

## Takassit Voyages – Djanet (Algerie)

### Who are we?

Takassit Voyages is a travel agency based in Djanet, a Sahara oasis in south-east Algeria, specialised in tours and expeditions in the Sahara desert.

Diaba M'Hammed, a local tour operator, has got a deep knowledge of the Sahara and has been working with Italian and European travel agencies for more than 20 years. He offers successful tours in the Sahara as well as in the north of Algeria.

The staff is composed of experienced touareg guides who know the desert very well as they were born there and blend their experience and professional competence with a pure love for the Sahara.

When they welcome the travellers and take them around, they like showing them the many faces of the Sahara, the culture and traditions of the touareg people.

The philosophy that characterises Takassit Voyages refers to sustainable tourism, that is a form of tourism which respects the environment, the local culture and traditions, and supports the local economy in order to positively contribute to the economic and cultural growth of the population. It is “sustainable” because it wants to be economically, ethically and socially fair towards the local communities.

Since many years the founder of Takassit Voyages, Djaba M'Hammed, has been committed in an international cooperation project aiming at promoting the profession of tourist guide among the young people living in Djanet.

### What do we offer?

4X4 tours around Djanet and Hoggar areas

Trekking around the Tassili n'Ajjer and Hoggar

“Randonnée” and “méharée” (camel rides) around Tassili n'Ajjer and Hoggar areas

Personalised tours for all travellers that meet individual requirements (family tours, religious itineraries, study and research tours, and so on)

Northern Algeria tours including the Roman archaeological sites (Djemila, Batna, Timgad, Annaba, Constantine)

### The tours

Takassit Voyages offers tours around the Algerian desert which is one of the nicest and most interesting areas of all Sahara.

The tours, lasting 10-15 days, start from Djanet or Tamanrasset.

In the North Takassit Voyages offers 10-day-tours to visit the most outstanding archaeological sites of ancient Roman Algeria.

#### **The Tadrart Acacus Teneré tour (10 days)**

Arrival at Djanet in the morning. Lunch at the oasis and departure in the early afternoon for the deep South-East of Algeria, on the border with Lybia and Niger. The tour follows a route which crosses the Tassili N'Ajjer plateau and eventually reaches the Tadrart-Acacus scarp; this is a great plateau, more recent than Tassili but of the same geological

formation.

The tour goes right into the Acacus via the Oued In Djeran: long, deep passages through walls of rock, dunes and sand. Breathtaking landscapes, with several drawings and engravings produced by ancient hunters and herdsmen.

Oued In Djeran leads to the red dunes of Erg Tin Merzuga, from the summit of which you can cast your eye over the neverending expanse of Libyan desert.

Once you have seen the unforgettable views of Tin Merzuga, the tour returns to Oued In Djeran leaving Tadrart-Acacus via Tassili n'Ajjer and finally reaching Alidemma, a vast expanse of wind sculptures rising from the golden sand in a series of pinnacles and high rock formations. After this magic experience the tour returns to Djanet via the open stretch between Tassili and the wavy pale rose dunes of Erg Admer.

*Accommodation in tents and 4x4 cars.*

### **The Tassili n'Ajjer tour (10 days)**

Visit of Djanet, which is called the "pearl of Tassili" as it is one of the nicest mountain oases all around the Sahara. The most ancient part of the village is clung on the mountain and is composed of ancient houses made up of mud and rocks; from there the big palm-grove and the tiny vegetable-gardens beneath can be admired. Visit to the local museum where interesting archaeological remains dating back to different prehistoric periods and traditional touareg daily-life objects can be found.

Early in the morning departure for Agba Tafelelet by 4x4 cars. Here we will start a long tour on foot under the supervision of the National Park guides while trusty mules and helpers will take care of the transportation of all equipment. After about a 4 hours' walk we will arrive at Tamrit where we will admire the Tassili typical rocky landscape, the deep canyon and the cypress trees, which are more than 1000 years old. This area is embellished with precious prehistoric drawings and engravings: elegant animal and human silhouettes belonging to the "negroid" style.

The next days are dedicated to the visit on foot of the interesting spots which well show the artistic richness of the plateau, which can be considered to be an "open air museum": In-Itinen, where we will enjoy very particular drawings representing the famous "Garamantes carts"; Séfar, which is famous for the "round-head" paintings (mysterious drawings representing men in two-colour round heads); Mellen and Settafet, surely the most ancient and refined paintings of all Saharian prehistoric art; Uan Tuami, from where we can cast our eye over the majestic beauty of the Tassili N'Ajjer plateau.

On the sixth day we will leave the plateau walking along the Tin Zezega "oued" (ancient river bed) and we will get to the Agba Tafelelet oued where we will find the cars and drivers waiting for us. In the afternoon back to Djanet and transfer to Tiska airport to take the flight for Algiers. Connection for Italy.

*Accommodation in tents, trekking and 4x4 cars*

### **Erg Thiodaine tour (10 days)**

The first part of the tour takes place in the area around Djanet, on the very outskirts of Tassili N'Ajjer. Then the tour enters the passageways of rock and sand, finally reaching Tikobauin, a fascinating and picturesque composition of rock layers and dunes.

By following the Oued Essendilene you reach an abandoned village of the same name and the Essendilene "guelta" (rain water basin) set in clusters of rock walls and beautiful oleander blooms.

Iherir is the next destination where you can see oases grown up around gueltas and African huts after having admired the famous engravings of the Dider region located on the plateau of N'Ajjer.

From Tassili N'Ajjer to Erg Thiodaine, from where the remnants of past civilizations mysteriously emerge from the sand, it is not uncommon to meet Touareg nomads along the track.

The tour returns to Djanet via the Tin Abaro dunes which circle the foot of the Tazat

mountain and eventually by crossing the series of Erg Admer dunes.  
*Accommodation with tents, trekking and 4x4 cars.*

### **The Southern Tadrart - In Ezzane tour (10 days)**

This is a very peculiar, charming and adventurous tour that takes the traveller to the southern part of Tadrart Acacus, from Alidemma, which is characterised by rock pinnacles and spires that emerge from the golden sand, to the towers of Mankhor, and then along the ancient caravan route up to In Ezzane. After In Ezzane the tour goes on along oued and erg, large yellow-sand amphitheatres, up to the river terraces of Berjen region. There you will see breathtaking landscapes, rich in animals and you will visit archaeological sites.

*Adventurous tour with accommodation with tents and 4x4 cars*

### **The Tadrart Acacus Trekking (10 days)**

First the visit of Djanet, the acquaintance with the tuareg and their traditions, then the visit to the oasis and to the interesting historic and ethnographic museum: all that introduces the traveller to the saharian atmosphere. Then trekking and walks along the oued In Djeran, a great canyon whose walls host the finest pieces of Neolithic art, and then the moon-like landscape of Mulinaga and the red dunes of Tin Merzuga: all that leads the traveller to discover the huge variety of the Algerian desert.

*Accommodation with tents, trekking and 4x4 cars*

### **The Easy Sahara (10 days)**

This is a new-entry tour, realised with the best comforts in the total respect of men and nature. This tour offers a deep visit to Djanet, the “pearl of Tassili”, the acquaintance with the people, the suk (open market), the ethnographic museum, and then trips around the Djanet region to visit strangely shaped mountains, dunes and chains of dunes shaped by winds where you can walk barefoot, the wonderful rain water basin of Essendilene, which is part of the national park, and the worldwide famous engraving “The crying cow”.

*Accommodation in hotel and trips by 4x4 cars and 2-3 day-tours*

### **The Hoggar and Tassili Tan Ahaggar (10 days)**

This tour starts from Tamanrasset and takes the traveller to discover the outstanding volcanic massif of Hoggar, characterised by high basalt peaks and rounded granite tops. At the middle of the massif there is the “citadel” of Atakor, with its vertiginous towers (up to 3,000 metres). Here you will visit the hermitage of Père de Focauld (a French monk who lived there) on the top of Assekrem, from where you can enjoy a wonderful view.

*Accommodation with tents and 4x4 cars*

### **Méharée Djanet – Essendilene (10 days)**

In order to be totally “soaked” by the Saharian environment, the traveller can walk and ride camels passing through sand oceans and enjoying the great immensity, the absolute silence of the desert. The tour starts from Djanet to discover its area, rich in natural wonders, moonlike landscapes and bizarre rocks, and reaches the tiny gardens of Essendilene. Along the way the traveller will also visit sites full of prehistoric paintings and will enjoy the company of touareg guides who will take them to the most fascinating places.

*Accommodation with tents, trekking and camels.*

### **The Tamanrasset-Djanet tour (15 days)**

Scheduled flight from Rome Airport to Algiers. Connection for Tamanrasset. Transfer to

town and accommodation at a hotel.

Visit of the nice touareg town of Tamanrasset, the real gateway to black Africa, which has always been the crossroads of cultures, people and goods. It is the main town of the Hoggar district, situated on a 1,400 metre high plateau. In town it is worthful paying a visit to Father Foucauld's first house and fort, without forgetting to spend time wandering around the souk and the camel market at the search for authentic touareg handcraft products. Later departure for Assekrem and picnic near the Imlaoulalen "guelta". After reaching the hostel we will walk up the top of the mountain to visit Father Foucauld's hermitage and to enjoy an unforgettable sunset over the volcanic peaks of the Atakor chain. Dinner and accommodation at the hostel.

The day after we will leave the hostel for the outstanding Issakarassen guelta, very rich in vegetation and animals, where we will stop for a picnic. In the afternoon we will reach the Idjef Mellen guelta, a natural spot surrounded by magic atmosphere and mysterious legends, from which your eye will catch a panoramic view on the Tefedest plain and the Atakor chain.

Driving on, we will visit the characteristic touareg village of Hirafok and then we will drive north-east along the Telouhat oued. We will reach the top of the Amador, a fascinating and panoramic spot, and we will visit the salt mines, which in the past represented the main source of salt for the local population and which have nowadays been abandoned. Along the way we will be witnesses of mirages of mountains rising on the banks of mysterious lakes.

We will drive along the Tafassaset oued, one of the largest rivers in the Quaternary period which ended in the Tchiad lake, to reach a little circular pink erg of dunes, Tin Abaro, a wonderfully unpolluted spot to be visited only on foot. From here you can cast your eye up to the Tazat mountain which has got a very particular cone-shaped silhouette.

We will take the direction of a small village named Zaouatallaz and we will stop for a picnic at the bottom of the Tassili N'Ajjer falesia. After lunch we will reach the Essendilene Park where we will have a nice walk to visit the guelta; along the way we will be always surrounded by a fresh vegetation composed of beautiful oleander blooms, palm trees, teak trees, tamarisks, and acacias. On seeing the guelta we will be positively impressed by the unique position of the guelta which seems to be set in clusters of rock walls.

Tikobauin is the next spot we meet: black sandy pinnacles and columns rising from stretches of powdery sand form a corridor enlightened by sun light and shadows.

In the afternoon we will reach Djanet. Dinner and accommodation at the hostel.

In the morning departure by jeep east towards Tadrart; we will drive along a track flanking the Tassili falesia and we will get to the Adri oued, where we will walk to the guelta, a waterhole surrounded by massive sandy pinnacles.

The Tadrart-Acacus is a wide plateau having the same geological formation as the Tassili even though the former is more recent. The spot is characterized by high grey-nuanced dunes. We will penetrate into the Acacus plateau driving along the winding In Djeran oued, to discover its deep gorges, rocky walls, suggestive rocky silhouettes shaped by wind and sand. The high sandy walls of the oued are a real open-air museum of ancient art in the Sahara: the worldwide famous "kneeling giraffe" is an extraordinary elegant painting; we will admire drawings showing scenes of shepherd life, two-coloured oxen, hunting scenes, graffiti depicting cattle, giraffes and elephants.

We will get to a spectacular spot where Oued In Djeran opens among wonderful red dunes: the dunes of Tin Merzuga from the very top of which the endless expanse of the Libyan desert can be seen. The sunset on the dunes will wrap the traveller into a magic and unique atmosphere.

After a relaxing walk on the soft dunes, we will leave for Mulinaga. Along the way we will cross through immense sandy plains sometimes interrupted by strange and evoking rocky figures. We will get to Mulinaga driving through a moonlike landscape.

Going back along oued In Djeran for a short way we will reach Alidemma, a magic and

fabulous boundless extent of rocky spires emerging from the golden sand, which offers a charming landscape of rare emotion. Here we will enjoy the experience of wandering for long walks in a magic landscape. The sandy spires evoke whatever images our imagination can create, such as roads of ancient towns or mysterious castles. During the sunset they will lead the traveller into a magic world. Camp.

Departure from Alidemma for the immense white-sand plain of the Ténéré, towards Niger. The “nothing”, as its name suggests, is a very wide flat desert with no boundaries: your eyes will catch a landscape only depicted by colours and light, without points of reference. But suddenly we will see the Gautier Mountains, where we will meet the Tafassaset oued and we will drive along it towards north. We will stop at a small wood of tamarisks in the very middle of the dunes where is a water well, famous for being a meeting point of the touareg caravans coming from Niger.

Driving along the Tafassaset oued we will meet many pre-islamic tombs dating back to more than 2,000 years ago. Now our goal is to reach the dunes of Erg d’Admer, a wide desert of pale rose sand as soft as powder, where we will stop for a break and for a walk. In the afternoon we will continue our visit of the area by driving up to Terarart where, at the bottom of a rock, we will admire one of the most beautiful rocky engravings dating back to the Neolithic period: the “crying cow”, a mastery-refined bas-relief.

The tour ends in Djanet where we will visit the oasis.

Djanet is called the “pearl of Tassili” as it is one of the nicest mountain oases all around the Sahara. From the most ancient part of the village, which is clung on the mountain and whose houses were made up of mud and rocks, the big palm-grove and the tiny vegetable gardens beneath can be admired. In the centre of the oasis we will visit the “souk” where it will be worthful buying dates, spices and traditional touareg handcraft products. We will also visit the local museum where interesting archaeological remains of the different prehistoric periods and traditional touareg daily-life objects can be found.

Transfer to the airport. Departure for Algiers.

*Accommodation with tents and 4x4 cars.*

### **Père Charles de Focauld tour (10 giorni)**

This tour is dedicated to the memory of Père de Focauld (a French monk who used to live there for more than 20 years), who is considered to be a deep “scholar” of Touareg culture and language.

The tour is conceived to visit very different places: from the outstanding volcanic massif of Hoggar, characterised by high basalt peaks and rounded granite tops, to Ghardaia, chief town of the M’zab oasis, which lies along the left bank of the Wadi Mzab in the Northern Sahara. Ghardaia is a fortified town with white and red clay houses that rise in terraces and arcades toward the pyramid-style mosque at its centre.

Then we will visit Timimoun, famous for the watering system of its flourishing palm grove, and Beni Abbès, Taghit, Bèchar.

*Accommodation at small hotels and hostels, 4x4 cars in the south and buses in the north and two domestic flights.*

### **Ancient Roman Algeria (10 days)**

Over 500 years of Roman rule (46 B.C. – 533 A.D.) left in Algeria very precious remains. After invading the coast the Romans reached the high lands of Djemila Setif, Timgad, Lambèse, Guelma, Souk Ahras, Annaba, Constantine. Many towns were built and became prosperous above all in the III century. Today the greatness of the monuments is so impressive to strike the traveller in the visit, and to compare them to the other charming monuments of the ancient Roman Empire.

*Accommodation at hotels and tour by bus*

### **Personalised tours**

They allow you to travel how you like and with whom you like: you just have to think about your journey and we will make it suitable to your wishes.

4x4 car tours, trekking and walks, camel rides... All tours are particularly thought for all those who love nature and prehistoric art, all those who want to meet the Touareg and discover their traditions, and all those who want to live a religious experience along the history of Père de Foucauld and St. Augustine.

You are asked to take only your sleeping bag and your camera!

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND A PRACTICAL GUIDE.**

*Our agency is specialised in South Algerian tours, at the heart of the Sahara desert. The expeditions leave Djanet, (1094 m.), a small Sahara oasis at the foot of the Tassili N'Ajjer, a sandstone plateau mysteriously shaped by water and wind. The Tassili N'Ajjer, like a huge open-air museum, offers a wonderful display of prehistoric art under the desert sky, dating back to a time when the Sahara was green and inhabited.*

*The expeditions guide you across stretches of "Erg", which are large areas of sand dunes or moving sand dunes referred to as "sand seas". During your journey you will discover fresh "guelta" (waterholes in the rock) and come across many "Oued" or Wadi, evidence of rivers which once flowed through the Sahara. The landscape is composed of sand dunes, uniquely formed and ever-changing, and of wind-blown sandstone sculptures, many of which are engraved with prehistoric images or embellished with fossilized creatures.*

*For those who have more time to experience other saharian pleasures, there is the volcanic region of Hoggar, near Tamanrasset. This vast area was formed by lava which pushed its way up through the granite to form this fascinating extinct volcanoes, some of which are over 50 million years old. The tour lasts two weeks and cover an area of 1,500 Km.*

*We advise our fellow travellers to take a tour between September and May, to avoid the intense summer heat.*

*The jeeps provide the most comfortable way to travel and are able to cover difficult terrain. Those wishing to go deeper into the desert are advised to take one of our tours on foot. This way they can discover otherwise inaccessible areas which reveal labyrinths of river beds, hidden guelta, rock arches, sand dune landscapes with rock pinnacles and other impressive forms which nature has sculpted from the rocksand.*

*These tours last from a minimum of 10 days to a maximum of 2 weeks, including the return trip. On the journey from Algiers airport to the starting point of the tour you will be accompanied by our tour operator.*

*Personalised tours are organized on request.*

*It goes without saying that all meals are included in the price and that camping equipment and special tents are provided, as obviously these areas have no accomodation facilities. Apart from personal belongings you must bring a good sleeping bag, a water container and a battery-operated torch.*

*It is wise to remember that there is a difference of about 15 °C between night and day temperatures, so you are advised to bring light day clothes and warm night clothes.*