

Sample Itinerary

Morocco: Deserts, Mountains and Gorges



This exciting journey begins in the oasis city of Marrakech. We will follow trails through Berber villages to alpine pastures set beneath the impressive High Atlas Mountains. From the Atlas we head into the rock and sand dune desert landscapes of the Jebel Sahro and the Sahara. You will be accompanied by an expert bilingual guide with an enthusiastic passion and knowledge of his country. The experience promises to be one of discovery, learning and fun! The Jebel Sahro is surrounded by the Dadès and Draa valleys as well as the mountain chains of the High Atlas and the Sahara Desert. It's a region of contrasting landscapes: mystical flat mountains, bizarre rock formations, deep canyons, fertile valleys and oasis. With nomadic and semi-nomadic communities – this is a fascinating area to explore. The sand dunes of Foug Tizza and the big irrigated valleys of the Dadès and the Draa will be another highlight of this tour. Amongst all this will be Berber hospitality, fabulous Moroccan food and nights spent camping under the desert stars - magical!

Cost & Inclusions

We will be using a specialist adventure tour operator for this trip who has decades of experience in arranging adventurous travel to all corners of the world, but who is especially good in Morocco.

The cost for the trip would be approximately **£720 per person** based on a group size of 30 and allowing for a free teacher to pupil ratio of 1:8.

Price Includes: All flights & transport, airport taxes, accommodation, guides, activities as mentioned in the itinerary, all meals.

Excluded: Travel insurance, visas (if required), drinks, optional sightseeing tours, vaccinations, tips and items of a personal nature.

Passports: All participants should have a full passport valid for 6 months after our return. British Citizens do not currently need a visa for travel to Morocco.

Carbon Offset Option

If you would like to offset the emissions from the international flights associated with this trip, then the cost will be £4.50 per person. This relates to 50% of the total cost to offset the emissions. The Specialist Travel Consultancy will contribute the other 50% for all those that opt to offset their emissions.

Day 1 / Fly to Marrakech, a wonderful introduction to Moroccan culture and society. The city is alive with bright colours, exotic smells and the noise of everyday life in this bustling city. We have the day to explore the Medina, the old city, the Souks and then stroll down to the central square of Djemma-el-Fna where we can see the snake charmers, acrobats, open-air food stalls and market traders selling local produce and artefacts. (Overnight Hotel)

Day 2 / Today we cross the High Atlas Mountains on the 2260 m high Tizi n'Tichka pass. After a lunch stop at Ouarzazate we drive through the lush green Dadès valley nestling between the Southern slopes of the High Atlas and the Northern slopes of the Sahro mountains. We leave the main route and head directly to the village of Tagdilt. (Overnight Gite)

Day 3 / After a short drive we trek approximately 3 hours to our camp, situated right at the foot of Bab n'Ali, the great rock formations. These eroded rocky towers, mostly in groups or isolated like big thumbs are dominating and astonishing. This afternoon you will set out on foot to explore the Perennial Falls. (Overnight Camp, 3hr trek)

Day 4 / The morning will be spent exploring the desert processes of the Sahro region, particularly the rock formations for Bab n'Ali. Boarding our vehicles around noon you drive through valleys and oasis to reach Ait Ouazit (approx 3hr drive). Arriving late afternoon, there is an opportunity to visit the Petroglyphs. (Overnight Camp, 4 hr trek)

Days 5/ Today we have an exciting trek commencing through the Tarbahl Valley before a picnic lunch in the shade. This afternoon we continue the trek to the sand dunes of Foug Tizza. On arrival we can explore the dune formations and the desert processes before settling into our desert camp. (Overnight Camp, 6hr trek)

Day 6 / This morning we rise early and head to Fossil Mountain to hunt for ancient fossils. Mid morning we begin the drive back to Ouarzazate. A scenic route leads us to the Draa valley with large palm groves. We shall visit the interesting Kasbah of Tamnougalt before crossing the Tizi n'Tiniffit pass where we discover magnificent geological formations of the hills and gorges. (Overnight hotel)

Day 7/ In the morning we visit the Kasbah Taourirt. These days it is like a museum, but still gives an idea what life was like during the time of the great camel caravans. After this visit we leave Ouarzazate and head in direction of the High Atlas. We traverse once more the Tizi n'Tichka pass and enjoy again the very scenic drive before arriving in Marrakech mid afternoon. (Overnight hotel)

Day 8/ Transfer to the airport in time for the flight home.

