




## SOUTHERN DESERT TREK



Camel trek in the Sahara © Ann Foulkes

<b>Grade:</b>	Gentle / Moderate 	<b>Land-only duration:</b>	10 days
		<b>Trekking days:</b>	6 days
		<b>Price:</b>	Contact us
<b>Dates:</b>	We can run this on dates to suit you for a minimum group size of 2. There best months for this treks are from November until mid-April. Contact us at <a href="mailto:info@trekmountains.com">info@trekmountains.com</a> with your preferred dates		

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South of the High Atlas lies the desert mountain regions of Jbel Bani and Jbel Tadrart. In this area a 6-day camel-trek leads you through mountains, date-palm oases and sand dunes. This adventurous desert trek will take you back to ancient times of the desert caravans. You will be camping in the desert, watching the millions of stars in the sky and enjoying the silence of the desert night. The journey will begin near the town of Zagora and end at M'hamid, a large oasis. Camels will carry your luggage and you will be accompanied by an expert guide. The average distance covered per day is approximately 25 kilometres / 15 miles between 5-6 hours of walking.



Berber tent © Ann Foulkes

## OUTLINE ITINERARY

Walking and journey times are approximate

### Day 1. Marrakech

You will be met at Marrakech airport and transferred to the hotel.



Water sellers

### Day 2. Marrakech – Ouarzazate – Zagora region (BLD)

A beautiful drive through the High Atlas Mountains takes you to Ouarzazate, a town which is well-known for its film studios and the ancient Kasbah Taourirt. In the afternoon you first cross an arid mountain region. Then the road follows the course of the River Draâ to Zagora, a quiet desert-town. On the way you will see lush date-palm

plantations and numerous kasbahs. Camp will be set up in the oasis near Zagora where you will meet your camel-drivers. Camp.



Your luggage-bearers

### Day 3. Trek: Zagora – Boujniba dunes (BLD)

In the morning the camels will be expertly loaded. Then the desert trek begins. Keeping pace with the camels you will leave the green Draâ Valley behind. Enjoying the vastness of the desert surroundings, you will cross a plain with mineral rocks. At lunchtime a big salad will be served with bread, fruits and mint tea. In the afternoon you will reach the dunes of Boujniba, a typical desert landscape. On top of a dune you can watch the

sunset which turns the colour of the sand into a luminous gold. Camp.

**Day 4. Trek: Boujniba dunes – Zaouiat Lambassu oasis (BLD)**

Sunrise is also a special experience in the desert which should not be missed. After breakfast you will ascend the mountain-slope of Jbel Bani. On top you will have a great view of the desert surroundings. Then you will enter a region with table mountains and oases. You will be impressed by the contrast between the green oases and the barren desert landscape. The bivouac will be at the little oasis of Zaouiat Lambassu. Camp.



**Day 5. Trek: Zaouiat Lambassu oasis – Erg Lâabidia (BLD)**

Following ancient caravan trails amidst mountain scenery you will reach the sand dunes of Erg Lâabidia. It is interesting to see the many traces in the sand of beetles, lizards and birds. In the evening the camel-drivers will prepare a “pain de sable”, a delicious hot loaf of bread which is baked in hot ashes, covered with sand. Camp.

**Day 6. Trek: Erg Lâabidia – Boutafroukht (BLD)**

On your way to Boutafroukht you will pass a water source, which is one of the most important elements in the landscape for the local population. The surroundings are favoured by nomads who live in large tents made from woven goat's wool.

The nomads' main activity is tending their herds of goats and camels. Camp.

**Day 7. Trek: Boutafroukht – Mazonaria (BLD)**

In the area you will cross today you will see many tamarisk trees growing on top of ancient river dunes, bearing witness that long ago the Draâ River crossed this plain before it vanished in the sands. At the place of the bivouac you will be able to find plenty of wood to make a camp fire. This will be your last night in the desert and a last opportunity to enjoy the sight of the millions of stars, the silence and the solitude. Camp.

**Day 8. Trek: Mazonaria – M'Hamid. Transfer to Ait Benhaddou (BLD)**

The high dune of Erg Lihouddi is on the last stretch through the desert. The camel-trek will end at the oasis of M'hamid in the Draâ Valley. In the afternoon you will be transferred back up the Draa Valley to the kasbah village of Ait Benhaddou where you will spend the night. You have time to explore this stunning kasbah village. Hotel.

**Day 9. Ait Benhaddou – Marrakech (B)**

You cross back over the mountains via the Tizi 'n Tichka pass to Marrakech where you can spend the afternoon strolling around in medina. Hotel.

**Day 10. Depart Marrakech (B)**

Transfer to Marrakech airport for your international flight.



*Date palm.*

**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.**



## The Price Includes:

- Accommodation: 3 nights in hotels on a twin share basis; 6 nights camping in two-person tents.
- Airport transfers between Marrakech airport and hotel accommodation
- Transport: Minibus transfers day 2 and days 8 & 9.
- Meals: Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D = dinner).
- Guides: Local English-speaking tour leader/mountain guide to accompany group throughout.
- Camels: Camels for carrying luggage and supplies during trek days 2-8.
- Staff: Chameliers and cook during trek. (If 4 or fewer trekkers, cooking will be done by the guide and chameliers)
- 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 - see "Preparing for your trek" for our guidance on tipping
- Sightseeing guides in Marrakech.
- Entrance fees to historical sites.
- Travel insurance
- 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.
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone calls and souvenirs (allow approximately up to £250 spending money)

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.**