

Trekking in Morocco

Saghro Massif

November 29 - December 10, 2009

The remote Saghro Massif is a real treat for the trekker who has done it all. You'll arrive in the ancient city of Marrakech, then travel by 4x4 over the High Atlas, and head for the Sahara desert to begin this 5 day trek among volcanic monoliths, soaring mesas, sparse vegetated plateaus, hidden springs and canyon oasis.

Our guide and mule supported team means you'll carry only a day pack and personal items. (See details on page 2). The mules do the rest. Upon arrival each day, we'll have our tented camp set up and meals served after walking an average of 5 to 6 hours each day.

You'll have the time to wander and explore as you wish. We'll meet and have tea with Ait Atta nomads who survive in this harsh landscape. You might see jackals, foxes, wolves, toads, frogs, wild sheep, gazelle, vultures, buzzards and the rare Bonelli-eagle. Trees include date palms, acacia, tamarisk and oleander.

When we finish the trek, we'll spend the night in a lovely desert auberge, then head offroad by 4x4 into the high red dunes of the Erg Chebbi to ride camels at sunset into a bivouac camp for the night. The next day we'll explore Todra gorge and spend a night among Dades valley kasbahs in a Berber village. Back in Marrakech, you are welcome to enjoy a few more days exploring this famous city, before flying home.

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Profits from this trek will be contributed to our 2010 Desert Cleanup Campaign for eliminating plastic bags in Morocco's desert.





PRICE in Moroccan dirhams

9900 dirhams per person / \$1400.CAD @ 7 dirhams:\$1.

Based upon arrival and departure from Marrakech, with twin or double shared accommodation.

Exact conversion to CAD\$ will be made upon payment date. 12 places only. Confirmed by deposit (see next page). Land costs only. Flights not included.



PRICE includes

- 3 nights in Marrakech medina riad with breakfast
- 5 full days trekking Jbel Saghro Massif from Tagdilt to N'kob
- 1 night each in NKob, Camel Trek bivouac, and Dades Gorge with breakfasts and dinners
- Tents on trek or gite d'tape (small Berber inn)
- All meals on trek (vegetarians welcome)
- Certified english speaking Berber mountain guide
- Transport costs from and return to Marrakech
- Kitchen tent and equipment and cook
- Mattresses for sleeping
- Mule handlers and mules to carry everything
- You carry only your day pack

- Arrival and departure airport transfers
- Private transport by 4x4; fuel; experienced drivers
- Overnight tented camp in the Erg Chebbi dunes
- Camel guides and very friendly camels

Not included

- Sleeping bag
- Tips
- Personal purchases, including bottled water on trek.
- Lunches (except while on trek) and dinners in Marrakech.



PAYMENTS & DEPOSITS

We require a deposit to book your place. Please click on this [link](#) to Morocco Explored for trek deposit and payment details. When we receive your deposit we'll send a receipt showing the balance owing, ask for your travel information and send an Information Package with details about travelling and trekking in Morocco.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

We use small, family run hotels that are of interest because of location, excellent food, and unique traditional architecture. Generally speaking the food in Morocco is very healthy and reflects traditional cooking.

2010 DESERT PLASTIC BAG CLEANUP

All profits from this trek will be contributed to our Desert Cleanup for eliminating plastic bags in the deserts of Morocco. We are in the process of developing our first cleanup in March 2010. For more information about this horrendous problem across the Sahara, visit this [link](#).



ABOUT TRAVELLING IN MOROCCO

Morocco is quite unique. It offers exotic – and medieval environments just 3-hours flight from London. Yet, there is much more to Morocco's popularity. Situated on the edge of the great Sahara, bounded by the Atlantic and Mediterranean seas, and the highest mountains in North Africa (Jbel Toubkal, 4167m), Morocco has a fantastic variety of scenic and climatic combinations, unrivaled by any other



Mediterranean country. Furthermore, between the end of Roman rule in AD253 and takeover by France in 1912, Morocco was able to develop into a fiercely independent nation with a unique and powerful culture of her own. Few other countries have managed to remain as a separate entity with their borders unchanged for so many centuries. Fewer Moslem countries today can offer such a flavour of Islam without accompanying restrictions on visitors. At the crossroad of Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, Morocco has a fine understanding and tolerance of western ways, and welcomes visitors from all nations and beliefs.

ITINERARY 12 DAYS

You will need to arrive in Marrakech by November 29. You are welcome to arrive earlier and/or depart later than December 10.

November 29 - Arrive Marrakech

We will meet you at the Marrakech Menara airport, take you to your medina riad, and settle in. Your riad (old house) has a central, tiled, courtyard, with breakfast served on a rooftop terrace. Have lunch. Visit the Majorelle Gardens (if you have time), a nice introduction to Marrakech. Evening drums draw you to the Djemaa El Fna (main city square) where a festival atmosphere awaits. Plunge past snake charmers and have your fortune told, listen to Berber and Gnoua musicians, or watch the "exotic" dancers illuminated by lamplight wreathed in smoke. Food stalls range from a bevy of fresh salads, harrira (lentil and bean soups) fried fish and chips (Moroccan style) to kebabs and even sheep's head (a speciality that has its own dedicated stalls). Stay Marrakech medina riad in the heart of the old city. Includes breakfast.

November 30 - Marrakech to Tagdilt

Meet your guide, load up the 4x4's, and depart Marrakech heading over the High Atlas Tizi n'Tichka pass towards Ouarzazate. Visit World heritage site Ait Benhaddou. This ancient village of clustered Berber Kasbahs has been used as a backdrop for more than 20 films and was one of the most important fortress strongholds on the old Salt Road where caravans as brought slaves, gold, ivory and salt from Saharan Africa to Marrakech and beyond. Have lunch and depart for the desert. Enjoy a traditional tajine dinner and overnight in a mud-walled desert ghite d'tape (with hot showers), in the foothills of Saghro massif.

December 1 - Trek: Tagdilt / Amda-n-Oughyoul

Early wake up call, have a hearty breakfast, meet the mulers who will load the mules, and begin trekking. Easy walking over rocky ground into the foothills of Jbel Saghro. We'll gain 2 passes, traverse a plateau and descend into a remote valley. Wild camp*.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TREKKING IN MOROCCO

The Saghro trek is rated moderate and highest elevation is at 2500 metres.

Click on the [link](#) for suggestions about fitness, and a list of what to bring for your trek.



ITINERARY CONTINUED

*NOTE: Wild camp means you will sleep in tents, eat in a kitchen tent; there are no showers or toilet facilities. You will have heated water to wash.

December 2 - Trek Amda-n-Oughyoul / Igli
Ascend the Kouaouch pass (2500m), then descend through sheer conglomerate eroded cliffs, elegant mesas, and waterfalls, to an open plateau and the Berber village of Igli. Stay in ghite d'tape with showers.

December 3 - Trek Igli / Bab-n-Ali
Ascend along a high ridge, with grand views of the surrounding peaks. Our trail takes us to a verdant valley and the Berber village Boulouze. We'll follow the river, then camp at the foot of Bab-n-Ali. Wild camp*.



December 4 - Trek Bab-n-Ali / Assaka
Today we'll walk over the shoulder of Bab n'Ali and descend for most of the day, walking through a gorge to fantastic rock formations. Arrive at the village Assaka. Continue to Ighazoune n'Oumlas by the river of Taoudachte and wild camp*.

December 5 - Trek Ighazoune-n-Oumlas / N'kob
Walking along the river on our last day of trekking, we pass through many Berber gardens and villages and arrive in N'kob. Stay in desert auberge Ksar Jenna, with dinner and breakfast.



December 6 - N'kob - Erg Chebbi
Travelling east of the stark Saghro Massif, we'll follow a route peppered with isolated villages and towns, rocky mesas and acacia trees. We'll have lunch in Rissani before departing for the Erg Chebbi dunes. Our afternoon destination is the auberge (small inn) 29km from Merzouga, to meet your camel guide and ride at sunset into the bivouac (camp). Upon arrival you will be served a traditional tagine dinner (vegetarians welcome), prepared under the evening stars shining brilliantly above. Bring your star charts! Climb the big dune and watch the moon rise before retiring to your bed in a nomad wool tent. Mattresses, sheets and blankets are provided.



ITINERARY CONTINUED

December 7 - Erg Chebbi - Dades Gorge

Return by camel at sunrise to the auberge for breakfast and shower before going to Tinehir. Along the way we can stop and visit a fossil workshop for a closer look at Sahara's wonderful varieties of ancient life. We'll visit Todra Gorge, where sheer limestone walls rise to 300 m in its narrowest part. After lunch, you can wander with a guide* through palmeries, villages, gardens, and kasbahs for a close look at traditional Berber ways of life. Our next destination is Dades valley of a thousand Kasbahs. You will pass through many Berber villages, and see barren red hillsides clustered with Kasbahs, (fortified dwellings that house many families and their livestock). Stay in upper Dades valley auberge with dinner on the terrace, overlooking the valley gorge and gardens. Includes dinner and breakfast. *Guide works for tips.

December 8 - Dades - Marrakech

From Dades after breakfast we'll do a short 3 hour trek (weather permitting) in Dades Ait Arbi, Tamnalt hills circle route. Starting at the Monkey fingers we'll climb up through a slot canyon to the upper hills, then circle down to Berber villages and old Kasbahs along the river. We'll meet the 4x4's and back in the cars, pass through the Rose Valley before heading on to Ouarzazate and descending the High Atlas mountains Tizi nTichka down to Marrakech. We'll stay in the medina Riad Suliman. Includes breakfast.

December 9 - stay Marrakech

Explore the back streets of Marrakech with a guide,* visit Ben Youssef Medersa, the Koutoubia mosque, and the Marrakech Museum. Afternoon free to explore the vast souk (market), comprised of many specialist areas e.g. metalwork, where crafters ply their trade; dyers workshops strung with colourful skeins of wool; carpets, where carpet sellers entice you into their shops with a cup of mint tea; tiny shops selling Berber jewellery, old silver, and African beads; spices, olives, and fresh herbs; traditional apothecaries where you can buy all manner of potions to heal or cast spells of love or re-

venge. Stay Marrakech medina riad as above.
*We will arrange for an English speaking guide.

December 10 - Depart Marrakech

Transfer to the airport or stay longer and include a day trip to Essaouira (not included in price), a relaxing town set on the Atlantic coast with an expansive golden beach popular with surfers; famous for its seafood, thuja wood crafts and artists colony. Old Portuguese ramparts guard the walled city where you can watch silver craftsmen and wood carvers at work in one of the most charming medinas in all of Morocco. Visit a traditional pharmacy and learn about natural medicines and cures, and a Women's cooperative where Argan nuts are processed by hand into one of the rarest oils in the world. Stay Marrakech medina riad as above.



You are welcome to visit Morocco Explored for more about Who We Are, about Visiting Morocco and Frequently Asked Questions

Please don't hesitate if you have questions or need more information.



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