



24 Days

Morocco

Grand Atlas Traverse

An exceptional expedition experience; this unique trip is one of our flagship old school expeditions. Far removed from the crowds of the Toubkal region, it's a tough undertaking, yet one which takes schools on an extraordinary journey through the snow-capped mountains, dramatic canyons and remote villages of the Central High Atlas Mountains. On this extended journey, Morocco will slowly seep into your soul as you gain access to a region, people and way of life that has changed little over the centuries. We finish with the bustling mayhem of Marrakech and an opportunity to reflect on a stunning journey that will change your global perspective and open up a world of adventure.



Recommended expedition itinerary

Day
1-2

Arrive Marrakech

Fly from the UK where we are met and transferred to our hotel. The following day we transfer to Imilchil 2100 m, then start trekking to Oulghazi 2120 m. Approximately a 2 hour trek. Overnight camp.

Day
3-5

Trekking to Ait Boulmane

We begin our trek, passing through Berber villages in the Melloul Valley. Via the gorges and along the Asif Melloul River to Timicha 1900 m. We walk through the (usually shallow) water part of the way. Approximately a 5 hour trek. Overnight camp. The walk on day 4 is largely in the river gorges and from time to time we will cross the river. If the water level is too high, we will use another trail, but in the summer months we should be fine. Reach Batli camp at 1600 m and set up camp for the evening. Today is a tougher day of approximately 7 hours trekking. Overnight camp. This morning we ascend through the pine forest to a pass at about 1840 m. Below us is our destination – the small remote mountain village of Ait Boulmane, 1520 m. Today's trek is approximately 5 hours and we reach the village around mid-afternoon. Tonight we have additional comfort as we stay in the village house.

Day
6-8

Haman-Imeder-Agoudal

After four days on the move, we have a break and relax in the wonderful surroundings of the mountains. There is an optional visit to the local Hamam to ease any sore muscles from the first part of our trek. Overnight village house. Day 7 and we are back on the trail, heading along the valley and then hiking up to the high pasture plateau of Ait Abdi, reaching the camp at Imeder 2200 m. This is one of the longer days on the trek at approximately 7 hrs. Overnight camp. We trek via the high pass of 2750 m to Agoudal n'Illamchal 2450 m before setting up our camp again for the evening. Our trek today is approximately 5 hours. Overnight camp

Day
9-11

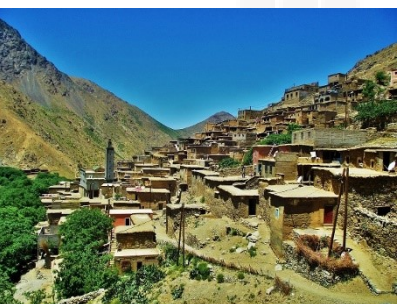
Taghia canyon-Izourar lake

Today we ascend to another pass, then follow the trail to the dramatic Taghia canyon where we camp at 2500 m. Approximately 4 hours. The descent into the canyon is very steep, without a trail, and only for very good and safe walkers who do not suffer vertigo, but this is an optional excursion – those who want to remain in the camp may do so. The canyon trek adds approximately another 3 hours. Overnight Camp. On day 10 we trek up to a pass of 3000 m, followed by a long descent to Izourar lake (mostly dried out in summer). Another long day of approximately 7 hours, but we will be supremely fit by now and the endless dramatic mountain scenery and remote location adds to the sense of adventure! Overnight camp. The following day we start with a descent into the fertile Ait Hkim valley, where we follow the valley floor to the village of Ikhf n'Ighir 1850 m. Approximately 5 hours. Overnight in a Village House.

Day
12

Ait Bougumez 1850m

Having finished the first section of our trek, we have a rest day in the village to sort out our kit and tend to any aches and pains. We also can start thinking ahead to the project over the coming days and discuss with the locals how we plan to tackle the tasks ahead of us. Overnight in a village house.





Day
13-15

Project work

The exact nature of the project the group will undertake in the village will depend on what help the local community needs at the time of our visit. The Village Association will meet to discuss the needs of the community and put forward suggestions of work they would like to be done. It is likely that we won't have the exact details of the project we will be working on until nearer the time of our visit. Previous groups have built incinerators, repaired footbridges and paths, planted cacti on the hill sides to prevent soil erosion and laid water pipes and drainage ditches. Whatever you end up doing, these days spent among the villages in the company of local families will be an undoubted highlight of our time in Morocco.

Day
16-17

Mt Mgoun ascent

Saying goodbye to our hosts, we walk along the Bougumez valley to Arous and start the ascent to the high pasture of Ikkis. Camp at 2390 m. Trek is approximately 5 and a half hours. Overnight camp. We gradually ascend up a narrow valley to a false pass, from here we follow a balcony trail to the Tizi n'Tarkeddid pass at 3400 m. We cross the pass and reach the camp on the plateau at the source of Tessaout river. Approximately 4 to 5 hours trekking.

Day
18

Summit climb Mgoun 4068m

We leave early in the morning and hike up to a ridge in the mountain chain of Mgoun. With several ups and downs ranging in altitude of 3800 to 4020 m, we follow the long ridge to the main summit of Mgoun, with spectacular views all around us. After a rest at the summit we return the same way back to our camp at Tarkeddid. Approximately 8 hours trekking. Overnight camp.

Day
19

Descent

Today we start our descent back to civilisation and leave the high altitudes via two low passes and trek down, part of the trail is very steep, into the Tessaout valley. Camp at Amezrai 2250 m. This is also the end of the trekking part of the expedition. Approximately 5 hours. Overnight camp.

Day
20-21

Mountain biking

Today we swap boots for bikes and cycle along the upper Tessaout valley to Ait Ali n'Ito. The route is mostly downhill and takes approximately 3 hours. In the afternoon we visit the village of Megdaz 2140 m. In the evening we stay at a small local hotel. We continue cycling the next day to the natural bridge of Imi n'Ifri where we are picked up by our vehicles and transferred back to Marrakech. Approximately 5 hours cycling and 2 hours road transfer. Overnight Hotel.

Day
22-23

Marrakech

We have two days to explore this vibrant and magical city beginning with a morning walking city tour of the highlights, with plenty of time to explore the markets and souks that make this city so famous. On the final evening, we celebrate with a big meal out at a local restaurant.

Day
24

Return trip

Transfer to the airport and fly back to the UK.

Further information

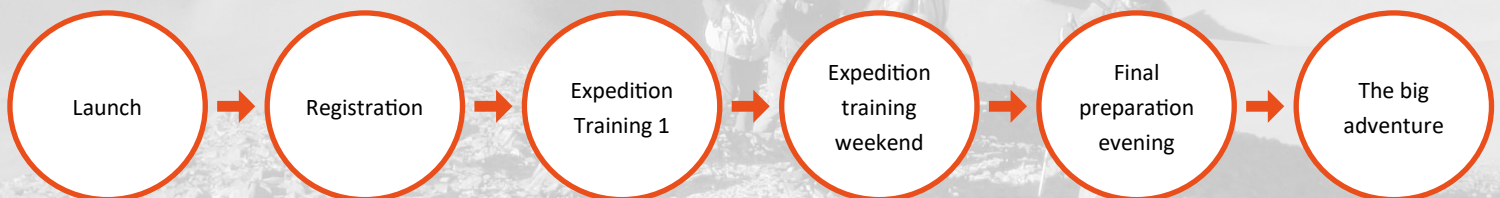
Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local expedition leader
- Parent and student expedition launch evening
- Comprehensive pre-expedition training programme
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel 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
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

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

Your expedition timeline



Physical expedition rating:

● ● ● ● ● 5/5

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 some walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) and occasional longer/harder days may be involved, with between five and seven hours of walking on certain days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling or rafting which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness. Some steady preparation and an increase if your underlying fitness levels would help you get the most from this grade trip.

Culture shock rating:

● ● ● ● ○ 4/5

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.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

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



1 Get your tailor-made proposal and 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 itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination 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 at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the expedition with a comprehensive information evening with opportunity for questions.



t: 01392 660056 | e: schools@thestc.co.uk | w: www.thestc.co.uk