



12 Days

Morocco

Magical Morocco

Mountains and sand dunes, camels and Berbers! This 12-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 the High Atlas Mountains, known to locals as 'Idraren Draren' or, Mountain on Mountains. We will enjoy 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. 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

Fly from the UK to Marrakech. On arrival, we will be met and transferred to our hotel. Overnight: Hotel.

Day
2

Marrakech—Imlil—Aremd 1950m

Drive from Marrakech along El Haouz plaine towards Asni before following the valley of Ait Mizane to the hamlet of Imlil. Imlil is 1,740 metres above sea level and offers your first glimpse of Mt Toubkal and the surrounding Atlas Mountains. We then start our short walk uphill towards Aremd which is located on the foothills of Toubkal. In the afternoon, we will take part in an orientation and acclimatisation walk around the surrounding area and take time to appreciate the amazing scenery. Approx. 1.5 hrs drive & 1.5 hrs walk. Overnight: Village house

Day
3

Aremd—Tizi Mzzik 2400m—Aremd

Today we will stay in the surrounding areas for acclimatisation. We walk up to the Tizi Mzzik pass at an altitude of 2400m where we can take in the spectacular views over the Ait Mizzan valley. We then continue our trek to the summit of Tazzaghart. After a rest at the top, we will take the same path back down to the valley for a picnic lunch before we return to the comforts of our guest house. Approx., 4 hrs walk. Overnight: Village house.

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

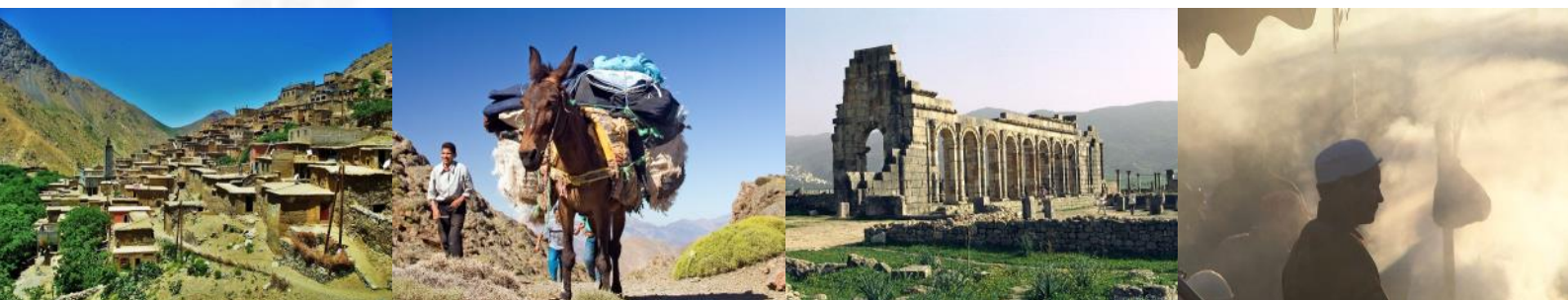
Toubkal climb Base Camp 3200m

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 Zawayat 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—Rgabi

This morning we jump back on our camels and follow a dry river bed whilst also scaling and traversing sand dunes. Here we truly witness the wilderness and the tranquility of the desert. A picnic lunch is enjoyed before we continue onto our next camp in the dunes of Rgabi. Later that afternoon we learn how to make mint tea and traditional bread before spending our last night under the stars.

Approx. 5 hrs walk. Overnight: Camp.

Day
9

Rgabi—Taroudant

This morning we take the short walk to join the main road where we are met by our vehicles, which will take us to the small town of Agdz, home to around 10,000. We will then leave the Draa valley and take a detour through the Anti Atlas mountains to Tazenakht. This town is located in the Errachidia province and is the capital of Berber carpets made by the Ait Waouzguit tribe. We then follow the South slopes of Djebel Sirouam taking in some magnificent rock formations to reach the fertile plain of Souss and finally the town of Taroudant, once the capital of the South. Approx. 1 hr walk & 5 to 6 hrs drive. Overnight: Hotel.

Day
10

Taroudant—Essaouira

This morning we will leave Taroudant and continue North towards the Atlantic coast and the historic port of Essaouira. The town is a delightful haven of whitewashed houses and dramatic medieval walls set before a scene of empty beaches and crashing waves. Being one of Morocco's most popular resorts, it has gained a reputation over recent years as a venue for international wind surfing competitions as the local winds create the perfect conditions amongst the Atlantic rollers. We arrive in Essaouira late that afternoon and should be time for a short orientation tour of the city before dinner. Approx. 4 hrs drive. Overnight: Hotel.

Day
11

Essaouira

The day is free for independent explorations in this colourful coastal fishing town. Situated within 15th century Portuguese fortifications, the town has a relaxed but lively feel and an experience not to be missed is a visit to the old walled Medina. After passing through the narrow, highly decorated arched entrance, it may be hard to resist snapping up last minute gifts such as locally made rustic leather belts, gleaming gold and silver jewellery, or wooden boxes exquisitely inlaid with mother of pearl by local craftsmen. The lively throng of the Medina, with its local women carrying out their daily routines, veiled in their traditional dress, forms a sharp contrast to the open golden sands of the harbour. Hopeful seabirds can be seen circling above the fisherman as they return from the blue waters with their daily catches. A stroll around the old town, perhaps taking in the Mellah (the old Jewish Quarter) or maybe a wander along the fine sandy beach and through the harbour is well worth the time spent. Overnight: Hotel.

Day
12

Marrakech

After breakfast transfer to the airport for the flight home.

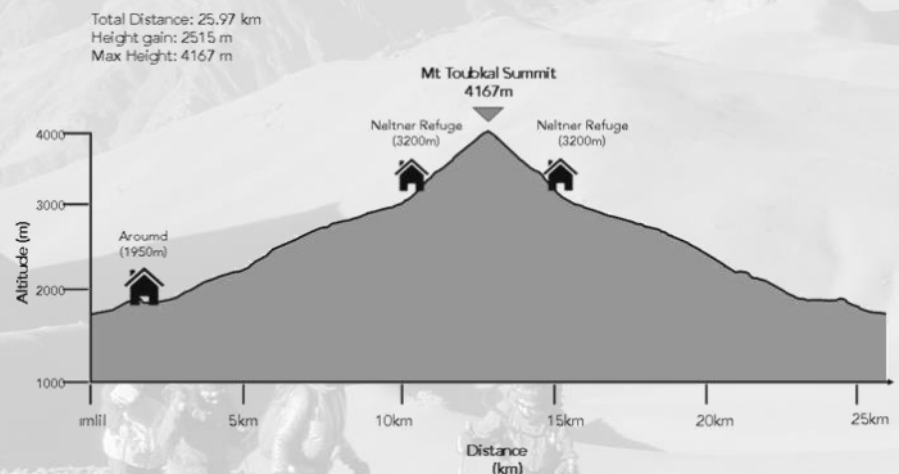
Further information

Look what's included!

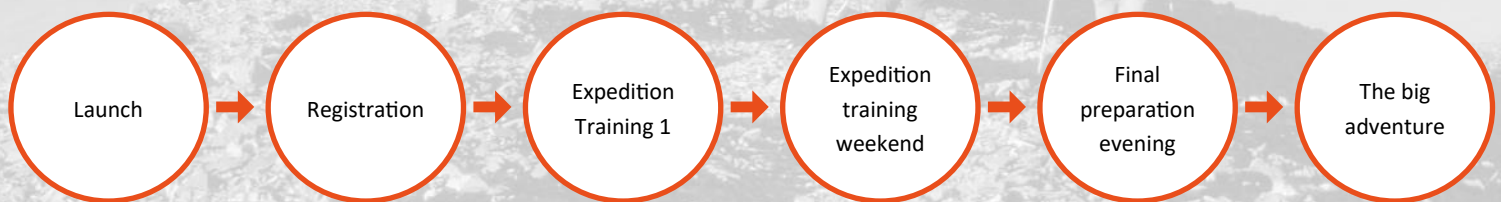
- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local expedition leader
- Parent and student expedition launch evening
- Comprehensive pre-expedition training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial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



t: 01392 660056 | e: schools@thestc.co.uk | w: www.thestc.co.uk