Morocco High Atlas Mountains

A journey of discovery
SUMMARY

In the far Northwest corner of Africa, perched between the Atlantic Ocean and the Sahara desert, lies Morocco. A place characterised by the smell of incense, narrow labyrinths of ancient souks and rolling golden dunes - nowhere catches the spirit of Northern Africa quite like Morocco. The journey to the High Atlas Mountains gives you the chance to explore the rocky gorges and high altitude settlements that have populated the area for centuries. The local way of life here is virtually unchanged. Reaching 4,167m above sea level at the peak of Mount Toubkal, this trek is both a mental and physical challenge.

DATES

9th October - 16th October 2021 (Trek Only)
9th October - 20th October 2021 (With Extension Trip)

GRADING

Challenging! This is a multi day trek to significant altitude with several hours of trekking each day. You will need to be in good physical condition to complete this challenge. You will have to deal with very hot and very cold temperatures along with a rocky terrain.

TRIP DURATION

8 days in total with 6 days trekking.

ACCOMMODATION

You’ll be staying in friendly, simple hotels in Marrakech. During the trek you will be staying in shared tents, although occasionally our guides may make use of simple mountain bunkhouses.
TRIP COSTS

We understand that, when taking on a fundraising challenge, one size does not fit all. Whether you are a first-time fundraiser or a seasoned pro, we want you to be able to have control over your fundraising.

When taking on a challenge with us, you can rest assured that all of the money you raise throughout the year will go directly through to the charity you are supporting. Once you hit that all important fundraising target and your place on the challenge is confirmed, your charity will use this money to cover the remaining costs of your challenge as well as to further the vital services that they provide. All of our challenges operate on a minimum 50:50 cost to donation ratio and 100% of any Gift Aid or money that you raise above your fundraising target will stay with your charity.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

REG Fee (£390)
This is due when you sign up, and this covers all initial bookings for your challenge and secures your place on the trip.

SELF-FUNDING
You can opt to self-fund your trip costs for your challenge - meaning you will not have to reach a set minimum sponsorship amount to go on the trip. We’d always encourage you to fundraise what you can for Unseen in addition to this, however!

‘CHALLENGE WITHOUT FLIGHTS’
You can opt to take on the challenge without flights in your package - and this will reduce your fundraising target or self-fund balance. This also gives you the flexibility to travel before or after your trip.

FUNDRAISING PLANS

**Please note any extension trips are optional extras with costs associated. Please refer to the Extension Trip section in this pack for the full itinerary and costs.**

Please note both instalments of your registration fee are non-refundable in all circumstances except for a 72-hour cooling off period immediately after your sign-up.
DAY 1: DEPARTURE AND ORIENTATION

Departing from a London based airport, you will be met by a Choose a Challenge representative once you arrive in Marrakech. You will then transfer via bus (approximately a two hour journey) to your accommodation in Imlil, set deep in the Atlas mountains. You will have the opportunity to explore Imlil before a team dinner and your challenge briefing.

+ Multi-share accommodation
+ Dinner included

DAY 2: TREK DAY 1

After breakfast, the trek begins. You will walk along the valley to Tacheddirt, roughly 8km away from Imlil. The trail begins to steepen as you ascend to the pass at Tizi n’ Tamatert (2279m). You will then descend into the village of Ouaneskra (2200m) and continue trekking until you reach Tacheddirt (2300m) where you will camp for the night.

+ Distance: 7km, approx. 3-4 hours trekking
+ Tented accommodation
+ Breakfast, lunch and dinner included
**DAY 3: TREK DAY 2**

Today you will trek towards Tizi Likemt, a slow and gradual climb to heights of 3555m. As you reach the top, you will be welcomed by a fantastic view of the Toubkal Massif before a long descent to the village of Azib Likemt (2200m) where you will spend the night.

- Distance: 11km, approx. 5-6 hours trekking
- Tented accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

**DAY 4: TREK DAY 3**

This is a long and challenging day, passing through a number of different landscapes. You will trek towards Tizi n’ Ououraine (3120m), enjoying further views of the Toubkal Massif as well as the Ifni Dome (3876m). The trail will then lead you onwards and downwards to Amsouzert (1700m), one of the region’s most striking villages, where you will spend the night.

- Distance: 13km, approx. 7-8 hours trekking
- Tented accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner included
DAY 5: TREK DAY 4
You will head West of Amsouzert, passing several small villages as you make your way to Ifni Lake (2300m). The only lake in the Massif, Ifni Lake is deep and surrounded by rocky mountains. You will spend some time relaxing at its shores before spending the night in a nearby campsite.

+ Distance: 8km, approx. 4-5 hours trekking
+ Tented accommodation
+ Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

DAY 6: TREK DAY 5
By now you should feel well acclimatised and be ready to tackle the hardest day of the challenge. You will trek up a steep path until you reach the pass at Tizi n’ Ouanoums (3664m), a narrow ledge between two shafts of rock. From here you will zig-zag your way down to the Neltner Refuge (3200m).

+ Distance: 12km, approx. 6-7 hours trekking
+ Tented accommodation
+ Breakfast, lunch and dinner included
DAY 7: TREK DAY 6

Today you will leave before dawn and follow the well-worn route to the summit of Mount Toubkal (4167m). If conditions are good, this should take approximately 2-3 hours. At the summit, you will be rewarded with beautiful views of the entire Atlas range and the Marrakech plains beyond. A rapid descent will take you back to base camp, on to the villages of Sidi Chamharouch and Aremd and, finally, along the Mizane River back to Imlil. You will then transfer back to your accommodation in Marrakech where you will have a chance to rest before heading out for a celebratory team meal.

Distance: 15km, approx. 10-11 hours trekking
Multi share accommodation
Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

DAY 8 / EXTENSION DAY 1
DEPENDS ON YOUR TRAVEL OPTION

If you’ve chosen to come home early you will depart for the UK on a long-haul flight back from Marrakech. Those on our ‘without flights’ travel option are free to continue on your own itinerary after breakfast.

If you’ll be joining us on the Edge of the Sahara extension trip, you will depart on your extended itinerary today!

Breakfast included

*Our itineraries are planned well in advance but occasionally we may need to make minor alterations due to local circumstances. If there are any significant changes, you will be informed directly. However, minor alterations and tweaks can be common and we ask you to bring a degree of flexibility with you.*
TRIP DURATION
5 days

ACCOMMODATION
+ Hotel, Riad and Berber tents based on twin-sharing

COST
Reg. Fee: £95
Balance Payment: £275
(due 10 weeks before your departure)

WHAT’S INCLUDED?
+ All accommodation and transport (including camel) as outlined below
+ Meals as outlined in the itinerary
+ Excursions as per the itinerary
+ English speaking guides

DAY 1: VALLEY OF THE ROSES
After breakfast, you will depart from Marrakech and drive through the Atlas Mountains over the Tizi n’Tichka pass. As you descend towards the desert and the Valley of the Roses, you will be met with stunning views of the Dades Valley and Dades gorge where you will spend the evening.

+ Hotel accommodation
+ Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

EDGE OF THE SAHARA
A visit to the Sahara desert should be on everyone’s bucket list; it is an incredible trip which will leave you with memories to last a lifetime. The dunes of Erg Chebbi are the highest and most spectacular in Morocco and the perfect place to experience desert travel the old fashioned way: aboard a camel. After an unforgettable journey, you will get to spend the night in a traditional Berber ‘Bedouin’ tent, dining on traditional Moroccan tagine whilst gazing at the millions of stars easily visible from this part of the desert.
EDGE OF THE SAHARA

(ITINERARY)

DAY 2: CAMEL RIDING IN ERG CHEBBI
You will depart in the morning for the Todra gorge, with a short stop at the dunes of Erg Chebbi, arriving around mid-afternoon. Erg Chebbi is the starting point for camel trekking into the Sahara. After boarding your four-legged friend, you will ride into the dunes of Erg Chebbi and towards your private tented accommodation in a traditional Berber camp.

+ Berber tent accommodation
+ Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

DAY 3: TALLOUINE
After breakfast you will trek back out of the desert, saying goodbye to your camel. You will then have a long drive to Tallouine, stopping en-route to admire some truly spectacular scenery off the beaten track.

+ Hostel accommodation
+ Breakfast included

DAY 4: BACK IN MARRAKECH
Today you will return to Marrakech. Once you have arrived and checked in to your accommodation, you are free to explore the city.

+ Riad accommodation
+ Breakfast included

DAY 5: TRANSFER & RETURN TO UK
After breakfast, you will transfer to Marrakech International airport for your flight back to the UK

+ Breakfast included
WHAT’S INCLUDED

- International flights
- Transfers as mentioned
- Accommodation as mentioned
- Meals as mentioned
- All national park fees, entrance fees, taxes, permits and vehicles as applicable to the above itinerary
- Services of professional English speaking guides at all times
- Safe drinking water during the hike
- 24/7 support and emergency line available throughout
- All camping equipment required on the trek (excluding: sleeping bags/roll mats)
- Porter Service - you will only need to carry day-packs whilst on the trek

WHAT’S NOT INCLUDED...

- Evacuation: in the event of a serious medical injury, we will coordinate with your travel insurance company to arrange evacuation
- Meals and drinks other than those mentioned in the itinerary
- Tips and gratuities
- Optional excursions
- Items of a personal nature such as souvenirs and mobile/data usage
- Country visa (if applicable)
- Travel insurance
- Vaccinations
- Personal equipment such as trekking equipment, sleeping bags and mat
IS THIS CHALLENGE SAFE?
All of our challenge events involve an element of risk (that’s part of what makes it a challenge!), but we work closely with our partners in Morocco to ensure that your trip is memorable for all the right reasons. We risk assess all our trips and comply to the BS8848 British Standard of trekking.

WHO WILL I BE TRAVELLING WITH?
You’ll be travelling with your best friends (it’s just that you haven’t met some of them yet!). Group sizes vary, but typically there will be 12-30 fellow travellers on your trip.

WHO WILL BE LOOKING AFTER US IN MOROCCO?
We use only the best English speaking guides who have years of experience of guiding our participants. They will not only be there to ensure that you are healthy, safe and well looked after, they’ll also be more than happy to give you a real insight into the culture and traditions of Morocco.

CAN I EXTENDED MY STAY IN MOROCCO?
Yes! Of course, you can join onto our Edge of the Sahara extension trip, and/or if you intend to travel on your own itinerary you can opt for our ‘without flights’ package, and travel before or after your challenge. The choice is yours!

WHAT WILL THE WEATHER BE LIKE?
Weather in the High Atlas mountains can be unpredictable, as in any mountain environment. From June through September Morocco is generally hot and dry, with the temperature reaching up to 40 degrees. October, though, is a little cooler and more comfortable, making it one of the best months to visit. At night, the temperature drops and you will need a fleece and a hat.

DO I HAVE TO SPEAK ARABIC TO ENJOY THIS TRIP?
No! All of our staff in Morocco speak English and you’ll find that, whilst Arabic is widely spoken and very useful, your guides and the people who live in the Atlas mostly speak Berber. French is the most widely spoken European language in Morocco but there are plenty of English speakers in the towns and cities.