

SAHARA TREK & PROJECT WORK CHALLENGE

9 days / 8 nights

Depart: London to Marrakech

Return: Marrakech to London

INTRODUCTION

Discover the delights of Marrakech - the sights, sounds and smells which bring to life the historic cultures - African, Arabic and Berber - which make up Morocco. Mosques and Minarets sit cheek-by-jowl with narrow passageways and wide open plazas. Street vendors, musicians and buskers, fire eaters, performers, snake charmers, dancing transvestites, fortune tellers and monkeys are a plenty - all competing for your attention in a breathtaking spectacle of amusements and memory making moments which will live with you forever.

Then, experience the stunning landscape of the Sahara desert as you trek through this inhospitable yet enigmatic environment, sleeping out under the Sahara sky, getting to know the life of the nomadic tribes which still wander with their camel trains across the lonely lunaresque dunes.

After your trek, spend two days refurbishing a community building which will be used by the local children. You will be working alongside the locals, learning about their life in the Sahara

Finally, return to Marrakech to relax after your hard work, enjoying a second night inside the red-walled city.



ITINERARY

Day 1: London - Marrakech
Leave London for Marrakech. Upon arrival you will be met by your guide and transferred to the hotel for the welcome dinner. (Meals included: Dinner)



Day 2: Oulaid Driss
We leave Marrakech, travel over the Tiickha Pass and down to the town of Ouarzazate, before continuing to Zagora and Oulaid Driss (approx. 8hrs drive). Here we will be welcomed by the villagers and briefed about some of the local traditions. We spend the night in either local bivouacs or a Saharan camp site. (Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)



Days 3-5: Oulaid Driss (Desert Trek)

Our trek begins in the desert as we traverse sand dunes and a rocky, almost lunar landscape. We are aided by our local Berber team comprising of the guide, cook and camel owners. Together, at a camel's pace we are able to appreciate the Saharan landscape and begin to understand just how important it is to respect and comply with the forces of nature in the desert. On average we will cover between 15-20km / day. As the trek progresses we learn how the nomadic people of the Sahara live: from cooking (for example how to cook bread in the sand) to sleeping out under the stars and reading the magnificent Saharan night sky. We spend our nights under canvas, and will be back in Oulaid Driss for the final night. (Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)



Days 6-7: Oulaid Driss (Community Project)

Two days of community work, during which we shall help the locals to renovate and modernise a communal building, creating valuable educational facilities for the children. Overnight in the local camp. (Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)
About the Project Work

A committee has been set up by residents of Oulaid Driss to help their community. Several local teachers are members of the bureau and they are keen to develop teaching methods and improve the educational environment. They have been given a building that needs to be renovated and equipped with tables, chairs etc to teach young girls who are not currently going to school.

Many of the materials such as paint for the walls and wooden shelves can be purchased in Morocco. They would also like to receive some English tuition for both the pupils and teachers.



We have allowed 2 days to assist with the renovations. In addition to this work there will be other areas that may need assistance including:
Providing books, pens and paper for the children.
Undertaking a nutritional and/or medical programme.
Dental check ups.
Teaching English and other subject coaching.

We work closely with the local community to provide assistance which is sustainable and meets their most pressing needs. As such, the exact details of the project may change to reflect the local situation. An update will be provided closer to departure.

Please note that Different Travel cannot provide items

such as hard hats, steel-capped boots etc and advise you to bring additional equipment if you feel this may be necessary as part of the project.

Items the local community is in need of which people can bring with them:

Stationery
Books
Educational games

Different Travel support responsible tourism and therefore does not encourage personal gift-giving, as the children soon equate visitors and foreigners with "gifts" and expect them. So we ask you to please give your donations to the local community representative to distribute to the children.

Day 8: Marrakech

Return journey to Marrakech. Farewell dinner and overnight at the Hotel Residence Grand Sud. (Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Day 9: Marrakech - London

Transfer to Marrakech airport in time for the flight back to the UK.
(Meals included: Breakfast)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Tour Cost

The tour cost includes flight, accommodation and all meals specified in the itinerary.

There is full support with local guides as well as a Different Travel leader

A max of £150.00 is needed for personal expenses.

Travel insurance is not included.

At the end of the trip we collect tips for the local crew, so please leave some money aside for this. You will be advised further by your tour leader.

Flights

Group flights leave from London and are booked through Different Travel Ltd ATOL 6706.

Passport, Visa & Vaccinations

A valid ten-year passport with 6 months remaining is essential and there is no visa requirement for UK citizens.

We usually recommend that you have had a Tetanus injection in the last 10 years, Hepatitis A, Typhoid and Polio, however it is essential that you consult your GP for personal medical advice.

Insurance

Insurance is required for this trip. For further details contact Campbell Irvine direct on 020 7937 6981 and request a quote for a 'Different Travel Company' policy or refer to their website
<http://www.campbellirvine.com/>

WALKING INFORMATION

It is essential that your luggage is carried in either a soft sailing bag or soft rucksack.

In addition you should bring a small daypack for items needed during the day.

Walking is on sand dunes and rough, rocky loose ground.

We are travelling through remote desert where we could be exposed to bad weather at any time.