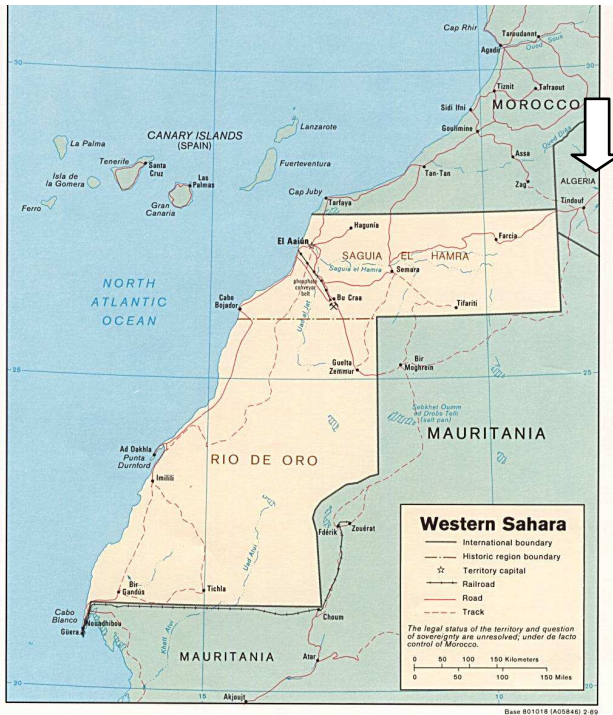


## The forgotten refugees of Western Sahara

The Western Sahara is the last colony in Africa and the world's largest territory, which still awaits its decolonization. The former Spanish colony has been occupied by Morocco since 1975. The majority of the population was displaced and has since lived in refugee camps in the Algerian desert, dependent on the goodwill of international aid agencies, which ensure their survival.

After the war between the Polisario Liberation Front and the Moroccan army, in 1991 a truce was concluded and the UN promised a referendum. To date, however, it has been denied to the people of Western Sahara and the refugees to vote on the political future of their country.



## Services at one glance

- Transfer from the airport to the Tindouf refugee camps
- Arabic intensive courses for beginners and advanced students in small groups (app. 10 participants)
- Meals and accommodation in families
- Trips and visits to the camps and their surroundings
- On-site support
- If desired involvement in local projects (Youth environmental center)
- Visa
- Booking of flights (on request)

### Travel time:

9th February – 9th March 2013

7th September – 5th October 2013

In subsequent years, the courses always begin at the end of the first week of February and September

Travel expenses (flight not included): 530 €

### Registration and travel information:

Judit Smajdli: [j.smajdli@gmx.de](mailto:j.smajdli@gmx.de) or

Wolf-Dieter Seiwert [w-d-seiwert@zeok.de](mailto:w-d-seiwert@zeok.de)

Registration deadline: one month before departure

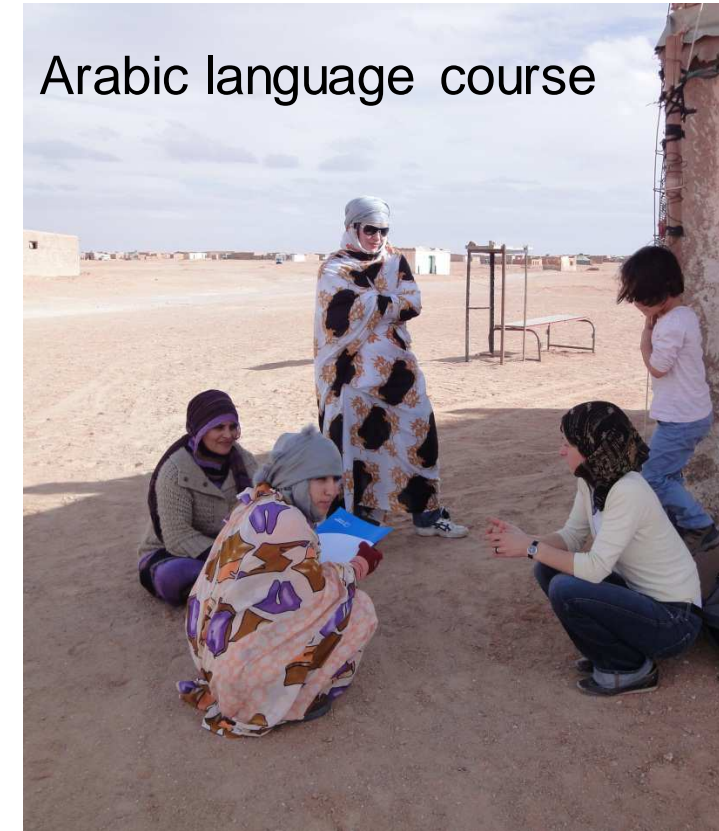
[www.zeokwestsahara.wordpress.com](http://www.zeokwestsahara.wordpress.com)

[www.facebook.com/sprachkursimfluechtlingslager](https://www.facebook.com/sprachkursimfluechtlingslager)

The trip to the Saharawi refugee camps in Algeria will include a package of services supplied by independent partners, and will be coordinated by ZEOK e.V. according to the itinerary.

Payment will be made to the ZEOK that sends the participants the ticket (for flight booking) and corresponding voucher for the services listed in the application.

## Language learning and support



Learn Arabic in the Saharawi refugee camps in Algeria



ZEOK e.V.

## Project idea

It may have started with the appeal of the unknown, but it is also a rebellion against a blatant injustice that denies the Saharawi people for 36 years the right to self-determination.

Our Sahrawi partner is an NGO with the name "Asociación Ojos del Sahara. Centro ecológico sociocultural y ". Its goal is to support the youth who grew up in exile, in preserving their cultural identity. At the same time it is also trying to tap into new sources of income for young people to promote their own initiative and develop new recreational and educational opportunities.

The ZEOK supports these projects through the organization of language courses and cultural tours.

The courses in the Saharawi refugee camps are an extraordinary alternative to the established language schools in Cairo, Damascus and Marrakech for people who are interested in the Arabic language. They allow the participants through direct contact with the people in the refugee camps to get to know their situation in person and to contribute a little to the improvement of their everyday life.



## Travel and accommodation

Traveling expenses for the trip by plane to Tindouf / Algeria (with a change in Algiers) are not included in the price. On request, the organizer can book flights with Air Algérie.

Accommodation is in Saharawi families in mud huts or tents. The daily meals are taken with the family.

In the camps there are hospitals, markets, nurseries, primary schools, some secondary schools, youth and women's centers, etc.

Electricity is mainly generated by solar power. Water is supplied by tank trucks that distribute water from deep wells to the households. In addition, bottled water is available in standard plastic bottles in sufficient quantities.

First foreign language is Spanish, but many young graduates, speak also English or French.

## Language course and supporting program

The course takes place in spaces that are easily accessible by all participants. It includes 30 lessons a week. Courses are offered for beginners and advanced.

Participants are offered a supporting program with the opportunity to get to know the different refugee camps and facilities and the surroundings of the camps.

Participants also have the opportunity to get involved in the refugee camps by helping our partner organization to develop interesting recreational and educational opportunities for young Sahrawis and thus helping with their project of an eco-socio-cultural center for young people. Participants can get involved in the documentation of the traditional culture and the construction of a nature-friendly tourism.

