




DESERTS AND MOUNTAINS



Grade:	Gentle / Moderate 	Land-only duration:	13 days
Max altitude:	2500m, option to 2592m	Trekking days:	7 days
Price:		Price:	Contact us
Dates:	<p>We can run this on dates to suit you for a minimum group size of 2. There best months for this treks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February to May • the end of September to December <p>Contact us at info@trekmountains.com with your preferred dates</p>		

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A fantastic journey that takes us from the bustle of exotic Marrakech, to deep river gorges cutting their way through the Atlas Mountains; from the sand dunes of the great Sahara to the rugged Jebel Sahro.

We'll take walks in the Rose Valley and the Todra Gorge, through palm oasis, past fields and orchards and crumbling kasbahs. We then ride camels at Erg Chebbi, the great dunes on the edge of the Sahara, for a two day discovery of this vast sand sea. We'll sleep in a Bedouin tent and camp out under the stars, and have a night in a local auberge where we can freshen up before the next leg of our adventure. We are accompanied by our team of chamelier. All meals and camping equipment (except sleeping bags) are provided during the camel trek.

An adventurous journey by jeep then brings us to the Jebel Sahro range, a rugged volcanic mountain range with dark eroded cliff faces, unusual natural rock formations and high mountain peaks affording magnificent panoramic views. We trek for 3 days accompanied by our mule team who will carry our luggage.

Accommodation during the trek is camping, with all equipment (tents, cooking and eating equipment) provided. (Clients need to bring their sleeping bags and inflatable mattresses.) All meals are provided during the trek. We'll end our trek at a village gite, as the guests of a local berber family.

A spectacular ride back over the High Atlas Mountains will bring us back to Marrakech.

OUTLINE ITINERARY

Walking and journey times are approximate

Day 1. Arrive Marrakech. (hotel)

Transfer to your hotel. Time to explore the city.



Day 2. Marrakech – Ait Ben Haddou – Ouarzazate. (B) (hotel)

Depart Marrakech and cross the Atlas Mountains via the Tizi 'n Tichka pass (2260m), the highest paved road in Morocco. You descend to the fortified village of Ait Ben Haddou, a UNESCO heritage site. Time to explore the kasbah village before continuing to the desert city of Ouarzazate.

Day 3. Ouarzazate –Valleé des Roses - Todra Gorge. (BL) (hotel)

Travel from Ouarzazate to Todra Gorge. En route we make a 3 hour walk in the Rose Valley, amongst fields and orchards, separated by rose bushes. In late April the rose petals are harvested to produce rose oil and water. We see local people working their fields along the river's edge, pass through villages nestled amongst red rock, and explore remarkable ancient kasbahs. We then drive to the Todra Gorge, a spectacular gorge carved through the mountains.

Day 4. Todra – various hiking options. (BL) (hotel)

Today we make a beautiful walk through the Todra Valley and Gorge, a vast palmery snaking its way along the river bed between high rock walls. At the end of the walk you'll be collected by the bus.

5. Todra Gorge – Merzouga – Tanamouste. (BD) (nomad tent)

We leave the Atlas Mountains behind and head to the edge of the Sahara and the great dunes of Merzouga. We drive to the village of Tanamouste where we meet our camel team. We sleep tonight in nomad tents on the edge of the dunes.



Days 6 & 7. Desert – camel trek (BLD) (1 night camp/ 1 night auberge)

For two days we travel in our camel caravan exploring the great dunes at Méharee. You can ride your camels, or walk next to them as we discover desert life. You may have the chance to see small lakes that appear amongst the dunes, or perhaps find ancient fossils. The first night we camp in tents, or sleep under the stars. The second night we stay in an auberge.

Day 8. Merzouga – Tazzarine – Nkob – Bab ‘n Ali (BLD) (camp)

We leave the desert today and head into the mountains. In 4x4s we drive in the direction of the Sahro Mountains, a rugged volcanic area, where few people live. Tonight we camp near the gigantic stone gate of Bab ‘n Ali, 1360m (pictured on front cover). Approximately 5-6 hours walking.

Day 9. Trek Bab ‘n Ali - Iggli (BLD) (camp)

For the next three days we trek the Sahro mountains (with mules for our luggage and stores). It is a rugged landscape with peaks, canyons and dark volcanic rocks. Our camps each night are in sheltered places in the vicinity of a water source.

In clear weather you enjoy magnificent views of the snowy peaks of the High Atlas. Today we trek to Iggli 2000m, approximately 5-6 hours walking.

Day 10. Trek Iggli – Almou ‘n Ouarg (BLD) (camp)

Our trek today takes us to Almou ‘n Ouarg 2300m, crossing a 2500m pass near to Djebel Kouaouch. Those who wish to summit the 2592m Djebel Kouaouch can do so. Approximately 6 hours walking, with 2 hours extra for Djebel Kouaouch.

Day 11. Almou ‘n Ouarg – Tagdilt (BLD) (gite)

On our last trekking day we drop down to Tagdilt 1670m, where we stay the night in a gite, as the guests of a Berber family, and with a little luck, there is a hot shower! Approximately 5 hours walking.



Day 12. Tagdilt – Marrakech (B) (hotel)

We drive via the ‘route of 1000 kasbahs’ towards Marrakech. We cross back over the Tizi n’ Tichka pass. At the end of the afternoon we arrive in Marrakech for the last night of our adventure.

Day 13. Depart Marrakech (B)

Transfer to airport for international flights.

Important Note: Whilst we expect that the trek will run as per the itinerary, participants should accept that there is a possibility of changes being necessary subject to local conditions.

Flights:

Marrakesh is served by several low-cost airlines, including Ryan Air, Easy Jet and Thomson Fly. You are welcome to book your own flights for this trip.

If there is a group of you we may be able to book your international flights for you – please contact us.

No flights or fixed travel arrangements should be booked until you have received written confirmation from the trekMountains office that your departure is guaranteed to run.



The Price Includes:

- Accommodation: 5 nights hotels on twin-share basis; 5 nights camping (either in traditional style berber tents, multi-share, or in two-person camping tents); 2 nights simple auberge/gite multi-share.
- Transport: Minibus days 2-5 and day 12; 4x4 day 8.
- Airport transfer: Between Marrakech airport and the hotel at beginning and end of trip
- Meals: Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D = dinner)
- Guide: Local English-speaking tour leader/mountain guide to accompany group throughout.
- Staff: Chamelier during desert trek; muleteers during Sahro trek. (Cooking will be done by the guide and chameliers / muleteers – if there are 5 or more trekkers, a cook will also accompany the group).
- Camels: One camel per person for desert trek days 6-7, additional luggage camels.
- Mules: Mules for carrying luggage and supplies during Sahro trek days 8-11.
- Equipment: All camping equipment (tents, foam mattresses, cooking and eating equipment) except sleeping bags.

Not Included:

- International flights
- Meals not specified above.
- Drinks, laundry, souvenirs and items of a personal nature.
- Sleeping bags.
- Tips and gratuities Tips – see “Preparing for your trek” for our guidance on tipping
- Sightseeing guides in Marrakech.
- Entrance fees to historical sites.
- Travel insurance
- Single room hotel supplement
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone calls and souvenirs (allow approximately £250 spending money)
- Moroccan visa, but please note that this is NOT required for holders of the following passports: United Kingdom, USA, Australia or Canada. All other passport holders should check the visa requirements with the Kingdom of Morocco visa entry website. All participants must check that their passport is valid for at least 6 months following the date of entry into Morocco.

Options:

- **Extra nights** are available in our group hotel – see the dates and prices list for details.
- **Accommodation** is usually in twin rooms and twin tents with another trekker of the same gender, or with a person you name on your booking form. **Single rooms and single tents** are available – see the dates and prices list for details.
- **Extension packages** can also be organized in Morocco. Please refer to our Moroccan extensions itinerary for more details. Extensions should be arranged to booking international flights.

Accommodation:

Our preferred group hotel in Marrakesh is much more than just a basic hotel. Subject to availability, we use a hotel where you will feel not only that you are comfortable, but definitely that you are in Morocco. We believe wherever possible it is part of the experience of travelling that you enjoy surroundings that are in keeping with the country you are in, rather than using a hotel that could be the same as any other hotel in the world.

Riads If you would prefer to upgrade to riad accommodation in Marrakesh, we can arrange this for you.

Minimum numbers and our pricing policy:

This trip is advertised based on a 4 person price based on twin sharing rooms. It can, however, be run with just 2 people.

We can offer this trip as a trip just for your party on dates to suit you. If the 4 person twin share price is not relevant to your party, we will quote according to the number of participants and the number of single / shared rooms that you require.

Alternatively, you may prefer that we open up the trip to other bookings. In that case, if there are less than 4 of you in your party we will give you a price based on the number of participants so that the trip can be guaranteed immediately. The final price will reduce as more trekkers join the trip.