



Morocco

Mountains, Deserts and Mint Tea

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 geography focused itinerary offers a unique insight into the landscapes and culture of one of our favourite countries. With a foray into the wonders of Marrakech, a dramatic drive across the Atlas Mountains and a camel ride into the desert, this is the perfect journey to discover the warmth and welcome of magical Morocco.



[Learn more about our Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Educational Journey

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.

Day 2

Marrakech, cooking class, Imlil Atlas Mountains

BLD

This morning we head out and visit the souq, mixing with the local Marrakeshi as we buy the ingredients needed 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, pastila, 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 and then head to our base for the night – 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. Accommodation tonight will be a simple village house or 'gite'. Sleeping arrangements are likely to be multiple occupancy rooms with mattresses on the floor. (If you prefer we can return to our Marrakech Hotel). Overnight at in Village House.

Day 3

Mountain Drive & into the Desert at Zagora

BLD

In the morning we descend to Imlil and begin our journey across the Tizi n'Tichka pass to Ouarzazate (approx. 4 h). From there we continue from Ouarzazate to Zagora with stops en route to observe the plate tectonics and geographical features. Continuing along the Vallee du Draa through an arid plains landscape, oasis settlements and date palmeries. We encounter nomadic pastoralists and explore the desert landscape. Along the way you'll have the chance to study the desert landscapes and see oasis agriculture, desertification and sand dune encroachment. Overnight at Hotel

Day 4

Camel Trek and Desert Camp

BLD

First thing this morning we head out on to the arid plains to an oasis settlement where we leave our vehicle and meet your camelteers to begin our camel safari into the desert (4 hours camel safari). We'll encounter nomadic farmers and explore a magical area of rolling dunes in the desert. We'll set up camp and prepare traditional Moroccan fare under clear starry skies and sleep in large Bedouin-style tents. With luck your camel drivers and camp staff may sing and play drums to round off the magical atmosphere of the evening.



Day 5

The journey home and Ait Benhaddou

BLD

In the morning you leave the camp and mount the camels once again to continue exploring the desert. Around 12:00 you will head backwards Zagora with a stop at Tamgroute where you can explore the coranic library and the pottery cooperative.

Our final destination today is Ait Benhaddou. This is probably the best-preserved fortified kasbah in the country. With its dramatic walls of red earth, slit windows and crumbling towers, it is a magnificent example of a traditional stronghold. Chosen as a location for Hollywood films such as Lawrence of Arabia, Jewel in the Nile and more recently Gladiator, Ait Benhaddou sits upon a lofty pinnacle of rock overlooking a river and we are very lucky to stay overnight in this beautiful setting. With its dramatic walls of red earth, slit windows and crumbling towers Ait Benhaddou is a magnificent example of a traditional stronghold and has been chosen as a location for Hollywood films such as Lawrence of Arabia, Jewel in the Nile and, of course, Gladiator.

Day 6

Marrakech - UK

BL

First thing this morning you will return by road to Marrakech. Depending on our flight time, we may have time for a final morning in the souk, watching the hustle and bustle of this magical city 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 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 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 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

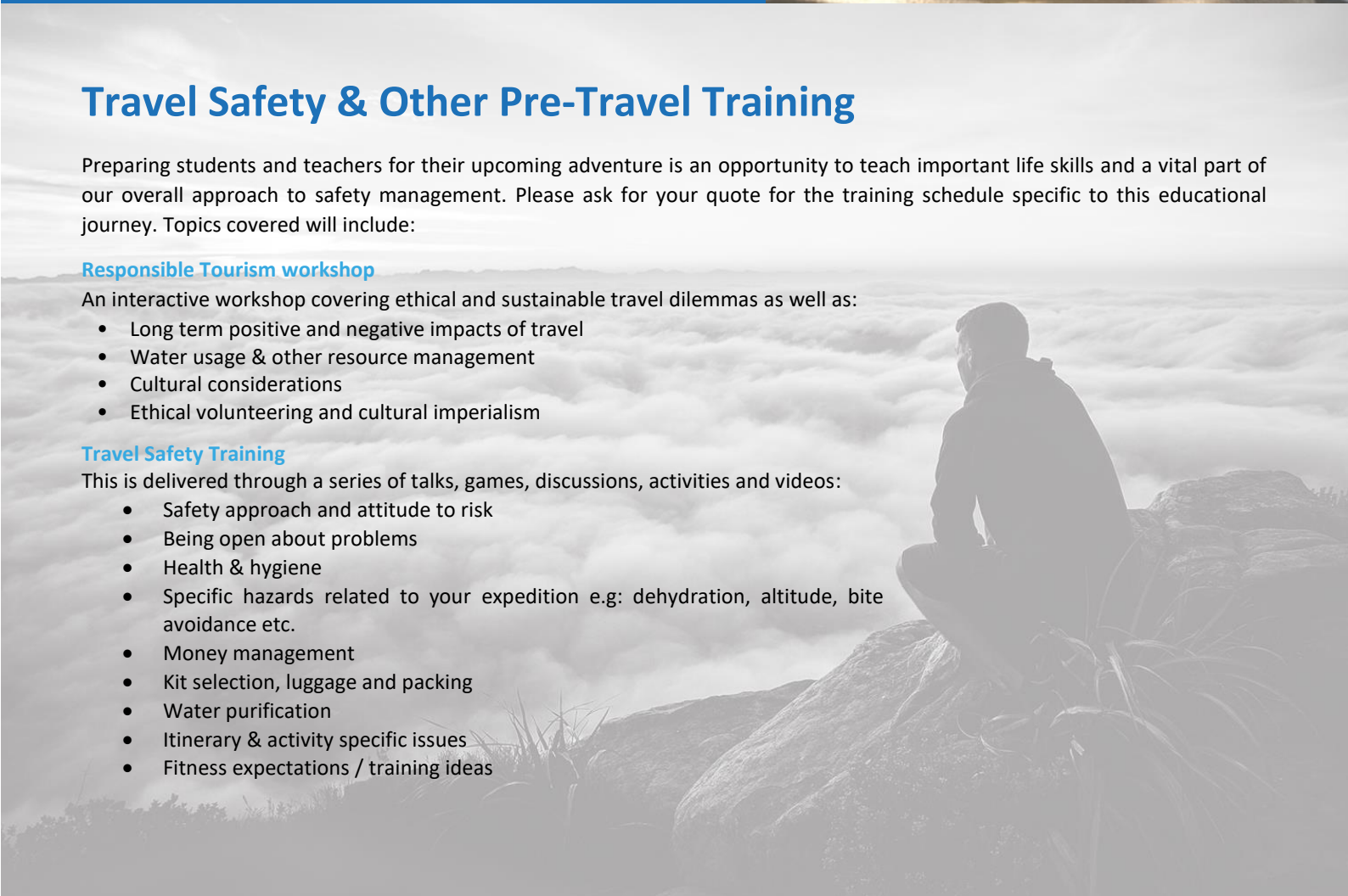
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- 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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