



Mauritanian Best Tours

DAY TRIP

€300

solo traveller

€175

per person, 2+

10 HOURS

Banc d'Arguin National Park

A UNESCO World Heritage site on the Atlantic coast – birdlife, desert, tea on the beach and fresh seafood, all in one day from Nouakchott.

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ROUTE

Nouakchott → El Mamghar

DISTANCE

200 km each way

PICKUP

Your hotel, 07:00

Your day, step by step

07:00

to 10:00



Departure

Hotel pickup in Nouakchott, then a scenic drive north on the main road. Along the way you'll often see beautiful sand dunes and camels – a favourite with our guests.

10:00

to 13:00



Arrival & birdwatching

Traditional Mauritanian tea ceremony on the beach at El Mamghar, then a guided excursion through the park – flamingos, pelicans and migratory shorebirds.

13:00

to 14:00



Lunch

Fresh seafood prepared by a local family.

14:00



Return

Comfortable drive back to Nouakchott, arriving late afternoon.

Highlights

Scenic drive

Dunes, camels and coastal plains.

Traditional welcome

Mauritanian tea on the beach.

World-class birdwatching

A top sanctuary for migratory birds.

Seafood lunch

The day's catch, cooked in a local home.

UNESCO site

One of Africa's great natural parks.

Know before you go

The park

A protected treasure

Banc d'Arguin became a national park in 1976 to protect its birds, rich fishing waters and landscapes. Since 1982 it has also been a protected wetland of international importance.

UNESCO World Heritage

Listed by UNESCO in 1989 – one of the most special natural places in Africa, and one of the most important places on Earth for migratory birds.

Easy to reach

About 200 km north of Nouakchott on the Atlantic coast – a comfortable day trip.

The people

Meet the Imraguen

About 500 Imraguen live in seven villages inside the park and still fish the traditional way.

Peaceful and wild

No motorboats are allowed – just quiet beaches, calm water and very few people.

Birds & wildlife

A paradise for birds

Over 2 million birds spend the winter here, from more than 108 species.

Flamingos & pelicans

The stars of the park, often seen in big groups.

Dolphins & seals

With luck you can spot dolphins and rare monk seals.

Tips for your visit

What to bring

Binoculars, a camera with zoom, a hat, sunscreen and a light jacket for the wind.

Weather

A mild climate – it rarely rains.

Wildlife of the park



Greater flamingo

Phoenicopterus roseus

The greater flamingo is the largest living species of flamingo, averaging 110–150 cm (43–59 in) tall and weighing 2–4 kg (4.4–8.8 lb).



Common ringed plover

Charadrius hiaticula

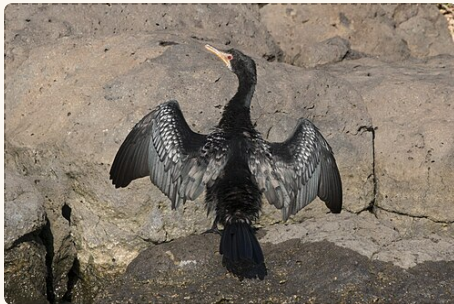
Adults are 17–19.5 cm (6.7–7.7 in) long with a 35–41 cm (14–16 in) wingspan. Grey-brown back and wings, white belly, and a white breast with one black neckband.



Great white pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus

A huge bird — among pelicans only the Dalmatian is larger. 140–180 cm (55–71 in) long, with an enormous 29–47 cm pink-and-yellow bill and a pale-yellow throat pouch.



Reed cormorant

Microcarbo africanus

A small cormorant, 50–55 cm (20–22 in) long with an 80–90 cm (31–35 in) wingspan. Mainly black, glossed green in the breeding season, with silvery wing coverts, a longish tail, a short crest, a red or yellow face patch and a yellow bill.



Caspian tern

Hydroprogne caspia

The world's largest tern: 48–60 cm (19–24 in) long, 127–145 cm (50–57 in) wingspan, 530–782 g. Black legs, a thick red-orange bill with a small black tip, and a black cap on a white head. Pale grey back and upper wings.



Grey heron

Ardea cinerea

A large bird standing up to 100 cm (40 in) tall, 84–102 cm (33–40 in) long, with a 155–195 cm (61–77 in) wingspan. Weighs 1–2 kg (2.2–4.6 lb).