



TRANS-SAHARA AND BLACK AFRICA EXPEDITION

Between the Ocean and Dunes

from Marrakech to Bissau

Desert, Savannah, Forests and Islands: unique tribal cultures and nature

**MOROCCO AND WESTERNS SAHARA PROVINCES, MAURITANIA, SENEGAL,
GAMBIA, GUINEA BISSAU**

Departure date

November 13th, 2020 from Marrakech

Full expedition, 29 days:

Departure from Marrakech: November 13th, 2020 **End in Bissau:** December 11th

Or join us for a part of the expedition:

From 23 to 9 days itineraries



What's special about the trip:

- **Crossing Sahara** North to South to Black Africa.
- The undiscovered **Western Sahara** (now Moroccan Sahara Provinces)
- Exploring the unknown **Inchiri region**, with wide ranges of dunes and nomadic settlements
- **Chinguetti and Ouadane:** the remotest oasis in Mauritania
- Vibrant **live music** in local clubs
- **Contemporary art**
- **The largest megaliths** civilization
- **Gambia** reopening to tourism
- **Diola dancing masks** in Casamance
- **Vaca Bruta ceremonies** in Bijagos Archipelago

Introduction

A great expedition starting in Marrakech with a Trans-Sahara crossing and ending in the forest of Black Africa with the Bijagos Archipelago.

A unique variety of 8 different transports, always using the best adapted to fully experience the natural and human environment, be comfortable and have fun.



- On road and tracks our itinerary will be mainly in modern 4WD vehicles, for some visits an air-conditioned minibus will be used. We will enjoy a short but hilarious ride on a local colourful “bush-taxi” as the locals do, we will experience a calash-ride in the old town of Saint Louis and, to discover a fishing village in Senegal in a non-intrusive, amusing way, we will use a donkey cart in a village tour.

- On the water cruising, speedboats to reach the Bijagos Archipelago and a ferry to reach Gore Island. We will not neglect to experience typical local boats: ride on fishing boats in a calm sea loch between the dunes.

Experience a “peaceful raid” from north to south in a continuous changing landscape. From Marrakech, crossing the remote mountains of Djebel Sarhro, to the undiscovered Western Sahara (now Moroccan Sahara Provinces) and the high dunes of Mauritania. From the Sahelian savannah of northern Senegal, to

Gambia and the sacred forests of Casamance, and further south to reach the longest line of flooded forests in in the continent, ending with the spectacular navigation to the unknown Bijagos Archipelago.

Going through these different ecosystems we will meet the main natural, cultural and religious environments of the African continent.

The present itinerary is the outcome of many years of field research.

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME: FROM CONTEPORANEITY TO HISTORY AND PREISTORY. Marrakech, trendy city and traditional terminal of the caravans to Black Africa, will be the perfect starting point for our “modern caravan”.

Dakar: modern and cosmopolitan centre of contemporary art and culture. Banjul that have recently achieved multiparty rules.

“Historical” sites such Ouadane and Chinguetti oasis from the XIII century. Bolama, the old Portuguese town, now vanishing in the forest. Gore, the slave-trade island, Dakhla, the former headquarters of Spanish Rio De Oro settlements and Saint Louis, the first capital of the former French West African colonies. Prehistoric largest megalith culture between Gambia and Senegal.

“Timeless” men and women in the Bijagos Archipelago, :

TRIBAL CULTURES. The last cave-dwelling families inhabit the most isolated Berber mountains. The Saharan sands are inhabited by Moorish nomads and camel herders, fishermen at the edge between the desert and the ocean. Encounter the legendary Reguibat and Sahrawi nomads of the untamed Western Sahara, currently annexed to Morocco. Lastly Black Africa is the land of sacred forests where animistic traditional religions are still practiced, of fetishes and shrines in remote villages, tribal kings and dancing masks.

AFRICAN ART. Enjoy the vibrant live music in the “swinging evenings” in local clubs. From tribal art in remote villages to modern metropolitan artists. In Dakar, the intellectual capital of West Africa, Senegalese artists will be met in their studios, sharing their experience about painting, sculpture, photography, productions within the “new Africa” artistic scene.

NATURE. Travelling along the “uncertain border” between land and water, dunes and Ocean, from north to south. Follow the “flyway” in the time of bird migration, a constant and discreet presence along the whole journey. The departure date has been carefully chosen to correspond with the migratory period that is in Autumn, when millions of birds leave Europe and Russia heading to Africa to winter. In Senegal, we will discover one of the richest ornithological migrant sanctuaries on earth. The change of latitudes leads to the change of the flora from the rare shrubby vegetation of the Sahara to the Savannah and the giant trees of the forest. We will discover some unique micro-climates such as the one created by the moist winds from the ocean on the dry desert environment: an unexpected multitude of “spontaneous gardens” with flowers, succulents and lichens.

COMFORT is a must to fully enjoy the travel experience outside the beaten tracks.

- Modern and comfortable air-conditioned 4x4 vehicles will be the main transportation.
- Overnights: mostly in hotels and fixed camps with large tents, beds, facilities and restaurants (25 nights out of 29). The hotels have been chosen according to the criteria of comfort, typical architectural style, restaurant quality, friendly service and scenic locations.
- 4 nights will be spent at a mobile camp. Our modern tents are provided with mattresses and are totally equipped with mosquito nets at the windows. Tents are placed on a large mat that further isolates them from the soil. The staff will install the camp with the cooperation of the participants. Warm dinner will be prepared by the cooks and served at tables. Camping under the stars is a must of the “Sahara experience”.

SAFETY is the main condition for us. The expedition is based on a long experience in the area and is led by the best experts. The itinerary is constantly monitored from our local connections that will have direct information from the field.

CLIMATE. In black Africa and south of Sahara, the climate is mild and warm, some days might be hot. Autumn and spring are the best seasons in the Sahara; climate is mild and pleasant - nights are cool but not cold and days are warm but not too hot.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - MARRAKECH (November 13th)

Individual arrival.

Overnight at the comfortable Novotel **** international standard, in the heart of Marrakech.

Day 2 HIGH ATLAS (November 14th)



We will live the main road to discover the less frequented Berber villages in the High Atlas Range and join the local gems diggers in quest of Amethyst, Tourmaline.... With their help we will be able to find our own gems... Our itinerary crosses Tizi-n-Tichka pass at 7460 ft. In the southern side of the Atlas we will stop at Ait Benhaddou a beautiful adobe Ksar (fortified village) still partially inhabited and one of the great examples of Adobe Architecture in Morocco. Ait Benhaddou is on the ancient caravan route linking Marrakech with the Sahara. In the modern time in this Ksar has been shot many famous

movies including Lawrence of Arabia, Sodom and Gomorrah, Oedipus Rex, The Sheltering Sky, The Jewels of the Nile, Jesus of Nazareth, Alexander, Gladiator, and more...

Evening arrival at Ouarzazate, large Oasis at the edge of the desert. Dinner and overnight in an international hotel.

Day 3 - SECRET VALLEYS, CAVERN DEWELERS AND ROCK ART (November 15th)

Early morning departure. Following a steep track from valley to valley will bring us to remote shepherd families still living permanently in caves. A highland itinerary (often at more than 6000 Ft.) to explore the less visited region of the Djebel (mountains) Sarhro. Following a tiny track that climbs rocky valleys through a breathtakingly landscape of mountains and desert our itinerary crosses an arid spectacular mountain landscape: picks, tabular rocks, rare nomad tents and tiny Berber villages. Visit of an ancient rock art site. Hundreds of fine graffiti dating thousands of years ago, silent witnesses of peoples living in these regions before the desertification.

Arrival in the evening at Zagora Oasis, dinner and overnight in hotel, comfortable rooms.

Day 4 & 5 – DUNES (November 16th and 17th)

We will live Zagora to visit the oasis in the Dra river bed, a large continuous strip of luxuriant vegetation surrounded by the ochre and yellow colours of the desert. In the shade of 2.200.000 palm trees, small gardens are a green miracle in the desert. In Mhamid the Sahara adventure starts; our 4x4 will enter a region of tall dunes, the Erg Chegaga. Dinner and overnight in a comfortable fix camp, with beds, restaurant and facilities. We will start the day driving out of any track finding our way, crossing tall ranges of dunes to reach Iriki dry Salt Lake. Late afternoon Arrival at Icht, a comfortable fixed-tended camp in the desert; Air-conditioned bungalows and tents with beds, private facilities, restaurant, swimming pool.

Day 6 – CARAVAN ROUTE & ANCIEN FORT (November 18th)



The road will bring us to Guelmim, an ancient caravan terminal. Here we will discover the remains of the ancient Trans-Sahara trade...

From this point onward, we will often travel along one of the fishiest coasts on earth. We will follow the “migration route” of the paleo-artic birds that migrate to winter in Africa every year during this season. Visit to a spectacular ghost military fort, which still “guards” the former borders between the French protectorate of Morocco and the Spanish Sahara. Feeling like we are on the set of an old French Foreign Legion movie. Afternoon arrival at the charming and comfortable

Ksar Tafnidilt hotel, built using local material in a beautiful Saharan architecture. The hotel is managed by our friends, Guy and Magali, a French couple. Magali is a desert expert; she won the “Rally des Gazelle,” the most gruelling off-road competition reserved for female teams. Ksar Tafnidilt is a meeting point for passionate Sahara travelers; the hotel will be our base for two nights.

Day 7 - ESTUARIES AND DESERT (November 19th)

We will leave Tafnidilt crossing a steep range of dunes. The Dra estuary region is visited only by brave travelers. Between the cliffs and the Atlantic Ocean there are only tracks vanishing in the sand. We will discover tiny temporary settlements of fishermen, ghost colonial military posts, dunes, and camels in a virgin landscape, and if lucky with the drive for miles on a wild beach like a strep between dunes and ocean ... We live the coastline finding our way along a river bed (Ouadi) in a large canyon the only possible path between desert, cliffs and the ocean. Evening return to our comfortable base: Ksar Tafnidilt hotel.

Day 8 - DUNES AND LAGOONS (November 20th)

From Tan-Tan, the road follows an exciting itinerary through a crag on the edge between Sahara and Ocean... The Naila salt lagoon, separated from the ocean by rows of dunes, with an estuary on the sea, is the largest



Salt Lake in Morocco (100 square Km). Protected area of great natural beauty is an important resting point on the bird’s migratory way, can host up to 20.000 individuals as flamingos, cormorants, gulls, herons... We will board a local fisherman boat to explore this emerald water enclosed in a wide frame of yellow dunes and brown escarpments.

Late afternoon arrival at the tiny town of Tarfaya on the Juby Cape, less than 100 km away from the Canary Islands. Tarfaya is a former “Aeropostale” base, which pioneered airmail transport from Europe to Africa and Latin America,

interesting museum. In Tarfaya, Saint Exupéry the famous aviator and writer, author of “The little prince” was familiar.

Hotel Casamar, rooms with private facilities.

Days 9 & 10 -WESTERN SAHARA: THE FORBIDDEN TRACK (November 21st & 22nd)

In Laayoune we will meet our local guide, a nomad from a Sahrawi tribe who will lead us through three days of a total of-road desert expedition crossing from north to south the Western Sahara.

The former Spanish Sahara colony has been the site of a long war between the Polisario Armed Front and the Moroccan army. Presently, it is part of Morocco.

Since the second half of the seventies, due to this long “sand war,” this region has been off-limits to travelers. Until today no peace treaty has been signed, but a cease-fire is respected. We are proud to be the “first” to bring intrepid travelers to the vast, sandy regions of Saguia El Hamra, Tiris Zemmour and Rio de Oro. In this real Saharan expedition, we will cross large dunes to discover wells frequented by long lines of camels belonging to the legendary Reguibat nomads. Days 9 and 10 camping under the stars of the desert.

Day 11 - FROM THE DESERT TO THE OCEAN (November 23th)

Morning continuation of our Trans-Saharan expedition. In the afternoon, a road will bring us to the ocean. Evening arrival at an hotel in Dakhla that will be our “base” for two nights. Hotel Doumss, air-conditioned rooms.

Day 12 - RIO DE ORO (November 24th)



The exceptional beauty of this landscape makes the Dakhla peninsula a special place. The Rio de Oro is a 25-mile long sea loch situated between cliffs and dunes. Different pastel colours paint the scenery: the blue ocean, yellow sand, green seaweed fields and dark rocks. Experience a unique scenery: during the high tide the

ocean will flood the desert and a white dune will become a temporary island.

The small town of Dakhla was founded by Spanish navigators in 1502 and was called “Villa Cisneros.”

Visit of the colourful fishing harbour, lunch in an oyster farm, drive along the shore where the waves lap the sand dunes. Return to our hotel in Dakhla, dinner in a typical restaurant. Hotel Doumss, air –conditioned rooms

Day 13 – BORDER: A LINE IN THE SAND (November 25th)

Our route continues following the cliff between the desert and the ocean. We follow the only open road going south.

A signboard indicate that we are crossing the “Tropic of Cancer”, at Guerguerat military post we will cross the southern border of Morocco, the only open frontier between Maghreb and Black Africa. After the formalities, we cross a few miles of “no-man land” where different traffickers have made their base in new and old cars and trucks apparently abandoned. The no-man land is the unmarked border, a theoretical line in the desert that “divides nothing from nothing”. On the other side, the military post of Mauritania. Evening arrival to Nouadhibou. Comfortable **** hotel.

Days 14 & 15 – SAHARA EXPLORATION (November 26th & 27th)

Early morning departure for two days of pure exploration. Thanks to the experience of our staff we will make our own itinerary tracing an unmarked path in the sand ocean of Inchiri region, one of the less known part of Mauritanian desert. To cross long ranges of dunes we will reduce the tire pressure. Gps, maps, compass will assist our land-navigation in an untouched geological universe. Our direction will follow parallel the dunes lines. The real desert gives the impression to be on earth before the human times. “Sahara experience”: what

makes unique the desert are the endless empty spaces, the untamed sand. Discover traces of ancient human presence: stone tools, remains of potteries, silent witness of people that lived there long time ago, before the desertification. We will find the nomadic isolated settlements when the landscape will become less dramatic and some rare graze will appear. These human encounters after the immense silence of the Sahara are intense, the nomads living on the side of the Inchiri are not used to tourist.

Two nights of mobile camp.

Day 16 ADRAR: DUNES AND MOUNTAINS (November 28th)

The even more scenic landscape of Mauritania: valleys, high mountains, yellow sand dunes with peaks of dark and red rock, lost adobe villages. Amatlich Erg (large dune basin) is one of the most beautiful dune ranges in the region. We will visit remotes oasis and hidden adobe villages.

Evening arrival to Chinguetti where we will spend three nights. Dinner and overnight in a cosy guest house built in traditional Mauritanian style, (or private comfortable residence).

Day 17 CHINGUETTI, THE OASIS (November 29th)

Chinguetti (Arabic: شنقيط Šenqīṭ) (is a Ksar or medieval trading centre in northern Mauritania, located on the Adrar Plateau.

Founded in the 13th century as the centre of several trans-Saharan trade routes, this small city continues to attract adventurous of visitors who admire its spare architecture, scenery and ancient libraries. The city is seriously threatened by the encroaching desert; high sand dunes mark the western boundary and several houses have been abandoned to the sand.

The indigenous Saharan architecture of older sectors of the city features houses constructed of reddish dry-stone and mud-brick techniques, with flat roofs timbered from palms. Many of the older houses feature hand-hewn doors cut from massive ancient acacia trees, which have long disappeared from the surrounding area. Many homes include courtyards or patios that crowd along narrow streets leading to the central mosque.



Notable buildings in the town include The Friday Mosque of Chinguetti, an ancient structure of dry-stone construction, featuring a square minaret capped with five ostrich egg finials; the former French Foreign Legion fortress. The old quarter of the Chinguetti has five important manuscript libraries of scientific and Qur'anic texts, with many dating from the later Middle Ages.

We will spend the whole day in the magical atmosphere of this village, which is considered the jewel of Mauritanian oasis, discovering two ancient manuscript collection, including Ould

Habott, the largest in Mauritania. Return to our cozy guest house.

DAY 18 OUADANE, THE REMOTEST (November 30th)

We will drive to Ouadane in an absolute “out of any track” itinerary that follows the Ouadi (dry creek) discovering remote tiny oasis hidden in the high dunes. Entire day dedicated to discover Ouadane and his region, the remotest oasis in Mauritania, an outpost in the emptiest of the desert. Ouadane was founded in 1147. Mainly in ruin, some of his stone houses perched on a rocky hill surrounded by the immensity of Sahara are still inhabited. In the ancient days this town was an important caravan trading point between Maghreb and black Africa.

Trading was so flourishing that in 1487 Portuguese built a fortified trading counter in the region.
Return to our comfortable base in Chinguetti.
Dinner and overnight at “La Gueila” (or private residence).

Day 19 NOUKCHOTT (December 1st)

Day driving on a large road in the desert. Evening arrival to Nouakchott the capital of Mauritania, a newer town surrounded by the desert. Dinner and overnight in the comfortable Halima hotel.

Day 20 - DJOUDJ NATIONAL PARK (December 2nd)

Early morning departure for the small border post with Senegal. The natural border between Mauritania and Senegal is the Senegal River; we will cross the river on a mobile bridge and we will move into a humid area isolated between Sahara and Ferlo desert.



The Djoudj National Park, declared a World Heritage Site, is a natural oasis formed by hundreds of miles of partially flooded lands. This “humid paradise” is the best habitat and nesting site of over a million migratory and sedentary birds.

Wikipedia says: “The Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (French: Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj) lies on the southeast bank of the Senegal River, north east of St-Louis. It offers a range of wetland habitats which are very popular with migratory birds, many of

which have crossed the Sahara. Of almost 400 species, the most visible are the pelicans and the flamingos....”
. We will enjoy a boat excursion to visit an island with an astonishing concentration of pelicans.

Arrival in the evening to Saint Louis. Dinner and overnight at “Hotel de la Poste”, a historical hotel built in 1850 used as the base of the “Aeropostale” (airmail pioneer operation) pilots. Totally restored, it has conserved the best “hold colonial atmosphere” in town.

Day 21 - SAINT LOUIS, AFRICAN AND COLONIAL CITADELS (December 3rd)

Morning visit of Saint Louis, a charming old town and first capital of all French colonies in West Africa. The best way to get around the narrow streets of Saint Louis will be on board of the calash, like the locals do! A walk will complete the discovery of the local quarters. We will live to reach Lampoul dunes. Dinner and overnight in fancy fix camp, en-suite tents. Dinner at the restaurant on the high part of the dunes.

Day 22 FROM FISHERMAN VILLAGE TO CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS (December 4th)



Spectacular drive to discover the largest fisherman village in Senegal, more than 4500 wooden pirogues came to the shore with the catch of the day... We will live our vehicles for a less intrusive, but fun, donkey chariot to approach the fisherman selling to the local market women, to meet the artisans carving the large pirogues, the painters decorating them with bright colours and the "local saint" for final magical blessing before sailing.... Lac Rose, also known as Lac Retba, is a shallow saltwater lake surrounded by dunes. Due to the high concentration of salt the lake often shimmers in pink;

swimming in the lake gives the sensation of floating. More than 600 people work collecting salt from the lake, in the traditional way.

Arrival to Dakar, "Village des Arts" is composed by more of fifty workshops of contemporary artists. The Senegalese artistic scene has attracted artist from all the continent. We will meet the artist in their production site and discover their works that range from painting and sculpture and pottery to photography and filming.

Ferry to Gorée Island: The right times to enjoy Gorée is at sunset when all tourists are gone or in the morning before the crowd arrival.

Dinner in a typical restaurant and overnight at "Maison Municipal" or similar. A comfortable Guest house in an ancient, restored building.

Day 23 - DAKAR, AFRICAN METROPOLIS (December 5th)

In Gorée island slaves were crammed, waiting to be shipped to the Americas. Totally restored remain to bear witness of those times. Today its breezy climate, history and ancient architecture, together with nice restaurants and boutiques, make Gorée an interesting and trendy destination for local and foreign visitors. Ferry to Dakar and visit of the town.

Dakar became an important centre of political, artistic and intellectual "renouveau" during the independence, and is still a lively African metropolis. Visit of the "Plateau" district, the Presidential Palace and a typical market. Late morning drive in south direction.

Dinner and Overnight at the comfortable air-conditioned bungalows of Kabacoto Safari Lodge, facing a lake in the savanna.

Day 24 – GAMBIA, BETWEEN ARCHEOLOGY AND CONTEMPORANEITY (December 6th)

Early departure, the region between the north bank of Gambia River and Senegal have hosted one of the largest megalithic civilisations on earth. Sine Ngayene is the richest Megalithic site with 1102 erected stones. Border of Gambia and a "very local" ferry crossing of the large Gambia River estuary to reach Banjul, the capital. Visit of the town centre, and the interesting national museum.

Dinner and overnight at a full air-conditioned hotel, swimming pool.

Day 25 DANCING MASK (December 7th)

Morning, brief but intense guided bird watching experience.

Departure for the border with Casamance, the southern region of Senegal.

Late afternoon we will join the ritual dances of Diola sacred mask. The masks belong to a secret society and the identity of the dancers is not revealed, it is said that the mask is animated by the spirits. Drums, dances and a colourful crowd will enliven the tiny village in the shade of large kapok trees.

Dinner and overnight at the comfortable Kadiandoumange hotel, located on the bank of Casamance large river, swimming pool. An interesting example of local managed classy hotel.

Day 26 ANCESTORS CULT (December 8th)

Cross of Guinea Bissau border. The Manjaco ethnic group calls the traditions “Gendiman”. We will visit tiny villages hidden in the forest to discover the sculptured wooden poles called “Pecab” that represent the spirits of their ancestors, in a sanctuary known as “Cab Balugun”. After asking permission to the villagers, we will have the opportunity to see different generations and styles of sacred wooden sculptures; one of the last chances to enjoy tribal art is its original cultural context. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel Banagam in Bula, basic but clean air-conditioned self-contained rooms.

Day 27 - BIJAGOS SACRED ARCHIPELAGO: GHOST CAPITAL AND MASKS (December 9th)

We will start a three days spectacular navigation on a speedboat to discover the Bijagos Archipelago, his fascinating nature and isolated tribes. The Archipelago, composed by 88 islands and islets, is located at an average of 40 miles from the coast line. Bijagos is a “geographical jewel”.

Bolama was the former capital of the Portuguese Guinea from 1871. In 1941 the capital was moved to Bissau. When the Portuguese left, native people came to live in this town which is now falling apart, partly invaded with tropical vegetation. Built following the plans of a «Castrum Romane» (roman citadel) the town is made of straight large avenues, sunny and lethargic empty squares, dry fountains, bush-like gardens, imposing administrative buildings in neo Palladian style. In the shade of the columns at the former governor palace goats graze peacefully. Although inhabited, this capital town is plunged in the fairy-tale atmosphere of a ghost town.

Dinner and overnight at **Ponta Anchaca Resort ****** in comfortable air-conditioned wooden bungalows, hidden in the vegetation and facing the ocean. Restaurant on stilts with refined French and tropical cuisine. This lodge will be our base for two days.

Day 28 VACA BRUTO DANCING CEREMONY (December 10th)

Morning relax between wild beaches and swimming pool.



Afternoon: due to the remoteness, the lack of transports and the deep attachment of the locals to their traditions, the Bijagos tribes have been little influenced by the external world. Life in the villages is characterized by initiations rites and secret ceremonies. In some villages, the young men must go through a seven-year initiation rite living in a “convent” with no contact with women. With its wild and idyllic landscapes, and a genuine tribal culture, Bijagos Archipelago is a “geographical jewel”. In Bijagos Archipelago life is still ruled by the “cycle of seasons”. During the long dry season, when harvest is over, the main

ceremonies take place. Vaca Bruto (wild bull) is the most spectacular mask in the islands, the dancers convey the mask a realistic presence by bowing and facing the ground. With eyes of frosted glass, real horns, leather ears and a rope through the nostril. All convey the idea of a real untamed animal, representing a man in full possession of his physical strength but still with an immature behaviour as he has not yet undergone the final initiations. All the villagers attend this fascinating ceremony.

Retour to our comfortable lodge. Dinner and overnight there.

Day 29 – BISSAU (Friday, December 11th)

Morning relax at Ponta Anchaca or **optional visit of Bubaque**, the island's larger village.

On request (not included) excursion to Orango Island in search of a residual fauna of Hippos that has acclimatised with the life on islands. Mainly living in fresh water swamps, some time they can swim in the ocean. Local guide will accompany the visitors, but hippos are not always seen.

In late afternoon we continue our last navigation to Bissau. A vehicle will be waiting for us for a brief city tour. Bissau is a tiny but intriguing capital town with old Portuguese architecture and a huge fort, a reminder of the slave trade era. In the evening, some day-rooms will be waiting for us in an hotel near Che Guevara Square, the liveliest district in town, for a last shower before the final transfer to the airport.

RECOMMENDED EXTENSION

On request, extension at Ponta Anchaca lodge ****, on the paradisiacal Rubane Island, comfortable large oceanfront bungalows surrounded by tropical vegetation with hotel services and French cuisine. You will enjoy Ponta Anchaca resort: relaxing at the swimming pool or on the large beaches and roaming around in the natural paradise of Bijagos Archipelago. The hotel is equipped with speed boats for Game Fishing, Bijagos archipelago is known for the quantity and variety of the catches. Return to Bissau with a panoramic flight on the archipelago.

Technical Sheet

EXPEDITION LEADER: expert leader with geographical and cultural knowledge of the itinerary and populations. The leader will be assisted by experienced drivers and local guides.

TRANSPORTS: a great variety of landscapes, cultures, and nature is reflected in the choice of the different transports, each one the best to discover and enjoy each specific environment.

On land: for most of the itinerary on roads, tracks and virgin sand dunes our main choice will be four-wheel-drive air-conditioned vehicles. In some main roads we will drive in minibus, as well as brief but funny rides on: colourful local bush Taxi, traditional calash and donkey chariot.

On water: in the Ocean we will sail on ferry and we will board a speed-boats to join the Bijagos Archipelago. To explore lagoon will charter local fishing boats. During the speedboat trip to Bijagos Archipelago passengers could be splashed by water or foam, we advise protecting all electronic equipment, cameras, etc.

VACCINATIONS: Yellow fever: Mandatory for those completing the part of the expedition in Senegal and Guinea Bissau (from day 20th of the program). With the new legal provision from the World Health Organization the yellow fever vaccination is for life and don't need to be renewed.

Cholera: Not required at the time of editing the program, please check before departure.

Malaria prophylaxis: Absolutely recommended for those completing the part of the itinerary from Chinguetti (from day 17th of the program).

VISAS: Morocco, visa not required for most nationalities. Please check.

Mauritania, visa required. We will obtain visas at the border (cost 55 Euro).

Senegal, visa not required for most nationalities, please check.

Gambia, visa required for some nationalities, we will obtain the visa at the border.

Guinea Bissau, visa required. We can have it made during the tour, please inform us in advance and bring a passport photocopy.

MEALS: Lunches: Cold meals (picnics) or restaurants.

Diners: In the hotels, enjoy a great variety of fish specialties among other possibilities, vegetarian or different meals available on request, please mention on booking.

Camping: Simple dinners made of local fresh products; bottled water included. Wine included, except in Mauritania.

HOTELS are carefully chosen, due to a possible lack of rooms availability in some hotels, the tour leader may have to replace hotels with others as similar as possible. In Orango Parque Hotel (day 27) single rooms are not always granted.

CAMPS: four nights camping, in the remotest part of Western Sahara and Mauritania. Camping in immensity of Sahara is an unforgettable experience. Igloo tents fitted for tropical climate, camping mattress included. Please bring your own light sleeping-bag or sleeping-sheet.

LUGGAGE: due to the nature of the itinerary including boat rides and camps, please limit your personal luggage in 45lb (20 kg), soft sacs are recommended, water-proof sac, or plastic bag over the luggage is recommended in the Bijagos islands navigation.

INSURANCE: mandatory for medical assistance (health care), repatriation, physical and material damages. TransAfrica will not be held responsible for any material and physical damage during or in consequence of the tour.

NOTICE: The itinerary is designed to experience fascinating places where the visit of a foreigner remains an exceptional event. We need to be tolerant and flexible to fully enjoy and truly appreciate the unique nature and wild life, the spontaneous hospitality of the local populations, African magic and mystery, the metaphysics, ceremonies, life philosophies and religious beliefs that people are willing to share with us. Itineraries, visits, overnights and accommodations are subject to changes, improvements and adaptation due to : tides time, recent experiences and news from the fields, force majeure. The changes are decided by the organizer. Navigations are subject to changes and cancellations due to the meteorological conditions, we are not responsible for any delay and cancellation due to external conditions.

EURO Rates per person in sharing double – Validity 2020

Full Expedition: Trans-Sahara, savannah Forest and Archipelago

29 days MARRAKECH - BISSAU

Morocco and Western Sahara province, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau.

Departure: evening November 13th from Marrakech

End: evening December 11th in Bissau

Prices each participant:

Group of 9 or more participants: Public price € 8,094

Group of 6 to 8 participants: Public price € 8.498

Group of 5 participants: Public price € 8.890

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: Public price € 1.050

PORTIONS OF THE ITINERARY:

23 DAYS MARRAKECH – DAKAR

From the Trans-Sahara to the savannah

Morocco and Western Sahara provinces, Mauritania, Senegal.

Departure: evening November 13th from Marrakech.

End: afternoon December 5th in Dakar

The price includes as per indication above, FB from breakfast on day 2 to breakfast on the last day

Group of 9 or more participants: public price € 6.556

Group of 6 to 8 participants: public price € 6.886

Group of 5 participants: public price € 7.215

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: public price € 846

19 days MARRAKECH – NOUAKCHOTT

Morocco and Western Sahara provinces, Mauritania

Departure: evening November 13th from Marrakech

End: evening December 1st in Nouakchott.

Group of 9 or more participants: public price € 5.440

Group of 6 to 8 participants: public price € 5.713

Group of 5 participants: public price € 5.986

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: public price € 721

12 days MARRAKECH – DAKHLA

Morocco and Western Sahara provinces

Departure: evening November 13th from Marrakech

End: evening November 24th in Dakhla.

Group of 9 or more participants: public price € 3.488

Group of 6 to 8 participants: public price € 3.663

Group of 5 participants: public price € 3.838

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: public price € 450

12 days LAAYOUNE – NOUAKCHOTT

Crossing the hearth of Sahara from north to south

Morocco and Western Sahara provinces, Mauritania.

Departure: evening November 20th from Laayoune

End: evening 1st December in Nouakchott

Group of 9 or more participants: public price € 3.628

Group of 6 to 8 participants: public price € 3.809

Group of 5 participants: public price € 3.991
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: public price € 450

19 Days DAKHLA – BISSAU

From the Rio de Oro to the Bijagos Archipelago

Moroccan Western Sahara province, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau.

Departure: evening November 23rd from Dakhla

End: evening December 11th from Bissau

Group of 9 or more participants: public price € 5.580

Group of 6 to 8 participants: public price € 5.859

Group of 5 participants: public price € 6.139

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: public price € 773

13 days DAKHLA – DAKAR

From the Sahara to the Savannah

Moroccan Western Sahara provinces, Mauritania, Senegal

Departure: evening November 20th from Dakhla

End: evening December 5th in Dakar

Group of 9 or more participants: public price € 3 803

Group of 6 to 8 participants: public price € 3 890

Group of 5 participants: public price € 4 051

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: public price € 529

11 Days NOUAKCHOTT – BISSAU

Savannah, Forest and Bijagos Archipelago

Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau.

Departure: evening December 1st from Nouakchott

End: evening December 11th in Bissau

Group of 9 or more participants: public price € 3.208

Group of 6 to 8 participants: public price € 3.530

Group of 5 participants: public price € 3.695

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: public price € 414

9 Days DAKAR – BISSAU

Savannah, Forest and Islands in animistic West Africa

Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau.

Departure: evening December 3rd from Dakar

End: December 11th in Bissau

Group of 9 or more participants: public price € 2405

Group of 6 to 8 participants: public price € 2372

Group of 5 participants: public price € 2732

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: public price € 370

Prices include:

- Transfer airport/ hotel and hotel/ airport at arrival and departure, **EXCEPT the first day from the airport to the hotel in Marrakech. The fixed price for a Taxi from the airport to any hotel in Marrakech is 200 Dirhams or 20 Euro.**
- Full board during the expedition. Lunch the last day.
- Drinks at meals during the nights in the mobile camp. No alcohol in Mauritania
- All transfers in 4WD
- Tour Leader (languages spoken English, French and Italian)
- Tours and visits as per the program
- Participation cost to events, as scheduled
- Accommodation as per the program
- First aid box
- All services included in the program

Prices do not include:

- International flights
- Transfer from Marrakech airport to the hotel in Marrakech on day 1.
- Transfer from the airport in Marrakech / hotel
- Visas
- Dinner on the arrival and departure day
- Drinks and mineral water at meals, except for those at the nights in the mobile camps
- Portage
- Fees for personal photos and videos
- Personal insurance (compulsory)
- Tips for drivers, guides and hotel staff
- Any item of personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, etc.
- Whatever is not mentioned as included

PAYMENT POLICY

A non refundable deposit of 30% is required at the time of confirmation and the balance is due not less than 90 days before the arrival of guests at the destination.