

## **MAGICAL MOROCCO**

### **ATLAS MOUNTAINS & SAHARA DESERT ADVENTURE**

**APRIL 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 – APRIL 30<sup>th</sup> 2023**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Hike across stunning mountains, valleys and gorges
- Gaze upon riverside Oases, Kasbahs and Berber villages
- Desert safari, camel ride & sleeping under the stars in the Sahara



#### **ITINERARY**

Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> Day 1 Fly into Marrakesh.

Overnight in Marrakesh

Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> Day 1 Marrakech - Ouirgane - Tinzert - Imi Oughlad

## HIKING



Transfer from Marrakech in the morning (70km drive) to Ouirgane. Then begin the trek which heads south along mule tracks near a saline stream towards the village of Marigha Izdern (1,205m) then to Imareghan Noufla (1,224m) where intensely flavoured olive oil is produced. We trek through a mix of field crops, wild flowers and olive groves via Berber hamlets to the little village of Tinzert where salt is mined

We then head up the other side of the valley passing terraced wheat-fields, villages and diverse mineral rich mountain slopes, through juniper woodlands to reach the Imi Oughlad, night in Imi oughlad in a Gite.

Approx: 4 hrs hiking time.

Tuesday April 25<sup>th</sup> Day 3: Imi Oughlad- Tizi Oussems / Ait Aissa  
**HIKING**



After breakfast we'll head up and out of the valley and hike to the stunning Azzaden Valley. The views open up with a rushing mountain stream surrounded by lush walnut groves

Overnight in a village Gite in Tizi Oussems / Ait Aissa. Approx: 5-6 hours hiking



Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup> Day 4 Tizi Ouzzem 1600m - Tizi Mzik 2489m - Imlil 1740m **HIKING**

We set off up in north-westerly direction for a 2-3 hour hike up steep mountain slopes, passing by woods, pine and juniper, look upon the Imlil and ait oussaden valleys, then a slow but steep descent for an hour or so to imi n'ifri and our field picnic



Overnight in Gite Approx: 5-6 hours hiking.



Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> Day 5 : Imlil - Dades Valley

We'll head out over the Atlas Mountains, driving over the stunning Tizi-n-Tichka mountain pass & once we're in the desert, we'll see riverside oases & barren hillsides dotted with kasbahs



We'll also walk through traditional Berber villages



We'll visit the Ouarzazate /Atlas Film Studios (Africa's largest film studios). Once we reach Dades Gorge, relax at the hotel



We'll also get the opportunity to visit local shops



Friday April 28<sup>th</sup> Day 6: Dades Valley - Todra Gorge - Merzouga

Transfer from the Dades Valley to Todra Gorge - a massive fault dividing the High Atlas mountains, rising up 300 metres in a narrow valley with palmeries and Berber villages. **DESERT SAFARI**

Walk to the palmery, a green oasis full of large date palms, head further into the desert to the town of Merzouga to pick up supplies for our desert trip, then drive on to a kasbah to pick up our camel.

At sunset, we'll go for 90 minutes by camel to a Berber camp where we'll enjoy a traditional Moroccan dinner and a cup of local hot minty tea, we'll spend the evening under the stars, on the dunes and beside the warmth of the fireside with a drum party & story swapping. Star gazing in the desert will be amazing as there'll be no artificial lights around



Total driving time 5-6 hours

Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> Day 7 : Merzouga – Marrakech **DESERT SAFARI**

Prior to sunrise, we'll have a 90 minute camel ride to explore the area





When we reach Merzouga, we'll have breakfast and begin our journey (8 to 9 hours) through the stony desert and over the Atlas mountains, with stops for photos, visits, exploring and lunch.



Overnight in Marrakech



Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup> Day 8: Free time in Marrakech



Flights back to UK in the evening or stay an extra day and fly back Monday May 1<sup>st</sup> (bank holiday in the UK)

## **FLIGHTS**

Easyjet, BA & Ryan Air have direct flights. But best to confirm the trip soon and book flights early to get better deals

## **DRESS CODE**

Morocco is a conservative country, which means you always need to be mindful of your clothing choices. This is especially true in the country's more rural areas, which include the Sahara Desert and its surrounding villages. As a general rule of thumb, you should always attempt to cover body parts considered "private". For women, this means covering the arms (or at least the shoulders) and the knees up. For men, it requires covering up the shoulders and above the knee.

## ACCOMMODATION

We'll be staying in simple gites with either 3 or 4 people to a room.

Guest Houses

Hotel in Dades

Camping in desert

## FOOD

Meals on the trek are cooked by the Berber muleteers. The food is fresh and healthy. Example meals:

Breakfast: Jam, bread, cookies, fruit, juice, butter, coffee, milk

Lunch: salad, tomatoes, carrots, lentils, beans, rice or pasta, fish (sardines, tuna), seasonal fruit



Dinner: Soup, classic Moroccan tajine (chicken is popular), couscous, olives, nuts, fruit



## **BAGGAGE**

Personal baggage, cooking equipment and food are carried by the mules, leaving you to carry only a rucksack with whatever you need close at hand for the day. NB : Left luggage or unnecessary luggage can be left safely in our storage in Imlil till you come back from the trek.

## **KIT LIST**

- Good walking boots and socks
- Personnel First aid Kit
- Light sleeping bag when in Gites (Can be rented for a couple of days at Euro 5 per day)
- Lightweight waterproof trousers and top
- Water bottle or camel back (recommended)
- Soft-sided / duffle bags (50-80 litres) **NO HARD SHELL** bags
- Lightweight daypack
- Sunglasses & Sunscreen
- Torch and batteries
- Towel & all personal toiletries

## **COST**

£625 For payment upto Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 2022 (Special early bird rate)

£675 For payment upto Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2022

£725 For payment upto Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2023

£775 For payment after Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2023

## **PAYMENT DETAILS**

Kats Adventures Limited

40 09 25

41764527

Ref: name / Morocco

## **INCLUDES**

- Expert English-speaking mountain guides
- Mules and muleteers to carry your luggage
- Berber Cook
- Breakfast, Dinner & Lunch on all hiking days.
- Breakfast on desert trip
- Accommodation in Gites, Guest Houses, Hotel, Camping
- Round-trip transportation across Morocco
- Camping Materials (Tents & Mattress)

## **NOT INCLUDE**

- Day 1 Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> & Day 7 Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> hotel in Marrakech
- Soft/alcoholic drinks
- Tips (Tips for Guides / Berber / Cooks / Muleteers about Euro 30 in total) and personal expenses
- Entry into Film Studios 10 Euro
- Lunch during desert trip approx 10 Euro
- Taxi from Airport to Marrakech city approx 10 Euro

## **REFUND POLICY**

Full refund if for any reason the trip is canceled by organisers otherwise

Full refund upto Dec 31st 2022

Thereafter 75% Refund upto Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 2023

Thereafter 50% Refund upto Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 2023

No refund after March 24<sup>th</sup> 2023

A full Q & A for the trip will be available for all registered attendees. Please note the first 3 days consists of progressively difficult hikes in mountainous terrain.