



Algeria Cultural Discovery

17 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT+SOBEKTM
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ Algeria Cultural Discovery

Take the road less traveled on this incredible adventure in Algeria - one of the least visited countries in the world! Experience the rare beauty of cosmopolitan Algiers, with its historic casbah and labyrinthine old quarter. Then explore the impressive and well-preserved Roman ruins at Tipasa, beautifully situated on the Mediterranean, and the Berber area of Biskra. Travel deep into the heart of the M'Zab Valley and explore its enchanting fortress cities rising from the dunes, then head to the Tassili N'Ajjer plateau with its 15,000-year-old Neolithic rock paintings. With deep history and ancient UNESCO-listed relics at every step, you'll find yourself in a fascinating land wondering why it wasn't on your radar sooner.

Details

Arrive: Algiers, Algeria

Depart: Algiers, Algeria

Duration: 17 Days

Group Size: 4-12 Guests

Minimum Age: 14 Years Old

Activity Level:



Testimonials

"We have traveled throughout the world, but never experienced a level of service and attention to detail as we did with MT Sobek."

Dennis G.

"I have taken 12 trips with MT Sobek. Each has left a positive imprint on me—widening my view of the world and its peoples."

Jane B.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

☎ 1-800-974-0300

✉ info@mtsobek.com

Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

MT Sobek captures the best of Algeria on this unique and immersive insider adventure spanning the country's historical and cultural wonders.

REASON #02

Our team of local guides are true experts and have decades of experience leading guests through Algeria.

REASON #03

This comprehensive adventure has been crafted to combine the wonders of Mediterranean Algeria with the impressive desert landscapes of the Tassili N'Ajjer

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

In-depth cultural touring, including exploring five UNESCO World Heritage wonders and enjoying authentic local encounters.



LODGING

Comfortable hotels and luxurious 4- or 5-star hotels with elegant rooms and scenic locations — all carefully selected by our Africa experts. Simple stone bungalows at retreats in the oasis town of



CLIMATE

Algeria's coastal areas have a typical Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers. The desert can reach temperatures into the 100°Fs during the day the drop to the 50°Fs at night.

Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Kader developed his love of history by studying archeology in Greece before returning to his home in the ancient city of Cherchell, Algeria. He has been guiding for over 15 years, introducing people from around the world to all regions of this beautiful, historic country. You can meet Kader on MT Sobek's adventures through Algeria.

Kader Bensalah

Born in Constantine, Karim worked at the Cultural Institution where he learned about his passion for teaching by helping manage the Cirta Museum, Palace of the Bey, Tiddis, and the Mausoleum of Massinissa. He has been guiding groups in Algeria for over five years, introducing tourists from around the world to his country.

Karim Souiki

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Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN ALGIERS

Welcome to Algeria! Arrive in Algiers and transfer to your five-star hotel, located close to the vibrant city center. Enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Meals: D

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DAY 2

VISIT DJEMILA, THE ANCIENT ROMAN CITY OF CUICUL

Drive to the small mountain village of Djemila, originally the Roman city of Cuicul, and explore some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in North Africa. Originally dating back to the 1st century, these UNESCO-listed ruins include well-preserved baths, temples, and forums, and the impressive Arch of Caracalla — all spread out over a pretty meadow. After the tour, enjoy lunch in Djemila before heading to the atmospheric city of Constantine, where your next hotel awaits.

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 3

VISIT TIDDIS & CONSTANTINE

Set out this morning to explore the Roman city of Tiddis, perched on a bare, red-rock mountainside. Then return to Constantine to see the city's spectacular sights on a guided walking tour. Marvel at its cliff-side location and impressive bridges, including the Sidi M'Cid suspension bridge with its dizzying span over the gorge. Learn more about the city's history with a visit to the Cirta Museum, the Ottoman-era Bey's Palace, and El Kantara - the old Roman bridge. Learn more about the people of Constantine by meeting local copper and brassware makers, and visiting a WWI memorial dedicated to Constantine soldiers. Finish the tour at the Emir Abdelkader Mosque, an architectural gem.

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 4

VISIT TIMGAD & THE BERBER VILLAGE OF RHOUFFI

Begin your day at the massive cone-shaped mausoleum of Medracen, built for the Berber Numidian Kings between 200-400 BC. Then explore the UNESCO-listed Roman military colony of Timgad, built during the reign of Emperor Trajan. This 2,000-year-old city has a remarkable grid design and its triumphal Arch of Trajan soars elegantly above Timgad. Next visit the Roman ruins of Lambaesis, a short drive west near the village of Tazoult, and explore the museum. From here, journey to Biskra through one of the most beautiful regions of the country. Marvel at the Berber village of Arris, with its stone houses clinging to the cliff side, and nearby gorges of Tighanimine. Follow the canyon towards Rhouffi and M 'Chounech, and stop to visit of the pottery workshop

and the museum of Si El Haouès. Continue to Sidi Okba, a historical and religious city and visit the mosque with its beautiful carved cedar door. Arrive in Biskra, gateway to the Sahara, and enjoy dinner.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

VISIT THE GARDENS OF BISKRA & JOURNEY TO EL OUED

Wander among palm trees at Biskra's beautiful Landon Garden this morning, then enjoy the sights and smells of the date market. From Biskra the journey continues to El Oued, through the date-rich Souf region. Overnight in El Oued tonight.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

EXPLORE EL OUED, CITY OF A THOUSAND DOMES

Rise to visit of the minaret of the Sidi Salem mosque, the spice market, and the Zaouia des Tidjania, a local religious community. After lunch, take a 1-hour 4x4 excursion through the Grand Erg Oriental dunes. Enjoy sunset on the dunes before returning for dinner and overnight in El Oued.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

DISCOVER OASES IN THE GREAT EASTERN ERG & GHARDAIA

Head to Touggourt through the Grand Erg Oriental, a wondrous sea of sand also known as the Great Eastern Erg. Along the way, stop off at the salt lakes of Témachine and Tamelhat, and explore the fortified villages and palm groves of Ouargla. Enjoy lunch after a visit to the Saharan museum, and then continue to Ghardaia in the heart of the M'Zab Valley. Experience the unique auction market in Béni Isguen, the holy city of Ghardaia, and transfer to your hotel. Dinner and overnight in Ghardaia.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

MARVEL AT THE PENTAPOLIS OF M'ZAB

Explore the incredible UNESCO-listed towns of the M'Zab Valley in the northern Sahara. Known as the Pentapolis of M'Zab, the five fortified towns are a wonder to behold — rising enigmatically from the dunes in terraces centered around a central mosque. On your journey, you'll visit Ghardaia, Melika, age-old El Atteuf, and the holy city of Beni Isguen. Return to your residence in the late afternoon and enjoy a quiet stroll in the palm grove before dinner.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 9

EXPLORE HISTORIC ALGIERS

Take an early flight back to Algiers and go deep into the heart of the city on a guided tour, starting at the UNESCO-listed casbah. Explore the labyrinthine alleys of this storied hillside citadel and the historic quarter clustered around it. Visit its illuminating museums and ancient mosques, including the Bardo Museum and 15th-century Ketchaoua Mosque, and see the 18th-century Dar Hassan Pacha palace. Lunch at a traditional house in the casbah before continuing your tour, meeting local artisans along the way. You'll also have an opportunity to explore the Basilica "Notre Dame d'Afrique" and the stunning Test Garden of Hamma — a 94-acre botanical garden dating from 1832. Transfer to the airport and have dinner at the airport Hyatt Regency before flying on to Djanet late this evening.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 10

FLY TO DJANET AND SEE AGE-OLD DESERT ROCK ART

After breakfast, enjoy a fascinating visit to the oasis of Djanet and explore early rock paintings in "the cave of the ambassadors." After lunch, departure by caravan of 4x4 vehicles to Djaren, journey on to Djaren — the "Gateway to the Tadrart Rouge." Navigate rolling dunes to the first cave paintings hidden among the rocks, including a beautiful depiction of giraffes. Enjoy "Tuareg" tea along the way and first in the desert.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 11

TRAVEL TO MOUL ENNAGA DESERT CAMP

After breakfast, continue to Moul Ennaga, marked by gigantic rock spires and a spectacular network of dunes. Sip a refreshing cup of tea before heading to your desert camp. Dinner and overnight under the stars in Moul Ennaga.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 12

JOURNEY TO BOUHEDIANE & TIN MERZO

Travel through dunes and ocher-colored canyons on today's journey to Tin Merzouga. Along the way, explore the interesting engravings and paintings at Bouhediane. Stop for a picnic lunch and tea before reaching the colossal

red sand dunes of Tin Merzouga — among the highest in the Sahara! Watch the sunset over the magnificent landscape including Libya's Akakus Massif. Enjoy dinner and an overnight stay at the camp in Tin Merzouga.

Activity: 2 hours walking to visit rock sites

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 13

DISCOVER ENGRAVINGS AT TESSAKETA

Awake in the desert, then journey across the sand and through rock-strewn gorges to find more rock paintings and engravings, including those at Tessaketa in Djaren. Stop for tea on the way. Enjoy dinner and an overnight stay at the camp in Tessaketa.

Activity: 2 hours walking to visit rock sites

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 14

EXPLORE THE ERG OF ADMER & RETURN TO DJANET

Begin the day with a drive to Tagharghart in the Erg of Admer. Amidst this vast ocean of sand dunes and wind-sculpted rocks, you'll find 10,000-year-old rock engravings — including the famous "crying cow." Marvel at the skillfully engraved ancient art before a picnic lunch and Tuareg tea at the foot of the rocks. Contemplate sunset over the dunes and return to Djanet for dinner at the hotel.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 15

TOUR DJANET & RETURN TO ALGIERS

Start the morning with a tour of Tassili N'Ajjer Park Museum, housing 15,000 rupestral rocks dating from 6,000 to 12,000 years ago! Then explore Djanet's oasis and market, where Tuareg artisans sell locally crafted wares. Bid farewell to the desert after lunch and transfer to the airport for your return flight to Algiers. Settle into your luxury hotel and enjoy dinner at your leisure, on your own.

Activity: 2 hours walking to see sights

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 16

ANCIENT WONDERS OF TIPASA & CHERCHELL

Head to Tipasa for an unforgettable look at its UNESCO-listed complex of ruins, including a beautifully situated ancient Roman city — one of Algeria's most impressive archeological sites. Explore the amphitheater, basilicas,

and forums while taking in dazzling views of the Mediterranean. Then visit the monumental Royal Mausoleum of Mauretania, the resting place of Queen Cleopatra and Mark Antony's only daughter. Enjoy a seafood lunch in the town of Tipasa before exploring the small fishing port of Cherchell. Tour the archeological museum, home to many well-preserved ancient artifacts from the region. Return to Algiers for dinner at the hotel.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 17

DEPART FROM ALGIERS

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your homeward journey.

Meals: B

Dates

Apr 22 - May 8, 2023

Sep 16 - Oct 2, 2023

Oct 28 - Nov 13, 2023

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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Inclusions & Exclusions

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted in the Trip Planner)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses

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► The World of MT Sobek

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

Our small group and custom adventures span the globe, and the spectrum—of interests, environments and activities—every one expertly planned and knowledgeably and passionately guided. And our commitment to making every experience a remarkable one has earned us preferred travel outfitter status for National Geographic Active Expeditions, Active New York Times Journeys, and Smithsonian Active Journeys.

We are *the* adventure company.

Awards



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