Algeria – Wildlife & Culture

Naturetrek Tour Itinerary

Outline itinerary

Day 1	Fly Algiers
Day 2	Djimla Forest
Day 3	Taza National Park
Day 4	Jijel to Constantine; fly Tamanrasset
Day 5	Oued Tamanrasset
Day 6	Assekrem Plateau, Ahaggar National Park
Day 7	Tamanrasset
Day 10	Fly Algiers; inbound flights

Departs

February – April

Focus

Wildlife and culture

Grading and Equipment

B. Important, please read the paragraphs at the end of the itinerary document before booking.

Dates & Prices

See website (tour code ALG01).

Highlights

- Search for the endemic Algerian Nuthatch
- Exciting Western Palearctic species including Red-billed Firefinch, Fulvous Babbler, Crowned Sandgrouse, African Silverbill and much more
- Visit the UNESCO heritage site of Djémila
- Explore Constantine, one of the world's oldest cities, and once capital of the Numidian Kingdom







From top: Red-billed Firefinch, Crowned Sandgrouse, Hoggar Landscape

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NB. Please note that the itinerary below offers our planned programme of excursions. However, adverse weather & other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the programme during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximise best use of the time and weather conditions available.

Day 1 Fly Algiers

We leave London on a direct flight to Algiers. We expect to arrive in Algiers in the afternoon, where our local guide will be waiting to greet us. We will enjoy lunch together before making the three-and-a-half-hour journey to Jijel to position ourselves for our exciting excursion into Djimla Forest tomorrow.

For the next three nights we will stay in a comfortable tourist hotel in Jijel.

Day 2 Djimla Forest

This morning, after breakfast, we will drive to the village of Djimla, about an hour on the minibus from Jijel. We will spend most of the day in the forest – which consists predominantly of Algerian Oak with some Algerian Fir and Atlas Cedar – where exciting highlights include the endemic Algerian Nuthatch, Atlas Flycatcher, Levaillant's Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker of the *numidus* subspecies, Coal Tit *ledouci*, Maghreb Owl, Hawfinch, and numerous others. We will enjoy a picnic lunch here too.


Atlas Flycatcher


Algerian Nuthatch © M-A Dakhli

In the afternoon, we return to our hotel and, for those who wish, continue birdwatching along the coast next to our hotel.

Day 3 Taza National Park

After breakfast, we will drive to Taza National Park and Biosphere Reserve, just 45 minutes from Jijel. We will spend the day in this forest looking for any species we may have missed yesterday, plus Barbary Macaque, which is native here.

Day 4 Jijel to Constantine; fly Tamanrasset

Today, after breakfast, we will check out of our hotel in Jijel and start making our way to Constantine, from where we will take a domestic flight to Tamanrasset in the evening. On our way to Constantine, we will visit Djemila (meaning beautiful in Arabic) Roman Site, formerly known as Cuicul, which was built by the Romans in the 1st century AD and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.


Hoggar Mountains

We will enjoy a delicious traditional lunch at a local restaurant before continuing our journey to Constantine. Formerly known as Cirta, this was the capital of the Numidian Kingdom. We will make a stop at the Rhumel Gorge to enjoy the view and here we can also observe Alpine and Pallid Swifts, along with the Algerian subspecies *cirtensis* Western Jackdaw.

In the evening, we will take our domestic flight to Tamanrasset which should arrive at 22:30. We will promptly transfer to the hotel and check-in for two nights.

Day 5 Oued Tamanrasset

After breakfast, we will start by exploring areas around the hotel before heading to areas around Tamanrasset. Our main targets here are Red-billed Firefinch and African Silverbill, plus the other exciting desert species such as Desert and White-crowned Wheatears, Desert Sparrow, Desert Lark, Brown-necked Raven, Fulvous Babbler, Trumpeter Finch, and House Bunting. Any mammals and reptiles we come across here will be most exciting, with a chance for some special butterflies too, including Desert White.


African Silverbill


Red-billed Firefinch

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Day 6 Assekrem Plateau, Ahaggar National Park

After breakfast we will use 4x4 vehicles to visit Assekrem Mountain, situated in the Atakor volcanic field. This will be an adventure through the Ahaggar National Park, and not only do we have a chance for exciting wildlife as we go, but the excursion is also planned to have the privilege of witnessing the sunset at the summit of the Assekrem Mountain. Our target species here include Desert and White-crowned Wheatears, Desert Sparrow, Desert Lark, Brown-necked Raven, Fulvous Babbler, Trumpeter Finch, House Bunting, and Crowned Sandgrouse.


Trumpeter Finch

After a most enjoyable day, we will return to Tamanrasset to have dinner and overnight.

Day 7 Tamanrasset

After breakfast we will once again use 4x4 vehicles, this time to visit wetlands and Gueltas south of Tamanrasset. This will be an added opportunity to look for our target species such as Olivaceous Warbler, wheatears, Desert Sparrow, Desert Lark, Brown-necked Raven, Fulvous Babblers, Trumpeter Finch, House Bunting, Crowned Sandgrouse, and African Silverbill.

Day 8 Fly Algiers; inbound flights

We will leave after breakfast this morning for our return flight to Algiers. We expect to have some time after lunch to enjoy a panoramic view of the city before returning to the airport for our onward flights home.


White -crowned Wheatear

Tour Grading

This is a grade B holiday. There are no particularly strenuous walks during this tour; however, some of the sites cover large areas, so distances of numerous miles per day are not unexpected, and temperatures can of course be very warm in the desert. We will also be doing a reasonable amount of walking in some of the city areas, so you should feel comfortable walking and being on your feet for much of the day. In the latter part of the trip, we will often be walking on sandy or rocky terrain.

Equipment

Important: Please note that it is **not permitted** to take binoculars or telescopes into Algeria. Instead, pairs of binoculars will be available in country for use by group members throughout the tour. We will provide further guidance before departure and ensure that the shared binoculars are available for wildlife viewing during the tour.

Entry requirements

UK citizens require a visa to enter Algeria. Before travel, you must apply for a visa through the Algerian Consulate in the UK. An official invitation letter will be provided by our colleagues in Algeria.

Weather

February–April is a lovely time of the year to visit Algeria. Skies are generally clear with excellent visibility. You can expect plenty of sunshine and daytime temperatures usually in the late 20s (Centigrade), with cool, but not cold, nights. It is generally fairly dry during these months, with the odd shower possible.

Food & accommodation

Accommodation and all meals are included throughout this holiday, starting with dinner on Day 1 and ending with lunch on Day 8. We use simple, comfortable hotels; generally, the best available in the areas we visit.

Extra expenses

Please note that we do not include all items of a more personal nature such as drinks, laundry, souvenirs and tips.

Booking your place on the tour

In order to book your place on this holiday, please give us a call on 01962 733051 with a credit or debit card, book online at www.naturetrek.co.uk, or alternatively complete and post the booking form at the back of our main Naturetrek brochure, together with a deposit of 20% of the holiday cost plus any room supplements if required. If you do not have a copy of the brochure, please call us on 01962 733051 or request one via our website. Please stipulate any special requirements, for example extension requests or connecting/regional flights, at the time of booking.

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Hoggar Mountains