

# Morocco: The High Atlas Trek

Craggy Mountains, Berber Villages, Marrakesh, and More



## TRIP DATES

2024  
July 6-20, 2024



Wilderness Travel

ITINERARY	3
TRIP COST, PAYMENT & INSURANCE	8
ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE	9
ACCOMMODATIONS	10
CHEFCHAOUEN EXTENSION	12
TRIP LEADER	13
TRIP DETAILS	14
TOUCAN CLUB	15



## Morocco: The High Atlas Trek

Craggy Mountains, Berber Villages,  
Marrakesh, and More

An adventurous trek through the spectacular High Atlas Mountains is not just one of the most scenic hikes in the world—it's also an immersion into the culture of the Berber people, Morocco's original inhabitants. Few roads penetrate this craggy mountain stronghold, where the agrarian way of life has changed very little in a hundred years. As we trek, we see Berber women in brightly colored dresses tending fields amid mud-brick villages, and higher up, we meet shepherds in summer pastures. We often visit homes to share a cup of mint tea with these friendly, open, mountain people. Scenic grandeur abounds, from towering limestone peaks to sheer red-rock canyons. Our journey also explores the fairytale walled city of Fes, and Marrakesh, where labyrinthine bazaars beckon.



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# Itinerary

## DAY 1

### CASABLANCA

On arrival, you are met at the Casablanca airport for a transfer to our hotel. For those arriving from our pre-trip Chefchaouen Extension, your driver will drop you off at the hotel in late afternoon. Overnight at the Sofitel Casablanca Tour Blanche Hotel...Meals on your own

## DAY 2

### CASABLANCA / RABAT

We visit the massive Hassan II Mosque, second only to the mosque in Mecca in its scale. Designed by the French architect Michel Pinseau as a modern rendition of classical Moorish architecture, it was launched in 1980 and inaugurated in 1993. Every inch of it is exquisitely detailed, hand crafted in tile, marble, metal, and wood by traditional Moroccan artists. It is open to all and we can explore the interior, where as many as 20,000 people can worship at once. After our visit, we drive north along the coast to Rabat, the capital, facing onto the Atlantic. After lunch in the city, we head out to explore this very walkable capital full of historic sites. We stroll through the picturesque Oudaia Kasbah, partly enclosed in ramparts, and visit the Mausoleum of Mohammed V (the current king's father), with its costumed royal guards and brilliant marble surfaces. We also explore the Chellah, one of the most beautiful ruins in all of Morocco, a walled and towered royal necropolis atop the ancient Roman town of Sala Colonia. The spectacular Chellah is the legacy of Abou El Hassan (1331-1351), the great Merenid sultan and prolific builder. Tonight we enjoy our Welcome Dinner. Overnight at the Villa Mandarine...BLD  
Driving Details: Approximately 1.5 hours (Casablanca to Rabat)

The Imazighen: Two thirds of Moroccans are Imazighen, a group with a mixed origin that includes European and Saharan peoples. Not a homogeneous group, the Imazighen arrived in Morocco (and other regions of North Africa) at different times, finding refuge in the High Atlas and Middle Atlas, thus surviving various invasions by Mediterranean civilizations. Today they retain a distinctive tribal culture that breaks into three major groups: the Sanhaja of the central and eastern High Atlas, the Middle Atlas, and the Rif; the Masmouda, a settled people who live mostly in the western High Atlas (who in the 12th century founded the Almohad Empire, the dynasty that controlled Spain and much of northwest Africa); and the Zenets, the herders of eastern Morocco, who founded the Merinid dynasty in the 13th century. The blue-robed Tuaregs of the Sahara are also a branch of the Amazigh family. Imazighen are Muslims, but their conversion to Islam took centuries and in many areas was not dominant until the 16th century.

## DAY 3

### MOULAY IDRIS / VOLUBILIS / FES

Departing the coast, we travel into Morocco's inland valleys of gently rolling terrain dotted with wheat fields, vineyards, and olive groves. Our first stop is the hilltown of Moulay Idriss, named for Morocco's most famous saint, great grandson of the Prophet Mohammed. He was the heir to the Caliphate in Damascus and fled to Morocco around 787, where he was welcomed as a spiritual leader. He is buried in the town, so it is a revered cultural pilgrimage site. After exploring the town, we head to Volubilis, a romantic Roman ruin



## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

<b>Length:</b>	15 days
<b>Arrive:</b>	Casablanca, Morocco
<b>Depart:</b>	Marrakesh, Morocco
<b>Lodging:</b>	8 nights first-class and best-available hotels, 1 night Berber house, 5 nights expedition-style camping
<b>Meals:</b>	All meals included except 3 dinners and 1 lunch (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
<b>Activity:</b>	Cultural Adventures, Hiking / Trekking
<b>Trip Level:</b>	<b>1 2 3 ④ 5 6</b> 6 hiking days, 4-7 hours a day, moderate to steep trails, some "river trekking," altitudes of 7,500-10,250 feet (optional hike to 13,346'), mules carry gear

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Camp and hike in the spectacular High Atlas, with "river trekking" through sheer-walled gorges
- Enjoy timeless pastoral villages, dramatic canyons, discover the distinctive Berber culture
- Make an optional ascent of Mt. M'Goun for breathtaking High Atlas views
- Explore the medieval medina of Fes and bustling bazaars of Marrakesh

## Itinerary (cont'd)



“A well balanced trip with a blend of culture and mountain trekking and exactly what I was looking for. Mark Gordon’s knowledge and passion for the High Atlas mountains and Berber culture was exceptional.”

*Terry W., New York, NY*

surrounded by farmlands. We enjoy a walking tour of this ruined city, Rome’s provincial capital in Morocco. It has structures dating to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD as well as an impressive array of stunning and well preserved mosaics. We stroll among the towering columns and fine mosaics of Volubilis, enjoying views back to the whitewashed buildings of Moulay Idriss as they glow in the late afternoon sun. We continue to Fes and our hotel, the Les Merinides, with its wonderful location on a hill overlooking the Fes medina. The hotel’s outdoor terrace is a great place to gather for a drink while enjoying sunset views...BLD

Driving Details: Approximately 2.5 hours (Rabat to Moulay Idriss), approximately 1.5 hours (Volubilis to Fes)

### DAY 4

#### FES

The most evocative of Morocco’s imperial capitals, ancient Fes is nestled in a high valley and resplendent with minarets and domes. Its renowned medina is one of the most perfectly preserved medieval cities in the world, hauntingly beautiful and full of infinite visual delights. We enter the dazzling 12th century medina through one of its four medieval gates and discover a mile-long network of souks, open-air cafés, courtyards, hammams (traditional steam baths), and gardens. Our wanderings take us on foot through a honeycomb of twisting alleys of Arabic-Moorish architecture with blue-tiled facades. We savor the scent of spices, orange blossoms, sizzling lamb kabobs, and sweet honey cakes, and watch scenes unchanged in centuries, from donkeys laden with leathers bound for tanneries to children carrying boards of bread dough to communal ovens. Some of the finest Berber carpets in Morocco are found in this medina. We also visit a traditional tannery, a koranic school, and the Qaraouiyine Mosque, formerly one of the oldest universities in the world, predating Oxford and Cambridge. Along the narrow lanes, we peer into the ancient medieval foundouks (old caravanserais) built around open courtyards. Most are worn with age, but one 18th century foundouk is beautifully restored and is now the Nejjarine Museum of Wood and Carpentry. We have lunch in a fine Moroccan restaurant in the heart of the medina. Overnight at Hotel Les Merinides...BL

### DAY 5

#### IFRANE / KHENNIFRA / AFOURER

This morning we drive across the pine-forested Middle Atlas Mountains. En route, we visit the old French “hill station” of Ifrane, built in the early 1930s by French colonials and now a university town. We enjoy lunch at the old market town of Khennifra. Our overnight is in a hotel in a small market town of Aforuer on the fringe of the High Atlas Mountains...BLD

Driving Details: Approximately 5.5 hours with stops

### DAY 6

#### AIT BOUGMEZ VALLEY (6,500')

Passing through the bustling town of Azilal, we head deep into the High Atlas Mountains to meet our Berber camp staff in the remote mountain village of Ait Imi at 6,500 feet in the Ait Bougmez Valley. We enjoy our lunch en route in a Berber house. The afternoon is free for independent exploration. Overnight in a gîte d'étape (small inn) that adjoins a Berber house. This simple 7-room inn in

a small village has shared bathrooms. (Please note: single accommodations are subject to availability.)...BLD

Driving Details: Approximately 3 hours

## DAY 7

### ON TREK / AZIB NIKKIS

Leaving the Ait Bougmez valley today, we hike through several picturesque villages before turning south to gradually ascend a secondary valley. We enjoy relatively level hiking in the morning, then gradually ascend in the afternoon. Eventually we reach the Azib, a high pasture used for summer grazing, and make our camp here at 7,540 feet next to a river. In the summer, Berbers from the valley below move up to the Azib with their herds and cultivate small plots of land here. Overnight at camp...BLD

Hiking Details: Approximately 6 hours, 9 miles, 1,000 feet ascent

## DAY 8

### ON TREK / TASSAOUT SPRING

A hike to the top of Oumskiyq Pass (10,240') gives us breathtaking views of Mt. M'Goun (13,346'), the third highest peak in North Africa (the highest is Morocco's Mt. Toubkal at 13,667 feet). This is a steep morning hike, a good test to see if you want to attempt the optional hike up to the top of Mt. M'Goun tomorrow. After lunch, we descend to our camp at about 8,200 feet in a high summer pasture by the spring at Tassaout. Overnight at camp...BLD

Hiking Details: Approximately 5 hours, 7.5 miles, 2,700 feet ascent/2,240 feet descent

## DAY 9

### ON TREK / OPTIONAL SUMMIT HIKE ON MT. M'GOUN (13,343')

Today we have the option of hiking to the summit of Mt. M'Goun, or hiking by the lower route with our pack mules. Note that the optional summiting of Mt. M'Goun is very strenuous; you will be hiking on very mountainous terrain at high altitude with a steep elevation gain. . While the entire trip is rated a level 4 out of 6+, this optional hike is more at a difficulty level of 6+. The high route is a steep, direct climb to the summit ridge, than a mile-long spectacular traverse along the ridge to the summit, followed by a long descent. If you

choose the low route to camp today, it is a gradual descent to the bottom of a canyon where Berber camel herds often graze, unattended all summer, since they can't get out of the canyon. Halfway through the morning, we ascend Oumsoud Pass (9,738'), then after a short descent, follow a dry river bed to our camp at about 7,500 feet. Overnight at camp...BLD

Hiking Details: Approximately 5 hours, 7 miles, 1,538 feet ascent/2,238 feet descent (low route) or approximately 10-12 hours, 6 miles, 5,143 feet ascent (high route)



“The trip itinerary was exceptional. No other company could match it. And wonderful hotels. I loved Mark’s command of several languages—French, Arabic, and Berber dialects.”

*Jocelyn S., Arvada, CO*





## Itinerary (cont'd)



### DAY 10

#### ON TREK / AIN AFLAFEL (7,200')

Today we are treated to stunning scenery reminiscent of the great red-rock canyons of Bryce and Zion. Nomadic Berber herders spend their summers here with their herds, taking them down to the Sahara for winter grazing, an ancient way of life known as transhumance. We may be able to visit some of the herders, who often camp along our hiking route. Our camp is at a beautiful spot near Ain Aflafal. The word "Ain" means spring in Arabic, and this is one of the largest and most dramatic springs in the High Atlas. Our afternoon is free to relax at camp and take it easy after yesterday's optional ascent of M'Goun, or we can enjoy a hike up to the source of the spring, where water gushes almost vertically out of the mountain. Overnight at camp...BLD

Hiking Details: Approximately 4.5-5.5 hours, roughly 6 miles, 700 feet descent, and an optional afternoon hike of approximately 1 hour, 1 mile, minimal ascent/descent

### DAY 11

#### ON TREK / IM NICT (6,500')

We enter the very remote Oulilimt Valley, accessible only on foot. It is truly accessible only half the year; snows make the passes impossible for mules to cross, and high water makes the river too deep the rest of the year. Here the Berbers live and dress according to traditions little changed over the centuries.

We camp near the village of Im Nict. On occasion, the young people of the village will come to our camp to sing and dance. Overnight at camp...BLD

Hiking Details: Approximately 7 hours, 10 miles, minimal ascent/descent



## DAY 12

### ON TREK / M'GOUN GORGE / DADES VALLEY

We enjoy a memorable hike today through the very dramatic M'Goun gorges, as narrow as 10 feet in places, with walls that soar to over 4,000 feet. Today we will be “river trekking,” wading in and out of the M'Goun River, which is generally between ankle and knee deep, as we hike through the gorge. Today marks our dramatic descent to the southeastern flank of the High Atlas, with its landscape reminiscent of the American Southwest. We continue through the canyon, crossing the river many times (maybe 30 or 40!), wading in and out of the river as we pick our way along the canyon floor. The canyon gradually expands into a lovely valley, ending in a village called Tiranimine. At trek's end, we bid farewell to our Berber trekking staff and are met by our vehicles for a 2-hour drive to a lovely hotel at 5,200 feet at the entrance to the Dades Valley. Overnight at Hotel Xaluca Dades...BLD

Hiking Details: Approximately 6-7 hours, 8 miles, minimal ascent/descent

## DAY 13

### AIT BEN HADDOU / MARRAKESH

This morning we board our vehicles and drive down the southern flanks of the High Atlas where we rejoin civilization. We continue towards the town of Ouarzazate, stopping for lunch in Ait Ben Haddou, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, and later recross the High Atlas en route to Marrakesh. Overnight at the Hotel Es Saadi...BL

Driving Details: 5.5 hours

## DAY 14

### MARRAKESH

We spend the day wandering through fabled Marrakesh, an ancient city of immense charm and beauty, with the High Atlas providing a beautiful backdrop. Marrakesh is a fortress settlement over nine centuries old. Known as the “red city” for its rose-tinted buildings, the city has Berber rather than Arab origins and for centuries has been the central marketplace for Berber tribes. At its heart is an 11th century medina and the compelling Djemaa el Fna, the central square, replete with snake charmers, fire eaters, and fortune tellers. We discover the secrets of Marrakesh with excursions through the medina, the souks, and the little-known nooks and crannies. Our explorations may include the magnificent Saadian Tombs, the Bahia Palace, and the Dar Si Said, a beautiful 19th century house that now serves as an arts and crafts museum. We enjoy a festive Farewell Dinner this evening. Overnight at the Hotel Es Saadi...BD

## DAY 15

### DEPART

Transfer to the Marrakesh airport for departing flights, or join our Chefchaouen Extension...B



“The Atlas trek was much more beautiful and memorable than I could have imagined. Seeing and learning about the Amazir, their azibs, transhumance, as well as the isolated valleys was fascinating.”

*Natalie L., Warwick, Bermuda*

# Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

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## TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, valid through 2024**

\$4795 (10-15 members)

\$4995 (4-9 members)

Single supplement: \$495

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Due to the volatility of currency markets, we can only offer the most competitive pricing on our trips in Morocco by partially tying the trip cost directly to the value of the Moroccan Dirham. In the late spring of 2023, when we set the rates for our 2024 program, the US Dollar equaled 10.4 Moroccan Dirham. While in most years, no price changes are ever necessary, if there were to be a significant change in exchange rates, we may be forced to raise or able to lower our trip cost; if so, your final invoice, sent two weeks before your final payment is due, will reflect the difference. Please note that the calculation will not be a straight proration. While most of the trip cost is paid in Moroccan Dirham, the remainder of our expenses are paid in US Dollars. The overall effect is to moderate any change; thus, if the Moroccan Dirham were to rise in value, the trip cost would rise less than might be expected, and if the Moroccan Dirham were to fall, the drop in land price would also be less than might be expected.

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations
- All meals included except 3 dinners and 1 lunch as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Bottled water included throughout
- Trekking staff
- Group camping and cooking equipment including dining, sleeping and toilet tents, sleeping pads. You provide your own sleeping bag, rated to 20F, or you can rent a sleeping bag (includes sleeping sheet) from us for the trek.

## TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare to Casablanca and from Marrakesh, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessary due to airline schedule changes or other factors, cost of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

## CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

## MANDATORY EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSURANCE

**Please note:** Insurance for emergency evacuation is required for this trip. Call for more details.



# Arrival & Departure

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Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Casablanca, Morocco

**Suggested Airport:** Mohammed V International Airport (CMN)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 1, anytime

**Meeting Place:** A complimentary transfer is provided from the Casablanca Airport to our group hotel for all trip members. A Wilderness Travel representative will meet you outside the airport and will be holding a Wilderness Travel sign.

Please note that check-in at the hotel begins at 3:00 pm. To guarantee early-check in you will need to book a hotel room the night before. If you have booked extra services for early arrival, a voucher for your extra hotel nights will be sent with your Final Documents.

## DEPARTURE

Marrakesh, Morocco

**Suggested Airport:** Ras Al Khaimah International Airport (RAK)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 15, anytime

No matter what time you depart, a complimentary transfer will be provided to the Marrakesh airport for your departing flight. Please note that the hotel check-out time is 12:00 pm.

Note: If you decide to depart from Casablanca instead of Marrakesh, we can book a private land transfer from your Marrakesh hotel to the Casablanca airport. The transfer takes approximately 3 hours and costs \$180 per vehicle (subject to change).

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Morocco. Airlines with the most convenient schedules for this trip include:

**Delta Airlines** ([www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com))

**Air France** ([www.airfrance.com](http://www.airfrance.com))

**Air Canada** ([www.aircanada.com](http://www.aircanada.com))

**Tap Air Portugal** ([www.flytap.com](http://www.flytap.com))

**Royal Air Maroc** ([www.royalairmaroc.com](http://www.royalairmaroc.com))

**Easy Jet** ([www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com))\*

\*Easy Jet is a British airline offering cheap fares from Europe to Morocco (Milan, Madrid, and Paris to/from Casablanca and Marrakesh).

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

## EXTRA HOTEL NIGHTS

We are happy to arrange additional hotel nights for you at the group hotels in Casablanca or Marrakesh. Please see the Extra Hotel Request Form to book these reservations.

# Accommodations

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## SOFITEL CASABLANCA TOUR BLANCHE

*Casablanca, Morocco*

*Day 1 (1 night)*

This large modern hotel is set in the business district opposite the Hassan II mosque, an ideal location for walkers. Hotel amenities include two restaurants, one serving traditional French brasserie dishes, a rooftop bar, indoor pool, and a spa offering massage services.



## VILLA MANDARINE

*Rabat, Morocco*

*Day 2 (1 night)*

Set in three acres of beautifully landscaped gardens laced by walking paths, this 36-room riad, a former private home, is an oasis in Rabat's residential district. Rooms are spacious and furnished in traditional decor, and each has its own terrace or private garden. The heated swimming pool is a great place to cool off after a day of exploring, and there is also a spa, fitness center, and bar.



## LES MERINIDES

*Fes, Morocco*

*Days 3 to 4 (2 nights)*

The delight of this hotel is its view over the city of Fes, which you can enjoy from the terrace bar, listening to the call to prayer echo through the city after a busy day of exploring the medina. The hotel's location makes it a serene retreat from the bustle of the city. The rooms are spacious and very comfortable, the Moroccan-style restaurant on the third floor is charming, and the swimming pool has views over the medina.



## HOTEL LE TAZARKOUNT

*Afourer, Morocco*

*Day 5 (1 night)*

This hotel has a tranquil pool set in the middle of a beautiful garden shaded by palm trees, creating a very relaxing atmosphere. Guestrooms are basic in design, with tiled floors and simple furnishings, but there are lovely architectural details throughout the property. The hotel has a nice bar and restaurant.





## HIGH ATLAS CAMPS

*High Atlas, Morocco*

*Days 6 to 11 (6 nights)*

We make hiking and camping in the High Atlas Mountains as comfortable as possible. On the trail, you are accompanied by our experienced Berber guides and all your gear is carried for you (leaving you free to hike with just a daypack to hold your camera, water bottle, jacket, etc.). Our camp amenities include a dining tent with a dining table, chairs with backs and arm rests, camp meals prepared by our highly trained staff, and a toilet tent. Our camp crew takes care of all camp chores and provides picnic lunches each day at a scenic spot. Accommodations are in sturdy mountain-style tents with sleeping pads. On one night before we start the trek, we stay in shared rooms at a small Berber guesthouse that accommodates hikers.



## HOTEL XALUCA DADES

*Boumalne Dades, Morocco*

*Day 12 (1 night)*

This 110-room hotel is situated between the Todra and Dades Gorges at an altitude of 5,290 feet. Spacious guest rooms feature a unique African decor, while the hotel terrace overlooks the beautiful Dades Valley. An outdoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, hammam, spa, and fitness room are among the hotel's amenities.



## HOTEL ES SAADI

*Marrakesh, Morocco*

*Days 13 to 14 (2 nights)*

With a convenient location in the new section of the city, the Es Saadi is a 15-minute walk from the bustling medina. A five-story hotel built in the 1950s and still managed by its original owners, a local Moroccan family, the Es Saadi offers spacious, updated rooms and a swimming pool perfect for a cooling dip. Lunches can be enjoyed in the terrace restaurant opening onto the pool and gardens.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Morocco: The High Atlas Trek* webpage and click on the "Lodging" tab.

# Chefchaouen Extension

Inside the ancient gated medina of this dramatic “blue city,” nearly every building is whitewashed or painted some shade of azure, contrasting with the terracotta rooftops and red-walled casbah. Leather and textile workshops line the city’s twisting cobblestone streets, and the souks are filled with colorful wares. The Berbers who live in the surrounding villages are also known for their ironwork and textiles. This Chefchaouen extension can be added either before or after the main trip. Below is a description of this extension when done pre-trip. If you would like to do it post-trip, please contact us for details.

## DAY 1 CASABLANCA

Meet your private guide and driver this morning, either at the hotel or at the Casablanca Airport. A scenic five-hour drive brings you to the dramatic “blue” village of Chefchaouen (pronounced shef-SHA-wen). Arrive in the late afternoon and check into the Lina Ryad or Riad Cherifa. The city is filled with atmospheric restaurants offering both international cuisine and delicious Moroccan dishes. Many offer al fresco seating with views of the grand mosque, the medina, and the majestic Atlas Mountains. Dinner is on your own this evening...L

## DAY 2 CHEFCHAOUEN

After breakfast, enjoy a walk up to the Spanish mosque by way of the Ras el-Maa springs for a panoramic view across the mountains. Your guided tour of the medina includes the casbah, Outa el Hammam square, and several souks, with an optional visit at a local weaving workshop. Enjoy lunch with a local family, with the rest of the day at leisure so you can absorb the sights and sounds of Morocco’s “Blue Pearl” city. Overnight at Lina Ryad or Riad Cherifa...BLD

## DAY 3 CHEFCHAOUEN

This morning we take a side trip to the natural wonder of Akchour Falls in the wild, rugged Rif Mountains, with an optional challenging hike to God’s Bridge—a natural red rock formation high above a series of sapphire pools and sparkling waterfalls. We may return to Chefchaouen in early to mid-afternoon, giving you another opportunity to soak up the atmosphere of this artistic, laid-back retreat. Overnight at Lina Ryad or Riad Cherifa. Dinner is on your own...BL

## DAY 4 CASABLANCA

After breakfast, drive back to Casablanca through the Rif Mountains and the Berber town of Ouezzane (a spiritual capital for Sufis and Moroccan Jews), then cross the fertile plains of the Loukkos valley to arrive back in Casablanca. Your guide is happy to share his knowledge and insights as you chat with him on the return drive of approximately five hours. You’ll join your group trip in the late afternoon...BL

## 2024 EXTENSION COST

\$1595 (3-6 members)

\$1895 (2 members)

Solo Traveler: \$2595

Single supplement: \$295

## EXTENSION COST INCLUDES

- English-speaking tour leader for 4 days
- English-speaking city guide in Chefchaouen
- Accommodations
- Sightseeing as noted
- Private transport with driver, bottled water for drives
- Meals as indicated
- Airport transfers
- Tips for luggage handling and local city guides

## EXTENSION COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

Optional activities, meals not specified (BLD), soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, items of personal nature such as laundry, telephone, and optional gratuities to tour leader.





# Trip Leader

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Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”:

[www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/morocco-high-atlas-mountain-trek-tour/](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/morocco-high-atlas-mountain-trek-tour/)

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## MOHAMED HJIRA

Mohamed Hjira was born in the classic Amazigh town of Azilal in Morocco's High Atlas. His hometown, the gateway to the Central High Atlas, was often visited by travelers because of its proximity to the spectacular Ouzoud Waterfalls, so during his childhood he met people from all around the world, which led him to want to make a career as a guide. Mohamed moved to Marrakesh and graduated from the University of Marrakesh with a degree in economics, then obtained his guide license. He has guided for us in the High Atlas as well as many other regions of Morocco since 2010, and has a wide knowledge of and an infectious passion for the ancient cultures and natural beauty of his home country. He speaks fluent English as well as French, Amazigh, and Arabic.

# Trip Details

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 4, moderate to strenuous, according to our trip grading system. It combines easy touring and overland exploration with a moderate 6-day trek. On the trek, we hike at altitudes of 6,000 to 10,000 feet and camp at altitudes between 7,000 and 8,000 feet. The trek involves a good bit of up-and-down hiking (between 1,000- and 3,000-foot gain or loss in elevation per day). For the most part, you can hike at your own speed; the group will spread out along the trail during the day during our 4-7 hours of hiking. The trails are mostly rock, sometimes carved out of hillsides, but some are well-worn from village use. There are some short, steep climbs, and some rough going in dry riverbeds. Our hiking also includes “river trekking,” wading across rivers that are usually 6-12 inches deep (with lots of crossings in and out), but can range up to 20-30 inches for short distances in the most narrow and deepest part of the river. The water temperature is generally comfortable, a bit cool in the mornings, but warms up quite fast as the day progresses. There is an optional ascent of M’Goun (13,346’) on Day 9. We recommend that you make a special effort to get in top physical shape for the trip. Daily walking or regular hiking, jogging, and stair-climbing, are excellent preparatory exercises. At the camps, there is a private (though rustic) bathing tent, which includes a bucket of hot water you can use to wash yourself.

## WEATHER

Morocco has wide range of climatic variations but the weather is largely moderate, with a cooling influence from the Mediterranean and Atlantic oceans. Temperatures in the High Atlas Mountains for July and August range from 70-84 or more degrees, but will, of course, fluctuate with altitude.

Average Daily Max/Min °F		
	Jul	Aug
Fes	93/64	93/66
Marrakesh	97/68	97/68
High Atlas	99/70	99/70
Rainfall - Inches		
Fes	0.0	0.1
Marrakesh	0.0	0.1
High Atlas	0.1	0.4

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Africa Manager or email us at [africa@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:africa@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We’d be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren’t listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.



# Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan).

Here's how it works:

## YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

## YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

## YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

## YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

## FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

*Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.*

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST  
PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER



## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Condé Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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