



6 Days

Morocco

Atlas to Coastal Essaouira

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.



Recommended tour itinerary

Day
1

Arrive Marrakech

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

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

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

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. 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

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 made 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 hareem and concubines of the Grand Vizier (prime minister) of the Sultan.

Day 6

Marrakech - UK

First thing this morning we will have breakfast before heading back to the airport for our return flight to the UK.

Further information

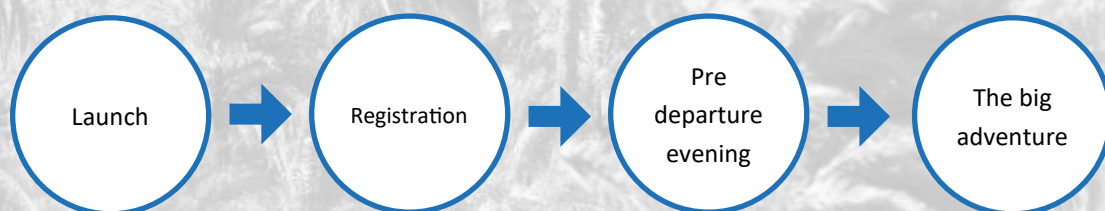
Look what's included!

- 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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