



10 Days

Morocco

Atlas and the Sahara

Mountains and sand dunes, camels and Berbers! This 10-day expedition is a fantastic immersion into Morocco. From the bustling medieval cities, majestic mountainscapes of the High Atlas to the arid landscape of the Sahara, Morocco provides the perfect setting for this adventurous and cultural expedition. Welcome to 'Idraren Draren' Mountain on Mountains. A challenging climb of North Africa's highest peak, Mt Toubkal (4167m) as well as a camel trek in the stunning Sahara with nights spent under the stars are on the menu. A trip to Morocco would not be complete without a visit to Marrakech to soak up the atmosphere and barter with the locals. An all-round fantastic adventure that will stay with students forever.



Recommended expedition itinerary

Day
1

Arrive Marrakech—Imlil—Aremd

Fly from the UK to Marrakech. On arrival, we drive along El Haouz plain towards Asni before following the valley of Ait Mizane to the hamlet of Imlil. Short walk uphill to Aremd on the foothills of Toubkal on arrival. Approx. 90 mins drive, 60 mins walk. Overnight in a Gite.

Day
2

Tizi Mzik—Aremd

Today is our first acclimatization day with a trek up to the pass of Tizi Mzik (2489m). Here we can appreciate great views of the Tazaghart plateau and the Azaden valley. After a picnic lunch, we trek back down to Aremd through some lovely Berber villages. Approx. 4.5 hours walk. Overnight in a Gite.

Day
3

Aremd—Toubkal Mountain refuge

We trek today on a used path following the valley up to the shrine of Sidi Charmharouch, which is known to locals for its curative power and

Day
4

Aremd—Toubkal Base Camp 3200m

Today we begin our trek and take an easy path following the valley up to the shrine of Sidi Chamharouch known by locals for its curative power and for trekkers as a refreshment stop. Your Group Leader will tell you about its history and the customs of the area. The climb then gets a bit steeper, but continues on a well-maintained zigzag mule track. After a picnic lunch, we make our way to the base camp near Toubkal (Neltner) refuge. This is where we will spend the next two nights. Approx. 5 hrs walk. Overnight: Tent.

Day
5

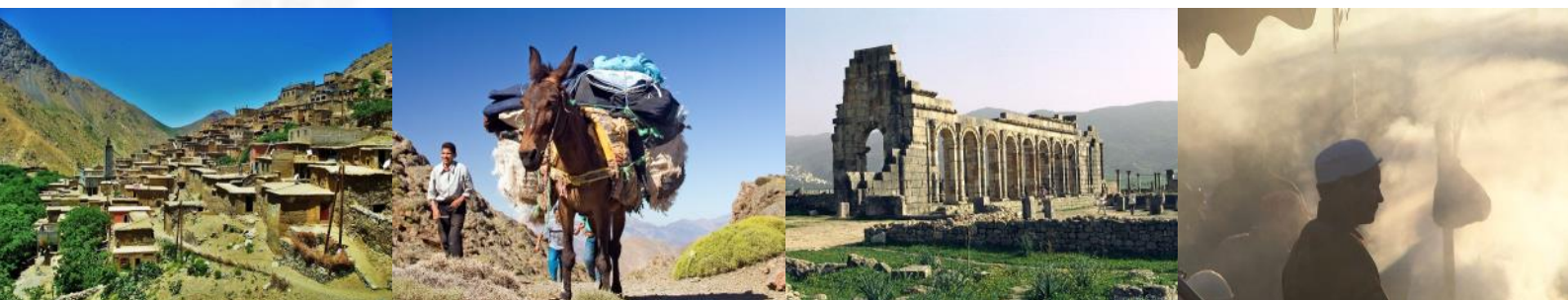
Toubkal climb Base Camp 3975m

An early start allows us to conquer the highest peak in North Africa and to take in the sunrise over the mountain ridges while we ascend. We use a combination of scree slopes, zigzagging and solid step paths to ascend to the pass of Tizi n Toubkal at 3975m where we get a visual of the summit of Mt Toubkal. From here our path starts to level off as we walk along the ridge. The breath-taking views from the top are well worth the effort and our determination will be rewarded. After a rest and a well-earned photo shoot, we will retrace our steps back to base camp for a late lunch. The rest of the afternoon is left for relaxation. Approx. 6 to 7 hrs (3 to 4 hrs up and 2 to 3 hrs down) depending on group fitness. Overnight: Tent.

Day
6

Base camp—Imlil—Ait Ben Haddou

After breakfast, we will leave the mountain scenery and walk down the valley back to Imlil with a lunch stop on route. 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. This city is nicknamed *The Door of the Desert* and shows a variety of geological landscapes with different strata and colourful hills. 20Km before Ouarzazate, we turn left to the UNESCO's World Heritage site of Ait Ben Haddou. Here we visit the Kasbah fortress and later we will check in at our hotel. Approx. 4 hrs walk & 5.5 hrs drive. Overnight: Hotel.





Day
7

Ait Ben Haddou– Zagora– Tidri

After breakfast we drive via Ouarzazate and over the Anti Atlas mountains to the Draa Valley. The valley is populated with some rock formations and a multitude of Kasbahs and Ksours all surrounded by green fields. Before arriving to Zagora, the old capital of this trading route, the scenery changes once again. We will stop in Tamgroute to visit its 16th century library and the pottery cooperative then carry on to where we start our camel trek at the village of Zawiyat sidi Salh. Tonight's camp is located in a magnificent location (shown below) below starry filled skies. Approx. 4 hrs drive & 2 hrs walk.

Overnight: Camp.

Day
8

Tidri—Ouarzazate

This morning we jump back on our camels and head North back towards the road. On the way we stop off at the settlement of Tamegroute to visit it's famous 17th century zaouia, one of the most important in the Moroccan Sahara. This was once a centre of great learning and the base of the Naciri Brotherhood, who for centuries held sway over the tribes of the Draa Valley. The holy leaders of Tamegroute were traditionally (up until quite recent times) the arbitrators of desert disputes, settling differences amongst the residents of the surrounding kours and the traders that passed through these lands on the great camel caravans that journeyed through Zagora. We'll also pay a visit to the local potters' cooperative, before continuing back to Ouarzazate later this afternoon. Approx. 2 hrs walk & 4 hrs drive. Overnight: Hotel

Day
9

Ouarzazate—Marrakech

A morning drive takes us northwest back to Marrakech, where we'll have the rest of the day to explore a city that has for centuries been a meeting place for the mountain Berbers and the desert peoples of the South. This afternoon there will be an opportunity to explore something of its rich heritage with a sightseeing tour of Morocco's fascinating Red City, a city that can boast a staggering array of spectacular architecture and wonderful facades. Like many North African towns, Marrakech is divided into two distinct parts, the Gueliz (the modern French-built city) and the Medina (the Old City), a place where trade and barter amongst the colourful souks still has at its ancient heart a glittering cacophony of noise and colour. Journeying into this vibrant city with a local guide is a chance to discover some of its most enthralling sites. You can wander past vendors selling doughnuts and fried grasshoppers, meander through native markets where Muslim women, their hands and feet dyed with henna, call out to sell their wares, and enjoy the sounds and the smells of the exotic. After our tour we may take some time to enjoy more of the remarkable Medina, haggling for a bargain or two, or simply sitting at one of the local cafés and watching the street tableaux unfold before you. Approx. 4 hrs drive. Overnight: Hotel.

Day
10

Marrakech

After breakfast transfer to the airport for the flight home.

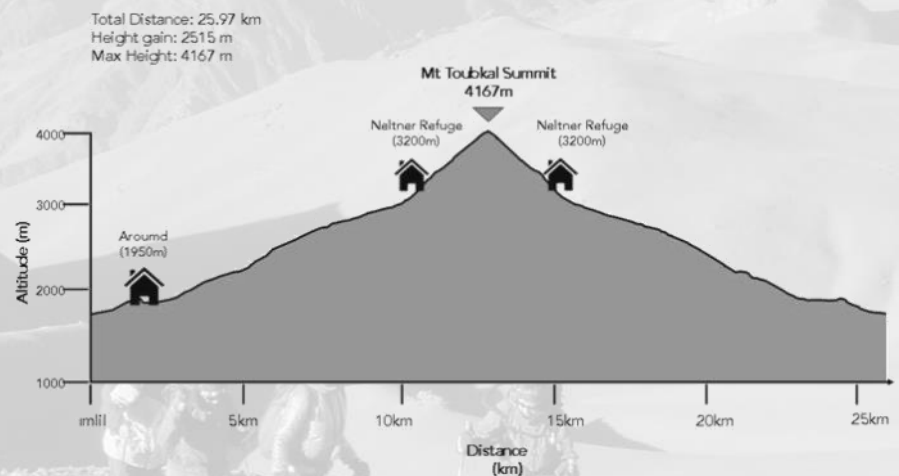
Further information

Look what's included!

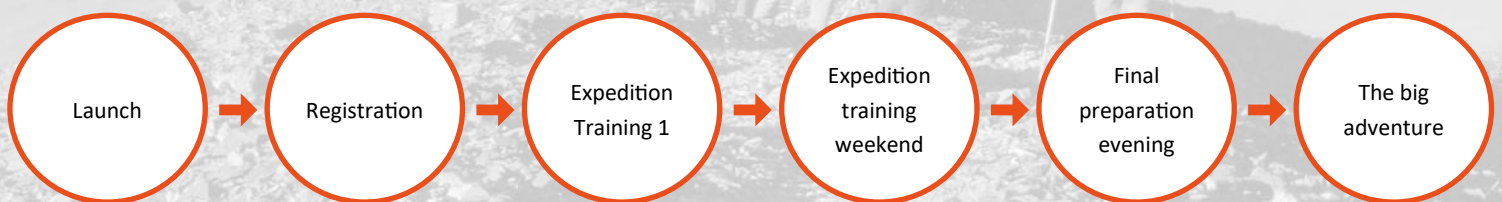
- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local expedition leader
- Parent and student expedition launch evening
- Comprehensive pre-expedition training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial 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 expedition timeline



Physical expedition rating:

● ● ● ● ○ 4/5

Fitness is important at this grade, which compares to extended walking in mountainous terrain such as the Lakes or Snowdonia, for up to three to five days in a row. It is likely that significant sections of a trip will involve walking and trekking with some days up to eight hours. Some of the trip could be at altitudes of up to 4,500m, but the itinerary will be designed with appropriate acclimatisation in mind. Be prepared for significant possible variations in temperatures throughout the tour. There is not usually time to 'get fit' on these treks, so a two to four month fitness improvement programme would ensure you get the most out of the trip.

Culture shock rating:

● ● ● ● ○ 4/5

Students joining trips at this level will find the comforts of home are more of a rarity – or viewed another way, a welcome luxury. English is unlikely to be widely spoken and the food will be quite different to home, perhaps for extended sections of the trip. You should observe local customs so not to cause offence. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty and accommodation in some locations is likely to be basic. Whilst a challenge, destinations and trips at cultural level 4 are also a fantastic opportunity to see a very different part of the world.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

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



1 Get your tailor-made proposal and 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 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 an expedition launch evening at your school

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



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