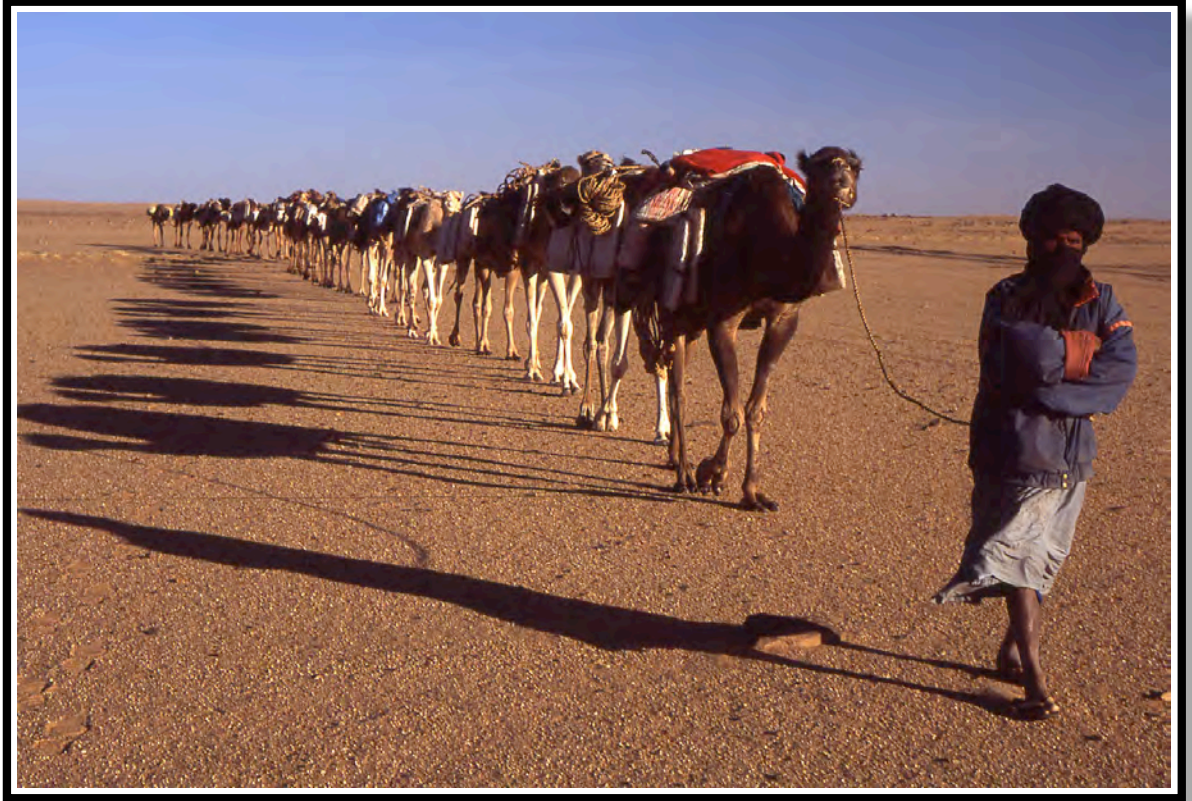


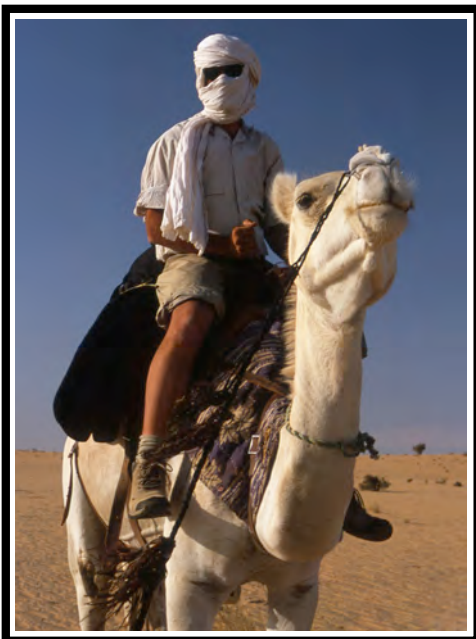
# Heart of the Sahara

In 2006 I made a trip which was the stuff of dreams. Every week throughout the winter, a caravan of up to fifty camels arrives bellowing and snorting in Timbuktu. They are at the end of a three-week, 450-mile trek and each carries four tombstone-like slabs of Taoudenni salt – the ‘white gold’ of the Sahara. Taoudenni has no houses, no fresh water, no medicines, no electricity, no telephone, not even any cooking fuel apart from camel dung. For the hundred or so salt miners it’s a posting from Hell. People around the world name Timbuktu as the remotest and most primitive place they can think of, but people in Timbuktu name Taoudenni. Taoudenni is Timbuktu’s Timbuktu.

With three camels and a Moorish guide, I set off into the desert to find stunning landscapes and a life lived much as it was a millennium ago, when the Taoudenni mines were first established and when salt was, literally, worth its weight in gold.



As always I took lots of photographs, and I’ve put the best of them together with the music of Mali and one or two of my own recordings into a new presentation.



The slide/sound show **Heart of the Sahara** lasts an hour, and includes stereo recordings and slides using a twin-projector dissolve system. My fee for this talk is £380 plus travelling expenses.

If you’d like to make a booking please get in touch.

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