



10 Days

# Morocco

## Biology in the Atlas & Sahara

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Discover a range of environments from ancient cities to the high Atlas mountains, Sahara desert and Atlantic coast. Learn how species have evolved to survive in challenging desert conditions and more about the animals which nomads have come to depend on.

Visit spice co-operatives and learn how remote villages have created industry through agriculture. Discuss the working conditions of Moroccan animals and search for exotic plants hidden in the mountains. Ride camels, surf in Essaouira, hike in the epic high Atlas mountains... this educational journey does not come without adventure!



# Recommended tour itinerary

Day  
1

## Arrive Marrakech

Fly from the UK to Marrakech where our local STC Expedition Leader will meet us and we transfer together to our hotel. Freshen up before a welcome briefing from our Leader of what to expect in our trip. Set off to explore Jamaa El Fna square, where a vibrant array of snake charmers, acrobats, storytellers, and musical performers await us.

Day  
2

## Cooking class, botanical gardens & the High Atlas

Our morning begins with a horse drawn carriage tour through the streets of Marrakech, giving us an overview of the areas of the city, before getting out on foot in the old part of town called the Medina. 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, pastila, tagine, tajjia and harira. For lunch, we get to savour the gastronomic delights of our morning cookery class, so we had better pay close attention!

Afterwards we begin our journey towards the immense Atlas Mountains, passing sparkling rivers and Berber villages along the way. We stop en route to visit the botanical garden in Ourika, before finally reaching Imlil, the gateway to the Atlas Mountains. Overnight in a village homestay.

Day  
3

## Mountain hike & Ait-Ben-Haddou

It's an educational start to the day as we head out on a hike through the surrounding valley, during which we learn about the subsistent agriculture that plays a large role in the lives of the local Berber villages. We also talk about the working conditions of horses, mules and camels in Morocco. In the afternoon, we will be met by vehicles which will take us over the Tizi n'Tichka pass, the highest road in Morocco which links the South East to the city of Ouarzazate. We visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ait-Ben-Haddou; a crimson collection of earthen pre-Saharan buildings. For the Game of Thrones fans among us, this stunning location is recognisable as the setting of the fictional town of Yunkai. Here we visit the Kasbah fortress and later we check in at our hotel.

Day  
4

## Tamgroute library, pottery co-operative & into the desert

Entering the desert, we venture through the picturesque Draa valley and drive through a contrasting scenery of red sand and green oases. On the way, we visit the ancient Tamgroute library, scrutinising the religious and mathematical texts within its walls. We will also visit the pottery cooperative here. In the late afternoon, a meeting with a local family will enable us to learn about the intricacies of their daily life. Camp overnight.





Day  
5

### Desert camel ride & wild camp

Today we will embrace the traditional nomadic lifestyle with a thrilling camel ride through the desert. Our guides will teach us about desert wildlife and ecosystems and how life manages to exist in this beautiful yet arid environment. The camel handlers will shed a light on our trusty steeds and explain their importance through nomadic history and current day. Reaching our wild camp, we can even help to feed and care for the camels before we all settle for a night under the stars.

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Day  
6

### Ouarzazate & the Draa Valley

This morning we drive back through the Draa valley to Ouarzazate, a town frequently described as the gateway to the desert and one that shows a variety of geological landscapes with different strata and colourful hills. Throughout history it has served as an important trading centre, a fortified garrison, and even the set for Hollywood movies, becoming a point of convergence for a variety of people and purposes.

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Day  
7

### Saffron co-operative in Taliouine

We continue our journey across the massive Anti Atlas range to Taliouine, a village that thrives on the production and selling of the l'or rouge spice, or saffron. Here we visit a Saffron cooperative to learn about the purple *Crocus Sativus* flower and the process that produces the expensive spice. Afterwards, we continue on to Ouled Berhil.

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Day  
8

### Dairy farm & Essaouira

In the morning we visit a local dairy farm to learn about milk industry in the area. Dairy products are a significant contributor to the Moroccan economy. Heading towards the coast, we drive to the seaside city of Agadir; complete with sandy beaches, Islamic hammans and high-rise buildings, it combines tradition with modernity. Following the Atlantic coast, we continue on to the quaint walled city of Essaouira. Here we do our very own Environment Clean Up and take part in a beach clean along the coast.

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Day  
9

### Walking tour & surfing lesson

The old and alluring city of Essaouira ruminates with history and its oceanic location means that it is a hotspot for watersport enthusiasts. With this in mind, we have an exciting final day in store, exploring the finest aspects of this medina. After spending the morning on a guided tour of the city, we hit the waves for a surfing lesson. Surrounded by the incredible views of the sea and shore, it is the perfect way to end our Moroccan adventure. Return to Marrakech.

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Day  
10

### Depart Morocco

Our morning begins with a visit to an authentic Moroccan herbs and spices shop! There will be time for final sightseeing and souvenir shopping before we say goodbye to this outstanding country, departing from Marrakech and flying back to the UK.

# Further information

## Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel 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
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

## What's excluded?

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

## Your educational journey timeline



## Physical journey rating:



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.

## Culture shock rating:



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'.



# A journey of 1,000 miles...

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



## 1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

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

## 2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

## 3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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