



Morocco

Project in the Mountains

10 Days

This great adventure takes us to the mountain peaks, colourful cities, and dramatic Atlantic coastline of Morocco. We bargain hunt in bustling bazaars and journey deep into the Atlas Mountains to spend time with the Berber people, helping with a community project. We learn to cook traditional Moroccan tagines in Marrakech, visit the sleepy, laid-back coastal town of Essaouira, and trek along the wild Atlantic coast. This trip is a superb introduction to North Africa and offers an experience that, although only a few hours by plane, feels a million miles away from home.



Learn more about our
[Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

- Day 1** **Arrive Marrakech** D
We fly from the UK to Marrakech and transfer to our hotel. Depending on the time of the flight, we have a late afternoon walk into the markets where we begin to acclimatise to the heat and discover that the short flight has brought us to a completely different world.
- Day 2** **Marrakech, Cooking class, Imlil Atlas Mountains** BLD
We head out and visit the souq and mix with the locals as we buy the ingredients for our lunch — the meat, vegetables, herbs, and spices that form the basis of Moroccan cuisine. During our hands-on cookery class, the chef teaches us how to make traditional dishes that are central to Moroccan cuisine. For lunch, we savour the gastronomic delights of our morning cookery class — well worth paying close attention to! 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 roadhead to our base for the next few days — a typical Berber mountain village set deep in the Atlas Mountains. Life has changed little here over the years, and our hosts take us on a guided tour of the village where we spend the next three days working on a variety of projects. Accommodation in the village is a simple village house or 'gite'.
- Days 3 - 5** **Project Work** BLD
The next three days are set aside as specific project working days — the exact nature of the project will depend on what the local community needs at the time of our visit. There is a village association that meet to discuss this and put forward suggestions. It is often the case that we won't have exact details of the project work until a month or two before our arrival. Previous groups have built incinerators, repaired footbridges and paths, planted cacti on the hills to prevent soil erosion and laid water pipes and drainage ditches. Whatever we end up doing, these days spent among the villages of the Atlas Mountains in the company of local families will be an undoubted highlight of our time in Morocco.
- Day 6** **High Atlas to Atlantic Coast** BLD
Leaving the High Atlas we drive west to the Atlantic Coast, just below Essaouira. Our next few days along the coast will be a mix of camel riding and trekking. The trek along the coast is spectacular and the sea breeze will help keep the temperature at bay. We have a short walk to camp near Sidi Kaouki, at Plage Azou.
- Day 7** **Sidi Mbark**
After good night's sleep we transfer to Iftane, and continue to wind our way along the Atlantic coast with a morning camel trek along the beaches to Sidi Mbark. Our day will be a mix of trekking by foot, and by camel. We will camp again at Plage Azou, within ear shot of the crashing waves of the Atlantic.



Day 8**Essaouira**

BLD

We start our morning with the final section of camel trekking along the beach where we meet our transport. From here there is a short transfer to the town of Essaouira (45 mins). Essaouira is one of Morocco's most attractive coastal cities. The wild waves of the Atlantic crash remorselessly onto the rocky coastline of this old pirate's hideout. Two fortresses look out over the ocean and on an offshore island stands another even larger castle. We recommend a stroll around the lively old port that is full of colour and points of interest. There is an expansive beach which we can relax on, as well as see the old traditional methods still used to construct the deep-sea fishing boats in the yards next to the harbor.

Day 9**Essaouira - Marrakech**

BLD

Use the morning to explore this fantastic city further or take some time for some last-minute bargain hunting before heading back to Marrakech where we spend our final night and have a celebratory meal in this vibrant city.

Day 10**Marrakech to UK**

B

On our final day in Morocco, we transfer to the airport in time for our international flight back to the UK. Depending on flight schedules, there may be time to buy some last-minute souvenirs.



Look what's included:

- International flights
- All accommodation, transportation and activities
- All food as described above
- Local, bi-lingual, first-aid qualified STC leader
- Parent and student trip launch presentation
- Pre-travel information sessions
- ATOL financial protection
- 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
- Donations to two carbon & conservation charities
- Free Fairtrade t-shirt for every participant and teacher
- Free travel guide book to your destination on request

What's not included:

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters (ask for guidance)
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Personal effects and cancellation insurance



A word about Responsible Tourism

On our expeditions and educational journeys, we strive to connect teachers and students with the people they meet, nurture the cultures they experience and protect the beautiful environments they are lucky enough to explore.

Many companies talk the talk, few truly walk the walk. We are far from perfect, but we are leading the way in sustainability in the school travel sector. In 2018 we were the first UK travel company to become **Travelife Certified** – a verified sustainability certificate formally recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council.

This is our passion, and we'd love to tell you more about it in due course. In the meantime, for more information on some of the steps we take as a company to make our operations more sustainable, please visit:

<https://www.thestc.co.uk/travel/what-do-we-do/>

Trees for Life

Physical Rating for this trip: Grade 3



Moderate physical activities are included in Grade 3 trips. Good health and reasonable fitness are important to get the most out of the trip. Trips of this grading are likely to include multiple consecutive days activity either walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) or paddling. With between five and seven hours of activity with occasional longer/harder days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling, rafting, remote camping which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness and resilience. Steady preparation and an increase in your underlying fitness levels will help you get the most from this grade trip.

Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 3



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'.



Travel Safety & Other Expedition Training

Preparing students and teachers for their upcoming adventure is an opportunity to teach important life skills and a vital part of our overall approach to safety management. Please ask for your quote for the training schedule specific to your expedition. Topics covered will include:

Responsible Tourism workshop

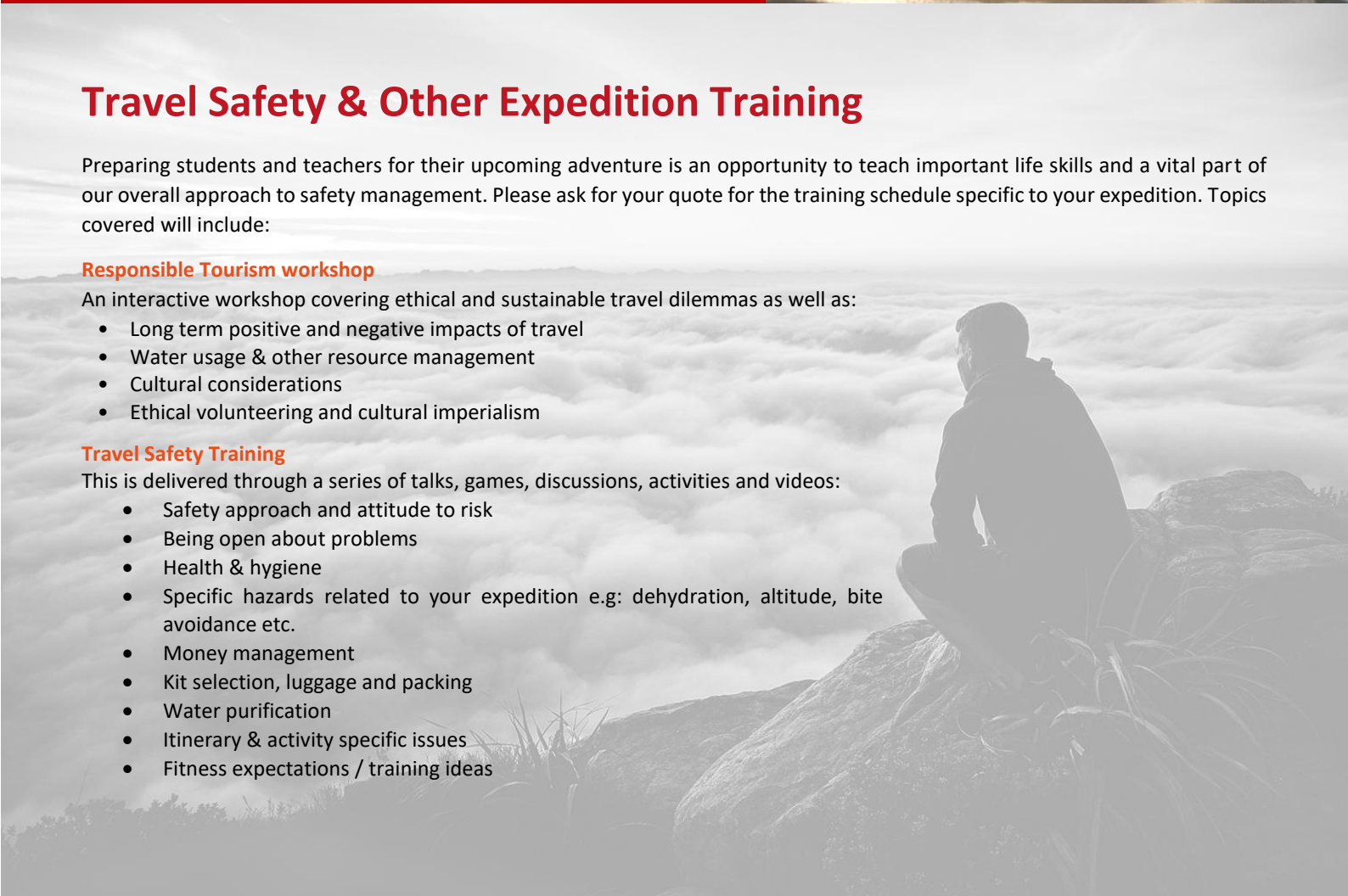
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- Long term positive and negative impacts of travel
- Water usage & other resource management
- Cultural considerations
- Ethical volunteering and cultural imperialism

Travel Safety Training

This is delivered through a series of talks, games, discussions, activities and videos:

- Safety approach and attitude to risk
- Being open about problems
- Health & hygiene
- Specific hazards related to your expedition e.g: dehydration, altitude, bite avoidance etc.
- Money management
- Kit selection, luggage and packing
- Water purification
- Itinerary & activity specific issues
- Fitness expectations / training ideas





A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your expedition journey

1 Ask for your personalised quote & further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your expedition itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an adventure that's just right for you and your students. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk and threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your Pre-Booking Information Pack too.

3 Arrange an expedition launch evening

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening covering the itinerary, safety management, the build-up to the trip and lots more. There is also plenty of opportunity for questions.



The home of the modern, innovative school expedition, where a sustainable, ethical approach guarantees unique experiences and a life enhancing adventure.

"I am being completely serious when I say that I won't ever run a school trip without you guys. I trust you and your team completely - and the in-country staff that you carefully cultivate and train are a cut above the rest."

Teacher feedback, King's High Warwick

Contact Us:

STC Expeditions, 65-67 Bank Chambers, High Street, Exeter, EX4 3DT
t: 01392 660056 | e: info@thestc.co.uk | w: www.thestc.co.uk



Trees for Life

