



Morocco

Atlas to Coastal Essaouira

6 Days

Join us on this 6-day adrenalin shot of all things Moroccan: Jellabas, carpet shops, snake charmers and mint tea; intricate souks, high mountain passes, ancient Kasbahs and spectacular sunsets. Morocco has everything that goes to make up an ideal destination for a first foray into the developing world and this culturally focused itinerary offers a unique insight into the landscapes and history of one of our favourite countries. With a foray into the wonders of Marrakech, the dramatic Atlas Mountains and an exploration of the wonderfully laid-back coastal town of Essaouira, this is the perfect journey to discover the warmth and welcome of magical Morocco.



[Learn more about our Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive Marrakech

LD

Fly UK to Marrakech. We arrive at the airport and transfer to our hotel. Depending on the time of the flight we have a late afternoon walk into the markets where we start to acclimatise and appreciate that the short flight has brought us to a completely different world! Overnight at Hotel after a lovely dinner.

Day 2

Marrakech, Aremd, Imlil Atlas Mountains

BLD

We take a morning journey into the mountains to the small mountain town of Imlil – the starting point for expeditions to Mount Toubkal and beyond. From here we will take a short trek to the Berber village of Aremd, set deep in the Atlas Mountains. After a lunch of local cuisine, we will have an orientation walk around the village, meeting local people. Life has changed little here over the years and our accommodation tonight will be a simple village house or 'gite'. Later we will have the opportunity to learn how to prepare real Moroccan mint tea and bake Berber flat bread. The best you ever tasted!

Day 3

Aremd, Sidi Chamharouch, Aremd

BLD

In the morning we will trek up the Milzane Valley to the holy shrine at Sidi Chamharouch. This is the start of the journey to Toubkal, and we will undoubtedly bump into local women with huge bales of scrub for their mules. Above the village of Sidi Chamharouch towers a huge painted rock famous all over Morocco. People with problems and those who are unhappy visit this shrine to sacrifice a goat or chicken and share it with the village. They stay until they dream good thoughts and see a better future! With a picnic lunch high in the Atlas we will return to Aremd for a good peaceful night in our local house!

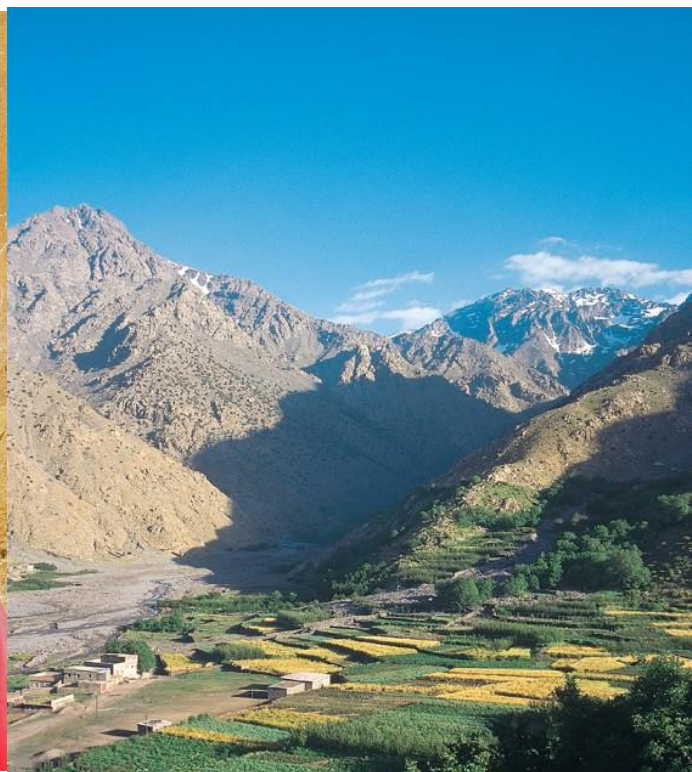
Day 4

Aremd, Imlil, Essaourira

BLD

With a wave and a "salam alaykum" we will descend to Imlil and after a short time exploring, we leave the Atlas and drive out to the wild Atlantic coast to visit and explore the town of Sidi Kaouki. Starkly beautiful and famous for surfing and kite surfing we enjoy a picnic lunch, while the Atlantic pounds the beach. We will also get stuck in with an 'Environment Clean Up' and help to clear waste from the coastline.

You cannot visit Morocco and not ride on a camel, so before making our way to Essaouria we will experience this local form of transport! Essaouria is a UNESCO listed port town famous for its handmade deep sea fishing boats and seafood. Exploring the walled city and souks is an experience not to be missed and do make sure you keep some money for some local Berber curly-toed slippers. Here we will experience a stunning sunset over the Atlantic before spending a restful night in a typical Riad.



Day 5

Essaouira, Marrakech

BLD

After breakfast we will take the road east back to Marrakech. It is possible to stop en route to visit an Argan Oil Women's cooperative. These cooperatives have developed recently and made the commercial production of Argan Oil possible as well as making a difference to local women's lives. After we arrive in Marrakech, we enjoy lunch in a typical restaurant before experiencing the hustle and bustle of this magical city, its souks and The Medina. As well as a fully guided tour of the city we will also visit the Bahia Palace. Built in the late 19th Century this is a stunning collection of buildings and gardens which housed the harem and concubines of the Grand Vizier (prime minister) of the Sultan.

Day 6

Marrakech - UK

B

First thing this morning we will have breakfast before heading back to the airport for 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 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. We are far from perfect, but 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 2



Some low-level physical activities included in your trip, including walking on uneven terrain, maybe a morning/afternoon trek of two to four hours. That said, no physical preparation is required to make the most of the tour. High humidity and temperatures can occur at certain times of the year.

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 Expedition 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 your expedition. Topics covered will include:

Responsible Tourism workshop

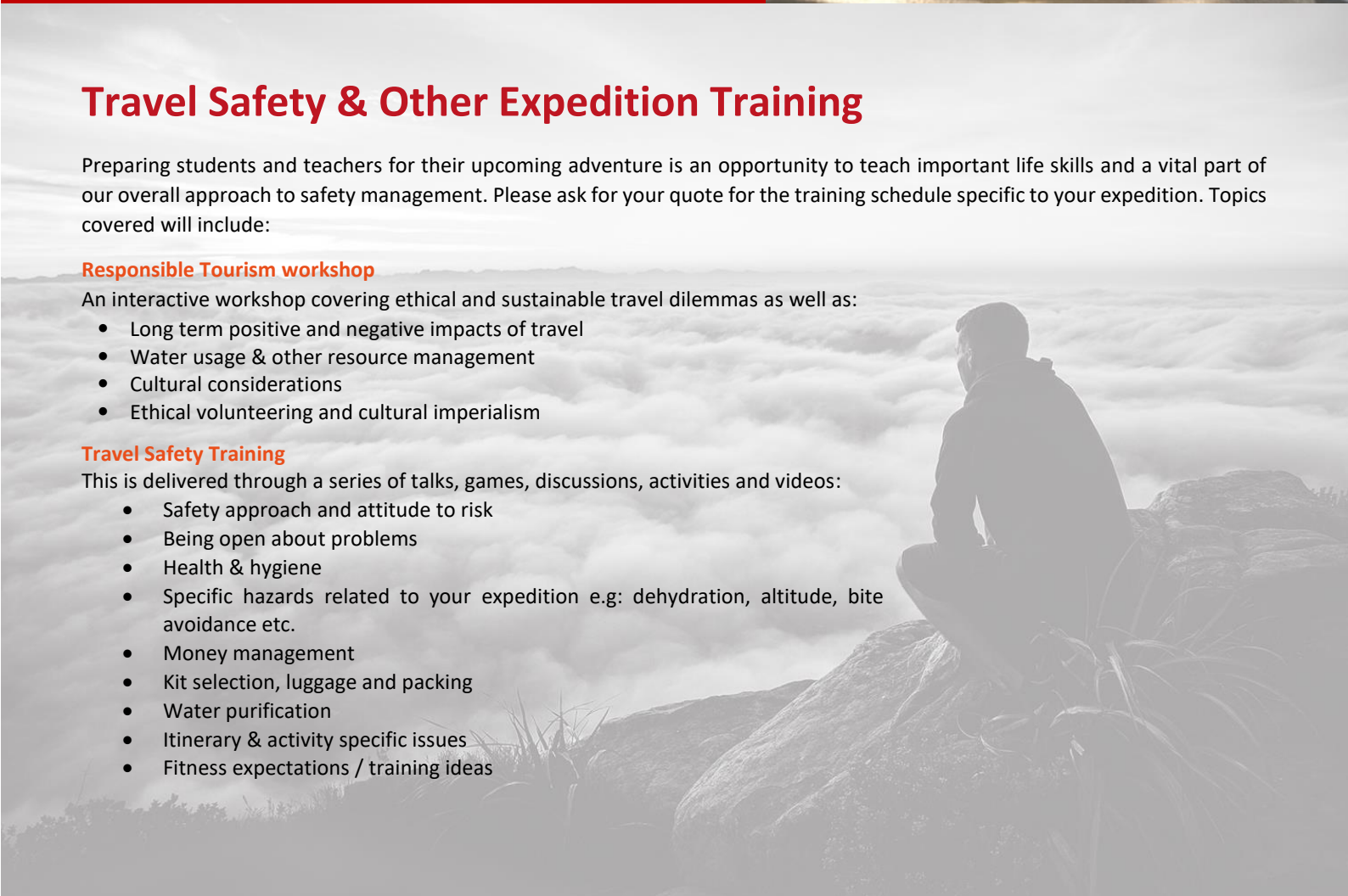
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- 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 expedition journey

1 Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition 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 expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

3 Arrange an expedition launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening 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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