



6 Days

Morocco

Mountains, Deserts and Mint Tea

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.



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.

Day
2

Marrakech, cooking class, Imlil Atlas Mountains

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, pastilla, 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

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

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

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

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.

Further information

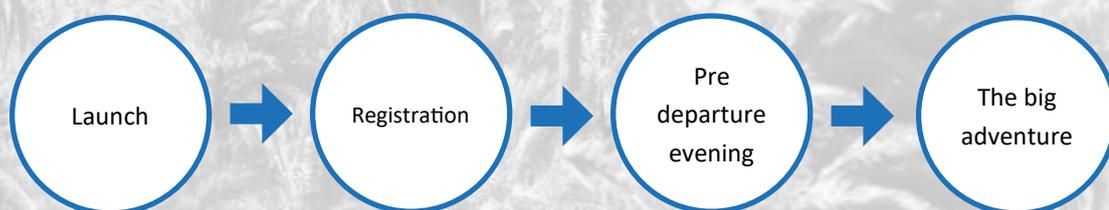
Look what's included!

- 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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