

## **"THE CARAVAN ROUTE"**

### **23-DAY ITINERARY**

**1. ARRIVAL AT DAKAR**

Airport pickup and transfer to hotel. Night in Dakar.

**2. DAKAR – NOUAKCHOTT**

Early morning departure to cross the border between Senegal and Mauritania by boat and reach Nouakchott at night. Hotel accommodations in Nouakchott.

**3. NOUAKCHOTT**

In the morning, we will go to the fishing port, with its special atmosphere, and then visit the Museum. In the afternoon, we will visit the bustling Nouakchott markets. Night at the hotel.

**4. NOUAKCHOTT - TOUILIT - NOUAMGHAR - TIMIRIST**

We will leave Nouakchott going up the coast, passing the "Great Dune". Depending on the time of day, we may have to wait for the tide to go out in order to drive past this stretch to reach the fishing town of Touilit, with its colorful canoes at the edge of the sea. Following a stop in Touilit, we will move on to Nouamghar and finally Timirist, at the entrance of Banc d'Arguin National Park. Lodging in our *haima*.

**5. BANC D'ARGUIN - LOUIK**

Banc d'Arguin is one of the most important natural parks in the world for migratory birds. The park stretches along approximately 200 km of coastline and includes several islands. We will visit the park and sail with the Imraguen, a Black community of fishermen, in their rudimentary sailboats. Depending on the time of year, we will see how they fish aided by dolphins. We will also observe the different flocks of birds that populate these islands. Lodging at a guesthouse in Louik.

**6. LOUIK - NOUADHIBOU**

From Louik, we will go up into the desert at Nouadhibou, the second largest city in Mauritania, dedicated primarily to fishing and mining commerce. We will visit Cap Blanc, an extension of the Banc d'Arguin Park, where monk seals, which are in danger of extinction, can be seen. Accommodations at a hotel.

**7. NOUADHIBOU - CHOUM**

We leave Nouadhibou for Choum venturing onto the "Train of the Desert," the longest (over 2 kilometers), heaviest train in the world. It carries iron-ore from Zouerate to the port at Nouadhibou. In Choum, we will admire the white clay decorations on the houses painted by the women with their fingers. Lodging in our *haima*.

**8. CHOUM - TERJIT**

From Choum, we will move on along a lovely track to Terjit, at the foot of the Mauritanidas mountain range, where an oasis with thermal springs and marvelous pools awaits us for bathing. Lodging at a guesthouse with *haimas*.

**9. TERJIT - AZOUGUI - ATAR - CHINGUETTI**

Leaving Terjit, first we will visit Azougui, the ancient capital of the Almoravids, who trekked to Spain in the eleventh century. This is now a sacred site housing the tomb of Imam El-Hadrami. In the afternoon, we will go via Atar to Chinguetti, the seventh holy city of Islam, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Lodging at a guesthouse.

**10. CHINGUETTI - OUADANE**

From Chinguetti, our journey will take us across 120 km of *fesh-fesh*, the true sand dune desert with no tracks, where we will experience the isolation of the lost cities of the desert. Once we arrive in Ouadane, we will visit the museum that displays the surprisingly glorious past of this country. Lodging at an inn with *haimas*.

**11. OUADANE - TINIGUI**

In the morning we will ride on camels and then we will leave for Tinigui, where a family of marabouts lives next to an "enchanted" well. The marabouts are dedicated to curing the possessed and the ill with their effective techniques. Lodging at a guesthouse with *haimas*.

**12. TINIGUI - AMOGJAR - ATAR**

Leaving Tinigui, we reach Amogjar. In the Amogjar canyon we will see prehistoric paintings from time when there were elephants, giraffes and other animals now extinct in this area. Afterwards, we will head for Atar, the current capital of the Adrar region, which is home to the largest, most colorful market in the region, with its exotic products, typical in Saharan trade. Lodging at a guesthouse.

**13. ATAR - TAGANT DESERT**

After preparing for the next few days' journey, we will leave for the Tagant Desert. Lodging in our *haima*.

**14. TAGANT DESERT**

We will cross the desert and mountains, dunes and plains, experiencing the total silence of the desert. Lodging in our *haima*.

**15. TAGANT DESERT - TIDJIKJA**

Following the unforgettable desert crossing, we reach Tidjika, a city founded in 1680 by the Moorish tribe "Idawali". Tidjika has a special architectural style, its buildings adorned with geometric paintings and gargoyles. In Tidjika we will also take a ride around the largest palm grove in Mauritania. Lodging at a guesthouse.

**16. TIDJIKJA - MOUDJERIA - ÇANGARAFÀ**

From Tidjika, we will continue on our trip to Moudjeria, which is surrounded by dunes, and from there, we will arrive at Çangarafa, where the "Road of Hope," the highway from Nema to Nouakchott, passes through. Lodging in our *haima*.

**17. ÇANGARAFÀ - ALEG - BOGUÉ - KAÉDI**

Leaving Çangarafa, we will head off through Aleg and Bogue to Kaédi, a city on the shores of the Senegal River, where the ambience changes from the Moorish culture to that of the Black African culture of the Sahel region; this is especially evident in the allure of its marketplace. Lodging at a guesthouse.

**18. KAÉDI**

We will spend this day traveling by canoe. We will go down the Senegal River for several hours, observing the lifestyle, very different from that of the desert, along the shores of this enormous river. Lodging at a guesthouse.

**19. KAÉDI - BOGUÉ - ROSSO - KEUR MASSÈNE**

Leaving Kaédi, we will set out on the trip back through Bogue and Rosso to later reach Keur Massène, a village in the hunting region. Lodging in our *haima*.

**20. KEUR MASSÈNE - DIAWLING PARK - ST. LOUIS**

In the morning, we will visit Diawling Natural Park and take a swim in the Atlantic. We will then cross the border and head to St. Louis, a French colonial style city located on an island in the middle of the Senegal River. The city is connected to the mainland by a bridge built by the famous architect, Eiffel. Lodging at a guesthouse.

**21. ST. LOUIS – DAKAR**

After strolling through St. Louis, our trip will take us back to Dakar, where we will have time to enjoy the warm ambience of the city. Lodging at a guesthouse.

**22. DAKAR**

We will visit the island of Gorée, a historic slave trade site, and we will take a walk through the wonderful market of Dakar. At night, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

**23. RETURN TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

## **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

### **PRICE OF TRIP INCLUDES:**

- Transfers airport-hotel-airport
- Accommodations
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner(not including alcoholic beverages)
- Camping gear
- Transportation in a 4x4 vehicle
- English-/French-speaking accompanying guide
- Cook

### **DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- Air ticket (check best offer)
- Visa for Mauritania
- Travel insurance
- Any other unspecified cost

### **DOCUMENTS**

- Passport with minimum six months' validity
- Obligatory visa for Mauritania
- Obligatory record of vaccination against yellow fever
- Travel insurance

### **PRICE FOR 23 DAYS**

- 1.695 U\$D per person ( ≅ 1.798 Euros)

### **MINIMUM GROUP**

- 6 people (maximum 11 people)

### **TRAVEL DATES**

- 9-1-2000 ● 9-29-2000 ● 10-20-2000 ● 12-15-2000 ●

### **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Because we operate internationally, it is impossible for us to offer travel insurance, particularly due to the repatriation clause in the event of illness. Insurance in Mauritania is not very reliable, so we request that you purchase the obligatory travel insurance in your country of origin.

### **VISA**

You will find Mauritanian embassies at the locations on our list of Embassies.

### **VACCINATION**

You must have a record of vaccination against yellow fever. As for other preventative measures, such as anti-malaria treatments, etc., we recommend that you contact the Foreign Health Service.

### **FORM OF PAYMENT**

700 U\$D upon confirming your reservation and 995 U\$D to be paid fifteen days prior to the start of the trip.

## **CONTRACT**

ONE: Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_, with passport number \_\_\_\_\_ and address at \_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter "the Client"), is hereby hiring the trip titled "THE CARAVAN ROUTE" from SURMI VOYAGES. B.P. 4800, Nouakchott, Mauritania (hereinafter "the Agency"), according to the attached program, for which complementary information and any appropriate modifications are provided in an appendix thereto.

TWO: The occurrence of the trip discussed herein is conditional upon the hiring thereof by at least six people. If this minimum number is not reached, the Agency shall be obliged to inform the Client of the cancellation of the trip at least fifteen days before the beginning of said trip and to return any amounts paid.

THREE: The Agency shall provide the Client, in exchange for the payment and under the terms established in Clause Five herein, with the services of an accompanying guide and cook and the transportation, accommodations, breakfast, lunch, dinner and camping gear described in the program and technical information on "THE CARAVAN ROUTE" by SURMI VOYAGES.

The price includes neither air tickets nor airport fees, vaccination records or "extras," such as coffee, tea, alcoholic beverages, special diets, washing or ironing of clothing, optional hotel services, etc., or, in general, any other service that is not expressly indicated in the aforementioned program or technical information.

FOUR: The price of the trip discussed herein has been calculated on the basis of foreign exchange rates, so the price may be revised if changes are produced in the cost of transportation, including that of the fuel, or in the fees and taxes on certain services and in the exchange rates applied for the trip. The Client hereby accepts any possible change in the price of the trip resulting from changes such as those mentioned above. The price may only be changed up to twenty days prior to the beginning of the trip.

FIVE: The price of the trip discussed herein is equal to 1.695 U\$D (approximately 1.798 Euros) per person. Of this amount, 700 U\$D shall be paid upon signing up for the trip, and 995 U\$D shall be paid fifteen days prior to the start of the trip.

SIX: Should the Client decide not to take the trip, once having formally signed up or after having accepted any changes that may have been made, the Client will be obliged to pay SURMI VOYAGES a penalty in the following amount: a) From 14-11 days prior to the beginning of the trip, 30% of the total price of the trip; b) From 10-3 days prior to the beginning of the trip, 60% of the total price of the trip; c) Within the 48 hours prior to the beginning of the trip, 80% of the

total price of the trip; d) If the Client does not show up at the beginning of the trip, 100% of the total price.

SEVEN: The Client must take out a travel assistance insurance policy in his or her country of origin.

EIGHT: The client must carry the proper required travel documents (passport, visa, vaccination record, travel insurance).

NINE: The Client's luggage is not subject to an overland transportation contract, it being understood that the luggage is in the custody of the Client, regardless which the part of the car it is placed. Any liability for the transportation of said luggage corresponds exclusively to the Client.

TEN: SURMI VOYAGES hereby denies any responsibility for any possible delays or deficiency in the hired services, such as hotels, modes of transportation, etc. or for changes in schedules due to strikes, poor weather conditions or other causes beyond the control of SURMI VOYAGES. Nevertheless, we undertake to do everything within our reach to mitigate any problems of this type.

ELEVEN: Should the Client verify any problems or deficiency *in situ* in the rendering of the services hired, he or she must report the complaint at the location where said problem or deficiency took place and inform SURMI VOYAGES in the shortest time possible using any means that leaves a certifiable record thereof. The Client has a term of one month to file any possible claim for the failure to execute this contract or for its deficient execution.

TWELVE: The Client hereby declares that (s)he is aware of and accepts the information in this program and technical information, as well as that in each and every one of the contract's clauses and the services hired.

In witness thereof, they hereby sign this contract in duplicate at Nouakchott, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000.

Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

THE CLIENT

SURMI VOYAGES