

## The Saoura Garden Circuit in Algeria



### 13 Days / 12 Nights

#### Day 1 Thursday: Oran

Arrival at Oran's airport.

Welcome and assistance at Oran's airport by our team.

Transfer to the hôtel for installation.

Then city tour with the City hall and its two lions, the national theater and then the Sea Front for a walk which will take us on the famous boulevard de l'ALN with Haussmannian and Art Nouveau architecture. Continuation with the Karguentah Station in Oran, neo-Moorish style. The building was designed by architect Albert Ballu and its architecture represents the symbols of the three religions of the book. The exterior appearance symbolize a mosque, the clock has the shape a minaret; the gates of the doors, windows and ceiling of the Qoubba (dome) bear the Star of David, while the interior paintings of the ceilings bear Christian crosses.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



## Day 2 Friday: Oran

Breakfast.

Morning: visit the Fort of Santa Cruz on the heights of the city. Continuation with the visit of the Chapel of Our Lady of Santa Cruz, built in 1849. Then, we will enter the old town: the Sidi el Houari district. Discovery of the Pasha Mosque, and its famous octagonal minaret with typically Arab-Andalusian architecture.

Lunch.

Afternoon: discovery of the historic center of Oran with the Place du 1er Novembre where stands the statue of Emir Abdelkader which recounts the victory of his troops at the battle of Sidi Brahim in 1845.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

## Day 3 Saturday: Flight Oran / Béchar – Taghit

Breakfast.

Transfer to the airport for flight Oran – Béchar.

Welcome and assistance at the airport by our team and continuation towards the oasis of Taghit which is one of the most beautiful oases of the Grand Erg Occidental. Installation in guest house.

Traditional lunch.

Afternoon: complete visit of the oasis, the old Ksar that is an architectural and patrimonial jewel built in the 11th century. Visit of other Ksour (ksar is the singular) all distinguished by their Arab-Muslim architecture. The Ksour Valley and its rock engravings dating back around 40,000 years BC and depicting certain animals or everyday scenes from primitive man.

Finally, it is absolutely necessary to climb on the big dune in order to contemplate the magnificent sunset.

Dinner and overnight at the Guest House.

## Day 4 Sunday: Taghit –Bénis Abbés Oasis.

Breakfast.

Heading towards Béni Abbés (the white Oasis), an oasis located in the heart of the Saoura Valley that is from the 11th century. Visit of the chapel of Père de Foucault who settled there after he became a priest in 1901.

Lunch: picnic in the garden of the chapel.

Afternoon: visit of the palm grove that has the shape of a Scorpion whose tail is dominated by a large red dune and its heart is where is located the old Ksar.

Installation at the hotel.

Dinner and overnight.

## Day 5 Monday: Béni Abbés / Timimoune

Early departure towards Timimoune, the Red Oasis.

Crossing the Grand Erg Occidental desert. Few stops in some Oases such as Timoudj, El Ouata or Kerzaa.

Lunch: picnic on top of a dune or in an oasis.

Arrival at Timimoune and installation at the Guest house. Dinner and overnight.



### **Day 6 Tuesday : Timimoune**

Breakfast.

Morning: visit of the red oasis: the old town (Timimoun's Ksar) and its traditional market with its craft shops before continuation with the Foggara. The Foggara is a hydraulic heritage from the 11<sup>th</sup> century and unique by its ingenuity.

Lunch.

Continuation with the visit of the Igzher cave.

Dinner and overnight

### **Day 07 Wednesday: Timimoune / El-Goléa / Ghardaïa**

Breakfast.

Departure to El Goléa to start a visit of the city and the chapel of Père de Foucault and the museum of Père Leclerc.

Lunch.

Then continuation with the Ksour road which are magnificent Castles of sand.

Arrival in Ghardaïa and installation in a traditional guest house located in a palm grove.

Dinner and overnight.

### **Day 08 Thursday: Ghardaïa**

Breakfast.

In the morning, visit the market square (carpet market), with its rectangular form, this square is surrounded by a gallery of arcades of different sizes and shapes. Continuation with the old Ksar and the underground irrigation system of the palmgrove

Lunch.

Rest of the day free to meet and chat with the local population (Mozabite) population that is part of a Berber ethnic group living mainly in the Mzab region.

Dinner and overnight in guest house.

### **Day 09 Friday: Ghardaïa**

Free day to meet and exchange with the local population (Mozabite).

An excellent way to exchange and discover the tradition of this Berber ethnic population.

Diner and overnight.

### **Day 10 Saturday: Ghardaïa - Algiers. Flight 8:15 a.m. - Algiers 9:45 a.m.**

Transfer to Ghardaïa's airport

Assistance until departure for flight Ghardaïa 08 h 15 – 09 h 45 Algiers.

Welcome and assistance at Algiers' airport.

Transfer to the hotel for installation and free morning.

Lunch.

Afternoon: visit of the Casbah (Medina of Algiers listed in the UNESCO world heritage) before going up to the Basilica Notre Dame d'Afrique in the heights of Algiers.

Diner and overnight.



### **Day 11 Sunday: Cherchell – Tipaza – Royal Mausoleum of Mauretania**

Breakfast.

Direction Cherchell, the former roman Caesaree. Visit of the antique site and its museum.

Continuation with Tipaza with visit of the old city located in the West hill, the theater, the circus, the thermal baths ... (This site is classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage site) ...

Many Punic vestiges, Romans, Christians and Africans attest to the rich history of this region.

Lunch at Tipaza,

On the way back we make a detour to visit the Royal Mausoleum of Mauritania, called Tomb of the Christian.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel

### **Day 12 Monday : Algiers**

Breakfast.

Visit the Museum of Fine Arts, then lunch at the Jardin d'Essai.

Then visit the largest botanical garden in Africa (40 ha and 3000 species).

And then free time in Algiers.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 13 Tuesday: Returnal flight**

Free morning then airport transfer, assistance until boarding.

### **The price of this Cultural Circuit in Algeria, includes:**

- Assistance and hotel transfers.
- 02 Nights 3 \* hotel in Oran
- Oran flight 9 am / Bechar 11 am (Saturday)
- 01 Night in a guest house in Taghit
- 01 Night 3 \* hotel in Béni Abbas
- 02 Nights Guest house in Timimoune
- 03 Nights Guest house in Ghardaïa
- Ghardaïa flight 8:15 am / Algiers 9:45 am (Saturday)
- 03 Night 3 \* hotel in Algiers
- Half board in Oran and Algiers (BB + lunches)
- Full board (in Oasis)
- Double and single room
- Air-conditioned vehicle + driver
- English speaking guide during the whole circuit
- Guide on each site
- Visa documentation included



**The price of this cultural trip to Algiers, does not include:**

- The international flight
- Multi-risk cancellation & repatriation insurance
- Drinks, extras and personal expenses
- Visa fees
- Single Sup : + 310 € during the whole circuit

