



Morocco

A Berber Adventure

10 Days

We hope you will join us on a great adventure to the white mountain peaks, colourful cities and dramatic Atlantic coastline of Morocco. We will bargain hunt in bustling bazaars and journey deep into the Atlas mountains to spend time with the Berber people, helping out with a community project. We learn to cook traditional Moroccan tagines in bustling Marrakech, visit the sleepy laid back coastal town of Essaouira and trek along the wild Atlantic coast. This trip is a superb introduction to Arab North Africa and offers an experience that, although only a few hours by plane, is a million miles away from home .



[Learn more about our Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Educational Journey

Day 1

Depart UK, Arrive in Marrakech

LD

Fly from the UK to Marrakech and transfer to our hotel. Depending on the time of the flight we will have a late afternoon walk into the markets where we can start to acclimatise to the heat and see that the short flight has brought us to a completely different world.

Day 2

Marrakech, Cooking class, Imlil Atlas Mountains

BLD

The next day we head out and visit the souq and mix with the local Marrakeshi as we buy the ingredients we need for our lunch today; the meat, vegetables, herbs and spices that form the basis of Moroccan cuisine. During our hands-on cookery class, the chef will teach us how to make traditional dishes that are central to Moroccan cuisine. Along the way we'll learn about the key ingredients and techniques needed to make some of the most famous Moroccan dishes, such as couscous, pastilla, tagine, tanjia and harira. For lunch, we get to savour the gastronomic delights of our morning cookery class, so we had better pay close attention! After lunch we journey into the mountains to a small village and hike into the Imlil valley which has great views of Morocco's tallest mountain, Mount Toubkal. We have a short hike this afternoon from the road head to our base for the next few days – a typical Berber mountain village set deep in the Atlas mountains. Life has changed little here over the years and our hosts will take us on a guided tour of the village where we will be spending the next three days, working on a variety of projects. Accommodation whilst in the village will be a simple village house or 'gite'. Sleeping arrangements are likely to be multiple occupancy rooms with mattresses on the floor.

Days 3 - 5

Project Work

BLD

The next three days are set aside as specific project working days – the exact nature of the project will depend on what the local community needs at the time of our visit. There is a village association that meet to discuss this and put forward suggestions. It is often the case that we won't have exact details of the project work until a month or two before our arrival. Previous groups have built incinerators, repaired footbridges and paths, planted cacti on the hills to prevent soil erosion and laid water pipes and drainage ditches. Whatever we end up doing, these days spent among the villages of the Atlas mountains in the company of local families will be an undoubted highlight of our time in Morocco.

Day 6

High Atlas - Atlantic Coast

BLD

Leaving the High Atlas we drive west to the wild and stunning Atlantic Coast. Arriving at Sidi Kaoui we put on our trekking gear and a day sac whilst our main gear goes on to our camp on the back of a camel. The trek along the coast is spectacular and the sea breeze will help keep the temperature at bay. Three hours walking takes us to our accommodation for the night – a camp at Sidi Mbark.

Day 7

Sidi Mbark - Iftane

BLD

After a good nights sleep in our tents we continue to wind our way along the beautiful and wild Atlantic coast with a full day of trekking from Sidi Mbark to the tiny fishing village of Iftane. Here we set up camp for another night in our tents, within ear shot of the crashing waves of the Atlantic.



Day 8

Iftane - Trekking end - Essaouira

BLD

After a short trek from Iftane of about 1hr 30 minutes we meet our transport at the road head. From here there is a short transfer to the town of Essaouira (45 mins). Essaouira is one of Morocco's most attractive coastal cities. The wild waves of the Atlantic crash remorselessly onto the rocky coastline of this old pirate's hideout. Portuguese, Berber and French battlements encircle the maze of narrow lanes with tiny cafes looking out onto small squares. Two fortresses look out over the ocean and on an offshore island stands another even larger castle. We recommend a stroll around the lively old port that is full of colour and points of interest. The early morning is particularly scenic. There is an expansive beach which we can relax on - the crumbling castle at the end of it is reputedly the inspiration for Jimi Hendrix's 'Castles In The Sand'. The food here is wonderful, especially the sea food! We can see the old traditional methods still used to construct the deep sea fishing boats in the yards next to the harbor

Day 9

Essaouira - Marrakech

BLD

Use the morning to explore this fantastic city further or take some time for some last minute bargain hunting before heading back to Marrakech where we spend our final night and have a celebratory meal in this vibrant city. We will also get stuck in with an 'Environment Clean Up' and help to clear waste from the coastline.

Day 10

Marrakech to UK

BL

After a final morning in the souk and watching the hustle and bustle of this magical city we enjoy a lunch in the main square, Jemma El Fna, before departing for the airport and our return flight to the UK.



Look what's included:

- International flights
- All accommodation, transportation and activities
- All food as described above
- Local, bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch presentation
- Pre-travel training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for school staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Donations to two carbon & conservation charities
- Free Fairtrade t-shirt for every participant and teacher
- Free travel guide book to your destination

What's not included:

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations or Covid tests
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters (ask for guidance)
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Personal effects and cancellation insurance



A word about Responsible Tourism

On our expeditions and educational journeys, we strive to connect teachers and students with the people they meet, nurture the cultures they experience and protect the beautiful environments they are lucky enough to explore.

Many companies talk the talk, few truly walk the walk. While we are far from perfect, we are leading the way in sustainability in the school travel sector. In 2018 we were the first UK travel company to become **Travelife Certified** – a verified sustainability certificate formally recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.



Trees for Life

This is our passion, and we'd love to tell you more about it in due course. In the meantime, for more information on some of the steps we take as a company to make our operations more sustainable, please visit:

<https://www.thestc.co.uk/travel/what-do-we-do/>

Physical Rating for this trip: Grade 3



Moderate physical activities are included in Grade 3 trips. Good health and reasonable fitness are important to get the most out of the trip. Trips of this grading are likely to include some walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) and occasional longer/harder days may be involved, with between five and seven hours of walking on certain days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling or rafting which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness. Some steady preparation and an increase if your underlying fitness levels would help you get the most from this grade trip.

Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 3



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



Travel Safety & Other Pre-Travel Training

Preparing students and teachers for their upcoming adventure is an opportunity to teach important life skills and a vital part of our overall approach to safety management. Please ask for your quote for the training schedule specific to this educational journey. Topics covered will include:

Responsible Tourism workshop

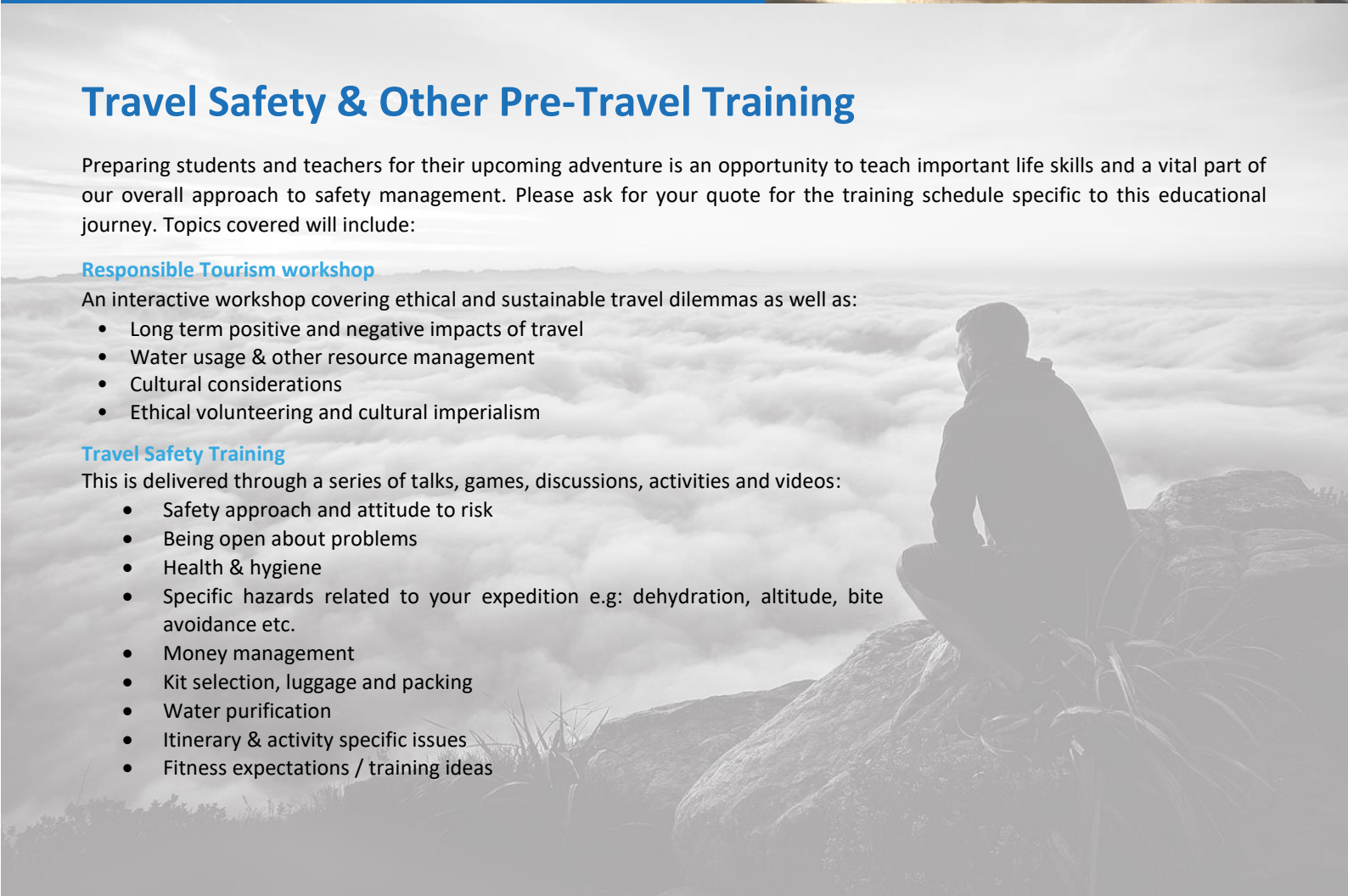
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- Long term positive and negative impacts of travel
- Water usage & other resource management
- Cultural considerations
- Ethical volunteering and cultural imperialism

Travel Safety Training

This is delivered through a series of talks, games, discussions, activities and videos:

- Safety approach and attitude to risk
- Being open about problems
- Health & hygiene
- Specific hazards related to your expedition e.g: dehydration, altitude, bite avoidance etc.
- Money management
- Kit selection, luggage and packing
- Water purification
- Itinerary & activity specific issues
- Fitness expectations / training ideas





A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey

1 Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your adventure itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an adventure that's just right for you and your students. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk and threat assessments to help you with your trip approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

3 Arrange a trip launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with comprehensive information covering the itinerary, safety management, the build-up to the trip and lots more. There is also plenty of opportunity for questions.



The home of the modern, innovative school expedition, where a sustainable, ethical approach guarantees unique experiences and a life enhancing adventure.



Our school trips and educational tours are all about maximising the learning opportunities of travel. It's all here, the humble school tour has just come of age.



Adventures, holidays and cultural journeys for teachers looking to 'Escape the Classroom' and discover more about our amazing world, its people and places.



"I am being completely serious when I say that I won't ever run a school trip without you guys. I trust you and your team completely - and the in-country staff that you carefully cultivate and train are a cut above the rest."

Teacher feedback, King's High Warwick

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