

RIA'S COLONY • AFRICA COUNTRY GUIDES

NIGER

The complete country guide



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Visas and fees. Entry routes. Government. Money. Relocation. Doing business. Culture and places. And an honest account of the risk.

Prepared by	Ria's Colony (riascolony.org)
Research cut-off	14 September 2026. Every claim is sourced and dated.
Companion reading	The culture piece in our Africa series: Niger: Where Men Compete for Beauty
Read this first	Niger is currently under the highest travel warnings issued by the United Kingdom and the United States. Section 2 explains exactly what that means.

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

Visas, fees and every document list	Relocation, permits and work authorisation	UNESCO sites, Cure Salee and Gerewol
Flights, land borders and arrival	Company formation, tax and trade corridors	Health, insurance and emergency numbers
Money, costs and what to budget for	The good, the bad and the ugly	19 sections, fully sourced, with live links

For the life you are becoming.

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How this guide was built, and how to use it

This guide makes no assumptions. Every number, fee, rule and date in it comes from a named source, and the full list of those sources sits at the back with clickable links. Where an official source and a second source disagree, we say so instead of picking one. Where reliable data simply does not exist, we say that too, because a confident guess would be worse than an honest gap.

Three kinds of information appear in these pages, and it helps to know which is which as you read.

- **Official.** Rules published by governments, embassies, foreign ministries and multilateral institutions. Visa fees, entry requirements, travel advisories, tax rates, the minimum wage. These are the closest thing to fact, and they still change without warning.
- **Measured.** Figures from institutions that publish their method: the World Bank, the African Development Bank, UNESCO, conservation bodies. Reliable, but often a year or two behind the present.
- **Estimated.** Prices, budgets and living costs. Niger has very little reliable cost data, and the crowd-sourced sites that cover it have thin samples. Wherever we quote a price, we name the source and tell you how much weight it can carry.

THE ONE RULE THAT MATTERS

Check the travel advisory and the visa rules again in the week you travel, not the month you plan. Niger changed its visa policy toward one nationality overnight in August 2025, and the security picture in Niamey changed overnight in August 2026. Both are documented later in this guide. A guide is a starting point. It is not a substitute for the source on the day you move.

How to read the guide

You do not have to read it front to back. It is built so you can jump to what you need.

IF YOU ARE	START AT	THEN READ
Considering a visit	Section 2, the honest headline	Sections 5, 6, 10 and 16
A Nigerien in the diaspora returning home	Section 5, getting in	Sections 7, 14 and 17
Moving for work	Section 14, relocating	Sections 5, 7, 10 and 15
Trading or exporting into Niger	Section 15, doing business	Sections 4, 7 and 9
Researching or reporting	Section 3, who governs	Sections 11, 12 and 19
Booking travel for someone else	Section 2 and Section 10	Sections 17 and 18

A note on tone

Niger is often written about badly. It appears in the world press either as a security headline or as a photograph of painted dancers in the desert, and both leave out the country that produced them. This guide tries to do neither. It tells you the risks plainly because you deserve to decide with full information, and it takes the culture, the institutions and the economy seriously because a country is not only its worst week.

What is inside

Nineteen sections, plus a source list with live links and an about section. Each section opens with its number, so you can navigate by section rather than by page.

01	Niger at a glance	The basic facts, and the two names people confuse
02	The honest headline: should you go?	What the travel advisories say, and what they mean in practice
03	Who governs Niger, and how that reaches you	The 2023 coup, the 2025 Charter, and the rules that follow from it
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05	Getting in: visas, documents and fees	Every route, every document list, every published fee
06	Getting there: flights, borders and the first hour	Airlines, hubs, land crossings and arrival
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08	What things cost, and how much to trust the numbers	Prices, with honest labels on the data behind them
09	Moving around inside Niger	The escort rule, roads, buses and domestic flights
10	Health, and what to do when something goes wrong	Vaccines, hospitals, insurance and emergency numbers
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12	What there is to see, and what it takes to see it	UNESCO sites, the giraffes, Cure Salee, and access reality
13	The people, the languages and the culture	Who lives here, what they speak, eat, play and make
14	Relocating: permits, work, housing and utilities	Residence permits, work authorisation, power, water, connectivity
15	Doing business and trading with Niger	Company formation, tax, sectors, corridors and contract risk
16	The good, the bad and the ugly	The candid summary, drawn from everything above
17	Checklists	Eight weeks out, one week out, what to carry, what to do if

18	Directory
	Embassies, ministries, emergency numbers and live links

19	Sources
	Every claim in this guide, with a link

Niger at a glance

Niger is a landlocked country in the Sahel, the semi-arid belt that runs across Africa between the Sahara and the wetter regions to the south. It is large, young, mostly rural, and it borders seven countries, which is part of both its opportunity and its difficulty.

Official name	Republic of Niger (Republique du Niger)
Capital and largest city	Niamey, on the Niger River in the south west
Land area	About 1.27 million square kilometres, roughly twice the size of Texas
Population	About 27.0 million (World Bank, 2024). Median age is under 16, and UNFPA reported in July 2026 that people under 25 make up nearly 69 percent of the population
Languages	Hausa is the national language. French and English are working languages, under Article 12 of the Charter of Refoundation adopted in March 2025. Zarma-Songhai, Fulfulde, Tamajaq, Kanuri, Arabic, Tubu, Buduma, Gourmancema, Tagdal and Tassawaq are also spoken
Religion	More than 98 percent Muslim, mostly Sunni following the Maliki school, according to figures cited by the former Ministry of Interior
Currency	West African CFA franc (XOF), issued by the BCEAO. Locally called the franc CFA and pronounced say-fah
Time zone	West Africa Time, UTC+1. No daylight saving. Six hours ahead of Washington DC in winter, five in summer
Calling code	+227
Main airport	Diori Hamani International Airport, Niamey (IATA code NIM), about 9 km from the city centre
Independence	3 August 1960, from France
Head of state	General Abdourahamane Tiani, President since 26 March 2025 under the Charter of Refoundation
Head of government	Prime Minister Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine, in post since 8 August 2023, also Minister of Finance
Regional blocs	Left ECOWAS on 29 January 2025. Member of the Alliance of Sahel States with Mali and Burkina Faso. Remains in WAEMU and uses the CFA franc. OHADA member for business law

Economy

GDP growth estimated at 7.0 percent in 2025 and projected at 6.7 percent in 2026 by the World Bank, driven by oil exports and agriculture. Rainfed agriculture is about 40 percent of GDP

Source: World Bank country overview, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/niger/overview>

TWO NAMES THAT GET CONFUSED

Niger and Nigeria are different countries. Niger is the landlocked Sahelian republic with Niamey as its capital, and a person from Niger is a Nigerien. Nigeria is the coastal federation to the south with Abuja as its capital, and a person from Nigeria is a Nigerian. They share a long border, a very large Hausa-speaking population on both sides, and deep trade links, which is exactly why the distinction gets blurred. Getting it right matters when you are filling in forms.

SECTION 2

The honest headline: should you go?

We are going to put the hardest part first, because everything else in this guide depends on it.

As at 14 September 2026, the United Kingdom advises against all travel to Niger, and the United States has Niger at Level 4, Do Not Travel, its highest category. These are not routine cautions about pickpockets. They are the top of both scales.

GOVERNMENT	CURRENT ADVICE	REASON GIVEN	DATED
United Kingdom (FCDO)	Advises against all travel to Niger	Rise in terrorist and criminal kidnappings of foreign nationals, ongoing terrorist threat including in Niamey, unstable politics since the July 2023 coup	Page current at 12 September 2026, last updated 29 August 2026
United States (State Department)	Level 4, Do not travel	Crime, unrest, terrorism, health and kidnapping. Raised from Level 3 to Level 4 on 31 October 2025	Advisory issued 9 July 2026
Ireland (DFA)	Maintains country travel advice and notes there is no Irish embassy in Niger, with assistance provided from Dakar	Security situation	Current advice page

Source: FCDO Niger travel advice, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/niger>

What those warnings mean in practice

Advisory language is easy to skim past, so here is what it translates into on the ground, drawn from the same official pages.

- A state of emergency and movement restrictions apply in many regions. Areas under a state of emergency are off limits, and the list changes.
- Foreigners travelling outside Niamey are required by the Nigerien authorities to have a military escort, requested from the police, the Gendarmerie Nationale or the Garde Nationale. Private citizens pay for that escort themselves.
- The US embassy cannot offer routine or emergency services to American citizens outside Niamey. US government employees there must travel in armoured vehicles, observe a curfew, and are barred from restaurants and open-air markets.
- British nationals get no in-person consular help inside Niger at all. Support is handled remotely from the British Deputy High Commission in Lagos.
- Travelling against your own government's advice can invalidate your travel insurance, including medical cover. The FCDO says this directly.

- The US State Department notes that airport authorities may confiscate US passports on entry, and that the time before they are returned varies.
- Nigerien authorities have run enhanced security checks on arriving foreign nationals, and in some cases have withheld passports for several days.

Source: US State Department Niger travel advisory and country information,
<https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories/niger.html>

Kidnapping is the specific risk

The change that pushed both governments to their highest warning level is kidnapping for ransom, which the State Department describes as a business model rather than an occasional crime. It lists these incidents from 2025 alone.

- A United States citizen kidnapped from his home in Niamey in October 2025.
- Two Westerners abducted from their homes in Agadez, in January and in April.
- Two Chinese nationals kidnapped on 1 February 2025.
- Five Indian nationals kidnapped after their convoy was ambushed in Tillaberi region.
- Four Moroccan truck drivers who disappeared near the Burkina Faso border, with criminal actors suspected.

The US embassy in Niamey issued a security alert on 22 October 2025 warning that American citizens are at risk of kidnapping throughout Niger, including in the capital. The FCDO reproduced that alert and added that British citizens are equally at risk.

Armed groups operating in the country include Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin, al-Qa'ida, Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa. Recent attacks and kidnappings have occurred in Niamey, the Malian border area in Tillaberi, the Diffa region around the Lake Chad basin, northern Agadez, and along the southern corridor that follows the Niger to Benin oil pipeline.

THE KOURE ATTACK, AND WHY IT STILL SHAPES TRAVEL HERE

On 9 August 2020, gunmen on motorcycles killed eight people in the Koure giraffe zone, about 60 km from Niamey. Six were French aid workers with the NGO ACTED, and two were Nigerien, including the driver and the president of the local guides association. Islamic State in the Greater Sahara later claimed the attack.

Koure was, until that day, the one place near the capital that expatriates and visitors treated as safe. The development director of ACTED said afterwards that the area had not previously known any security incident. That is why the escort rules and the advisories read the way they do now: the assumption that a short, well-known trip out of Niamey is low risk did not survive 2020.

Source: France 24, on the ISGS claim of responsibility,
<https://www.france24.com/en/20200917-is-group-claims-august-killing-of-french-aid-workers-in-niger>

So who does still travel to Niger?

Plenty of people, and pretending otherwise helps nobody. Nigeriens in the diaspora go home for family. Traders move goods along the Niamey and Maradi corridors every week. Engineers work the Agadem oil fields and the refinery at Zinder. Humanitarian staff, researchers, journalists and mission workers all continue to operate. Businesses from Lagos, Accra, Abidjan, Lome, Cotonou and further afield still assess the market.

If you are one of them, the useful question is not whether an advisory exists. It is whether you have the specific things that make travel here survivable: a host or employer with a real security plan, transport arranged before you land, accommodation vetted by someone already in country, medical evacuation insurance that pays out in a Level 4 destination, a communications schedule with someone at home, and a way to leave that does not depend on your own government coming to get you. The FCDO is explicit that British nationals should not rely on the UK government to evacuate them.

RIA'S COLONY POSITION

We promote travel and trade across Africa, and we do not think fear should be the default posture toward any African country. We also will not sell you a fantasy. Our honest reading of the published evidence is that leisure tourism to Niger is not advisable in 2026, and that purposeful travel with institutional backing is a decision for adults who have read what is in Section 2 and Section 10 and priced the risk properly. If you go, go prepared, go with people who know the ground, and tell someone where you are every day.

Who governs Niger, and how that reached you

Understanding the political structure is not academic here. It determines which ministry issues your permit, why checkpoints exist, what you can photograph, what you can post online, and how quickly a rule can change.

The short history of the present government

DATE	WHAT HAPPENED
26 July 2023	The presidential guard removed President Mohamed Bazoum. The National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland, known by its French initials CNSP, took power under General Abdourahamane Tiani.
January 2024	Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso announced their intention to leave ECOWAS.
September 2024	The United States completed the withdrawal of its military forces. French troops had already left.
29 January 2025	The ECOWAS withdrawal became legally effective after the one-year notice period required by the bloc's rules.
15 to 19 February 2025	National consultations were held in Niamey with 716 delegates representing different parts of the country.
26 March 2025	Tiani signed and promulgated the Charter of Refoundation, becoming President of the Republic and Head of State. He was promoted to army general. Two ordinances were signed the same day, one dissolving all political parties and one releasing certain detainees.
June 2025	The government nationalised SOMAIR, the uranium venture co-owned with France's Orano since 1968.
22 October 2025	The Council of Ministers approved raising the guaranteed minimum wage from 30,047 to 42,000 CFA francs, an increase of about 39.8 percent, effective 1 January 2026.
28 to 29 August 2026	A mutinous faction attacked Base 101 inside Diori Hamani airport, the state broadcaster and the presidential palace district in Niamey. The government said the attempt was contained. Dozens of soldiers were reported killed or arrested, and no official casualty figure was published.

Source: Al Jazeera explainer on the August 2026 mutiny,

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/8/30/nigers-military-led-government-says-it-contained-mutiny-what-next>

What the Charter of Refoundation actually says

The Charter, published in the Official Journal on 26 March 2025, replaced the previous constitutional framework. Several of its provisions matter to anyone living, working or reporting in Niger.

- It sets a transition period of 60 months, which is adjustable depending on the security situation, the refoundation roadmap, and the agenda of the Confederation of Sahel States.
- It names Tiani as President of the Republic and Head of State for that transitional period.
- All political parties were dissolved by ordinance on the day the Charter was promulgated.

- Article 12 designates Hausa as the national language and French and English as working languages. It lists Arabic, Buduma, Fulfulde, Gourmancema, Hausa, Kanuri, Tagdal, Tamajaq, Tassawaq, Tubu and Zarma-Songhai among the languages spoken in Niger.
- Foreign troops on national territory require authorisation by referendum, with an exception in cases of proven emergency, when the President may authorise by decree after consulting the Refoundation Advisory Council, for no longer than needed to stabilise the situation.
- Reporting on the Charter also states that it penalises homosexuality, with penalties described as ten to twenty years in prison. See Section 11 for what this means for visitors.

The language change deserves a moment, because it is one of the more significant things to happen in Nigerien public life this decade. French held official status for six decades even though most Nigeriens did not use it at home. Making Hausa the national language brings the law closer to how people actually speak, and adding English as a working language signals where the government expects its future trade relationships to sit. We wrote about how this fits the wider picture in [What Does It Mean to Leave ECOWAS?](#) on the Ria's Colony blog.

What this means for you on the ground

- Expect checkpoints. They are common in cities and on rural roads, and on rural roads police will ask for licence, registration, proof of insurance and your destination.
- Expect curfews and short-notice movement restrictions, particularly after any security incident.
- Expect the airport road to be sensitive. The FCDO warned after 29 August 2026 that the road between central Niamey and Diori Hamani airport may carry more checkpoints and short-notice disruption, and advised contacting your airline before travelling.
- Do not photograph or film military installations, radio and television stations, the presidential palace, airports or diplomatic facilities, and do not photograph military or police personnel or demonstrations.
- Large gatherings are limited or not authorised, a protest permit is required, and security presence is increased around planned protests.
- Be careful what you publish. Niger's cybercrime law carries one to three years in prison and a fine of up to 5,000,000 CFA francs, roughly 10,000 US dollars, for defamation or insult by electronic means, and the same penalty for disseminating data likely to disturb public order or undermine human dignity.
- An ordinance created an anti-terrorist database allowing people to be listed and their citizenship suspended on suspicion of offences including threatening state security, supporting terrorism or providing intelligence to a foreign entity. A conviction carries more than five years, and the suspension of citizenship becomes permanent.

Source: US State Department Niger local laws and customs, <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories/niger.html>

ECOWAS, the AES and what changed

If you hold a West African passport, this section decides how you enter Niger. If you move goods, it decides what you pay at the border. It is also the single most misunderstood part of travelling in the region right now, because the legal position and the practical position are not the same thing.

The legal position

Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso formally left ECOWAS on 29 January 2025, one year after giving notice. They had already created the Alliance of Sahel States, usually written as AES, which was formalised by treaty in 2024 as a confederation covering political, economic and security cooperation.

The practical position, which is better than the headlines suggest

- ECOWAS instructed its member states to keep recognising national passports and identity cards bearing the ECOWAS logo held by citizens of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, until further notice.
- ECOWAS also said citizens of the three countries continue to enjoy the right of visa-free movement, residence and establishment under ECOWAS protocols, until further notice, and that goods and services from the three countries continue to be treated under the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme.
- Going the other way, the AES declared itself a visa-free zone for all nationals of ECOWAS member states, in a joint declaration adopted in Bamako on 14 December 2024. Nationals of ECOWAS states have the right to enter, move, reside, settle and leave AES territory, subject to national laws in force.
- AES states may still refuse entry to individuals they consider ineligible under their laws.
- Vehicles from ECOWAS states, private or commercial, can move within the AES provided they comply with existing rules.

Source: Joint AES declaration reported by Togo First,

<https://www.togofirst.com/en/economic-governance/1712-15409-burkina-faso-mali-and-niger-maintain-visa-free-travel-for-ecowas-nationals>

READ THE PHRASE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE CAREFULLY

Both sides describe the current arrangement as temporary. In December 2025 Burkina Faso launched the first AES biometric identity card, which is set to replace ECOWAS documents within five years, and the three states have introduced AES biometric passports. Researchers following migration governance in the region describe free movement as still technically possible but rapidly changing.

The practical advice that follows from this: if you are a West African travelling to Niger, carry more documentation than you think you need. Passport, national identity card, proof of accommodation, proof of onward travel, and a letter from whoever is hosting you. Do not rely on a single document and a memory of how the rules used to work.

The confederal levy, and why your goods cost more

On 28 March 2025 the AES heads of state introduced a confederal levy, written as PC-AES, of 0.5 percent on the customs value of goods imported into the bloc from non-member countries. The revenue goes into a dedicated AES account, monitored by the finance ministers, and is earmarked for regional integration projects, a confederal investment bank, the running costs of AES institutions, and solidarity programmes. National customs authorities collect it and must transfer funds within 15 days of month end, with an annual independent audit.

EXEMPT FROM THE 0.5 PERCENT LEVY	SUBJECT TO THE LEVY
Goods traded between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger	Goods imported from ECOWAS member states, including Nigeria and Ghana
Goods in transit	Goods from other third countries
Humanitarian aid, donations and non-refundable subsidies	
Re-imports and the personal effects of travellers	
Hydrocarbon imports from non-member countries	

Source: Ecofin Agency and West Africa Weekly reporting on the PC-AES levy,
<https://www.ecofinagency.com/public-management/3103-46566-aes-introduces-0-5-import-tax-to-fund-operations-and-projects>

For a small trader moving cartons across the Nigeria to Niger border, half a percent sounds trivial. Traders interviewed by Daily Trust after the levy came in did not agree, because margins on that corridor are thin and the levy stacks on top of existing costs. Whether it is material to you depends entirely on your margin, not on the headline rate.

Getting in: visas, documents and fees

Niger requires a visa from most travellers, and there is no reliable official online application at the time of writing. That single fact shapes the whole process, so start here.

IS THERE A NIGER E-VISA? NOT ONE YOU SHOULD TRUST.

You will find many websites offering a Niger e-visa. Be careful. The FCDO, updated in 2026, instructs British travellers to apply through the Nigerien embassy in Geneva and links to that embassy's own forms. The US State Department instructs applicants to apply before travel and points to the Embassy of Niger in Washington. A commercial French visa service states plainly that the government of Niger has not yet put an online e-visa procedure in place and that you must apply for a visa in your passport.

Treat any site that is not an embassy or consulate as unverified until the embassy itself confirms it to you in writing. Visa fraud aimed at African travel corridors is common, and the money is rarely recoverable.

Which route applies to you

WHO YOU ARE	WHAT APPLIES	WHAT TO DO
National of an ECOWAS member state (Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, The Gambia, Cabo Verde)	The AES declared itself a visa-free zone for ECOWAS nationals in December 2024, and that position has held through 2026	Travel on a valid passport or national identity card. Carry proof of accommodation, onward travel and a host letter. Confirm status with the Nigerien embassy in your country before you book, because both sides describe the arrangement as temporary
National of Mali or Burkina Faso	Free movement within the AES	Travel on national documents. AES biometric documents are being phased in
United States citizen	The Embassy of Niger in Washington announced the suspension of entry visas for American citizens with effect from Thursday 28 August 2025, until further notice	Check directly with the embassy before making any plan. Dual nationals may have another route on a second passport, but confirm it, do not assume it
Everyone else	Visa required, applied for in advance at a Nigerien embassy or consulate	Apply by the category that matches your purpose: business, tourism, family visit, student, medical, journalist, transit or official

Source: Embassy of Niger to the United States, entry visa page, <https://embassyofniger-usa.org/visa-dentree/>

What it costs

Fees differ by mission, so the amount depends on where you apply, not on your nationality alone. These are the published figures at two missions that handle a large share of applications from outside Africa.

MISSION	VISA	FEE	HOW YOU PAY
Embassy of Niger, Geneva (also covers Switzerland and Austria)	Ordinary visa, 3 months validity, single entry	CHF 150	Bank transfer only, to the Mission Permanente du Niger, IBAN CH53 0027 9279 2877 6201 G. The transfer receipt must be supplied as proof of payment
Embassy of Niger, Geneva	Ordinary visa, 3 months validity, multiple entry	CHF 210	Bank transfer, as above
Embassy of Niger, Geneva	Courtesy visa, diplomatic or service passport	Not published	Application form, passport copy, two identical recent colour photos
Embassy of Niger, Washington DC	All categories listed (business, tourism, family, student, medical, journalist, transit)	USD 155, non-refundable	Money order made out to the Embassy of Niger, shipped to the embassy. Documents are submitted electronically to consularservice@embassyofniger-usa.org

Source: Embassy of Niger in Geneva, visa page, <https://www.ambassade-niger-geneve.net/visas.html>

- Geneva accepts applications in person from Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 12:00.
- Both missions state that a complete file does not guarantee a visa, that they may request further information, and that they may ask to see original documents.
- Fees are not refunded if the visa is refused.

What you have to submit, by category

The requirements below are taken from the published lists of the Geneva and Washington missions. They are close to identical, which suggests they reflect a common national standard, but always download the current form from the mission you are applying to.

Everyone submits

- A completed and signed visa application form, downloaded from the mission's own website.
- A copy of a valid passport with at least six months of validity remaining.
- One or two recent identical colour passport photographs, depending on the mission.
- A copy of the return flight reservation or itinerary.
- Proof of accommodation, either a hotel reservation or a written attestation from your host.
- A copy of your yellow fever vaccination record (Geneva lists this explicitly).
- Proof of payment.

Added for a business visa

- A named invitation from the companies you will visit, or a convocation, or a mission order.

- Proof of your own professional activity, such as a company registration certificate or a tax identity attestation.
- A copy of the identity document of the Nigerien person or entity inviting you, or their residence permit if the inviting party is not Nigerien.

Added for a family or private visit

- A copy of the invitation letter, which should carry the host's address, telephone number and neighbourhood. Washington asks for a copy of an electricity or water bill to be attached, plus an offer of support and the length of stay.
- A copy of the identity document of the Nigerien host, or the residence permit if the host is not Nigerien.
- Proof of your relationship to the person you are visiting: a full birth certificate for children, a marriage certificate for spouses.
- Parental authorisation for children not travelling with both parents, plus copies of both parents' identity documents.
- A school certificate for minors.

Added for a student visa

- Proof of admission to a Nigerien educational institution.
- A document setting out the programme of study.
- Evidence of where you will be received in Niger and of your means of subsistence there.

Added for medical treatment

- A copy of the medical file.
- A written agreement from the Nigerien health facility admitting the patient, specifying the period.
- An estimate of hospitalisation and treatment costs prepared by that facility.
- Proof that the estimated amount has already been paid.
- Travel insurance covering medical costs and repatriation.

Added for journalists

- A copy of the filming authorisation from Niger's Ministry of Communication.
- A copy of the mission order from the sending organisation.

Added for transit

- Return tickets for the whole journey to the final destination.
- A copy of the visa for the final destination country, where one is required.
- Proof of accommodation if you will stay before continuing.

Entry requirements at the border

Yellow fever	Proof of vaccination is required for anyone over nine months old arriving in Niger. This is not optional and it is checked.
Passport validity	The UK government's understanding is that your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay, with no additional period needed. Both Nigerien embassies, however, ask applicants for at least six months of validity, and Ireland's foreign ministry advises six months. Travel with at least six months and you satisfy every version of the rule.
Blank pages	Two blank pages are required for entry. Ireland's advice also says two.
Emergency passports	Niger accepts the 12-page US emergency passport for entry in addition to the standard passport.
Cash declaration	Amounts greater than 10,000 US dollars must be declared on entry and on exit.
Customs	There are strict rules on goods. You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty.
Travelling with children	Carry a copy of each child's birth certificate or other proof of your legal relationship. When one parent travels with a child, a notarised consent letter from the absent parent is required, or proof of sole custody. All minors travelling without a parent or guardian need notarised written permission. Nigerien authorities have at times blocked minors from leaving when travelling without a parent.
HIV	The US State Department is unaware of any HIV or AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to or foreign residents of Niger.

Source: FCDO entry requirements for Niger, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/niger/entry-requirements>

ASK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

Does the name on my ticket match my passport exactly, including middle names?

Do I have a real, contactable host or company in Niger, and have they sent me their identity document and a signed letter?

Is my yellow fever certificate in date, and do I have a photograph of it stored separately from the paper copy?

Have I told the mission my true purpose? Entering on a tourist visa to work is a fast route to detention in a country where bail is rarely granted.

Getting there: flights, borders and the first hour

Flying in

Diori Hamani International Airport, code NIM, sits about 9 km south east of Niamey along Route Nationale 1. The complex also houses Base 101, the main facility of Niger's air force, which is why it features in security reporting and why photography anywhere near it is a serious mistake.

There are no direct flights to Niamey from Europe, North America, South America, the Caribbean, South Asia, East Asia, South East Asia, Central Asia or Oceania. As at mid-2026 the only intercontinental service is Turkish Airlines from Istanbul. Everything else routes through an African or North African hub.

AIRLINE	CONNECTS NIAMEY TO	NOTES
Turkish Airlines	Istanbul, N'Djamena	The only long-haul option. Istanbul to Niamey is about 6 hours 30 minutes
ASKY Airlines	Lome, Ouagadougou	The largest operator at NIM by number of weekly departures
Ethiopian Airlines	Addis Ababa, Ouagadougou	Addis to Niamey is about 5 hours 45 minutes
Air Cote d'Ivoire	Abidjan, Ouagadougou	Second largest operator by departures
Tunisair	Tunis, Abidjan	
Royal Air Maroc	Casablanca	
Air Algerie	Algiers	Seasonal, typically April to October
Air Burkina	Ouagadougou	
Niger Airlines	Domestic and regional	Domestic services operate to Maradi (MFQ) and Agadez (AJY)

Source: Route data compiled from FlightConnections and FlightsFrom, July 2026, <https://www.flightconnections.com/flights-to-niamey-nim>

Ouagadougou is the busiest route into Niamey, with roughly a dozen flights a week, which makes Burkina Faso the most common connecting point for regional travel. Weigh that against the fact that Burkina Faso carries travel warnings of its own. Lome, Abidjan, Addis Ababa and Casablanca are the other realistic hubs.

Arriving by land

Niger borders Algeria, Libya, Chad, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali. Overland entry is possible and is how most regional trade moves, but every land route passes through territory that carries specific warnings.

- The southern corridor from Nigeria and from Benin is the main commercial artery, and the southern border area along the Niger to Benin oil pipeline is listed by the US State Department among places where attacks and kidnappings have occurred.
- Routes toward Mali and Burkina Faso pass through the Tillaberi region and the tri-border zone, which is named in every advisory as among the most dangerous areas in the Sahel.
- Routes east toward Chad pass through Diffa and the Lake Chad basin, also named.
- Northern routes toward Algeria and Libya cross the Sahara through Agadez, where two Westerners were abducted from their homes in 2025.
- Border posts can close at short notice for political reasons. Confirm the status of any crossing on the day, not the week before.

The first hour on the ground

1. Have your yellow fever certificate in your hand, not in your checked bag. It is checked at the health desk before immigration.
2. Expect enhanced security checks. Nigerien authorities have run additional screening on arriving foreign nationals and in some cases have withheld passports for several days. If that happens to you, contact your embassy or your host immediately and do not assume it is a shakedown.
3. American travellers should note the State Department's warning that airport authorities may confiscate US passports on entry, with the return time varying. If you need to leave quickly and cannot get your passport, the US embassy can issue an emergency passport.
4. Change a small amount of money at the airport if you can, then change the rest through a bank. Niger is a cash country and you will need notes immediately.
5. Do not take a random taxi. Have your host, employer or hotel collect you, arranged in advance and confirmed that morning. US embassy personnel are not permitted to use local taxis or public transport, which tells you something about how the risk is assessed.
6. Expect checkpoints on the airport road. After the events of 29 August 2026 the FCDO warned that this road may carry more checkpoints and short-notice disruption, and advised contacting your airline before travelling.
7. Register with your embassy if your country offers it. Americans can enrol in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. Irish citizens are asked to register with the Irish Embassy in Dakar. British nationals should sign up for FCDO email alerts, since in-person help is not available in country.

Money: currency, cash, cards and mobile

Niger uses the West African CFA franc, currency code XOF, issued by the Central Bank of West African States. Niger stayed in the West African Economic and Monetary Union after leaving ECOWAS, so the currency did not change. Locally you will hear it called the franc CFA, pronounced say-fah.

THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT MONEY FACT

Niger is a cash society. The FCDO states that credit cards are rarely accepted, even in hotels and restaurants used by international visitors, and that there are few ATMs. The US State Department adds that only a few establishments take cards and usually charge a large additional fee, that ATMs accepting US-issued bank cards exist but are frequently out of order and may charge high fees, and that you should be prepared to pay all bills in cash.

Plan your whole trip around carrying cash safely rather than around finding a machine.

Rules you need to know

Declaring cash	Amounts over 10,000 US dollars must be declared on entry and exit.
Large exchanges	Converting more than 1,000,000 CFA francs, roughly 1,800 US dollars, requires authorisation from the Ministry of Finance. The forms are available at all major banks.
Travellers cheques	Banks accept them. You must produce your passport and the receipt for the cheques from the issuing bank.
Cards	Assume they will not work. Carry them as a backup, not a plan.
ATMs	They exist, some take foreign cards, and they are unreliable. Never let your last day depend on one.

Source: FCDO and US State Department money guidance for Niger, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/niger/entry-requirements>

Mobile money

Mobile money is genuinely useful in Niger and is how a great deal of domestic value moves. Airtel Money and Zamani Cash are the main wallets. Industry analysts report that active mobile money customers roughly doubled between 2019 and 2024, helped in part by a UN Capital Development Fund grant that financed new kiosks and training for women-led agents, and that daily transaction ceilings reach 2,000,000 CFA francs for fully verified accounts.

Treat those analyst figures as indicative rather than official, but the underlying point is sound: if you are staying for weeks rather than days, getting a local SIM and a mobile money wallet will make your life considerably easier than carrying a brick of notes.

Source: Mordor Intelligence, Niger telecom market report, <https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/niger-telecom-mno-market>

A small tax you will notice

A levy of 10 CFA francs applies per phone call and per internet package, raising money for the Solidarity Fund for the Safeguarding of the Fatherland. It is tiny per transaction and adds up if you are a heavy user.

Source: BuddeComm, Niger telecoms market analysis,

<https://www.budde.com.au/Research/Niger-Telecoms-Mobile-and-Broadband-Statistics-and-Analyses>

Practical habits that work in cash economies

- Split your cash. Some on you, some in the room safe, some with a trusted colleague. Never carry the whole trip in one pocket.
- Carry small denominations. Getting change for a large note is often impossible.
- Do not display wealth. The State Department specifically advises against expensive watches and jewellery, and against lingering at banks or ATMs.
- Agree prices before the service, not after, for taxis, guides and porters.
- Keep a sealed emergency reserve in hard currency, separate from your working cash, for a fast exit.
- Photograph every receipt. If you are claiming costs back, paper receipts in a dusty climate do not survive well.

What things cost, and how much to trust the numbers

READ THIS BEFORE YOU USE A SINGLE FIGURE ON THIS PAGE

Niger has very little reliable published cost-of-living data. Numbeo, the most quoted crowd-sourced database, recorded only two entries for Niamey from a single contributor in the twelve months to October 2025. Wise's Niamey page quotes an average monthly rent of 1,365 US dollars for a one-bedroom flat in the city centre and 1,158 US dollars for a three-bedroom in the same area, which is internally inconsistent and should tell you how thin the underlying sample is.

We are showing you the numbers that exist, labelled by source, because that is more useful than silence. Do not build a budget on them. Build it on written quotes from an employer, a local agent or a host who is already in Niamey.

The anchor figure: what Nigeriens earn

The guaranteed minimum wage, the SMIG, rose from 30,047 to 42,000 CFA francs a month, an increase of 39.78 percent. The Council of Ministers approved it on 22 October 2025 and the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Employment confirmed in November that it takes effect from 1 January 2026. It was the first change since August 2012, and before the rise Niger had the lowest minimum wage in the WAEMU zone.

At 42,000 CFA francs, the monthly minimum wage is roughly 70 US dollars. Hold that next to any foreigner-facing price you are quoted. The gap explains a great deal about how pricing works for visitors, and it is a good reason to pay local suppliers properly rather than haggling them into the ground.

Source: Agence Nigerienne de Presse, on the SMIG taking effect from 1 January 2026, <https://anp.ne/revalorisation-du-smig-la-mesure-prendra-effet-a-compter-du-1er-janvier-2026-officiel/>

Accommodation, as listed

These are sample listing prices, captured from booking platforms, for specific properties on specific dates. They are real prices that were on sale, not a market average.

PROPERTY AND TYPE	LISTED NIGHTLY RATE	SOURCE AND CAVEAT
Hotel Univers 3 Aeroport Luxe, rated 3.5, airport quarter, Niamey	About 132 to 147 US dollars including taxes and fees	Expedia listing, sampled for early November dates
Hotel Saha Land Palace, rated 2.5, Niamey	About 64 to 72 US dollars including taxes and fees	Expedia listing, sampled for the same dates, with a single low review
Hostel bed, generic	About 16,000 XOF, roughly 28 US dollars	HikersBay aggregate estimate, calibrated against Numbeo

PROPERTY AND TYPE	LISTED NIGHTLY RATE	SOURCE AND CAVEAT
Three-star hotel room, generic	About 32,000 XOF, roughly 56 US dollars	HikersBay aggregate estimate
Luxury hotel room, generic	About 176,000 XOF, roughly 306 US dollars	HikersBay aggregate estimate

Everyday costs, as reported

ITEM	REPORTED FIGURE	SOURCE
Meal at an inexpensive restaurant	About 7 US dollars	Wise, Niamey cost of living
Three-course meal for two, mid-range	About 50 US dollars	Wise, Niamey cost of living
Basic utilities, 85 square metre flat	About 341 US dollars a month	Wise, Niamey cost of living
Prepaid SIM card, any of the three networks	500 XOF, about 0.90 US dollars	Operator retail pricing
Levy per call and per data package	10 XOF	BuddeComm

Source: Wise cost of living, Niamey, <https://wise.com/au/cost-of-living/niger/niamey>

The costs nobody quotes, and that you must budget for

These are the items that make a Niger budget different from a budget for anywhere else, and they are the ones people forget.

- **Security escort outside Niamey.** Foreigners travelling beyond the capital must request a military or police escort, and private citizens pay for it themselves. Cost depends on distance, duration and the escorting service, so get a written quote from your host or fixer before you commit to a trip.
- **Medical evacuation insurance.** Both the UK and US governments strongly recommend supplemental cover for medical evacuation. Check that your policy actually pays out for a destination under a Do Not Travel advisory. Many do not, and that is the single most expensive assumption you can make.
- **Vehicle hire with a driver.** Any travel outside cities generally needs a four-wheel-drive vehicle, plus spare tyres, extra fuel and self-recovery equipment. That is not a rental car, it is an expedition cost.
- **Cash handling.** Exchange spreads, ATM fees where machines work, and the card surcharges applied by the few places that take cards.
- **Time.** Visa processing at embassies is manual and involves shipping a physical money order in the US case and a bank transfer in the Swiss case. Build weeks into the plan, not days.

Moving around inside Niger

The escort rule

This is the rule that surprises people most, so it goes first. Nigerien authorities require foreigners travelling outside Niamey to have a military escort, requested from the police, the Gendarmerie Nationale or the Garde Nationale. Private citizens pay for it. The requirement applies to US government personnel as well, which is a good indication that it is enforced rather than nominal.

Practically, this means you cannot decide over breakfast to drive out to see the giraffes. Trips outside the capital need arranging in advance through a host, employer or established operator, and the areas under a state of emergency are off limits and subject to change.

Roads

- Road safety is a serious concern across the country. Some highways and roads in the Tillaberi region are high risk, and the areas around the Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger borders see frequent armed conflict.
- Four-wheel-drive is generally needed outside Niamey and other cities.
- Do not drive at night. Every official source says this plainly.
- Car-jackings and highway robberies happen occasionally throughout the country.
- The main causes of accidents are inexperienced drivers, poorly maintained vehicles and degraded road surfaces. Overloaded trucks and buses are common, and disabled vehicles are usually repaired where they stop, partly blocking the lane.
- Urban traffic mixes cars with bicycles, pedestrians, livestock, donkey carts and hand carts. Motorcycles frequently ignore traffic rules.
- Traffic signs and signals may be missing, damaged, obscured or not working. Street signs are minimal and traffic lights are rare and almost never functional.
- The rainy season from July to September floods travel routes every year.
- Do not count on emergency services or roadside assistance. Advanced emergency response is generally not present.
- Any road trip outside the capital needs intensive planning for spare tyres, extra fuel and self-recovery equipment.

Driving yourself

Licence	A valid Nigerien licence or an international driving permit is required.
Insurance	Local liability insurance is compulsory for all vehicles.
Rules	Traffic law follows the French system.

Right of way	You must pull over for official motorcades and military convoys with headlights on, emergency vehicles with sirens, and funeral processions.
After an accident	Wait for traffic police and a written report. Where there is serious damage, injury, or any dispute over fault or insurance, police involvement is required and you must not move the vehicle before they arrive.

Public and shared transport

- Taxis in Niamey run at a fixed fare, but most are in poor condition and do not meet basic road safety standards. US embassy personnel are not permitted to use them.
- Inter-city bush taxis, which include minibuses, station wagons and sedans, run at negotiable fares. They are typically overloaded, poorly maintained and driven recklessly.
- SNTV, the national bus company, operates coaches on inter-city routes. Air Transport, Rimbo and Garba Message are private bus companies. Private bus drivers may be inexperienced and drive recklessly.
- US embassy personnel are not permitted to use public transport either.

Domestic flights and aviation oversight

Domestic services operate from Niamey to Maradi and Agadez. On safety oversight, the US Federal Aviation Administration has not assessed Niger's civil aviation authority for compliance with international aviation safety standards. Niger's National Civil Aviation Agency, known as ANAC, is responsible for regulation and supervision, and Niger is one of 19 member states of ASECNA, the agency that manages air navigation services across much of francophone Africa.

Source: US State Department transportation guidance for Niger, <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories/niger.html>

Health, and what to do when something goes wrong

EMERGENCY NUMBERS IN NIGER

Police: dial 17 or 8383 from a Nigerien phone, or +227 20 72 25 53 from a mobile.

Medical emergency (SAMU): dial 15.

Fire: dial 18.

These lines operate around the clock in principle, but the US State Department notes they often go unanswered, especially outside normal working hours. Have a second plan that does not rely on them.

Vaccinations

Proof of yellow fever vaccination is required for anyone over nine months old arriving in Niger. For everything else, including malaria prevention and any other recommended vaccines, use the CDC destination page for Niger, which is kept current and is more reliable than any static list in a guide.

Source: CDC Travelers' Health, Niger, <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/niger>

Medical care, honestly described

- Health and emergency services are extremely limited in Niamey and poor outside it.
- Outside the capital, adequate treatment and access to routine and emergency procedures are often unavailable, and even a minor health problem could require medical evacuation at your expense.
- Public clinics lack basic resources and supplies.
- Hospitals and doctors require payment upfront before treatment or admission, and most providers only take cash. Credit card payment is not available.
- Medical staff may speak little or no English.
- Overnight staffing is minimal. Consider hiring a private nurse, or having a family member stay with the patient, particularly a child.
- Patients cover all costs of transfer to or between hospitals.
- Psychological and psychiatric services are not available, even in larger cities.
- Ambulances are absent or unreliable in most areas outside Niamey and are likely not equipped with advanced medical equipment. Taking your own vehicle to the nearest major hospital can be faster than waiting.
- Lack of payment may bar future travel to Niger.

The US embassy maintains a list of doctors and hospitals, and a list of attorneys, on its website. It does not endorse any of them, but it is a starting point that has been checked by someone.

Source: US Embassy Niamey, medical assistance list, <https://ne.usembassy.gov/services/medical-assistance/>

Insurance, which is the part people get wrong

- Most health plans do not cover medical expenses abroad. Check yours specifically.
- US Medicare and Medicaid do not cover expenses abroad. Most hospitals abroad do not accept US health insurance.
- Both the UK and US governments strongly recommend supplemental insurance covering medical evacuation.
- Travelling against FCDO advice can invalidate a UK travel insurance policy entirely, which would leave you paying for an evacuation that can run to six figures.
- If you buy medical travel insurance you are responsible for claiming reimbursement yourself, following the insurer's process.

Water, food and air

- Tap water is not potable, and in some places tap water is not available at all.
- Bottled water and beverages are generally safe. Use major brands and check the seal is intact.
- Many restaurants and hotels serve tap water unless you specifically ask for bottled, and ice may be made from tap water.
- Uncooked vegetables and fruit can make you ill.
- Impure water carries typhoid, cholera, hepatitis and dysentery.
- Air quality in Niamey is poor. If you have a respiratory condition, expect symptoms to worsen.

Medicines

Carry prescription medication in its original packaging with the prescription, and bring enough for the whole trip. Pharmaceuticals are easy to buy with few controls, and counterfeit medication is common: it may not work, may have the wrong strength, or may contain dangerous ingredients. Buy only through a medical professional and from trusted sources. The regulator is the Direction de la Pharmacie, Laboratoires et Medecine Traditionnelle, under the Ministry of Public Health.

Weather and natural hazards

Severe rain and flooding cause most natural disasters in Niger, and limited infrastructure makes the country particularly vulnerable to roads being cut. Most of the country has a hot desert climate, and travel outside population centres requires intensive planning. The rainy season runs roughly July to September, which is also when Cure Salee and the pastoral gatherings happen, so the most culturally interesting season is also the hardest one to move through.

The law, and the unwritten rules

The legal system

- The judicial system follows the French model and is less independent than systems readers may be used to.
- Prosecutors very rarely grant bail.
- The system is slow, and detention periods routinely exceed what the law states.
- Under Nigerien law a prisoner must be told by the second day of detention that they have the right to an attorney.
- If you are arrested, ask officials to notify your embassy immediately. It may take time before an embassy officer can visit, because host government permission is required.
- Before starting a business or practising a profession, seek information from local authorities about which permits or licences are required.

Things that will get you in trouble faster than you expect

Photography

Do not take photographs near military installations, radio and television stations, the presidential palace, airports or diplomatic facilities. Do not photograph military or police personnel, or political or student demonstrations. You must seek permission before taking a close-up portrait photograph of anyone. That last point is a courtesy in most countries and a rule here.

What you publish online

Niger's cybercrime law carries one to three years in prison and a fine of up to 5,000,000 CFA francs, about 10,000 US dollars, for defamation or insult by electronic means. Dissemination of data likely to disturb public order or undermine human dignity carries the same punishment. A separate ordinance created an anti-terrorist database that allows people to be listed and their citizenship suspended on suspicion alone, with permanent suspension on conviction. Journalists should read the risks of practising journalism abroad before travelling, and note that a journalist visa requires filming authorisation from the Ministry of Communication in advance.

Dress

Local culture and Islamic tradition encourage conservative dress for both men and women. The US State Department records incidents of groups of men assaulting women who appear to be African and who are wearing clothing other than traditional garments. This is not a style note. Dress conservatively, cover shoulders and knees at minimum, and take your cue from women around you.

LGBT travellers

This needs to be stated plainly because getting it wrong is dangerous. The US State Department records strong societal stigma against same-sex sexual activity in Niger and warns that anyone engaged in same-sex activity could face prosecution for public indecency. The FCDO updated its advice in September 2025 with new information on increased risk to LGBT travellers. Reporting on the 2025 transitional

charter states that it penalised homosexuality with penalties ranging from ten to twenty years in prison. If this affects you, read your own government's LGBT travel advice for Niger before making any decision, and treat this as a serious safety matter rather than a question of discretion.

Other legal points

- Surrogacy is illegal and penalised in Niger.
- Female genital mutilation and cutting is punishable by a fine and a jail sentence.
- Counterfeit and pirated goods are widely available, and buying them may be illegal under local law and can create problems with customs when you return home.

Crime in Niamey

- Niamey has a high level of crime. Thefts, robberies and residential break-ins can happen at any time.
- Pickpocketing, bag snatching and theft of backpacks or phones are common, especially in areas foreigners visit. These crimes are usually opportunistic rather than targeted.
- Violent crime including muggings and assaults is less frequent. Criminals may show weapons, most often knives.
- Residential robberies and home invasions mainly happen after dark, can be violent, and occur whether or not a home has visible security.
- Do not walk alone or at night. Street lighting is poor.
- Police response is generally slow regardless of the crime or the status of the victim.
- To report a crime, go to a police station in person and file a formal complaint. Each commune in Niamey has at least one station.

The unwritten rules

What follows is widely observed practice across the Sahel rather than codified law, so treat it as guidance from people who travel there, not as a regulation.

- Greetings are not a formality. Ask after someone's health, family and work before getting to business. Skipping this reads as rude in a way that will cost you.
- Use your right hand for eating, giving and receiving.
- Friday prayers shape the middle of the day. Ramadan reshapes the whole month, including office hours and mealtimes.
- Ask before you photograph a person. Then ask again if you are going to publish it.
- Hospitality is generous and often exceeds what a host can easily afford. Accept it graciously and find a way to reciprocate that does not embarrass anyone.
- Do not treat culture as a backdrop. If you are going to a ceremony such as Gerewol, you are attending someone's social institution, not a performance staged for you.

WOMEN TRAVELLERS: WHAT THE DATA SAYS

The US State Department records that forced marriage or marriage without the consent of one or both parties still occurs, that victims are often girls aged 15 to 18, and that about 65 percent of girls are married by the age of 18. It records that women have limited access to education and employment, and that Niger's overall illiteracy rate is 64 percent. On female genital mutilation and cutting, it cites the 2012 Niger Demographic Health Survey finding that around 2 percent of women aged 15 to 49 and 1.4 percent of girls aged 15 to 19 are affected, with the highest concentration in far western Niger.

None of this makes Niger unsafe for a woman to visit in the way the security situation does. It is context. It tells you what the women you meet are navigating, and it is part of why Ria's Colony exists.

What there is to see, and what it takes to see it

Niger has genuine wonders. It also has, in the words of the US State Department, no formal tourism industry infrastructure: it lacks most standard services to support a tourism sector, paved roads and formal transport services are limited, tourists take part in activities at their own risk, and emergency response and medical treatment are not available. Both things are true, and this section holds them together rather than choosing one.

The three UNESCO World Heritage sites

Historic Centre of Agadez, inscribed 2013

Agadez sits on the southern edge of the Sahara and grew as a crossroads of the trans-Saharan caravan routes, developing alongside the Sultanate of Air in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The historic centre is built in earth: houses, palaces and religious buildings, including a mudbrick minaret that is the tallest of its kind in the world. The street pattern still follows the original Tuareg encampments. UNESCO's assessment notes the integrity is maintained by the Sultanate and the local community, and that modern repair materials are a threat to it.

Agadez is also where two Westerners were abducted from their homes in 2025, in separate incidents in January and April. There is no way to write about this city honestly without putting those two paragraphs next to each other.

Air and Tenere National Nature Reserve, inscribed 1991

Two contiguous protected areas in the north, covering the Air massif and part of the Tenere desert, together about 77,360 square kilometres, with an addax sanctuary of about 12,800 square kilometres inside it. It is among the largest protected areas in Africa and holds desert-adapted species including the addax antelope and the dama gazelle. It was also designated a UNESCO biosphere reserve in 1997.

W-Arly-Pendjari Complex, transnational with Benin and Burkina Faso

W National Park in Niger forms part of a three-country complex with Arly in Burkina Faso and Pendjari in Benin. It covers wetlands and wooded savannah and is a refuge for cheetah, leopard and antelope, holds a large share of the region's savanna elephants, and is a stop-over for migratory birds. Note carefully that the US State Department lists national parks and nature reserves, naming Parc du W specifically, among the places terrorists may target.

Source: UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Niger, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ne>

The giraffes of Koure

Sixty kilometres from Niamey lives the last wild population of the West African giraffe, a subspecies found nowhere else on earth. In the mid-1990s there were 49 animals left. Conservation work by the government of Niger with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, Sahara Conservation and local partners brought the population back to more than 600, and the subspecies was down-listed from Endangered to

Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. In 2018 and again in 2022, giraffes were translocated to the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve, re-establishing a population that had been locally extinct for roughly fifty years.

It is one of the best conservation stories on the continent. It is also the site of the 9 August 2020 attack described in Section 2, in which six French aid workers, a Nigerien guide and a driver were killed. The president of the Koure giraffe guides association was among the dead. Any visit today falls squarely under the escort requirement and the state of emergency rules.

Source: Giraffe Conservation Foundation, news from Niger, <https://giraffeconservation.org/news-from-niger/>

Cure Salee and Gerewol

Cure Salee is the annual gathering of pastoral communities around In-Gall in northern Niger, timed to the movement of herders and livestock toward saline soils and mineral-rich water at the end of the rainy season. It brings together livestock, trade, cultural performance, meetings and government activity. The 2026 edition is scheduled for 25 to 27 September in In-Gall. In 2025 it took place in early October, which tells you the dates move with conditions and official decisions rather than sitting on a fixed calendar.

Gerewol, the Wodaabe courtship ceremony in which selected young women stand before the dancers and choose, often takes place when Wodaabe communities gather, including within Cure Salee. The two are not the same event and Gerewol is not a programme item created for the festival. We wrote the long version of this in [Niger: Where Men Compete for Beauty](#), which is the companion piece to this guide.

Other places that come up

PLACE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS REALITY
Niamey and the Niger River	The capital, the country's main economic centre, and the river that gave the country its name. The markets and the riverfront are the everyday heart of the city	The one place where movement is relatively normal, subject to the crime advice in Section 11 and to curfews
Gobero, Agadez region	One of the richest prehistoric archaeological sites in the Sahara, recording a green Sahara population	Deep desert, well beyond casual access
Dinosaur beds of the Agadez region	Among the most prolific dinosaur fossil beds in Africa. Submitted to the UNESCO tentative list in 2006	Remote, and the region has no paved roads outside its capital
Termit Massif Reserve, Gadabedji Wildlife Reserve, the Giraffe Biosphere Reserve, the Nigerien part of Lake Chad	All on Niger's UNESCO tentative list, and central to Sahelian conservation	Several sit in or near regions named in security advisories
Zinder and Maradi	The historic Hausa centres of the south and east. Zinder hosts the SORAZ refinery. Both are reachable by domestic flight or road	Domestic flights serve Maradi. Road travel requires escorts

ONE HONEST WARNING ABOUT PLANNING

The website that the US State Department lists as Niger's National Tourist Office, visit-niger.com, no longer resolves to a tourism site. When checked on 14 September 2026 the domain served unrelated commercial gambling content. Do not use it, do not enter any personal data on it, and do not treat anything it says as official.

This is a good illustration of a general rule for Niger: institutional websites lapse, and the official link in somebody else's document is not proof that the site is still official. Verify through an embassy or a ministry with a live phone number.

The people, the languages and the culture

Modern Niger contains several large ethnic and linguistic communities whose histories overlap without being identical, and almost none of them stop at the border. That single fact explains most of what a visitor notices.

Who lives here

- **Hausa.** Generally identified as the largest group, concentrated in the south and centre, long involved in farming, commerce and craft production. Hausa-speaking networks extend well into northern Nigeria, which has a much larger Hausa population.
- **Zarma-Songhai.** Concentrated in western Niger, including Niamey and the Niger River areas.
- **Tuareg.** Associated with the north and centre, though many Tuareg today live settled or partly settled lives rather than the permanent desert nomadism of the older image. Tuareg communities extend across Niger, Mali, Algeria and Libya.
- **Fulani, including the Wodaabe.** Spread across several regions with different degrees of pastoral mobility. Fulani communities extend across a vast area of West and Central Africa.
- **Kanuri.** Concentrated further east toward the Lake Chad basin, with communities in Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon.
- **Toubou, Arab, Gourmantche and others.** Smaller parts of the national population.

Language, and the 2025 change

Under Article 12 of the Charter of Refoundation adopted in March 2025, Hausa is the national language and French and English are working languages. The Charter also lists Arabic, Buduma, Fulfulde, Gourmancema, Hausa, Kanuri, Tagdal, Tamajaq, Tassawaq, Tubu and Zarma-Songhai among the languages spoken in Niger.

For a visitor, the practical position is unchanged in the short term: French is what most official business still runs in, Hausa is what a great many people actually speak, and English will get you further with younger urban professionals than it would have ten years ago. Learning greetings in Hausa or Zarma is worth more to you socially than fluent French is.

Religion

More than 98 percent of the population is Muslim according to figures cited by the former Ministry of Interior, most following Sunni traditions and the Maliki school that is widespread across West Africa. Christian communities, followers of Indigenous traditions and other groups make up a small minority. Religion shapes family life, holidays, education, dress and social relationships, but practice varies between communities and between individuals, and official religious-freedom reporting notes that some Muslims incorporate practices with older local origins into their religious lives.

Food

Nigerien food reflects the climate as much as the ethnic map. Millet and sorghum are major locally produced cereals alongside maize and rice, according to current FAO reporting. Millet is ground into flour and prepared in different forms, including the thick porridges called *tuwo* in Hausa-speaking areas, usually eaten with a sauce or soup. Rice is widely eaten, though domestic production concentrates where irrigation is possible, including parts of the Niger River valley.

Pastoral communities have historically depended more on livestock products, especially milk, which produces a different pattern. Records from Wodaabe communities in central Niger describe milk becoming plentiful in the rainy season when grazing is good, and grain becoming more important when milk production falls. There is no single national diet. A household in Niamey, a millet-growing village in the south and a Wodaabe family moving cattle through the centre are all Nigerien and all eat differently.

Music

Among Tuareg communities, *tende* is one of the best documented traditions, performed with a wooden mortar covered in skin used as a drum, combined with clapping and singing, often by women. Modern Tuareg guitar, known internationally as desert blues, developed across the wider Tuareg world in the late twentieth century among communities affected by displacement, rebellion and migration. Niger has produced two of the best known contemporary artists associated with it, Bombino and Mdou Moctar, whose work has reached international rock venues. The older forms did not disappear when the guitars arrived. They coexist.

Craft and dress

Tuareg craft is strongly associated with silverwork and leatherwork, and with objects made for a society in which portability mattered: bags, saddles and jewellery that were decorated without ceasing to be useful. The Cross of Agadez is the most recognisable example, part of a wider family of geometric pendants whose forms differ by region and community. Popular accounts give it a single fixed meaning, usually a protective object passed from father to son. Researchers have documented several competing interpretations, so the accurate description is that it is an important Tuareg jewellery form whose exact origins and symbolism are not universally agreed.

IF YOU BUY CRAFT, BUY IT PROPERLY

Silver from Agadez, leatherwork, and textiles are among the few things a visitor can buy that put money directly into a maker's hands. Ask who made the piece. Pay what it is worth rather than what you can push someone down to. Remember that the monthly minimum wage is 42,000 CFA francs, and that a hard bargain for you is a meaningful loss for the person on the other side of it.

If you are buying to resell, be straight about it, agree terms in writing, and pay a deposit. That is the difference between trade and extraction, and it is the difference Ria's Colony exists to argue for.

Relocating: permits, work, housing and utilities

A NOTE ON SOURCING IN THIS SECTION

Immigration procedure in Niger is not published in a single authoritative English-language source. What follows is compiled from Nigerien government service listings, the Maison de l'Entreprise, and Nigerien and regional information services. Fees and steps are reported consistently across those sources, but they are not the same standard of evidence as an embassy fee schedule. Confirm every item with the Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire in Niamey or with your employer's legal counsel before you rely on it.

The residence permit

The permis de séjour is required for any foreigner intending to stay in Niger for three months or more, and should be applied for within three months of arrival. It is issued by the Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire, the DST. With it, you can move around the country as a resident rather than a visitor.

STEP	WHAT YOU NEED	REPORTED COST
1. Certificate of residence	Identity document, presented locally	A fee reported as not exceeding 2,000 CFA francs
2. Certificate authorising stay	Apply to the Court of Appeal in Niamey or Zinder with your nationality documents and residence certificate	1,000 CFA francs
3. Medical certificate	Issued by a doctor practising in Niger	Varies by provider
4. Criminal record extract	Less than three months old	Varies
5. Consular card	Photocopy of the card issued by your own country's embassy or consulate in Niamey	Varies by mission
6. File with the DST	All of the above, plus four recent passport photographs	Road tax of 1,500 CFA francs, plus a fiscal stamp of 10,000 CFA francs for ECOWAS nationals or 50,000 CFA francs for non-ECOWAS nationals
Renewal	Same process	Reported at half rate: 5,000 CFA francs for ECOWAS nationals, 25,000 for others

The permit is reported as valid for three years and renewable. Dual nationality is permitted in Niger.

Source: Sheega, procedure for obtaining a residence permit in Niger, <https://www.sheega.info/fr/articles/4408609590551>

The work authorisation

A work authorisation is separate from the residence permit and is issued by the ministry responsible for employment and labour. Reported practice is that the employer initiates the application and must show the role could not be filled by a qualified local candidate, submitting a French-language employment contract, evidence of recognised professional qualifications, and standard identity documents, with pay consistent with sector norms. Categories reported include an individual authorisation tied to a specific employer, a provisional authorisation for assignments under six months, and a renewable authorisation for long contracts.

The order matters. Without the work authorisation the salaried residence card cannot legally be issued, so do not arrive on a tourist visa expecting to regularise afterwards.

The investor route

If you are coming to run a business rather than take a job, the sequence runs the other way: register the legal entity first with the Registre du Commerce et du Credit Mobilier through the single window described in Section 15, then apply for the investor residence card. The Maison de l'Entreprise confirms that foreigners forming a limited company must supply a valid legalised residence permit or visa as part of the incorporation file.

Housing

We are not going to invent a rental market for you. As Section 8 explains, the published rent data for Niamey is thin and internally inconsistent, and the properties foreigners actually rent are usually found through employers, embassies, faith communities and word of mouth rather than through listings. The practical route is to arrive with two to four weeks of serviced accommodation booked, and to view properties with someone who already lives in the city. Ask specifically about the compound wall, the guard arrangement, the generator, the water storage and what happens in the rainy season, because those five questions determine your quality of life more than the rent does.

Power and water

Niger's electricity supply has historically depended on imports from Nigeria. When ECOWAS sanctions followed the July 2023 coup, the interruption of those imports caused an energy crisis that the World Bank cites explicitly in its account of that year. Assume a generator or solar backup is part of the cost of living, not a luxury. Tap water is not potable anywhere in the country, so budget for filtration or bottled water for the whole household.

Connectivity

OPERATOR	POSITION	NOTES
Airtel Niger	Market leader, reported at roughly 44 to 47 percent share	Owned by Bharti Airtel. Widest visible retail presence including rural areas. Airtel Money is a major mobile wallet
Zamani Telecom	Second, reported at around 29 to 30 percent	The former Orange Niger, rebranded in December 2020 after Orange sold to its minority partner, with funding secured for a large network upgrade. Zamani Cash is its wallet
Moov Africa Niger	Third	Owned by Maroc Telecom
Niger Telecom	State operator	Formed in December 2016 by merging the fixed-line operator Sonitel with its mobile unit SahelCom

- A prepaid SIM costs about 500 XOF on any of the three main networks, and registration requires a valid passport or identity document, which you must bring with you to the shop.
- The government struck a deal to bring Starlink services into the country, which matters for anyone working outside the main cities.
- A levy of 10 CFA francs applies per call and per internet package.
- The US State Department notes that cellphone service is intermittent and unreliable even in cities, and advises reputable VPN or VoIP applications and avoiding public wifi.

Source: BuddeComm, *Niger telecoms, mobile and broadband analysis*,
<https://www.budde.com.au/Research/Niger-Telecoms-Mobile-and-Broadband-Statistics-and-Analyses>

Doing business and trading with Niger

Niger's economy grew an estimated 7.0 percent in 2025 according to the World Bank, with growth projected at 6.7 percent in 2026 as oil output rises to about 35 million barrels from 33 million. The African Development Bank puts 2025 growth slightly higher at 7.4 percent. Those are strong numbers by any measure, and they sit alongside extreme poverty of 49 percent in 2024, public debt around 44 percent of GDP with a high risk of over-indebtedness, and an estimate that 2.6 million people may need humanitarian assistance in 2026. Both halves are the market.

Source: World Bank Niger country overview and African Development Bank economic outlook, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/niger/overview>

Registering a company

Niger is an OHADA member, so company law will be familiar to anyone who has incorporated in francophone West Africa. The usual vehicles are the entreprise individuelle for a sole trader, and the SARL or single-member SARLU for a limited company. Formalities go through the Centre de Formalites des Entreprises, the single window run by the Maison de l'Entreprise under the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts of Niger.

Where	Maison de l'Entreprise, Quartier Issa Beri, Niamey, BP 10729. Telephone +227 20 72 22 65. The single window sits at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Opening hours	Monday to Thursday, 08:30 to 13:15 and 14:45 to 17:15. Friday, 08:30 to 13:00
SARL registration	Registration of SARLs created in Niamey is done only at the Guichet Unique of the Maison de l'Entreprise
Core file for a SARL	Articles of association in four copies, proof of capital deposited in a bank or a notarised declaration of subscription and payment, a sworn declaration or a criminal record extract less than three months old, civil status documents for each partner including a legalised copy of passport or national identity card and a legalised birth certificate or certificate of nationality, and a declaration of existence
Foreign founders	A valid legalised residence permit or visa is required for foreigners wishing to form a SARL
Reported cost and timing	26,500 CFA francs plus a stamp of 1,500 CFA francs on each page of the two copies of the articles, with an official timeline of three days from the date the file is lodged. Treat this as reported, not official, and confirm with the CFE
Investment framework	The Investment Code, Law 2014-06, provides for simplified procedures and specific tax advantages

Source: Maison de l'Entreprise, <https://www.mde.ne/a-propos>

Tax, in outline

The figures below come from tax summary services rather than from the Direction Generale des Impots itself. Use them to scope a decision and have them confirmed by a Nigerien accountant before you file anything.

TAX	RATE	NOTES
Corporate income tax (impot sur les societes)	30 percent	Territorial system. A minimum flat tax applies where the ordinary calculation would produce nil liability. Mining and petroleum operations sit under separate codes that layer royalties and state participation on top
Value added tax (TVA)	19 percent	Harmonised under WAEMU directives. Essential goods and services exempt, exports zero-rated
Personal income tax on salaries	Progressive, reported up to 35 percent	Withheld monthly by the employer
Withholding on dividends to non-residents	10 percent	Reported
Loss carry-forward	Three years	Reported
AES confederal levy	0.5 percent of customs value	On goods imported from outside the AES, including from ECOWAS states. See Section 4
Registration deadline	Within 30 days of starting activity	Obtain a tax identification number and register for the applicable taxes

Where the money actually is

- **Oil.** The Agadem Rift Basin, operated by China National Petroleum Corporation, the SORAZ refinery at Zinder, and the Niger to Benin export pipeline. Oil is the main driver of the current growth figures, with output rising to about 35 million barrels in 2026.
- **Uranium.** Historically Niger's most valuable export industry, and currently the most politically charged sector in the country. Read the risk note below before going anywhere near it.
- **Agriculture and livestock.** Rainfed agriculture is about 40 percent of GDP. Millet, sorghum, cowpea, onions and livestock dominate. Irrigation, food processing and cold chain are the obvious gaps.
- **Gold.** A growing contributor to national income.
- **Telecoms and mobile money.** Mobile penetration is high relative to other infrastructure, and the wallet ecosystem is developing quickly.
- **Solar.** An obvious opportunity in a country with an electricity deficit, a hot dry climate, and a history of depending on imported power.

The risk note every investor should read

The uranium dispute is the clearest published example of how contract risk works in Niger right now, so it is worth setting out as a timeline rather than as an opinion.

WHEN	WHAT HAPPENED
2024	Niger removed Orano's operational control of its three main mines: Somair, Cominak and Imouraren. In June 2024 the Imouraren licence was revoked. In July 2024 GoviEx's Madaouela licence was revoked. In December 2024 Orano announced it had lost operational control of Somair
20 January 2025	Orano filed a request for arbitration over Somair with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
June 2025	The government nationalised Somair, saying Orano had taken 86.3 percent of production between 1971 and 2024 from a venture in which it held a 63 percent stake alongside state-owned Sopamin
September 2025	The ICSID tribunal ordered Niger not to sell or transfer the mine's stockpiled uranium pending the outcome of Orano's claims
27 and 30 November 2025	Orano condemned a shipment of uranium from the site as illegal. President Tiani announced Niger would place its uranium on the international market
May 2026	The Council of Ministers adopted draft decrees to annul the 1968 Arlit concession granted to France's Commissariat à l'énergie atomique and to create a new state company, TSUMCO SA, in its place. Niger subsequently granted the large-scale uranium permit previously held by Orano to state-controlled TSUMCO
Alongside all of this	GoviEx filed for ICSID arbitration in December 2024, agreed a structured roadmap with the government in February 2025 with arbitration suspended, and by mid-2026 was negotiating a new mining convention. Canadian-listed Global Atomic continued developing the Dasa project with official support

Source: World Nuclear Association country profile, Niger, <https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-g-n/niger>

Two things follow from that record, and they pull in different directions. The first is that a foreign investor holding a legacy concession in a strategic sector cannot assume the terms will hold. The second is that companies that engaged with the new framework, such as Global Atomic, have continued to operate with official support. The lesson is not that Niger is closed. It is that the terms of entry are being rewritten, and that anyone entering now should do so with a current contract, local counsel, a genuine arbitration clause, political risk insurance where it is available, and no reliance on agreements signed under a previous government.

Trade and logistics

Niger is landlocked and depends on coastal neighbours for imports and exports. The ports of Lome in Togo and Cotonou in Benin are the main entry points, and the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts of Niger maintains offices in both cities, which is a useful signal of where the corridors run. Add to that the 0.5 percent confederal levy on goods from outside the AES, the checkpoint culture on Nigerien roads, the seasonal flooding from July to September, and the security situation on the corridors themselves, and logistics costs in Niger are not a line item to estimate casually.

FOR WOMEN BUILDING TRADE RELATIONSHIPS HERE

Niger is a conservative, majority-Muslim country with low female literacy and limited access to education and employment for women, and it is also a country where women run markets, herd livestock, hold craft traditions and carry a very large share of the informal economy. Both are true.

If you are a woman doing business here, the practical advice is the same advice that works anywhere in the region, applied with more care: bring an introduction from someone the other side already trusts, dress conservatively, do the relationship work before the transaction, put terms in writing, and do not accept that being underestimated is the same as being unable to proceed. That is the work Ria's Colony does through Aerial Connect, and it is the reason this guide exists at all.

The good, the bad and the ugly

Every claim in this section is drawn from something already sourced earlier in the guide. This is the summary, not new information.

The good

- A genuine cultural depth that does not exist in many places: Gerewol and Cure Salee, the Agadez earthen city, tende and desert blues, Tuareg silver, and pastoral traditions still practised rather than performed.
- The last wild West African giraffes on earth, brought back from 49 animals to more than 600, and down-listed from Endangered to Vulnerable.
- Three UNESCO World Heritage sites and a substantial tentative list including some of the richest dinosaur beds in Africa.
- An economy growing at an estimated 7.0 percent in 2025, projected at 6.7 percent in 2026, with oil output rising and inflation expected to average 1.2 percent.
- A minimum wage raised by nearly 40 percent from 1 January 2026, the first increase since 2012.
- Free movement with ECOWAS states maintained on both sides for now, which keeps the country open to most West African travellers without a visa.
- A young population. Nearly 69 percent are under 25, which is a workforce and a market as much as it is a pressure.
- Functioning mobile money, growing quickly, in a country where banking infrastructure is thin.
- Hausa recognised as the national language and English added as a working language, which changes who the country expects to do business with.

The bad

- No formal tourism infrastructure. The US State Department says Niger lacks most standard services to support a tourism sector.
- A cash-only economy with few ATMs, unreliable machines, and cards rarely accepted even at international-facing hotels.
- Very limited medical care, no psychiatric services anywhere in the country, and payment demanded upfront in cash.
- Intermittent and unreliable mobile service even in cities.
- Roads with minimal signage, almost no working traffic lights, annual flooding from July to September, and no roadside assistance.
- Air quality in Niamey is poor.
- Extremely thin published data on almost everything a relocating household needs to price, from rent to schooling.

- Slow courts, bail rarely granted, and detention periods that routinely exceed what the law allows.
- Extreme heat across most of the country, and travel outside population centres that has to be planned like an expedition.

The ugly

- The United Kingdom advises against all travel. The United States has Niger at Level 4, Do Not Travel, raised from Level 3 on 31 October 2025.
- Kidnapping for ransom operating as a business model, with documented 2025 abductions of American, Chinese, Indian, Moroccan and other foreign nationals, in Niamey, Agadez and Tillaberi.
- The 2020 Koure attack, in which eight people including six French aid workers and the president of the local guides association were killed in a place previously considered safe.
- A mutiny on 28 and 29 August 2026 that reached the airport, the state broadcaster and the presidential palace district, with dozens reported killed or arrested and no official casualty figure published.
- Compulsory paid military escorts for foreigners outside Niamey, and a state of emergency across many regions.
- Travel insurance that may be void because you travelled against your own government's advice.
- Passports withheld from arriving foreigners for days at a time, and US passports confiscated at the airport.
- A cybercrime law that criminalises insult by electronic means, and an anti-terror registry that allows citizenship to be suspended on suspicion alone.
- Serious legal and physical risk for LGBT travellers, with reported penalties of ten to twenty years under the 2025 charter.
- Conflict events up 22 percent and fatalities up 17 percent against 2024, with 2.6 million people potentially needing humanitarian assistance in 2026.
- Extreme poverty at 49 percent of the population in 2024, affecting roughly 13.3 million people.

WHAT WE WOULD ACTUALLY SAY TO A FRIEND

If you want a holiday, go somewhere else this year, and go to Niger when the picture changes. Nothing in the culture is going anywhere, and Cure Salee will still be in In-Gall.

If you have family, work, a contract or a story in Niger, go with institutional backing, a host who is accountable for your movement, evacuation cover that pays out in a Level 4 country, and a daily check-in. Read Sections 2, 9, 10 and 11 again before you book.

If you are assessing the market rather than visiting it, you can do a great deal from Lome, Cotonou, Abuja or Lagos, working with Nigerien counterparts, before anyone gets on a plane.

Checklists

Eight weeks out

- Confirm with the Nigerien embassy that handles your country whether visas are currently being issued to your nationality.
- Download the current visa form from that embassy's own website. Do not use a copy from anywhere else.
- Book the yellow fever vaccination if you have not had one, and keep the certificate.
- Confirm in writing who is hosting you, and get a copy of their identity document or residence permit.
- Ask your insurer, in writing, whether your policy pays out for a destination under a Do Not Travel advisory, and whether medical evacuation is included.
- Check your passport has at least six months validity and two blank pages.

Four weeks out

- Submit the visa file. Allow for physical shipping of a money order or a bank transfer receipt.
- Book flights through a hub you are comfortable connecting in: Istanbul, Addis Ababa, Lome, Abidjan, Ouagadougou or Casablanca.
- Arrange airport collection with your host or employer, and get the driver's name and number.
- Book the first two nights in accommodation somebody you trust has actually stayed in.
- If you plan to leave Niamey, start the escort request now through your host. It is not a same-day arrangement.
- Register with your embassy's traveller programme if one exists.

One week out

- Re-read the travel advisory. It changes.
- Confirm the airport road situation and check with your airline about any disruption.
- Agree a daily check-in time and method with someone at home, and a proof-of-life protocol if you are travelling to a high-risk area.
- Photograph your passport, visa, yellow fever card, insurance policy and tickets, and store them somewhere you can reach without your phone.
- Draw hard currency in small denominations.
- Tell your host your exact arrival time and flight number, again.

What to carry

- Yellow fever certificate, in hand luggage, not checked.
- Printed copies of your visa, hotel booking, return ticket and invitation letter.
- Cash in small notes, split across at least three places.
- A sealed emergency reserve in hard currency you do not touch.
- Prescription medication in original packaging with the prescription, enough for the whole trip.
- A power bank, a plug adapter, and a torch. Power is not guaranteed.
- Water purification tablets or a filter bottle.
- Conservative clothing that covers shoulders and knees, in light fabric.
- Sun protection and far more water capacity than you think you need.
- A paper list of emergency numbers, so it survives a dead phone.

If something goes wrong

- 8.** Medical emergency: dial 15 for SAMU, but assume it may not answer. Going directly to the nearest major hospital in your own vehicle is often faster.
- 9.** Crime: dial 17 or 8383, or +227 20 72 25 53 from a mobile. To start an investigation you must go to a police station and file a formal complaint in person.
- 10.** Arrest: ask officials to notify your embassy immediately. If you cannot, get a relative or friend to do it.
- 11.** Passport withheld at the airport: contact your embassy and your host at once. Emergency passports can be issued.
- 12.** Lost passport: your embassy can replace it. Your photographed copy will speed this up considerably.
- 13.** Deteriorating security: do not wait for your government to move you. The FCDO states plainly that British nationals should not rely on the UK government to evacuate them. Have your own exit plan, keep documents current, and monitor local media.

Directory

Emergency numbers in Niger

Police	17 or 8383 from a Nigerien phone, or +227 20 72 25 53 from a mobile
Medical (SAMU)	15
Fire	18

Diplomatic and official

ORGANISATION	DETAIL	LINK
US Embassy Niamey	Rue des Ambassades, BP 11201, Niamey. Main line +227 20 72 26 61. After hours +227 99 49 90 66	ne.usembassy.gov
Embassy of Niger, Washington DC	Telephone +(202) 483-4224. Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 13:00. Consular email consularservice@embassyofniger-usa.org	embassyofniger-usa.org
Embassy of Niger, Geneva	Covers Switzerland and Austria, and the permanent mission to the UN, WTO and others. Visa filing Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 12:00	ambassade-niger-geneve.net
Niger Consulate, United Kingdom	The FCDO directs British travellers here for questions on entry rules	nigerconsulate.org.uk
UK support for British nationals	Handled remotely from the British Deputy High Commission in Lagos. No in-person help in Niger	gov.uk/world/niger
Irish citizens	No Irish embassy in Niger. Assistance from the Irish Embassy in Dakar, Senegal	ireland.ie

Business and administration

ORGANISATION	WHAT IT DOES	LINK
Maison de l'Entreprise	The single window for company formation, modification and deregistration. Quartier Issa Beri, Niamey, BP 10729, +227 20 72 22 65	mde.ne
Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts of Niger	Trade services, business database, single window for external trade, offices in Cotonou and Lome	cciniger.org

ORGANISATION	WHAT IT DOES	LINK
Niger government services portal	Official listings of administrative procedures	demarches.gouv.ne
Agence Nigerienne de Presse	State news agency, useful for official announcements	anp.ne

Travel advisories to check before you move

SOURCE	LINK
UK FCDO Niger travel advice	gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/niger
US State Department Niger advisory and country information	travel.state.gov
CDC Travelers' Health, Niger	wwwnc.cdc.gov
Ireland Department of Foreign Affairs, Niger	ireland.ie
UNESCO World Heritage, Niger	whc.unesco.org
World Bank Niger overview	worldbank.org

DO NOT USE

visit-niger.com, listed in official documents as Niger's National Tourist Office. When checked on 14 September 2026, the domain served unrelated commercial gambling content rather than tourism information. Any site claiming to issue a Niger e-visa that is not an embassy or consulate should be treated as unverified until the embassy confirms it in writing.

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ABOUT

Ria's Colony

For the life you are becoming.

Ria's Colony exists to promote trade and tourism for women, and for countries, across Africa. We do that through teaching, through partnerships, through training women to speak up and communicate the value of what they carry, through travel that broadens what people believe is possible, through trade expos and government partnerships, and through storytelling that puts African trade in front of a wider audience.

This country guide is part of that work. Africa is full of places that get written about badly, in headlines or in postcards, and rarely in the level of detail a person actually needs to decide something. We are building guides that close that gap, country by country, alongside the culture series that sits on our blog.

How we work

Four products, one method. Learn. Feel. Go. Connect.

PRODUCT	COMMITMENT	WHAT IT DOES
Style Vault	Equip	Teaching and resources that give women what they need before they walk into the room
Style Mirror	Reflect	Helping women see themselves clearly, and present themselves the way they intend to be read
Aerial View	Move	Travel, tourism and destination work. Event travel and relaxation travel that broadens what people believe is possible, plus partnerships with destinations, tourism boards and hospitality
Aerial Connect	Connect	A business development practice: market entry strategy, business development, partnership introductions, market representation and trade missions

Our brand values are curiosity, courage, care, integrity, belonging, joy, excellence and roots. Those last two are why this guide reads the way it does. Excellence means we will not publish a number we cannot source. Roots means we will not flatten a country into a risk rating.

Where to find the rest

WHAT	WHERE
The website	riascalony.org
The Africa culture series, 54 countries	riascalony.org/blog/series/africa-culture-series-54-countries
The Niger culture piece that pairs with this guide	Niger: Where Men Compete for Beauty
African Country Guides collection	riascalony.org/resources/collections/african-country-guides
African ETA Tracker	riascalony.org/eta-tracker
Aerial View, for travellers	riascalony.org/products/aerial-view/travellers
Aerial Connect, for market entry and partnerships	riascalony.org/products/aerial-connect
Join the Colony	riascalony.org/join
Work with us	riascalony.org/inquire
Press and pitches	support@riascalony.org

A closing note on using this guide

Research cut-off for this edition is 14 September 2026. Travel advisories, visa policies, security conditions and fees in Niger can change in a single day, and several of them did while this guide was being written. Check the source before you act on anything in these pages. If you find something here that has changed, tell us at support@riascalony.org and we will correct it in the next edition.