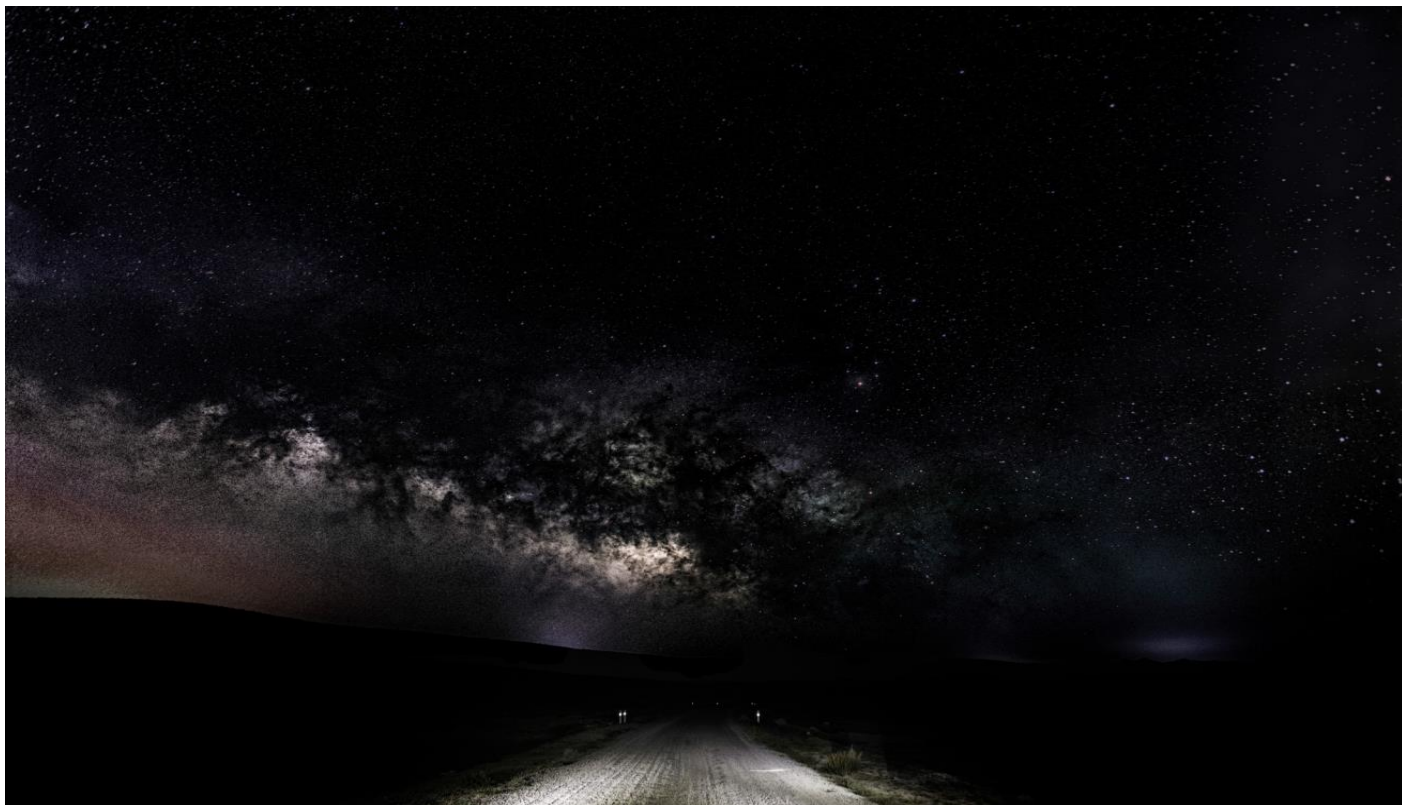




UNDER THE STARS OF THE DAHAR

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH BERBER LANDS

Five nights under the stars, among ancient ksour, desert landscapes and rugged mountains

By **Karim Maamri**

Photographer and guide

SKY OF THE SAHARA • MAY 2–9, 2027



**“The Dahar is discovered by day.
It reveals itself at night.”**

WELCOME

Welcome Under the Stars of the Dahar

The Dahar is a land of contrasts. By day, its Berber villages, ksour and mountain landscapes tell stories spanning centuries. At nightfall, silence settles in, temperatures become more pleasant, and exceptionally clear skies reveal the full richness of the Milky Way.

It is in this unspoiled setting that I invite you to spend a week exploring some of the most beautiful places in southern Tunisia. Each day is designed to introduce you to the Dahar's heritage, while each evening is devoted to photography beneath the stars.

The schedule, travel arrangements and choice of locations have been planned around astronomical conditions to make the most of the best opportunities for observation and photography.

Whether you already practise astrophotography or are eager to discover it, this journey is above all an invitation to slow down: observe, compose, experiment and improve in a friendly, small-group atmosphere.

THE SPIRIT OF THE JOURNEY

This journey is intentionally limited to four participants to ensure personal guidance and allow everyone to progress at their own pace. Each location has been selected both for its photographic interest and for the experience it offers after dark.

I will take the time to prepare each session with you, discuss camera settings, seek out the best compositions and adapt my approach to the conditions. Beyond the technical aspects, this week is also an opportunity to discover an authentic region and experience photography as a journey in its own right.

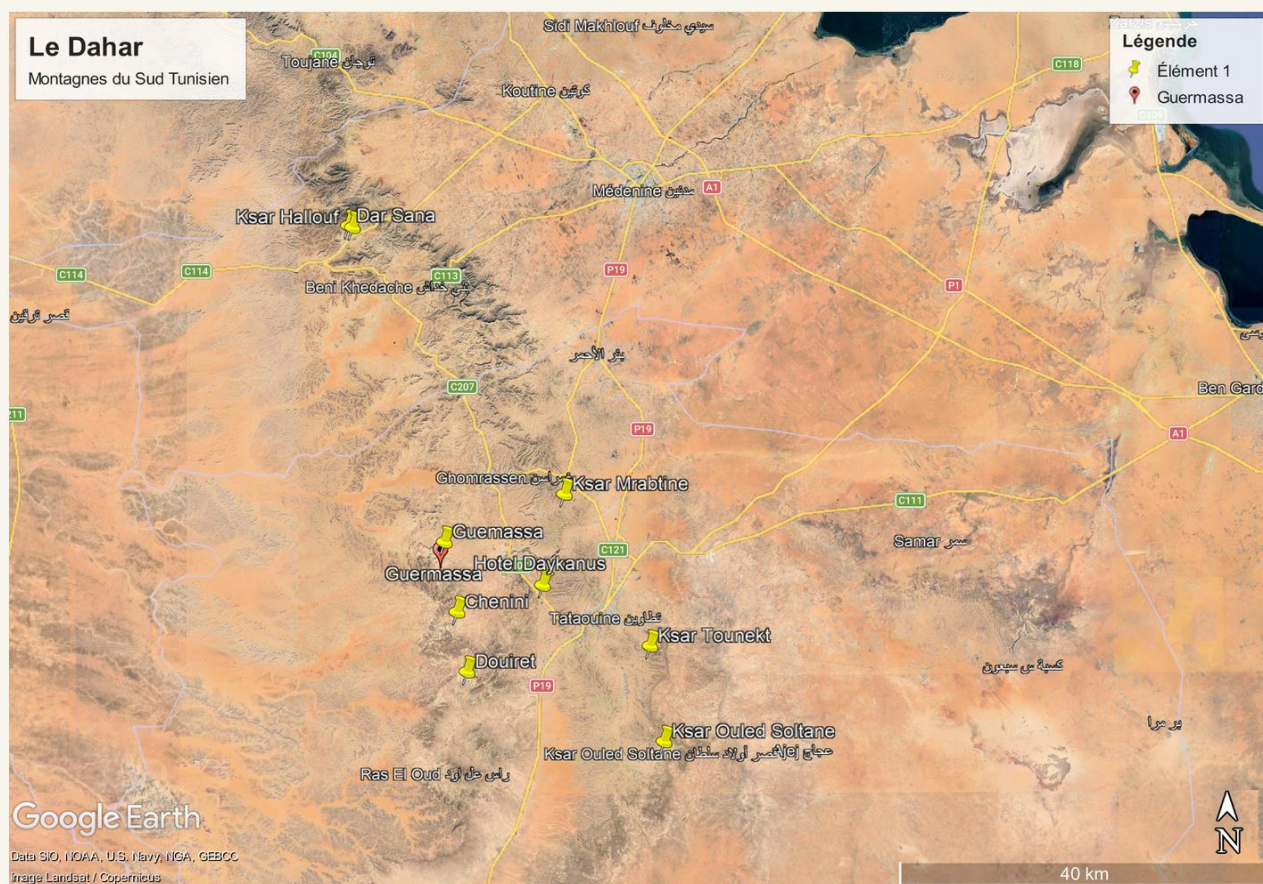
ITINERARY

Your Photographic Itinerary

Eight days between Tunis and the Dahar, with five evenings dedicated to discovering and photographing the landscapes and architecture of southern Tunisia.

Day 1 Tunis → Ksar Hallouf · Overnight at Dar Sana
Day 2 Ksar Hallouf · Overnight at Dar Sana
Day 3 Guermassa · Overnight at Hotel Dakyanus
Day 4 Ksar Ouled Soltane → Ksar Mrabtine · Hotel Dakyanus
Day 5 Ksar Tounket · Overnight at Hotel Dakyanus
Day 6 Chenini → Douiret · Overnight at Hotel Dakyanus
Day 7 Return to Tunis · Overnight in Tunis
Day 8 Transfer to Tunis Airport

CARTE DU DAHAR — ITINÉRAIRE PHOTOGRAPHIQUE



Carte Google Earth du Dahar • Itinéraire photographique du 2 au 9 mai 2027

Map of the photographic route through the Dahar, May 2–9, 2027. Place names are retained as shown on the original map.

DAY 1

Welcome to the Dahar

After your arrival at Tunis Airport, we will head south. As the kilometres pass, the scenery will gradually change until the distinctive mountains of the Dahar come into view. At the end of the day, I will take you to Dar Sana, at the foot of Ksar Hallouf, where you will spend your first two nights.

This first day is deliberately devoted to settling in and discovering the region. I will take the time to get to know everyone, check the equipment and introduce the programme for the week.

In the evening, we will share our first dinner. It will be an opportunity to discuss your expectations, check the final details of your photographic equipment and answer any questions before our first outing beneath the stars.

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

- Arrival in Tunis.
- Transfer to Ksar Hallouf.
- Check-in at Dar Sana.
- Introduction to the journey and photography equipment check.
- Dinner.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE

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

Tomorrow, I will take you to Ksar Hallouf for our first photography session under the stars.

DAY 2

First Night Under the Stars



This first full day in the Dahar begins at an easy pace. After breakfast, I will suggest exploring the surroundings of Ghomrassen before preparing our first night photography session. This will also be a chance to review the basic camera settings and answer any remaining questions before nightfall.

In the late afternoon, I will take you to Ksar Hallouf, an ancient fortified granary overlooking the rugged landscapes typical of the Dahar. Before the first stars appear, we will explore the site together, identify the best foregrounds and plan our compositions.

As darkness falls, the Milky Way will gradually emerge above the ksar. This first session will focus on discovering night photography and helping everyone find their bearings.

THIS EVENING'S PROGRAMME

- Explore Ksar Hallouf before sunset.
- Prepare for a night photography session.
- Basic settings and focusing at night.
- First compositions using architecture as a foreground.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE

This first night is about getting started. The aim is not to take the best photograph of the journey immediately, but to build solid foundations that will help you progress confidently throughout the week.

Tomorrow, I will take you higher into the mountains to reach Guermassa.

On the Heights of the Dahar



After our first night beneath the stars, I will continue exploring the Dahar with you by heading into the mountains. Today's destination is Guermassa, an ancient Berber village clinging to the mountainside and overlooking the surrounding valley.

Before nightfall, we will walk through the village lanes, observe its traditional architecture and enjoy the many viewpoints. This scouting session will help us plan our framing and select compositions that best showcase the landscape once the stars appear.

As twilight gives way to darkness, Guermassa will reveal a completely different atmosphere. Our second night will be an opportunity to deepen our night photography skills, with more ambitious compositions and greater attention to the balance between landscape and sky.

THIS EVENING'S PROGRAMME

- Scout the location before sunset.
- Find the best viewpoints.
- Compose a night landscape.
- Balance the foreground and the Milky Way.

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 begin with good preparation.

Tomorrow, architecture will become the foreground of your images.

Architecture Under the Stars



Today will be devoted to discovering two emblematic ksour of the Dahar. I will begin by introducing you to Ksar Ouled Soltane, one of Tunisia's best-known fortified granaries. Its stacked ghorfas reflect the ingenuity of the communities that once stored their harvests there.

In the late afternoon, I will take you to Ksar Mrabtime, a much quieter and rarely visited site. With little light pollution, it offers particularly favourable conditions for night-sky photography. Its simple architecture and surrounding hills provide an ideal setting for showcasing the Milky Way.

THIS EVENING'S PROGRAMME

- Discover the architecture of Ksar Ouled Soltane.
- Scout photographic viewpoints at Ksar Mrabtime.
- Compose images combining architecture and the Milky Way.
- Work with perspective and leading lines.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE

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

Tomorrow, I will take you to Ksar Tounekt, where creativity will take centre stage.

Between Stone and Sky



As the week progresses, your photographic eye evolves. Camera settings become more intuitive, compositions more considered, and everyone begins to develop their own visual sensitivity.

In the late afternoon, I will accompany you to Ksar Tounekt, an ancient fortified granary that provides a particularly interesting setting for night photography. Its architecture, the surrounding hills and the region's low light pollution make it possible to create images in which heritage and the star-filled sky complement one another.

Before nightfall, we will explore the site together and experiment with different framing possibilities. When the Milky Way rises above the landscape, everyone will be able to put the skills acquired since the start of the journey into practice while developing their own vision.

THIS EVENING'S PROGRAMME

- Photographic scouting of the site.
- Look for original compositions.
- Showcase the architecture beneath the Milky Way.
- Balance the landscape and the sky.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S PERSPECTIVE

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

Tomorrow, Chenini and Douiret will be the highlight of our week beneath the stars.

DAY 6

When the Dahar Reveals Itself

After several days exploring the villages, ksour and landscapes of southern Tunisia, I will take you to two emblematic sites for our final evening in the Dahar: Chenini, one of the region's last inhabited Berber villages, followed by Douiret, an ancient stone village perfectly integrated into the surrounding terrain. This final night will bring together everything learned during the week and conclude our photographic journey beneath skies with little light pollution.

When the Milky Way appears, everyone will be able to draw on the skills developed throughout the week: controlling light, choosing a foreground, composing an image and, above all, the personal photographic vision cultivated during our nights in the Dahar.

FIRST STOP OF THE EVENING — CHENINI



FINAL STOP OF THE EVENING — DOUIRET



THIS EVENING'S PROGRAMME

- Explore Chenini and prepare the photography session.
- Scout the best viewpoints.
- Night photography at Douiret.
- Create images combining architecture and the Milky Way.

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.

DAY 7

Return to Tunis



After our last night in the Dahar and a night's rest at Hotel Dakyanus, I will travel back to Tunis with you. Approximately 500 kilometres separate the Dahar from the capital, so this day will primarily be devoted to the journey and the transition back.

During the drive, I will take the opportunity to talk with you about the photographs taken throughout the week and revisit the highlights of our stay. On arrival in Tunis, I will accompany you to the hotel for the final night of the journey.

The journey is drawing to a close, but the images created this week will continue to tell the story of this adventure for a long time.

DAY 8

Until We Meet Again Under the Stars

After breakfast, I will accompany you to Tunis Airport so that everyone can check in for their return flight.

This week will have been an opportunity to discover the Dahar, practise night photography in very different environments and gradually develop a more personal approach to image-making.

Above all, I hope you will leave with beautiful photographs, new technical skills and the desire to continue exploring the night sky.

SKY OF THE SAHARA

Under the Stars of the Dahar

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Preparing for the Journey

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED
• 4x4 transport during the stay • Accommodation • Meals as specified in the programme • Airport transfers	• Flights • Drinks other than water • Medical and repatriation insurance (mandatory) • Camera equipment and accessories

RECOMMENDED PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT

APS-C or full-frame DSLR or mirrorless camera; preferably fast wide-angle lens or zoom between 14 and 24 mm; tripod and tripod head; optional star tracker; laptop with Lightroom, Photoshop and LR Timelapse installed. It is strongly recommended that you carry your camera, lenses and fragile accessories in your cabin baggage.

GOOD TO KNOW

Medical and repatriation insurance is mandatory to take part in this journey. Photography locations may be changed depending on weather conditions, access restrictions or other unforeseen circumstances. In unfavourable conditions, the programme may focus on image processing, preparation for subsequent sessions or other suitable photography activities.

ASTRONOMICAL TIMES

Local time (Tunisia, UTC+1). New Moon: May 6, 2027.

Date	Location	Moonrise	Illumination
May 3	Ksar Hallouf	03:24	10.4%
May 4	Guermassa	03:52	4.9%
May 5	Ksar Mrabtine	04:23	1.4%
May 6	Ksar Tounket	04:59	0.2%
May 7	Chenini / Douiret	05:44	1.6%

Astronomical calculations are based on each location's coordinates; times are rounded to the nearest minute.