



Morocco

Magical Morocco

12 Days

Mountains and sand dunes, camels, and Berbers! This 12-day expedition is a fantastic immersion into Morocco. From the bustling medieval cities, majestic mountainscapes of the High Atlas to the arid landscape of the Sahara, Morocco provides the perfect setting for this adventurous and cultural expedition. Welcome to the High Atlas Mountains, known to locals as 'Idraren Draren' or, Mountain on Mountains. We will enjoy a challenging climb of North Africa's highest peak, Mt Toubkal (4167m) as well as a camel trek in the stunning Sahara with nights spent under the stars. A trip to Morocco would not be complete without a visit to Marrakech to soak up the atmosphere and barter with the locals. An all-round fantastic adventure that will stay with students forever.



[Learn more about our Carbon Labels](#)

Your Recommended Expedition Itinerary

- Day 1** **Depart the UK, Arrive in Marrakech** LD
Fly from the UK to Marrakech and transfer to our hotel. Depending on the time of the flight we will have a late afternoon walk into the markets where we can start to acclimatise to the heat and see that the short flight has brought us to a completely different world.
- Day 2** **Marrakech—Imil—Aremd 1950m** BLD
Drive from Marrakech along El Haouz plaine towards Asni before following the valley of Ait Mizane to the hamlet of Imilil. Imilil is 1,740 metres above sea level and offers your first glimpse of Mt Toubkal and the surrounding Atlas Mountains. We then start our short walk uphill towards Aremd which is located on the foothills of Toubkal. In the afternoon, we will take part in an orientation and acclimatisation walk around the surrounding area and take time to appreciate the amazing scenery. Approx. 1.5 hrs drive & 1.5 hrs walk. Overnight: Village house
- Day 3** **Aremd—Tizi Mzzik 2400m—Aremd** BLD
Today we will stay in the surrounding areas for acclimatisation. We walk up to the Tizi Mzzik pass at an altitude of 2400m where we can take in the spectacular views over the Ait Mizzan valley. We then continue our trek to the summit of Tazzaghart. After a rest at the top, we will take the same path back down to the valley for a picnic lunch before we return to the comforts of our guest house. Approx., 4 hrs walk. Overnight: Village house.
- Day 4** **Aremd—Toubkal Base Camp 3200m** BLD
Today we begin our trek and take an easy path following the valley up to the shrine of Sidi Chamharouch known by locals for its curative power and for trekkers as a refreshment stop. Your Group Leader will tell you about its history and the customs of the area. The climb then gets a bit steeper, but continues on a well maintained zigzag mule track. After a picnic lunch, we make our way to the base camp near Toubkal (Neltner) refuge. This is where we will spend the next two nights. Approx. 5 hrs walk. Overnight: Tent.
- Day 5** **Toubkal climb Base Camp 3200m** BLD
An early start allows us to conquer the highest peak in North Africa and to take in the sunrise over the mountain ridges while we ascend. We use a combination of scree slopes, zigzagging and solid step paths to ascend to the pass of Tizi n Toubkal at 3975m where we get a visual of the summit of Mt Toubkal. From here our path starts to level off as we walk along the ridge. The breath-taking views from the top are well worth the effort and our determination will be rewarded. After a rest and a well-earned photo shoot, we will retrace our steps back to base camp for a late lunch. The rest of the afternoon is left for relaxation. Approx. 6 to 7 hrs (3 to 4 hrs up and 2 to 3 hrs down) depending on group fitness. Overnight: Tent.



- Day 6** **Base camp—Imlil—Ait Ben Haddou** BLD
- After breakfast, we will leave the mountain scenery and walk down the valley back to Imlil with a lunch stop on route. In the afternoon, we will be met by vehicles which will take us over the Tizi n'Tichka pass, the highest road in Morocco which links the South East to the city of Ouarzazate. This city is nicknamed The Door of the Desert and shows a variety of geological landscapes with different strata and colourful hills. 20Km before Ouarzazate, we turn left to the UNESCO's World Heritage site of Ait Ben Haddou. Here we visit the Kasbah fortress and later we will check in at our hotel. Approx. 4 hrs walk & 5.5 hrs drive. Overnight: Hotel.
- Day 7** **Ait Ben Haddou– Zagora– Tidri** BLD
- After breakfast we drive via Ouarzazate and over the Anti Atlas Mountains to the Draa Valley. The valley is populated with some rock formations and a multitude of Kasbahs and Ksours all surrounded by green fields. Before arriving to Zagora, the old capital of this trading route, the scenery changes once again. We will stop in Tamgroute to visit its 16th century library and the pottery cooperative then carry on to where we start our camel trek at the village of Zawiyat sidi Salh. Tonight's camp is located in a magnificent location (shown below) below starry filled skies. Approx. 4 hrs drive & 2 hrs walk. Overnight: Camp.
- Day 8** **Tidri—Rgabi** BLD
- This morning we jump back on our camels and follow a dry river bed whilst also scaling and traversing sand dunes. Here we truly witness the wilderness and the tranquility of the desert. A picnic lunch is enjoyed before we continue onto our next camp in the dunes of Rgabi. Later that afternoon we learn how to make mint tea and traditional bread before spending our last night under the stars. Approx. 5 hrs walk. Overnight: Camp.
- Day 9** **Rgabi—Taroudant** BLD
- This morning we take the short walk to join the main road where we are met by our vehicles, which will take us to the small town of Agdz, home to around 10,000. We will then leave the Draa valley and take a detour through the Anti Atlas Mountains to Tazenakht. This town is located in the Errachidia province and is the capital of Berber carpets made by the Ait Waouzguit tribe. We then follow the South slopes of Djebel Sirouam taking in some magnificent rock formations to reach the fertile plain of Souss and finally the town of Taroudant, once the capital of the South. Approx. 1 hr walk & 5 to 6 hrs drive. Overnight: Hotel.
- Day 10** **Taroudant—Essaouira** BLD
- This morning we will leave Taroudant and continue North towards the Atlantic coast and the historic port of Essaouira. The town is a delightful haven of whitewashed houses and dramatic medieval walls set before a scene of empty beaches and crashing waves. Being one of Morocco's most popular resorts, it has gained a reputation over recent years as a venue for international wind surfing competitions as the local winds create the perfect conditions amongst the Atlantic rollers. We arrive in Essaouira late that afternoon and should be time for a short orientation tour of the city before dinner. Approx. 4 hrs drive. Overnight: Hotel.



Day 11

Essaouira

BLD

The day is free for independent explorations in this colourful coastal fishing town. Situated within 15th century Portuguese fortifications, the town has a relaxed but lively feel and an experience not to be missed is a visit to the old walled Medina. The lively throng of the Medina, with its local women carrying out their daily routines, veiled in their traditional dress, forms a sharp contrast to the open golden sands of the harbour. Hopeful seabirds can be seen circling above the fisherman as they return from the blue waters with their daily catches. A stroll around the old town, perhaps taking in the Mellah (the old Jewish Quarter) or maybe a wander along the fine sandy beach and through the harbour is well worth the time spent. We will also get stuck in with an 'Environment Clean Up' and help to clear waste from the coastline. Overnight: Hotel.

Day 12

Marrakech

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After breakfast we transfer to the airport for the flight home.



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 training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for school staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Emergency Medical & Repatriation Insurance
- 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

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 or Covid tests
- 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 4



Fitness is important at this grade, which compares to extended walking in mountainous terrain such as the Lakes or Snowdonia, for up to three to five days in a row. It is likely that significant sections of a trip will involve walking and trekking with some days up to eight hours. Some of the trip could be at altitudes of up to 4,500m, but the itinerary will be designed with appropriate acclimatisation in mind. Be prepared for significant possible variations in temperatures throughout the tour. There is not usually time to 'get fit' on these treks, so a two to four-month fitness improvement programme would ensure you get the most out of the trip.

Cultural Rating for this trip: Grade 4



Students joining trips at this level will find the comforts of home are more of a rarity – or viewed another way, a welcome luxury. English is unlikely to be widely spoken and the food will be quite different to home, perhaps for extended sections of the trip. You should observe local customs so not to cause offence. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty and accommodation in some locations is likely to be basic. Whilst a challenge, destinations and trips at cultural level 4 are also a fantastic opportunity to see a very different part of the world.



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

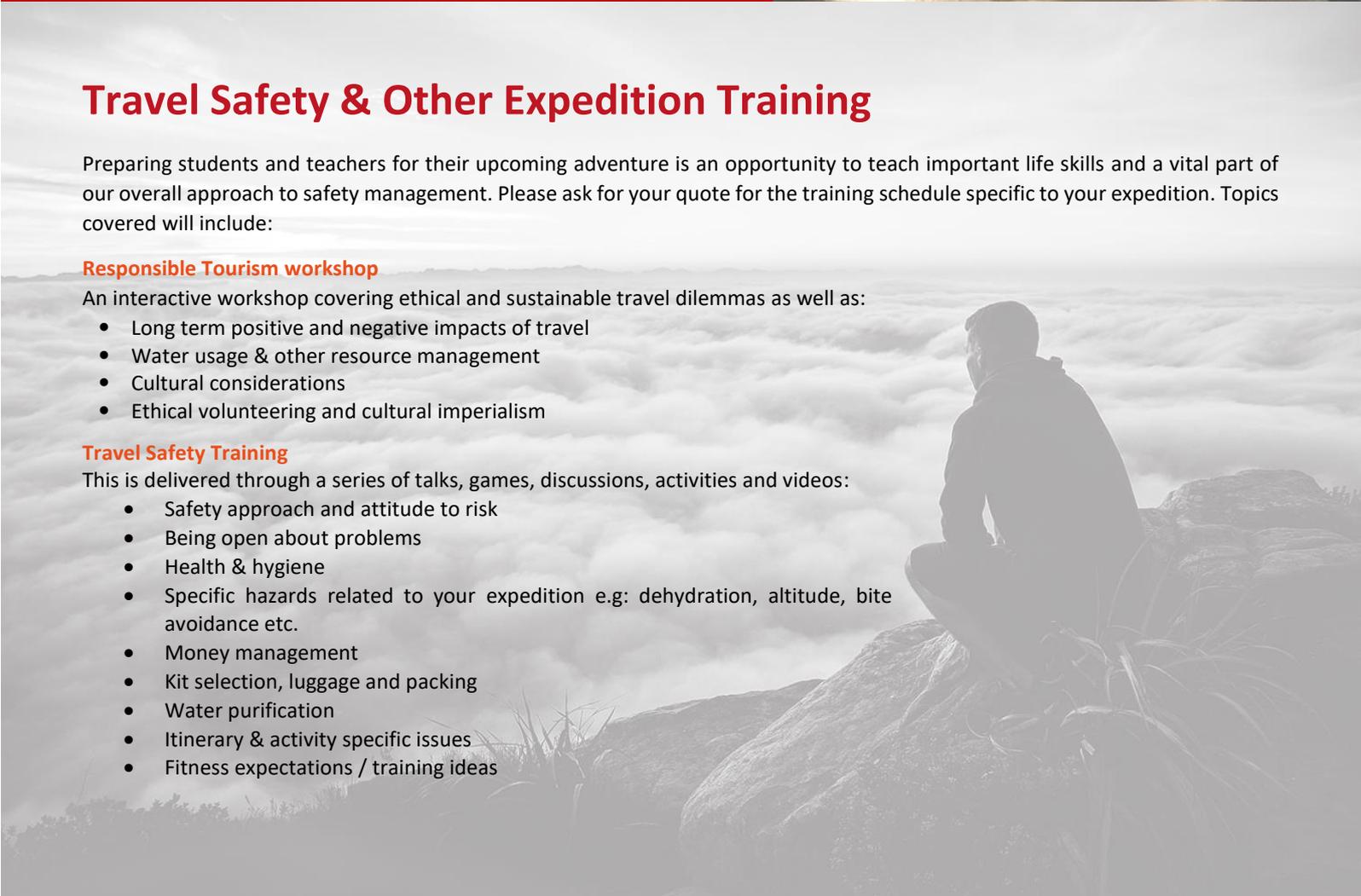
An interactive workshop covering ethical and sustainable travel dilemmas as well as:

- 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.



Our school trips and educational tours are all about maximising the learning opportunities of travel. It's all here, the humble school tour has just come of age.



Adventures, holidays and cultural journeys for teachers looking to 'Escape the Classroom' and discover more about our amazing world, its people and places.



"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

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