas, pythons and baboons, staging frenzied rituals in which mothers ‘feed’ their newborns to the hyenas, to protect them mystically and make them stronger. Return to Dutse and lunch at a private home 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 royal household. Afterwards, having admired the exquisite traditional architecture of the various rooms and buildings, we will take a stroll through the old quarter to meet the friendly locals. In the afternoon, we will watch *dambe*, a form of Hausa street boxing whose origins date back to the 10th century. Return to the hotel, dinner at a private home and overnight stay.



Palace of the Emir of Dutse



Hausa Architecture

Day 8: Sunday 14 March

Dutse/Kano

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

Day 9: Monday 15 March

Kano (KAN)/Return flight

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



Sharo ceremony



View of Kano

* NOTE: Durbar coincides with the end of Ramadan, which is linked to the sighting of the moon, so the date of the celebrations may vary by a day or so. If necessary, the itinerary and order of visits will be adjusted to allow for the best possible participation in the various horse parades in three different Emirates.



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**Individual participation fee in double room
(min. 4/max. 14 pax)**

3,190 €/pax

**in promotion at € 2,990
for booking before 07/12/2026**

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room: **390 €**
- Day use: **120 €/room**
- Extra airport transfer: **50 €/person/transfer**
- Evisa service: **340 €/passport**
- Ext. Yorubaland, Niger (Zinder): **on request**

The fee includes:

- English speaking tour leader (from 8 pax);
- English and French-speaking local guides;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- Transfers by minibus, including drivers, fuel and tolls;
- Half-board meals as mentioned in the itinerary;
- Mineral water during transfers;
- 6 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;
- Extra 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".