

CH>RITY
CH>LLENGE



TRIP NOTES

**BELIEVE
ACHIEVE
INSPIRE**

**WINTER TOUBKAL TREK
MOROCCO**

Sat 23 Nov - Thu 28 Nov 2024





In aid of your choice of charity

23 Nov - 28 Nov 2024

6 DAYS | MOROCCO | EXTREME

Morocco is home to the High Atlas mountain range, including Jebel Toubkal, North Africa's tallest peak.

The western range features several peaks over 3,900m – two of which you'll encounter. Beginning in Marrakech, your journey ventures into Berber country to discover the majesty of the mountains.

Each day, between four and eight hours trekking will take you across the peaks and through remote Berber villages. A good degree of fitness is required, particularly given the changeable weather conditions. The climb is not technical, however, if needed you will be trained to use crampons and ice axes.

Ultimately, the challenge ends with celebrations in the vibrant city of Marrakech.

- Unforgettable mountain scenery and spectacular views
- Tackle daunting peaks dotted with Berber villages
- Summit Jebel Toubkal, Morocco's highest mountain
- Push yourself mentally and physically at high altitude
- Get lost in the colourful souks of mystical Marrakech

YOUR CHALLENGE DAY BY DAY**DAY 1** Sat 23 Nov

-

International departure from London. Leave Marrakech and climb to Aremd (1,950m)

Meet the rest of the team at the airport for the long-awaited departure to Marrakech. Upon arrival, the group will be met by a local guide and transferred through the valley of Ait Mizane to the hamlet of Imlil. Trekking begins straight away with a short walk uphill to Aremd on the foothills of Toubkal. (L, D)

Accommodation: Village house

DAY 2 Sun 24 Nov

-

Aremd to Toubkal Refuge, 3,200m (approx. 5-6hrs)

After breakfast you'll set off along the Ait Mizane valley. It's a gradual climb to the Shrine of Sidi Chamharouch. Soon, the first high peaks emerge in the distance and once you reach the snow, the group will be shown how to use crampons and ice axes for the onward trek to a glacial valley. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: Mountain refuge

DAY 3 Mon 25 Nov

-

Toubkal Refuge to Ouanoukrim, 4089m (approx. 8hrs)

This morning, weather depending, you'll set off to summit Ouanoukrim (4,089m). The trek starts from the Assif n Isseguane valley to the pass of Tizi Ouagane, then follows the ridge to Ras Ouanoukrim (4,070m) on to Timezguida (4,089m). On this more technical climb, with your heart pumping, you scramble to the top where you take in the awe-inspiring sight of all you've achieved before heading back down to the refuge. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: Mountain refuge

DAY 4 Tue 26 Nov

-

Toubkal Refuge to Mount Toubkal, 4,165m (approx. 7hrs)

Yesterday's hike was just a taster – now you're ready for Toubkal! Leaving the refuge behind, the climb sets off on a steep slope before entering a glacial valley to the pass of Tizi'n'Toubkal. The route continues along the ridge to the summit with great views overlooking both the southern Atlas mountain range and the Marrakech plain to the north. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: Mountain refuge

DAY 5 Wed 27 Nov

-

Toubkal Refuge to Imlil and Marrakech (approx. 4.5 hrs)

After an invigorating and fascinating trip you leave the refuge for the last time and walk back to Imlil, for the transfer back to Marrakech. There will be free time to relax or explore the souks, before a celebratory dinner in a traditional Moroccan restaurant. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 6 Thu 28 Nov

-

International departure to UK

Expect to feel elated and emotional as you head for the airport for your international flight back to London. Be sure to swap contact details with new friends and trekking partners, before arriving back in the UK. (B)

NB

B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner

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

Should you suffer from vertigo, it is worth considering that on most mountain treks there will be occasional exposure to sheer drops. You should, therefore, discuss the particular itinerary of your choice with a member of our team.

HOW TO FUND YOUR CHALLENGE

This page provides you details of the costs of your challenge.
The costs below are per person.

SELF FUNDER

-

Pay a registration fee of £225.00 when you book

Then a balance of £843.00 (10 weeks before your challenge)

Raise as much as you can for your charity.

MINIMUM SPONSORSHIP

-

Registration fee of £225.00 when you book

Raise a minimum of £1720.00 for your charity.

FLEXI

-

Registration fee of £225.00 when you book

Then £225.00 towards challenge costs (10 weeks before your challenge)

Raise a minimum of £1260.00 for your charity.

You will be invoiced for the air tax and fuel element contribution for your international flights, capped at £75.00, which is due 10 weeks before departure.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Before you go

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- Sponsorship forms
- Support materials (itinerary, kit list, visa information, travel tips, responsible travel policy and guidance)
- Members only benefits and discounts at a wide range of clothing and equipment suppliers including Outdoorhire, Cotswold Outdoor, Runners Needs, Snow + Rock, Water to Go, The Altitude Centre, Sporttape and Nomad & MASTA.
- Risk assessment and emergency management planning
- Warm up exercise routines
- Fundraising advice
- Public liability insurance
- Access to training weekends (optional and at additional expense)
- 16 and 20 week trek/bike training schedule
- Fitness training notes
- Access to your own password protected account including support materials and training schedules

On your challenge

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- Internal transfers (unless otherwise stated in the itinerary)
- Equipment as per the challenge activity
- Entrance fees to national parks or other places of interest visited on the itinerary
- Drinking water on challenge days
- UK-based 24-hour emergency support line
- An English speaking first aid trained challenge leader and full local support team
- A donation to a community project in one of the countries in which we operate
- A contribution towards funding the reduction of carbon emissions through Climate Care's portfolio of award winning projects
- Accommodation during the challenge (usually in twin share)
- Three meals a day (unless otherwise stated in the itinerary)
- Full back-up support including first-aid qualified staff and first-aid supplies
- A Charity Challenge T-Shirt
- International flights to and from the UK, in economy class (see air tax exclusion below)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Before you go

-
- Any covid tests required for entry to any countries or places of interest on your challenge itinerary
- Visa (if required)
- Travel to and from the UK airport of departure
- Vaccinations (please check Trip Notes for requirements)

THE DETAILS**On your challenge**

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- Contribution towards air taxes and fuel element (please see the section below on "Air Tax and Fuel Element Contribution")
- Tips
- Departure Tax (if applicable)

Fundraising deadlines

You will need to send your sponsorship money to the charity as you raise it. At least 80% of the minimum sponsorship required must be sent to the charity 12 weeks before departure (by 31/08/2024), and the remaining 20% within 4 weeks of completing the challenge (by 26/12/2024). If you have raised the necessary funds, the charity will then pay the balance of your challenge costs. The charity benefits by keeping the remaining sponsorship money and every pound over and above that you raise.

Air tax and fuel element contribution

The air taxes, and fuel element, that make up part of the flight costs can fluctuate significantly before a challenge takes place. As such, we exclude part of these taxes from the initial cost of the challenge and we will invoice you for it 10 weeks before departure. This applies to all participants on all payment options. For the challenge you are booked on this payment will be capped at £75 and we will absorb any amount above that. Please be sure to factor this cost into your budgeting for the challenge.

Typical group size

The typical group size is 8 - 10 participants

Small group supplement

The costs and sponsorship levels on our website are based on a minimum of 8 participants. We can run this trip with 6-7 people, but there will be a small group supplement of £75. This is payable by your charity if you book under the Minimum Sponsorship or Flexi options, and by yourself if you choose the Self Funder option. We will notify you 12 weeks before departure if this is necessary.

Optional extras

Business class upgrades*
Travel insurance
Single room supplements*
Extensions at end of trip*
(*subject to availability)

Travel insurance

Your safety when travelling with Charity Challenge is our main concern, which is why it is a booking condition that you have a suitable travel insurance policy, which covers you for the adventurous nature of your challenge, the activities you are undertaking, and the altitudes. We have chosen to partner with specialist travel insurance providers Campbell Irvine, who offer cover for an extensive number of adventurous activities. Cover is available directly from Campbell Irvine for most European residents and includes cover for emergency medical and repatriation and for your cancellation or curtailment of the challenge. Full details including costs may be found at <https://www.campbellirvine.com/charitychallenge>.

Level of Difficulty

The Winter Toubkal Challenge is graded as “extreme”. The Winter Toubkal Challenge is graded as “extreme”. You will be trekking at altitude and conditions will be cold and, most likely, snowy. You should not undertake this challenge without significant training. During the trek you will be:

- Trekking for around 4-8 hours per day
- Battling the altitude on the mountain up to the summit of 4165m
- Crampons and ice axes may be needed at some points of the climb
- Very cold conditions at the peak

Typical Day

You will be woken up early each morning at approx. 6am and given a basic but hearty breakfast. After breakfast you will begin the first climb of the day stopping for snacks as well as a light picnic before coming back down to the refuge for a late lunch.

Safety

Charity Challenge considers the safety of all of its participants and staff to be a top priority, and as such we have set up one of the most advanced and thorough safety management systems in the industry. In a nutshell, Our Challenge Safe brand formalises our ethos when it comes to safety, and brings together the procedures and risk management strategies that we use to audit all aspects of our challenges, from vehicles to accommodation to the activity itself. Your welfare is paramount!

In terms of your Winter Toubkal Trek, there are a couple of important points that you should be aware of:

- You will be trekking to an altitude of 4165m, and altitude trekking carries its own risks
- Emergency evacuation to a hospital may take from 2 to 10 hours upwards of 1 hour, depending on your location on the mountain
- You will be provided with crampons, helmet and ice axe should conditions be snow

Responsible Tourism

At Charity Challenge we are committed to sustainable and responsible tourism, and work closely with bodies such as the International Porter Protection Group and Climate Care to ensure that our challenges benefit the local environments and communities in which they take place. We ensure that all rubbish is disposed of responsibly, and following local guidelines on cultural and environmental protection and respect, we aim to limit our impact on the natural environment. In addition to taking these practical steps to ensure that our challenges are sustainable, we also make a contribution each year to a number of local community projects, so as to give something back directly to the communities that we visit. Since 2000 we have donated almost £200,000 to such projects, supporting a range of initiatives, including schooling for children in Africa, shelter for street children in Brazil, and Orang-utan conservation in Indonesia. We recommend that any gifts brought over for children are given to the UK challenge leader and distributed where needed by them and our local Ground Agent. If you wish to do more, you should consider buying drinks, postcards and souvenirs from the local vendors. For many, it is their sole source of income. For more information, please visit our [Responsible Tourism](#) pages, where you will be able to view a list of the projects that we currently support.

Flights

You will be flying from London to Marrakech with a flight time of approximately 4 hrs. Your flight tickets will be e-mailed to you before departure.

If you choose to book your own flights you must confirm with the Charity Challenge office before paying otherwise you may be liable for your included group flights (please contact flights@charitychallenge.com for further assistance).

Please note: Timings of the group flights are subject to change so please take this into consideration when booking domestic travel arrangements to reach your departure airport i.e. book flexible tickets where possible. We are unable to take responsibility for the consequences of missed international flights due to delayed travel arrangements to the airport. We therefore advise you, when booking transport and making any arrangements, to plan to get to the airport in plenty of time allowing for any possible delays which may occur on the day (bad weather, break down, cancellations etc). If you book a domestic flight, in order to get to your international departure airport, please do consider that this flight ticket cannot be linked to the ticket we are organising for you; you will need to collect your luggage, possibly change terminal and check-in again as normal.

Visa

For UK passport holders travelling to Morocco, a full passport is required but no visa. You must have at least six months to run on your passport from the end of the challenge. Ensure your passport is stamped on arrival. Also see Travel Tips.

Non UK passport holders should consult their nearest Moroccan embassy regarding visa requirements.

Insurance

Your safety when travelling with Charity Challenges is our main concern which is why it is a booking condition that you have a suitable travel insurance policy that will cover you for the adventurous nature of your challenge. We have chosen to partner with specialist travel insurance providers Campbell Irvine, who offer cover for an extensive number of adventurous activities. Cover is available directly from Campbell Irvine for most European residents and includes cover for emergency medical and repatriation and for your cancellation or curtailment of the challenge. Full details including costs may be found by clicking [here](#).

For more general travel insurance questions, please refer to our main [FAQs page](#).

Vaccinations & Medicines

Vaccinations

For up to date vaccination information please check the Travel Health Pro page:

https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/154/morocco#Vaccine_recommendations

Charity Challenge team are not medical experts and we would encourage you to visit your GP or travel nurse to discuss vaccination requirements. Your GP may ask questions about the specific locations that you are visiting, and as such it may be useful to take a copy of your itinerary with you.

Medication

- Carry medicines (including those bought over the counter) in their correctly labelled original packaging, as issued by the pharmacist. These should be carried in your hand luggage
- Consider packing a spare supply of medication in the hold luggage in case of loss of hand luggage
- A letter from the prescriber detailing the medicines with the generic names for the medications can be helpful for border control checks, and in case medicines have to be replaced or medical help is required
- Carry a note from the prescribing physician on letterhead stationery for controlled substances and injection medications
- Take out an appropriate level of travel health insurance including repatriation and specific cover for any pre-existing illnesses

N.B. Some medications are banned abroad so please check. You can find further information at

<https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/factsheet/43/medicines-abroad>

Altitude

This trip goes to high altitude (maximum 4167m, average 2600mm) where there is a risk of being affected by Acute Mountain Sickness. https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/154/morocco#Other_risks

Climate & Terrain

Climate

In the winter months, between November to May, day time temperatures can rise up to 18 to 25 degrees with clear sunny skies and mountain tops glistening with snow. However, with the wind chill the temperature can be very low even on a sunny day. The early mornings and evenings are very cold where temperatures can drop dramatically below zero degrees. It's best to be prepared for both cold and warm temperatures and have a strong UV protection.

Terrain

Some sections, especially on Toubkal and Ouanoukrim ascent days, can be steep and rough. On our departures, large parts of the mountainside may be covered in snow, therefore ice axe, crampons and helmets will normally be necessary.

Training

Training and fitness is definitely required. Anyone who leads a fairly active and moderately healthy lifestyle should be okay as long as they train regularly over a period of at least three months leading up to the expedition. Don't forget that the temperature and the altitudes are different from the UK. While strength is important, endurance training should be your primary focus. Walking up hills and climbing stairs are both ways to condition your lower body. Begin slowly, without the weight of a pack, eventually adding weight as you increase your training pace. Take a long hike (6-8hours) several times with a weighted pack, up and down hills or on small mountains.

In your Charity Challenge account you will find more comprehensive Fitness Training Notes. You can also look to join one of our [training weekends](#).

Challenge Training

If you would like to get a feel for our challenges ahead of your departure, why not consider booking on a 1 or 2 day UK Challenge?

We have a variety of challenges, covering all levels of difficulty, taking place in stunning National Parks across the UK that are led by highly qualified and experienced expedition and mountain leaders. These challenges will give you the perfect opportunity to monitor fitness levels, test out your kit, meet people in the great outdoors, share fundraising stories and gain valuable advice and support for the challenge ahead. We encourage participants to make use of our highly knowledgeable leaders and ask them any questions you may have about clothing and equipment, expedition health and wellbeing, trekking skills, walking techniques and teamwork!

We are offering all participants **50% off** the registration fee when you book on one of the UK challenges listed via the link below. Just use the code **TRAINING** when booking. T&C's – you must have an active booking on a challenge to avail of this offer. Discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Find out more [here](#)

Luggage Allowance & Valuables

As no formal clothes are needed, luggage should be kept to the absolute minimum – details of what to pack are provided in your kit list. Your rucksack/holdall (suitcases are not appropriate) must not exceed 15kgs in weight. On your outward journey, please wear your trekking gear, hiking boots, and carry a spare change of clothing in your hand luggage.

Porters/mules on this challenge are only able to carry duffel bags or soft kitbags up to 15kg, so please do not overpack.

While we will do everything to provide adequate safety for the group and security for your possessions, the general rule is that if you don't need it, don't bring it. This includes jewellery, necklaces, rings and even watches. Your passport and money should be kept on you at all times.

Leadership

There will be an English-speaking challenge leader who will be responsible for the logistics and co-ordination of your challenge. There may also be local support guides and staff to assist them. The challenge leader will be ultimately responsible for the running of the itinerary and the safety of your group.

Group Size

Each group is intended to be a minimum of 8 people in order to run and a maximum of 10 people due to the wilderness environment in which the challenge takes place. We will be able to run this challenge for 6-7 people by charging a small group supplement of £75, which will be added to your final balance invoice (self funders) or charged to your charity (minimum sponsorship or flexi).

Clothing and Equipment

Good quality, durable kit could mean the difference between a fantastic challenge experience and an uncomfortable

one. For this challenge, waterproof, well-worn in boots will be indispensable, particularly coupled with some really good quality walking socks. You don't need a clean pair every day, but enough to make sure you have dry socks each morning. The benefits of a comfortable day sack cannot be underestimated, so make sure that you train with this. Other essentials are high quality gore-tex waterproof and windproof jackets and trousers, technical/wicking t-shirts rather than cotton shirts, and a down jacket for the evenings and your summit day. A full kit list for this challenge can be found [here](#) and once you book you will have access to kit discounts with our partners The Outdoor Shop, Outdoor Hire and Cotswold Outdoor.

Which crampons are used?

Please note that ultralight crampons Salewa Alunal 2.0 (walk) are provided for trekkers.

These crampons are adjustable and can be fitted to all kind of boots. There is no need for boots with specific crampons adjustment and you are able to bring your normal boots if they are suitable for trekking on rocky and snowy terrain.

What winter kit is included?

Being a winter climb there is a possibility of encountering snow and ice on the trek. Therefore we have included crampons, helmets and ice axes (if necessary) for you to use.

What winter training is included?

Walking on snow and ice can be tricky and before you have to do this you will have a briefing and training on how to properly use the provided winter kit and trek safely. The walk to Toubkal does not involve any snow crevasses or glaciers. The group will walk in a line with the guide in the front. In case a couple of sections are difficult the guide will use a rope as a handrail.

Accommodation & Toilets

Accommodation

During the trek you will be staying in a mountain refuge in cosy dormitories with shared facilities. At the very start you will stay in village house and at the end of the trek, you will be staying in a moderate hotel in order to relax and recover. If you are travelling with a friend or partner who you wish to share with, please let Charity Challenge know in advance.

A good warm sleeping bag (three to four season) is recommended. Sleeping mattresses are provided at the refuge and blankets will be available at the village house in Aremd.

Toilets

The refuge has unisex Berber style toilets and washing facilities with showers.

Food & Drink

Each morning you will be provided with a filling breakfast of porridge, muesli, bread, cheese, jam and honey. Occasionally omelettes and pancakes will be served. Lunch will be fresh salad, vegetables, rice, macaroni, tomatoes, lentils, haricot beans, tinned fish with bread and fruit. For dinner it will vary between western style food such as spaghetti and Moroccan national fare like tagine and couscous. Food will always be ample and will provide heaps of energy.

Whilst our team in Morocco will do their best to meet any special requests, gluten free food is quite limited. We recommend you take a supply of gluten free bread, oats, and pasta that can be used for daily meals as well as gluten free snack bars during the day.

Please let Charity Challenge know prior to departure if you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies.

Money

Currency: The national currency is the Dirham, which is divided into 100 centimes. For up to date currency exchange, go to www.xe.com.

Import and export of local currency is strictly prohibited. It is not possible to exchange Scottish or Irish bank notes. There are ATMs available at the airport and near to the hotel in Marrakech. This is the best source of obtaining currency whilst you are in Morocco.

Credit Cards: Widely accepted in Marrakech and at most hotels, although a 5% charge is often charged.

Spending money: While you will not need a large amount of money during this trek, we recommend that you take a reasonable amount of cash in small denominations for tips, snacks and souvenirs. Keep in mind that for most of the challenge you will be trekking in the mountains away from any foreign exchange or banks.

Tips: Tipping is of course discretionary. However, we recommend approx. £40 per person at the end of the event, which you should give to the tour leader who will then divide it among all of the support team.

Emergencies

We endeavour to provide a trained expedition medic to follow you on this trek with a full emergency medical kit if required. Back up support will never be far away in the event of an emergency. The event is not run as a race and there is always a large discrepancy in people's walking ability, which is allowed for. There will be a staff member at the back of the group at all times to ensure you are not left behind and can take things at your own pace.

Pre-Existing Medical Conditions

We do not professionally vet your medical details. Please assess for yourself whether you are fit and able to take on the challenge. Please review the detailed Trip Notes and itinerary to get a better idea of what is involved. Please speak to your doctor or specialist if you have any concerns about taking part. If you suffer from a severe allergy, you are required to contact us to discuss any requirements. If you think that there are things we can do to make the challenge more accessible/comfortable for you, it is your responsibility to let us know, and we will then let you know if we can accommodate your request. Whilst we will do our best to put in place appropriate measures we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

Medical Support

First Aid qualified staff will be provided with the medical details that you give on your booking form but please note that they are on the challenge to support with medical matters related to the challenge environment and terrain itself, i.e. heat/cold, high altitude and so on. They will deal with any incidents and accidents (cuts, sprains, breaks and so on). They are not intended to continue any ongoing specialist medical care that you receive in the UK for pre-existing medical conditions, and should not be assumed to have any professional experience of your specific medical condition.

If you have any specific needs around pre-existing medical conditions, you should discuss with your family doctor or specialist in advance and can discuss any advice given by them with the challenge leader or doctor.

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Any more questions?

Contact us:

+ 44 (0)20 8346 0500

info@charitychallenge.com

www.charitychallenge.com

facebook.com/charitychallenge

twitter.com/charitychall

