

sahara desert trek, morocco



Uncover the epic views and fascinating communities of the Sahara Desert, which lie hidden from the curious gaze of Moroccan tourism.

Your challenge takes you beyond the Jebel Saghro region, a forbidding landscape punctuated by stark peaks, formidable gorges and bright oases. Situated south of the Atlas and Dades Gorge, the region was originally volcanic and the last defence before the Sahara.

This is the land of the famous Ait Atta tribe, a nation of great warriors who migrate here from the High Atlas Mountains in the winter. Led by Hassou Ba Salem, the tribe resisted French Occupation and retreated to the rocky stronghold of Jebel Bou Gafer in 1933.

Arriving in Morocco, you will be transferred by road to the start of your trek. You'll spend your first day crossing the Maider El Kbir plateau, passing rose dunes en route. The region is speckled with the tents of nomadic people, who move here once the first snows start falling on the High Atlas Mountains.

A challenging climb up Jebel Lamrakeb is rewarded with spectacular views of the multi-coloured rocky desert landscape. Walking through palm gorges, you'll join the dry Rhirs River. Guided by the river, you head towards an oasis of tamarisk trees. As you make your way to the dunes of

Boulaadam, you'll have the chance to visit nomadic caves and tents.

You spend your final walking day trekking along the Tikertouachene River, until you meet the

main road where you will be driven back to Ouarzazate, for a final night of celebrations.

Day 1: Depart UK to Ouarzazate, Morocco

Meet at London airport at the check-in desk for the flight to Ouarzazate. Your Charity Challenge representative will be there to assist you with the check-in and any last minute questions. Upon arrival you will be transferred to a local hotel where you will settle in to your new surroundings and stay overnight.

Day 2: Ouarzazate to Lahfira Camp

You will leave Ouarzazate by bus and transfer to Achbarou, the "Door of the Desert", via the Tizi n'Tinifit pass. You will continue along the Draa Valley – Glaoua Country – until reaching Tansikht. You will then leave the Draa Valley via the Nkob road, enjoying the panoramic views of Jebel Saghro – a volcanic massif. You will then continue for two hours until Fezou and Lahfira camp. Glaoua country is full of palm groves along the Draa River giving life to the Glaoua inhabitants living nearby. Approx. two hours walking.



Day 3: Maider El Kbir Plateau

This morning you will start walking by the rose dunes and tamarisk trees, traversing the Maider El Kbir plateau. There is also the possibility to visit some of the nomadic tents that dot the area. The nomadic people move here with their animals from the High Atlas to the South at the

beginning of autumn when the snows begin. Lunch will be taken near the Jebel Ouchane massif. This afternoon you can enjoy a walk by Sidi Hmad Ahansal Marabout (a saint / spirit) to arrive to the Ikhefuirir dunes camp, near the village. Approx. 6 hours of walking, covering 17Kms.

Day 4: Climb Jebel Lamrakeb

This morning you will climb Jebel Lamrakeb – with good views of the multi coloured rocks, black and red, and out to the desert landscape. You will then traverse down the O'Hare Gorges to camp in the Palm groves. Approx. 7 hours of walking, covering 23kms.

Day 5: Rhris River

Continuing the trek, you will pass Tizi n'Iguidou to join the dry Rhris River. You will continue along the dunes of the Chris River to Anon n'Bahallou by oasis and tamarisk trees. Approx. 6 hours of walking, covering 20kms.



Day 6: The dunes of Boulaàdam

You traverse the col of Bab n'Ali with a visit to the nomadic caves and tents, and then continue down to the dunes of Boulaàdam. Arrive to Anoun El Fraolia where you will camp overnight. Approx. 6 hours of walking, covering 23kms.

Day 7: Return to Ouarzazate

You follow the Tikertouachene River this morning until meeting up with the main road. (Approximately 3 hours). From here you will meet up with the group bus and continue along the Tafilalet road via Tineghir and the Kasbah trail until you arrive at Ouarzazate. Here you can enjoy a final celebration in Morocco before the journey home begins. You will overnight here in a local hotel.

Day 8: Depart Ouarzazate to UK. Arrive UK

You will have an early morning transfer to the airport for your return flight to London, arriving later the same day.

Optional Community Project

Day 8-11

Join the optional 3 day community project working alongside a local charity to improve the lives of local children. Exact details of the project will be confirmed nearer the time but typical tasks could include helping to paint and refurbish a school or building a children's play facility*.

Cost: £300 per person sharing (based on 4 or more people in twin accommodation)

included

- 3 nights accommodation
- Guide
- meals
- Transfers to project

excluded

- Personal expenses (ie: gifts, extra soft drinks or alcohol, laundry etc)

N.B. The itinerary is there as a guide and may change due to unusual weather patterns, wildlife movements, the strength of the group and so on. We will do our very best to keep to the set itinerary however we cannot be held responsible for any last minute changes that might occur. In all such circumstances, your expedition leader will have the final say.