



CHAD

THE INCREDIBLE AND COLOURFUL GEREWOL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 2024

Ignacio Palacios - Trevor Cole

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The Gerewol Festival is the most exciting for those who are fascinated in the varied ethnography of Africa. It's an absolute delight for photographers and the Wodaabe are keen to show themselves off to visitors and photographers!



THE GEREWOL FESTIVAL

Each year the semi-nomadic Wodaabe people gather for a week of incredible celebrations known as the Gerewol. This colourful festival is one of Africa's most spectacular and few westerners are privileged to see it.

The Gerewol festival is renowned for the way in which young Wodaabe men decorate themselves. Donning make-up and jewellery they 'display' to young women, in search of a partner either for life, or something less 'permanent'!

Camping in the Sahel, we stay with the Wodaabe for seven days, gaining more than just a fleeting glimpse of their lives. With the guidance of two award winning travel photographers, we will immerse and absorb ourselves in a culture that lives very much outside of mainstream society. The Wodaabe adhere to a complex set of traditions that stretch back centuries and across borders but are in danger of becoming lost in the future. This is a rare opportunity to meet these unique people for a celebration of their culture that will simply take your breath away.

"The Gerewol Festival is the most exciting for those who are fascinated in the varied ethnography of Africa."



THE GEREWOL FESTIVAL NOTES FROM TREVOR COLE

“These nomads come together in a festival known as the Gerewol. This is a beauty pageant for the men so that they might be selected by the women/girls of the tribe.”



Epitomising the beauty of Wodaabe men in their quest to find a female in the annual Gerewol festival in Chad.

The Wodaabe tribe (Mbororo), a branch of the Fulani tribe, are nomadic pastoralists who are found predominantly in Niger and Chad and in the Sahel region of Sub-Saharan Africa. They speak Fula which isn't a written language.

A large wooden bed (Suudu) is the most important possession of each family; when camping it is surrounded by some screens. The women also carry calabashes as a status symbol. These calabashes are passed down through the generations, and often provoke rivalry between women. The Wodaabe mostly live on milk and ground millet, as well as yoghurt, sweet tea and occasionally the meat of a goat or sheep. The code of behavior of the Wodaabe emphasizes reserve and modesty (semteende), patience and fortitude (munyal), care and forethought (hakkilo), and loyalty (amana). They also place great emphasis on beauty and charm. Parents are not allowed to talk directly to their two first born children, who will often be cared for by their grandparents. During daylight, husband and wife cannot hold hands or speak in a personal manner with each other.

Once a year in Chad these nomads come together in a festival known as the Gerewol. This is a beauty pageant for the men so that they might be selected by the women/girls of the tribe. The women are usually younger than the men and are seen as fair game in a society which is polygamous and polygynous. The men adorn themselves using a diversity of facial paint colours and the whites of the eye and teeth colour are particularly important. So too their outfits, which are embellished with beads, buttons and baubles in the brightest of colours. Mirrored tunics and hats add to the exuberance and adornment. The overall appearance with the paint, makeup and outfits can only be described as feminine from our cultural perspective.

They dance like male peacocks or other such birds who exhibit their plumage to attract females. The male beauty ideal of the Wodaabe stresses tallness, white eyes and teeth; the men will often roll their eyes and show their teeth to emphasize these characteristics. They are animists at heart and this may be why they emulate the animal kingdom. They have now, in a token way, been converted to Islam.

The Gerewol festival is always held at the end of the rainy season in the Sahelian zone which has seasonal rainfall and the grass that grows is an imperative for the long horned red Fulani cattle. The Wodaabe move frequently in search of fresh pasture for their animals. They use donkeys and bulls to transport their Suudu (houses).



At this festival there are two groups of Wodaabe, the Sudosukai and Djapto. They are both scarred facially and, on their bodies, using razor blades and ash is then rubbed into the open wound. The result is a black tattoo which is slightly keloidal (raised). This scarification starts with very young children and tattoos are added with time. The Djapto are more heavily scarred than the Sudosukai. There are perhaps some physiological differences too with the Sudosukai being finer. Many have model like features, and all are very slim.

They dance endlessly at this festival with breaks when it is too hot and on the last night they dance until dawn. They have their own ancient rhythms which are repeated over and over. They dance in circles and lines (Yaake) with the latter culminating in choices made by small numbers of girls. To participate in the Gerewol the girls must have menstruated prior to the festival. Effectively when choices are made the girls know they are going to have sex in the bush with the chosen Wodaabe male, if the male accepts them. This may be a one night affair, or last for longer, sometimes culminating in marriage. Men may have a few wives and as women do all the work second or third wives are seen positively by the first wife. If a husband is infertile he may ask a fellow tribesman to impregnate his wife. Children are prolific and are seen as a sign of machismo, wealth and labour. Larger numbers help to offset high infant and child mortality.

Their cattle are also seen as their wealth and they very rarely eat them. They do however trade them for other goods. Their animal husbandry is superb and there is always a very young (less than 7 years old) herdsman. They grow up quickly in such a society. The girls may be as young as 12 or 13 when they make their selections at the Gerewol. They have no formal education and their culture is still resilient to an encroaching outside world.

They do not seem to suffer from malnourishment and are healthy. Yet they may only eat once a day and it is predominantly vegetarian using millet, milk and perhaps some cassava or manioc. They were tall, slim and well-toned with a life which is endlessly physical.

As a tribe they perform the Gerewol for themselves not for any visitors. Very few have ever seen this in Chad. More have seen it in Niger but instability has curbed any potential tourism.

Very few photographers and travellers are seen but the friendliness of the tribe was universal although quite a few were shy, which is part of their cultural code.

“Very few photographers and travellers are seen but the friendliness of the tribe was universal.”



PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio's guidance, you'll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you'll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your Chad adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs that you'll share with pride.

Some of the photography skills you'll learn throughout the tour include:

- The art of composition, capture the moment – what makes a good picture
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- Creative post-processing – for those of you who are keen to break the rules
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment and filters
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- The unique techniques of landscape photography, wildlife photography, portrait photography, while also touching on aerial, black and white, and night photography
- Ignacio and Trevor will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you'd personally like to master.

Camera Skills

The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So Ignacio and Trevor will be by your side in the field sharing insight and guidance as you shoot. Helping you create great photos as you shoot. No matter your skill level or equipment, you'll learn the craft with an award-winning masters.

The Creative Process

Throughout the tour, you'll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop, Capture One and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

Critique Session

Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

Level of photography

All skills levels are welcome. Whether you're a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and post processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise the equipment you chose to use from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras.

Physical considerations

Participants should be in good general health, however, there is not much strenuous walking/trekking involved. Temperatures can range drastically from day to night so packing layers is essential.

“It's an absolute delight for photographers and the Wodaabe are keen to show themselves off to visitors and photographers!”





IGNACIO PALACIOS

When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over

100 prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 90 countries in his 20 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney, Australia home – though his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured it, but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.



TREVOR COLE

To capture people and landscapes and the interactions between them in the light of a world in transition is to encapsulate an inimitable moment, which will never

again materialise. His own 'take' as a geographer photographer!

Born in the City of Derry (Ireland), he has lived most of his life outside the bounds of Ireland; in England, Singapore, Togo, Italy, Ethiopia and Brazil. He returned to Ireland (Donegal) in 2012.

His photography, together with travel, have become two of his life's passions. His photography focuses predominantly on culture and landscapes; images which reflect a spatial and temporal journey through life and which try to convey a need to live in a more sustainable world. He seeks the moment and the light in whatever context he finds himself and endeavours to use his photographic acumen to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary.

He leads small photo tours in his 'own Donegal' and Ireland but also to other destinations. He lived in Ethiopia from 2006-2010 and since then has returned to take photographers to the Western and Eastern Omo, Harar, the Danakil desert and the highlands of Ethiopia. Additionally he takes photo tours to Iceland, Namibia, South Sudan, Chad, Angola and India as well as travelling himself to discover and capture in new locations, often with a focus on indigenous people.

He loves most genres of photography but capturing the rapidly changing cultures of remote areas in Africa has become a focal point. His lens has become his vision of indigenous people and with time he has tried to turn his photographs into emotive moments where he encapsulates a connection. These people are still inextricably connected to the earth living sustainably with a very small ecological footprint. Tourism can be degrading but it can, if sensitively done, also bring hope and cultural resilience.



"I believe that photography can be way of change and I feel an obligation and responsibility to share what I have captured and created with my camera in the hope that I can not only inspire people to take better images but to care for the environment."

Ignacio Palacios

CHECKLIST

TO BE SUPPLIED

“My strongest motivation is to create. I want to create beautiful images of natural subjects that can inspire others and the joy comes from sharing those incredible moments.”

Ignacio Palacios



Camera equipment

- DSLR. To bring a couple of bodies is always recommended (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Standard zoom, wide angle and telephoto lens
- Plenty of batteries and a couple of chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One. Please make sure that these programs are working properly on your laptop before you arrive.
- External backup drives (SSD recommended) and memory cards for storage
- Lenses that cover the range of 24mm to 400mm plus, perhaps, a x1.4 teleconverter. I am planning to bring the following lenses: 24-70mm f2.8, 70-200mm f2.8 and possibly a 180-400 f4 or a 400mm f2.8 prime.

What to bring, clothing and other

- Water bottle (1lt) to avoid the use of plastic bottles for mineral water. Our guide will make sure to refill your bottle whenever necessary.
- Sun block and sun glasses (protection against UV)
- Hat
- We recommend comfortable clothing made of fabric that breaths (such as cotton) and pack a combination of short sleeve and long sleeve top and pant options
- Comfortable hiking boots.
- Travel and medical insurance, passport, visa, medication that might include malaria pills

Luggage preparations

- Additional luggage allowances have been arranged across all of your internal flights for your convenience
- We recommend you shrinkwrap your baggage at your departure airport
- Ensure your telephoto lenses are packed in protective casings designed for this specific lens
- We also suggest you carry your camera equipment as carry-on luggage where possible. In the event your luggage is delayed or lost, you can still shoot the moment you arrive.

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. In the event of this happening, all payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit. It is recommended that the cancellation insurance covers for the whole cost of the trip.

To reserve your place for 2024 or to make an enquiry, please email ignacio@iptravelphotography.com.au



TERMS AND CONDITIONS



WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: **October 2024 (dates to be confirmed)**

The tour commences and ends in **N'Djamena**. Group gathering at hotel in N'Djamena usually the Irrisor (four star accommodation)

Standard cost: **US\$8,990** per person

Maximum **10** participants

A deposit of **US\$2,000** is required when you book the workshop

Terms of payment

- A deposit of US\$2,000 must be paid to secure your place. The deposit is non-refundable unless you can sell your place to someone else
- Note: the workshop is quoted in USD\$. To calculate the rate in AUD\$, the currency exchange rate will be obtained from the Westpac website at the time of transferring the deposit and balance
- The online Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit. Participation will be declined otherwise
- The remaining balance must be paid on or before 1 May 2024
- Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received
- Important: the workshop requires a minimum of 4 participants to run so please don't book your flights until the trip has been confirmed.

What's included

- Full 7 day tour, photography instruction by Ignacio Palacios and Trevor Cole
- Immigration service at arrival
- Travel permits and local taxes
- All meals (B, L, D) and accommodation including first night at NDjamena
- Transfers from and to airports
- Mineral water
- All entrance fees
- 4WD vehicles for the desert expeditions – 3 guests per vehicle
- SVS English speaking tour leader

- Cook and all kitchen materials
- Camping materials, tents and mattresses (note: our guides will set up the tents for us)
- Park/reserve fees.

What's not included

- Flights/Flight to/out of Chad
- Meals/drinks at N'Djamena
- Sleeping bags and pillow
- Accommodation and meals prior to or following the trip
- Travel, cancellation, and equipment insurances
- Medical insurance
- Visas (if required)
- Alcohol consumption
- Beverages and snacks in between main meals
- Souvenirs and other personal expenses
- Tips/gratuities for guides and drivers.

Note on tips: gratuities for local guides, hotel staff, butlers etc. are not included on this tour. However, if you feel that any staff has given you exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them. We emphasize that such tips should be at your own discretion and based solely on the level of your service satisfaction.

Cancellation Policy

A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If cancelled between 1 January 2024 and 30 April 2024, 60% of the workshop cost will be payable
- If cancelled after 1 May 2024, a fee equal to 100% of the workshop cost will be payable

- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be non-refundable
- Bookings made after 1 January 2024 must be paid in full
- No refunds will be made for unused portions of the workshop. The photography workshop is sold as a land package (no airfares included)
- Cancellation fees are not transferable.

Camera gear

There is really no limit to what camera gear you take. Check with your airline about weight restrictions. Whatever level of camera equipment you have, we will help to ensure you get the most out of it. Check the camera equipment checklist at the end of the brochure but if you want to discuss specific equipment for this trip, contact me.

Fitness and health considerations

Sometimes participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain or tracks and hiking. A basic level of walking fitness will help, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. All walks/hikes are optional, and we will always provide information the day before about what to expect so you can decide whether you want to join or not. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health, please check with your doctor before booking a place. By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability

that could create a risk for you or other tour participants. Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical circumstances will not be accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above.

Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements. If a participant becomes ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants. IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

Vaccinations

Please check with your GP/Doctor on what vaccinations you need to take. Yellow fever advisable and malaria is endemic so essential to take malaria medication with you.

Visas/Covid-19

I will provide guidance on this to obtain your visas but generally you will need to get your visa at a Chadian embassy before the trip. We will update you before the trip with regards to covid tests (if required) prior departure.

Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/ accommodation
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport if required due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary. We may be

forced to change or alter the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware, however, that we will attempt to stick as close to the original program as possible

- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such an event occurred, IP Travel Photography will not be responsible for any other expenses such as non-refundable air fares, visa fees and other related expenses. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit
- Substitute the tour leader and guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Run the photography workshop without the guest photographer if the group size is less than 6 participants. This will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to major unforeseen increases in expedition related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

Liability

The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio Palacios (IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd), having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary IP Travel Photography does not accept any liability for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third party providers IP Travel Photography disclaims liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's part.

IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography Pty Ltd (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.



**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2024
OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL
IGNACIO@IPTRAVELPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU**



IGNACIO PALACIOS
TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

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