



Adventure Travel
4x4 Expeditions
Consultancy
Training



OneLife Adventure

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High Atlas & Marrakesh Explorer

8th to 25th June 2005

7th to 23rd September 2005

Morocco – our nearest neighbour, in the most fascinating continent in the world - timeless Africa. Morocco provides a superb introduction to the exciting culture and varied scenery of North Africa. While many rush south we take the slow track to find the real Morocco – its diverse and ancient cultures, its great plains, deserts and soaring mountains. We explore the great Imperial city of Fes, culturally important to the whole of the Arab world. We climb on rock pistes into the heart of the High Atlas mountains, whose snow capped peaks and sun baked slopes are home to remote Berber villages clinging to secret passes and valleys. The narrow twisting gorges of Todra and Dades cleave the mountains, allowing us to enter the Dades and Draa Valleys - the ancient trade routes from the heart of the Sahara. We follow these rocky sandy pistes to cross 300 m high dunes right against the Algerian border, to find hidden oases in the seldom visited south. After weaving our way through the great blue-black mountains of the Jebel Sarhro, we enter Marrakesh to savour the vibrant colours, sights and sounds of the greatest of Saharan trading cities. This must be one of the most romantic and exciting cities in the whole of the Magreb, the end point of so many camel caravans and for us, our turning point north, to swing back into the High Atlas, traversing the Gorge du Dades and visiting the great ruined Roman city of Volubilis before returning to the Straits of Gibraltar and Europe.



Summary

Start point	Gibraltar, Southern Spain (via ferry from Dover to Calais).
Finish point	Gibraltar, Southern Spain (via ferry from Dover to Calais).
Number of days	17 days, 16 nights.
Approx. distance	3000 kilometres (not including travelling between UK ports and start point for the expedition).
Road conditions	Mixture of sand, gravel and rock tracks, some local roads.
No' of vehicles	Maximum of 6 guest vehicles plus support vehicles.
Accommodation used	Accommodation will be mainly in wild or rural community campsites with limited facilities. In some places we use organised campsites attached to an auberge, where toilet/shower facilities are usually available.
Specialist equipment - vehicle	A well maintained and serviced 4x4 vehicle fitted with underbody protection. A CB radio must be fitted. Tyres of All Terrain or Mud Terrain tread patterns are most suitable. A full set of recovery equipment (strops and shackles) is essential along with a spade. A winch is not essential but could be desirable for self-recovery. An additional fuel and water capacity of 40 l each is required, (jerry cans are OK).
Specialist equipment - camping	Either roof (preferable) or ground tents are suitable. The expedition is fully catered but a small stove and a Thermos flask is useful for preparing your own hot drinks and you should bring your own chairs, table, cutlery and utensils. Clothing can be light as the days will be hot, however you should bring some warm and windproof outer wear. Protection from the sun and UV is needed.
Passport	Required.
Visa	Not needed for citizens of the UK.
Health	No special requirements beyond small first aid kit and E111 - Certificate of Entitlement (available from UK Post Offices).
Cost of living	A lot less than the UK - 1 GBP = approx' 17 Dirham, with diesel at 6 dir/l, a beer for 10 dir. ATM's are present in large towns and cities but are not always reliable. Bureau de Change facilities can be found at the border. Credit cards are not widely accepted out of the main tourist centres.

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Weather

Generally dry and warm with low humidity, occasionally very hot in the valleys during the days but it can be cool in the hills and at night.

Marrakesh	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average daily temp °C	18	20	23	26	29	33	38	38	33	28	23	19
Rainfall mm	25	30	35	25	15	10	5	5	10	25	30	30

High Atlas & Marrakesh Explorer itinerary

Day	Highlights	Overnight
1 Wednesday	Meet and then board our mid morning ferry for the 45 min crossing to Africa, we pass through Ceuta to the Morocco border. After clearing formalities we head south along the coast before climbing into the Rif Mountains and our first campsite in the attractive town of Chefchaouen.	Campsite at Chefchaouen.
2 Thursday	After climbing on rough tracks across the Rif we descend and enter Fes, the oldest of the Imperial cities and a fascinating mix of people and cultures from North Africa and beyond. It's now considered the centre of Islamic orthodoxy and a great seat of learning. After visiting the famous medina, we eat a traditional meal, dining out in a Moroccan restaurant in the city.	Campsite at Fes.
3 Friday	We continue south along the Moyen Atlas, through distinctive oak and cedar forests to emerge at the foot of the High Atlas. Passing Midelt and climbing higher into the High Atlas we wild camp in the heart of the mountains.	Wild camp in Atlas Mountains.
4 Saturday	We descend down the full length of the 300m deep Todra Gorge, at times less than 100m wide to camp between its huge rock faces at the southern end.	Campsite attached to an auberge in Todra Gorge.
5 Sunday	Passing through the Jebel Sarhro, we continue south, pausing at Alnif before climbing up the blue black volcanic mountains to wild camp overlooking the vast Anti Atlas with its 'hamada' - gravel plains stretching south to the true sand of the Sahara.	Wild camp in Jebel Sarhro.
6 Monday	Following the Vallee du Draa, through its famous palmeries and driving in the tracks of the great trans-Saharan camel trains from Mali and the south we reach M'Hamid, close to the Algerian border and meet our local guide for our desert crossing. Evening camel ride for sundowners amongst the dunes.	Campsite at M'Hamid.

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High Atlas & Marrakesh Explorer itinerary continued

Day	Highlights	Overnight
7 Tuesday	We spend the morning with our guide practising our desert sand driving skills and checking our vehicles over, before we head out into the real Sahara - Chigaga, an vast area of huge 300m high dunes, where we spend two days out in the desert, camping under the Saharan stars for two nights.	Wild camp, Chigaga.
8 Wednesday	A further day out desert driving as we head west to the Iriqui oasis.	Wild camp, Iriqui oasis.
9 Thursday	We turn away from the dunes to head NW towards Fom-Zguid over the hamada to Zagora.	Campsite at Zagora.
10 Friday	Skirting the southern Jebel Bani and Sarhro we head north to camp at Ait Benhaddou, one of the best preserved kasbah's in Morocco and the scene of many films including Lawrence of Arabia.	Campsite attached to auberge at Ait Benhaddou.
11 Saturday	A short but spectacular drive leads us to the red city of Marrakesh, situated at the confluence of many of the trade routes in North Africa. Time to explore the city and lose your self in the medina and its souqs or simply people watch in famed Djemee el-Fna square, against the backdrop of the snow capped High Atlas.	Campsite outside the city.
12 Sunday	Leave Marrakesh behind as we head back into the mountains to visit the Casacades d'Ouzoud, a 110m waterfall with great pools to swim in. We wild camp at the foot of the dramatic Cathedrale des Rochers.	Wild camp near Zeouia-Ahanesal.
13 Monday	We climb around the second highest peak in Morocco, reaching 3000m before descending to the pretty town of Boumalne Dades at the foot of the Gorges du Dades.	Campsite at Boumalne Dades.
14 Tuesday	We drive the Gorges du Dades to Imilchil, in September this pretty village becomes the scene of a Berbers moussem (marriage market!). For the rest of the year it's a typical Berber village, set amongst a plateau studded with azure blue lakes.	Wild camp above Imilchil.
15 Wednesday	We descend down the High Atlas into the wooded Moyen Atlas to camp at Ain-Leuh, a typical Middle Atlas village. It is the most important market for the region and on Wednesdays the semi nomadic Beni m'Guid tribe leave their heavy dark tents to buy and sell livestock here.	Campsite at Ain-Leuh.

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High Atlas & Marrakesh Explorer itinerary continued

Day	Highlights	Overnight
16 Thursday	We spend some time in the thick cedar forest, hopefully glimpsing Barbary apes before visiting the Roman mosaics and ruins at Volubilis, a UNESCO world heritage site. These are the largest and best preserved Roman remains in Morocco, dating from 1st century AD.	Campsite at Volubilis.
17 Friday	Leaving Volubilis after breakfast we return to the bustle of the border and Ceuta to catch our boat across the Straits of Gibraltar and back to another continent.	

The route and timings are not fixed, we will be free to break journey, stop and explore, as you desire. I aim to be in the campsite by 16.00 on most days to allow us to relax and enjoy the experiences of the day. The daily distances driven vary due to the terrain and ground conditions but a typical day will be 2-3 hours driving in the morning, 1 hour for lunch and then a further 2-3 hours driving.

Outbound shipping

The crossing from Dover to Calais is made by ferry and is included in the expedition price. You are free to specify your own preferred dates and times. The drive from Calais to Gibraltar will take about 24 hours, mainly on the French and Spanish autoroutes. You may choose to take 3 days for the journey, if so then I am able to advise on accommodation options and alternative routes to avoid the autoroute and enjoy France and Spain on the way down.

Note – This section of the expedition is unsupported by OneLife Adventure, the above information is to aid you plan your arrivals and departures. The booking is made on your behalf and cost of the ferry is included in the expedition price. Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.

Inbound Shipping

The return crossing from Calais to Dover is made by ferry and is included in the expedition price. Again you are free to break the return journey and specify the ferry dates and times allowing you to extend your holiday as you choose.

Note – This section of the expedition is unsupported by OneLife Adventure, the above information is to aid you plan your arrivals and departures. The booking is made on your behalf and cost of the ferry is included in the expedition price. Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.

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Cost

- £1200 per person based on 2 sharing, fully catered.
- £950 per person based on 2 sharing, self catered.

- For each additional person up to a maximum of 4 adults per vehicle add £ 750, fully catered or £500 if self catering.

The expedition price includes flexible return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais and Algeciras to Ceuta, all campsite/accommodation costs, full backup and guiding from the support team. The fully catered option includes meals (hot/cold breakfast, buffet lunch, evening meal) and non alcoholic drinks.

Neither option includes your fuel, snacks, alcoholic drinks and personal spending.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE ON THIS EXPEDITION
PLEASE CONTACT ME – NUMBERS ARE LIMITED!**



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