Adrar Tour – Explore the Sahara

Mauritania

Embark on the ultimate **Adrar Tour** and journey into the heart of Mauritania's desert. This multi-day adventure immerses you in the region's rich history through ancient UNESCO cities, reveals breathtaking geological wonders, and offers moments of tranquility in the profound silence of the Sahara.

Key Highlights of the Adrar Tour:

- **Journey to the Desert Gate:** Begin your **Adrar** tour with a scenic drive from Nouakchott to the charming oasis town of Atar, the gateway to the desert and a hub of traditional hospitality.
- **Ancient cities & The Eye of the Sahara:** Discover the ancient trading post of Ouadane, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and then witness the awe-inspiring Richat Structure. This geological marvel, known as the Eye of the Sahara, is a defining moment of this **Adrar** tour.
- **Dunes & Ancient Libraries:** Feel the thrill of a 4×4 drive through the golden dunes of the Oasis of Tanouchert. Then, explore the historic city of Chinguetti, a UNESCO site revered for its ancient manuscripts and historic mosque.
- **Desert Oases:** Recharge at the serene Mhairith Oasis and the lush, palm-filled canyon of Terjit, where a natural spring offers a refreshing swim in the heart of the desert.

This **Excursion** masterfully combines rugged adventure with profound cultural and natural discovery. Join us for an unforgettable journey across one of the planet's most stunning landscapes.

Daily Program

This 4-day compact expedition takes you from the capital Nouakchott deep into the heart of Mauritania's UNESCO-listed caravan cities. Discover the ancient trading centers of Atar, Ouadane, and Chinguetti, explore the dramatic Terjit Oasis, and experience the raw beauty of the

Sahara Desert. Ideal for travelers with limited time seeking authentic cultural and natural heritage.

Day 01: Nouakchott – Akjoujt – Atar

08:00 — Team Assembly & Currency Logistics: Meet your guide and driver. Optional stop at Nouakchott central market for banking, exchange, or supplies.

08:45 – 11:45 — Inbound Desert Transit: Overland transit via the northern highway corridor. The route frequently intersects migration paths for indigenous livestock, offering photography opportunities of camels crossing the desert plains.

11:45 – 12:15 — Technical & Hospitality Stop – Akjoujt: Following a 3-hour drive, a structured rest stop is scheduled in Akjoujt for traditional Mauritanian tea hospitality before entering the Adrar range.

12:15 – 14:00 — Adrar Plateau Ascent: Resumption of highway transit to the regional hub of Atar (Total day transit distance: 440 km / Accumulated Driving Time: 6.0 Hours).

14:30 — Hospitality Check-In: Rapid arrival protocols and room assignment at **Hôtel Étoile du Nord** in Atar, followed by an exclusive private luncheon.

16:00 — Atar Cultural Curation: A guided walking seminar navigating the historic trade networks of the Adrar capital, featuring the regional artisan market and the architectural landmarks of the central mosque.

17:15 — Azougi Archaeological Excursion: Short-haul transfer to the 11th-century Almoravid dynastic capital to explore stone citadel ruins set within a dense 20,000-palm grove oasis.

18:45 — Evening: Return transfer to **Hôtel Étoile du Nord** for corporate fine dining and overnight accommodation.

Day 02 :Atar – Amogjar – Richat – Ouadane

08:00 — Morning Briefing: Departure from Atar following premium breakfast catering at the hotel.

08:15 – 11:15 — Off-Road Expedition: Transition to unpaved desert tracks heading northeast toward the historic *ksar* of Ouadane (Distance: 200 km / Estimated Transit Time: 3.0 hours).

09:00 — Stop – Amogjar Pass: A scheduled archaeological briefing at the prehistoric sandstone rock shelters. Clients observe Neolithic petroglyphs and pictographs detailing the

ancient "Green Sahara" savanna ecosystem.

11:30 — Geological Briefing – The Eye of the Sahara: Private vehicle transfer to an exclusive panoramic vantage point overlooking the Guelb er Richat (Richat Structure). This 40-kilometer wide concentric magmatic dome serves as a premier geological case study.

13:00 — Midday Hospitality: Private catered luncheon and estate check-in served at **Auberge El Ghalawiya** in Ouadane.

16:00 — UNESCO Heritage Exploration: A specialized architectural tour through the 12th-century fortified settlement (*ksar*) of Ouadane. The itinerary covers the terraced dry-stone ruins, and the defensive perimeter walls.

18:00 — Night : Traditional evening dining and overnight hospitality at the **Auberge El Ghalawiya**.

Day 03: Chinguetti Cultural Discovery (Oases & Ancient Libraries)

08:00 — Desert Track Departure: Check-out from Ouadane and morning departure via remote Erg sand dunes.

09:15 — Oasis Intermission – Tanouchert: A structured cultural interaction at a traditional nomadic outpost. The stop highlights active Saharan agro-pastoralism, date-palm cultivation, and remote community water management systems.

11:30 — Chinguetti Scholastic Tour: Arrival at the Moorish architectural capital, recognized globally as the seventh holiest city in Islamic tradition. Rapid check-in executed at **Auberge Eden**. A curated walk features the split-stone mosque minaret and private scholastic libraries housing beautifully preserved medieval manuscripts dating back to the 11th century.

13:00 — Luncheon Interval: Traditional full-board dining hosted at **Auberge Eden**, featuring authentic Mauritanian hospitality protocols.

17:00 — Sunset Dune Curation: Leisure and scenic photography session amongst the majestic crests of the Erg Chinguetti.

19:30 — Night Protocol: Specialized dinner service and premium heritage lodging at **Auberge Eden** in Chinguetti.

Day 04 : Chinguetti to Nouakchott (Via Mherith & Terjit Canyons

08:00 — Return Transit Inception: Luggage collection, check-out from Chinguetti, and commencement of the homeward journey toward the coast.

09:30 — Site Survey – Mherith Oasis: A landscape briefing and photography stop within a deep fault-line *wadi* characterized by its microclimate and date-palm groves.
10:30 — Terjit Transfer: Short-haul off-road link to the highly celebrated Terjit Canyon.
12:00 — Oasis Luncheon & Thermal Hydrology: Catered lunch within the lush canyon depths. Clients can take a guided walk to the thermal hot springs and fresh cold-water plunge pools nestled between towering tectonic rock walls.
13:30 — Final Highway Transit: Departure from the Adrar range for a high-speed highway transfer back to the capital (Distance: 510 km).
17:00 — Terminal Repatriation: Arrival in Nouakchott. We trust you enjoyed this exclusive desert heritage circuit. May you have an excellent return transit and a secure voyage home.

Expedition Inclusions

Personnel: Licensed bilingual guides and certified desert drivers.

Transit: Private air-conditioned 4x4 vehicles, fuel, and permits.

Lodging: Premier regional accommodations per scheduled itinerary.

Catering: Full-board meal plan and bottled mineral water.

Access: All UNESCO site fees, entry passes, and taxes.

Program Exclusions

International airfare, airport tariffs, and entry visas.

Personal medical, evacuation, and trip insurance.

Boutique purchases, laundry, and unlisted ancillary services.