

Under the Stars of Dahar

A Photography Journey Through Berber Country

May 2–9, 2027 • Southern Tunisia

Eight days of travel and five evenings beneath the stars

Berber villages, fortified granaries and rocky landscapes: a week to discover Dahar and photograph the night sky in a small group.

With Karim Maamri — Photography guide

Maximum 4 participants • 7 nights • Departure from and return to Djerba

Welcome to Dahar

By day, Berber villages, ksour and the rugged hills of Dahar tell the story of southern Tunisia. After nightfall, these same landscapes become the foregrounds of our photographs of the star-filled sky.

I invite you to spend eight days exploring the region and practising night photography. We will take the time to discover the locations, prepare our compositions and work on our images in a friendly atmosphere.

Personal guidance in a small group

The journey is limited to four participants to allow individual attention. Whether you are new to astrophotography or already practise it, I will guide you through camera settings, focusing and composition, adapting my advice to your experience.

Progressing from night to night

The five evenings follow a progression: learning the basics at Ksar Hallouf, composing with the terrain at Guermassa, showcasing architecture at Ksar Mrabtine, developing personal compositions at Ksar Tounekt, and finally applying your skills independently at Chenini and Douiret. From Day 3 to Day 6, processing workshops will help you select your images, develop RAW files and explore night-photography techniques in greater depth.

Times and locations are chosen according to astronomical conditions. The programme may be adapted to the weather and road access.

Your Itinerary

May 2–9, 2027: from Djerba to the villages and ksour of Dahar. Five nights in the region are planned at Domaine Oued El Khil.

Day / date	Stops	Overnight
1 • May 2	Arrival in Djerba	Djerba

Day / date	Stops	Overnight
2 • May 3	Djerba, then Ksar Hallouf	Domaine Oued El Khil
3 • May 4	Guermassa	Domaine Oued El Khil
4 • May 5	Ksar Mrabtine	Domaine Oued El Khil
5 • May 6	Ksar Ouled Soltane, then Ksar Tounekt	Domaine Oued El Khil
6 • May 7	Chenini, then Douiret	Domaine Oued El Khil
7 • May 8	Return to Djerba	Djerba
8 • May 9	Transfer to Djerba Airport	—

Days 1 and 2 — May 2 and 3, 2027

Day 1 — Welcome to Djerba

When you arrive at Djerba Airport, I will accompany you to the hotel. The first day will be devoted to settling in and preparing for the trip: presenting the programme, discussing your expectations and checking your photography equipment.

We will share our first dinner in Djerba before setting off for Dahar the following day.

The photographer's perspective

The first day matters. It gives everyone time to settle in and approach the week calmly. Good preparation is often the key to beautiful photographs on the following nights.

Day 2 — First evening at Ksar Hallouf

After breakfast, we will drive to Dahar and settle into Domaine Oued El Khil, our accommodation for the next five nights.

In the late afternoon, we will visit Ksar Hallouf. We will explore this fortified granary and its rocky surroundings to scout foregrounds and prepare compositions before nightfall.

This first session will help everyone find their bearings: basic settings, night focusing and first images combining architecture and the starry sky.

This evening's programme — Priority: Master the basics of night photography

- Identify a simple foreground before nightfall.
- Set exposure and focus manually.
- Check star sharpness and adjust settings.
- Create a first composition combining the ksar and the sky.

The photographer's perspective

This first night is above all an introduction. The aim is not to make the best photograph of the trip immediately, but to build solid foundations that will allow you to progress confidently throughout the week.

Day 1 accommodation: 3-star hotel in Djerba. Day 2 accommodation: Domaine Oued El Khil.

Day 3 — The Heights of Guermassa

May 4, 2027



The morning will be for resting after the night outing. From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., we will work on the previous night's images in Lightroom and Photoshop, then prepare for the evening session.

We will then travel to Guermassa, an old Berber village clinging to the mountainside. Its lanes, architecture and views across the valley offer many compositional possibilities.

Before nightfall, we will walk through the village to choose our frames. The night session will deepen our understanding of the balance between foreground and Milky Way.

This evening's programme — Priority: Compose with the terrain

- Read the landscape and choose a viewpoint over the valley.
- Arrange the different planes to give the image depth.
- Balance the silhouettes of the hills with the Milky Way.
- Apply the camera settings learned during the first session.

The photographer's perspective

Guermassa is one of those places best discovered slowly. Before taking out your camera, take time to walk, observe and let the landscape inspire you. The best images often come from careful preparation.

Accommodation: Domaine Oued El Khil.

Day 4 — Ksar Mrabtime

May 5, 2027

After a morning of rest and the processing workshop from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., we will discover Ksar Mrabtime in the late afternoon. This fortified granary and the surrounding hills will be at the heart of our third photography evening.

We will study architectural perspectives and lines to construct images combining the ksar and the night sky. This session will help us refine our foreground choices and give greater structure to our compositions.

This evening's programme — Priority: Showcase architecture

- Observe the volumes, openings and perspective lines of the ksar.
- Choose a frame that leads the eye toward the sky.
- Bring together architectural foregrounds and the Milky Way.
- Refine compositions by reviewing the images taken.

The photographer's perspective

The most beautiful photographs are not always made at the best-known sites. Ksar Mrabtime is an excellent example: its simplicity and peaceful atmosphere offer great creative freedom.

Accommodation: Domaine Oued El Khil.

Day 5 — From Ksar Ouled Soltane to Ksar Tounekt

May 6, 2027

After the processing workshop from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., we will discover Ksar Ouled Soltane and its stacked ghorfas, the characteristic storage chambers of these fortified granaries. We will then continue to Ksar Tounekt for the evening session.

Late-afternoon scouting will allow us to explore different frames and seek more personal compositions. After nightfall, everyone will put the lessons of previous sessions into practice.

This evening's programme — Priority: Develop personal compositions

- Explore several framings of the same subject.
- Choose a foreground based on the image you want to create.
- Adapt your technical skills to your own compositional choices.
- Compare images and explain your photographic intentions.

The photographer's perspective

At this stage of the journey, technique becomes a tool rather than an end in itself. What makes the difference now is the way each person sees the landscape.

Accommodation: Domaine Oued El Khil.

Day 6 — Chenini and Douiret

May 7, 2027

After the processing workshop from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., our last evening in Dahar will take us to Chenini and then Douiret. It will bring together everything learned during the week, from location scouting to constructing a night photograph.

First stop: Chenini

We will explore the village and its viewpoints to prepare for the photo session. We will observe how the architecture fits into the terrain and seek the most suitable compositions.

Final session: Douiret

We will continue to Douiret to photograph its stone architecture beneath the stars. This session will allow you to draw on your command of camera settings and develop compositions that reflect your own vision.

This evening's programme — Priority: Put your skills into practice independently

- Prepare your composition based on scouting in Chenini and Douiret.
- Choose your settings and focus the camera.
- Check your images and correct any problems you identify.
- Create a personal series, with guidance from the photographer if needed.

The photographer's perspective

The last evening is often special. The locations have become familiar, movements more natural and camera settings almost instinctive. This is often when the most personal images emerge.

Accommodation: Domaine Oued El Khil.

Days 7 and 8 — Return to Djerba

May 8 and 9, 2027



Day 7 — The journey back

After our final night at Domaine Oued El Khil, we will return to Djerba. The journey will be an opportunity to discuss the images we have made and the most memorable moments of the trip. On arrival, we will check into the hotel for the last night.

Day 8 — Departure from Djerba

After breakfast, I will accompany you to Djerba Airport for your return flight. I hope you will leave with beautiful photographs, new technical skills and the desire to continue exploring the night sky.

Preparing for Your Journey

Accommodation and comfort

The five nights in Dahar are planned at Domaine Oued El Khil. Each participant will have a private room with an en-suite bathroom. In Djerba, the nights of Days 1 and 7 are planned at a 3-star hotel, to be specified later.

Meals and provisions

Included meals: Day 1, dinner only; Days 2–7, breakfast, lunch and dinner; Day 8, breakfast only.

Breakfast on Day 2 will be served at the hotel in Djerba. In Dahar, breakfasts on Days 3–6 and lunches on Days 2–6 will be served at Domaine Oued El Khil's restaurant. Dinners will be arranged according to the locations and shooting times, either at a restaurant or in the field, with pizza or sandwiches. Regular supermarket stops will allow everyone to buy drinks, fruit and provisions for the evenings.

Recommended photography equipment

- DSLR or mirrorless camera, APS-C or full-frame.
- Wide-angle lens or zoom from 14 to 24 mm, preferably fast.
- Tripod with a ball head.
- Remote shutter release.
- Memory cards.
- Optional star tracker.
- Laptop with Lightroom and Photoshop installed. LRTimelapse is optional and useful for processing timelapse sequences.

Before departure, familiarise yourself with manual settings, manual focus, noise reduction, file formats and your camera's intervalometer.

If you are unsure about your equipment or experience level, contact Karim Maamri before booking at mkmaamri@gmail.com or via WhatsApp at +216 22 643 652. Together you can check whether your equipment is suitable and discuss your expectations.

It is recommended that you carry the camera, lenses and fragile accessories in cabin baggage. Pack your tripod in checked luggage and check your airline's rules.

Daily and nightly schedule

For the five photography outings in Dahar, we will leave the accommodation between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. and return between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. the next morning. Mornings are for rest. From Day 3 to Day 6, image-processing workshops will take place from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., before departure for the next session.

These times are indicative and may be adjusted for weather, travel and the sessions themselves. They describe the rhythm of the trip; the astronomical tables show the times of celestial events.

Image-processing workshops

From Day 3 to Day 6, 1 p.m.–4 p.m.: selecting and developing RAW files, stacking, reducing light pollution, working with masks, stretching, star reduction, panoramas and blending tracked sky images with ground exposures.

The processing workshops are optional: participants may attend or use the time to rest. Sessions will be recorded and made available to participants afterwards.

Stretching means expanding the distribution of tonal values in the histogram to reveal details that are barely visible in the original RAW file. Star reduction means making stars less prominent when they dominate the image; this improves readability and helps showcase the Milky Way or photographed nebulae.

When the sky is partly cloudy, we may use the intervalometer to record sequences showing the movement of clouds and the sky. LRTimelapse can be used to process these sequences and prepare timelapses; installation remains optional.

Insurance and programme adjustments

Medical and repatriation insurance is mandatory for participation. It is not included in the price and must be purchased individually before departure.

Locations and times may be changed due to weather, access conditions or unforeseen circumstances. Sky conditions cannot be guaranteed months in advance. In cloudy conditions, we may work on timelapses: short videos showing cloud movement across the sky, potentially accompanied by music.

In prolonged bad weather, we may also photograph daytime landscapes, visit local communities, explore local culture or extend image-processing sessions. Depending on participants' preferences, two groups may be formed: one will discover the region with the local guide while the other stays with Karim for further post-processing.

Physical difficulty

Transfers between locations are by 4×4 vehicle. Walks to shooting locations will not exceed 200 metres or 15 minutes, with slopes no steeper than 10%. An experienced local guide will accompany us, including in darkness, to help us find the easiest access routes.

Astronomical Information

The times below are Tunisian local time (UTC+1). The new moon is expected on May 6, 2027.

Moonrise

Night of	Location	Moonrise	Illumination
May 3–4	Ksar Hallouf	03:52	≈5%
May 4–5	Guermassa	04:23	≈1%
May 5–6	Ksar Mrabtine	04:59	≈0%
May 6–7	Ksar Tounekt	05:43	≈2%
May 7–8	Chenini and Douiret	06:36	≈5%

Moonrise refers to the morning after the evening session. Approximate illumination at noon on that same day (USNO); times assume a clear horizon.

Galactic centre rise and set

The indicated setting time occurs the morning after the session date. Times are calculated for each site's coordinates and rounded to the nearest minute.

Evening of	Location	Rise	Set next morning
May 3	Ksar Hallouf	22:41	07:59
May 4	Guermassa	22:35	07:56
May 5	Ksar Mrabtine	22:31	07:51
May 6	Ksar Tounekt	22:26	07:47
May 7	Chenini and Douiret	22:23	07:44

The galactic centre being above the horizon does not guarantee visibility; visibility also depends on sky brightness, weather and the surrounding terrain.

Prices and Booking

Price per participant

Service	Amount	Payment
Photography guidance	€1,050	€315 on booking; €735 within 72 hours of departure confirmation
Vérité Voyages travel agency	TND 3,731	Cash in Tunisian dinars upon arrival in Djerba
Indicative total	Approximately €2,160	€1,050 + TND 3,731

The agency service is approximately €1,110 at the exchange rate indicated on October 11, 2026. The amount due to the agency is fixed in Tunisian dinars; its euro equivalent will depend on the exchange rate on the first day of the trip.

What the trip includes

Included: 4x4 transport during the trip, airport transfers, seven nights' accommodation, dinner on Day 1, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Days 2-7, and breakfast on Day 8. Photography guidance is billed separately as indicated above.

Participants will travel in the 4x4 provided by Vérité Voyages. A second 4x4, driven by your photography guide, will accompany the group. It may carry some luggage and equipment to free up space in the agency vehicle and improve participant comfort.

Not included: flights, drinks other than mineral water, photography equipment and accessories, medical and repatriation insurance, breakfast and lunch on Day 1, and lunch and dinner on Day 8.

Reserve your place

The photography service is paid by bank transfer. The reservation is confirmed after receipt of €315, representing 30% of that service, payable within 72 hours of the booking request. Bookings are open now and remain possible while places are available.

The remaining €735 for photography guidance will only be requested once departure is confirmed and must be paid within 72 hours of that confirmation.

Booking the photography service automatically reserves the travel agency's services. No separate booking with the agency is required; TND 3,731 must be paid in cash, in Tunisian dinars, upon arrival in Djerba.

On your arrival day in Djerba, time will be set aside to exchange money. Each participant can be dropped off at a currency exchange office to obtain the Tunisian dinars needed to pay the agency.

No cancellation fee is owed to Vérité Voyages because its service is paid only on arrival in Djerba. If the photography service is cancelled, Karim Maamri will automatically inform the agency so that the associated services can be cancelled.

Cancellation by the Participant

For cancellations made at least 90 days before departure, 80% of amounts received for the photography service will be refunded; 20% will be retained as an administration fee.

For cancellations made less than 90 days before departure, no refund of the photography service is possible.

Departure Confirmation and Refunds

Cancellation by the organiser

If the organiser cancels the trip, all amounts paid will be refunded in full, except in cases of force majeure: an administration fee of 20% of amounts paid will be retained and the remaining 80% refunded.

Trip postponement

If the organiser proposes new dates, the participant may accept them and receive a 10% discount on the photography service only, or choose a full refund of amounts paid. The discount does not apply to the travel agency's service.

Minimum number of participants

Departure may be confirmed at any time once the minimum of two participants is reached. In all cases, the final decision to proceed with or cancel the trip will be communicated no later than 30 days before departure. If the minimum is not reached, the participant may choose to proceed with the trip subject to an additional charge to be communicated, or receive a full refund of amounts paid. Proceeding will require their agreement to the supplement.

Refund timeframe

Any refund provided for under these terms will be made within seven days of confirmation of cancellation or the participant's decision to receive a refund.

Organisation and Contacts

Your photography guide

Karim Maamri provides photography guidance and remains your main contact before departure and throughout the trip. After many years devoted to wildlife photography, his desert travels led him to astrophotography and nightscape photography, which combine terrestrial landscapes and the night sky.

Learn more about him and his photography at <https://skyofthesahara.com/> and explore his portfolio in the gallery: <https://skyofthesahara.com/galerie/>.

WhatsApp: +216 22 643 652

Email: mkmaamri@gmail.com

Your travel agency

Vérité Voyages, a Djerba-based agency, arranges accommodation and transport for the trip.

Address: No. 6, Kalisse Résidence, Sidi Mehrez tourist area, Djerba 4179, Tunisia.

Website: verite-voyages.com

Agency phone: +216 98 689 625

Request a reservation

To request a reservation, use the online contact form at <https://skyofthesahara.com/contact/> or contact Karim Maamri directly via WhatsApp at +216 22 643 652. Confirmation of your place remains subject to the payment terms in the Prices and Booking section.

Before departure and during the trip

For any questions about preparing for the trip or its organisation, contact Karim Maamri directly via WhatsApp at +216 22 643 652 or by email at mkmaamri@gmail.com.