



Adventurebug Worldwide Ltd

Bespoke adventure travel & events since 2000

REAT Tourism License AT/MA/00022 Company Registration B93050763
Apto. Correos 1031, 29680 Estepona, Malaga, SPAIN TEL (34) 635 817 819

EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURE LEADERSHIP

Morocco - Community Service, Trekking & Cultural Explorations



Adventurebug is pleased to offer your school the opportunity to travel Morocco with us. We have over 20 years experience with travel to Morocco's most remote corners and we are founders of our own NGO. This excursion focuses on community service at our center in *Asni*, the heart of the *Atlas Mountains* and home to thousands of families living a simple existence where small improvements will really impact their lives. Following this we'll have some days trekking in the wonderful *Atlas Mountains* and stay in basic, local Gite guest houses. The treks are superb days at an easy pace and the terrain is mountainous with many small villages, running rivers and good foot tracks. The final stage of the program involves a cultural visit to *Marrakech* and a coastal visit to the fascinating seaside

port of *Essaouira*. In both Marrakech and Essaouira we'll stay in comfortable hotels and have visits to local markets, shops and of course the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean. This excursion allows pupils to lend a hand to sustainable projects in the developing world and to put themselves through challenges whilst experiencing the wonderful culture first hand.

Highlights

- *An opportunity to contribute with your own hands to important development projects in Africa*
- *Unique exposure to North Africa's Berber culture, the people, the food and the simplistic life*
- *Beautiful and inspiring hiking in the Atlas Mountains – one of the world's best trekking destinations!*
- *Visit to Marrakech and the enchanting souk with its snake charmers, drummers, magicians and more!*
- *A trip to Essaouira on the Atlantic coast – famous for beaches, artists and the best shopping around!*

Your Guiding Team

This tour is managed by 2 professional guides. *Adventurebug* is a specialist company that works with educational travel groups. Based in Spain and operating worldwide, especially Morocco, company founder **Matt Butler** will be one of your guides. **Khalid Oukira** is a qualified Moroccan Desert and Mountain guide. Born a *Nomad* in the Sahara, he now resides in Marrakech and leads trips throughout his country. He will be our local guide for the program with Matt.

Adventurebug has led travel programs, large expeditions, challenge events and tours for over 20 years in this region. Every detail of your journey is attended to in terms of SAFETY and QUALITY. We personally select our transport and drivers based on experience and qualifications and we only work with hotels, restaurants and local guides who have proven themselves to be safe, ethical and effective. Adventurebug is fully insured and holds all relevant qualifications and titles as a European licensed tour operator.



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Itinerary

Day 1 Arrival Marrakech

Arrival to Marrakech Airport / transfer 1 hour 20 minutes to *Asni* by private bus

Welcome dinner and orientation. Our volunteer work will be based at the *Tiwizi Foundation* of *Asni*. Founded over 10 years ago, *Tiwizi* is locally run and aims to address education and health issues reaching out to thousands of residents in the valley. A simple but comfortable gite (Association building / guest house), will house us over 3 days. Sleeping bags only required and all meals are provided on site.

Day 2 Community Service Projects / Tiwizi Foundation

Full day of projects centered around infrastructure, educational support, agriculture, maintenance and outward reach projects in the local community. Accommodation and all meals in same Gite.

Day 3 Community Service Projects / Tiwizi Foundation

Continuation of Projects – including sport / art workshops led by students with local youth – full day of programs and activities on site in *Asni* village. Accommodation and all meals in same Gite.

Day 4 Visits to Imlil and the Berber High Atlas Communities

We leave *Asni* today and move further into the Atlas to the main market center of *Imlil*. The bus transfer is approximately 30 minutes. Today we will visit other community service projects of the region and take a half day trek to the village of *Arounb* where we have one night's stay in a simple gite. It is like stepping back in time here in the high Atlas! All meals included.

Day 5 Atlas Trekking Experience

Today we set off on a 2 day trek through the Atlas Mountains where we'll witness the extremities of life in this fascinating part of the world. Witness how families have lived for thousands of years practicing ancient forms of agriculture and animal grazing. Trekking time approximately 5 hours today on very good mountain track and footpaths. Mules will carry our main baggage leaving us free to walk with only a day pack. Accommodation in simple gite house and mules will carry our main luggage. All meals included.

Day 6 Atlas Trekking Experience and Marrakech

This morning we complete our second trek to arrive to *Ouikimeden*, a high mountain village where Morocco's most successful ski resort is located. Before finishing today, we cross over a mountain pass – offering spectacular views across the region and the highest Summit itself, *Mount Toubkal*. After the trek we transfer in private bus 1 hour to Marrakech where we have a comfortable sleep in a central hotel. All meals included.

Day 7 Marrakech Tour Day (transfer to Essaouira this pm)

Today we experience *Marrakech* visiting the ancient medina in the morning, the mosque of *Koutubia* and the centuries old workshops and labyrinth of streets and lanes. Free time is offered for shopping and exploring the souk in small groups. After lunch, we'll see some of Marrakech's sites by our private bus before transferring 2 hours to the coastal port of *Essaouira* where we spend our final 2 nights. Night in comfortable hotel near the town center. All meals included.

Day 8 Essaouira and the Atlantic Coast

Essaouira is a beautiful coastal town on the Atlantic. It has miles of wonderful beaches where great artists like Bob Marley and Jimi Hendrix once spent time. It is a colourful and artistic place that has attracted international visitors for decades. It is also an important port and fishing village but more than anything, it's a fun place to spend a few days after your hard work and efforts in the Atlas Mountains. Night in same hotel, Breakfast and Dinner provided only – lunch is not included.

Day 9 Departure day from Marrakech

This morning after breakfast we have a direct transfer to Marrakech airport (2.5 hours) for your flight home. We have ample time to make this journey. Breakfast included.



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Excursion Price & What's Included

PRICE PER PERSON

25-34 participants Please Consult

35 plus participants Please Consult

*Price is based on **8 nights**. For additional night(s), please consult for price change.

INCLUSIONS

1 free staff provided and additional staff places are priced at a generous discounted rate

- 8 nights accommodation (Gite accommodation and hotels in Marrakech and Essaouira)
- Land transport in private, licensed tourist class microbus(s)
- Return Airport transfers as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in itinerary (Gite stay, trekking safari and hotel restaurants)
- All technical adventure activities and leadership
- Guiding and Tour Escort services of Adventurebug and local guides where applicable
- Entrance fees for selected monuments and attractions
- Organization and Leadership for community service projects
- Emergency protocol / Risk Assessment and Evacuation plan
- Price is inclusive (net) of taxes and service fees (*we have no hidden costs*)

NON INCLUSIONS

Baggage support at hotels (can be an add-on)

Tipping of local Association helpers, guides and drivers in Morocco

Drinks at meals

Telephone or miscellaneous hotel charges

Additional entrance fees and attractions

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (about Morocco)

Morocco has few annoyances or serious health problems. Society is generally non-violent and harassment to buy items in the markets is less these days – especially with guides present. Like everywhere, common sense with money, personal handbags, cameras, phones, etc. is advised. For up to date **health information** about Morocco, consult the WHO website and / or speak to a medical specialist that deals with travel to this region. Malaria is not considered risk in the region we are travelling.

- *Visas are not required for US, Canadian, Commonwealth, British or European nationals. It is normal to receive a 3 month tourist visa upon entry with a passport containing a minimum of **6 months validity**.*
- *Transport will be in the form of a private bus (possibly two – numbers pending). A certified and experienced driver will conduct all driving. Our driving pace is careful so that we can enjoy the views and not feel anxious on the roads.*
- *Road conditions where we travel are generally good. We stay on the National road system for the most part and there are no technical 4x4 routes or steep, mountain tracks on this journey.*
- *Refrain from drinking local tap water and use bottled water as it is widely sold. They cost about 75 cents to 1 dollar max per 1.5 litre bottle.*
- *Food and restaurant prepared food in our experience is clean and well cooked. Moroccan diet is very healthy, high in natural items such as vegetables and ecological meats and poultry. Food during the trek is prepared by our cook (using pressure cookers), and is clean, plentiful and tasty.*
- *Please respect dress code of locals - shorts / t-shirts are fine in the mountains and on beaches but not usually around mosques or holy centers / town centers and urban market places.*
- *Hotels and guest houses are clean and have private bathroom/showers and are designed for international group. See note below on accommodation types.*
- *Gites are simple run lodges. They have mattresses provided on sleeping mats on the floor – and on some occasions there are raised beds. Clean water (for washing only) is provided as well as toilet facilities. All our gites are designed with separate sleeping / changing quarters for boys and girls.*



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- *Gifts for children and donations. Through our foundations (NGO's) we have a system to handle any donations of this sort: Clothing (shoes, sweaters, warm clothes), school supplies, games, sport supplies and tools for Morocco programs. These items can be bought locally and are very inexpensive. We do not encourage giving money away nor sweets.*

Accommodation , Transport & Meals

We have a range of suitable accommodation for the group, based on the current itinerary. All lodgings are located in areas that offer good access for our transport and are central to the main attractions of our visit. The hotels are also highly visited by incoming tour groups (opposed to budget local hotels or backpacker establishments), and the level of service and security is of good standard.

The Akchour Association building (*Tiwizi Foundation*) is a charity project in which our visiting international schools utilize for lodgings and projects. It is clean, simple and we utilize the space by sleeping on the floor in established male and female roomings – mattresses are provided and there are simple bathrooms and a shower facility for both genders. Our first 3 nights are in this establishment.

Our Atlas trek offers 2 nights in simple gite houses in the high mountains. Again, mattresses are provided – in gender split rooms. The experience of staying in these special villages will last with you forever...

In hotels, all rooming is based on twin and triple share where applicable.

Transport services are the same throughout and careful selection of vehicle type (16 or 52 seat modern tourist buses), are normally used. We are careful to plan the driving portions in the middle of the day (not at night), and that our drivers are not stretched beyond legal limits or dangerously long hours (our longest drive is approximately 2.5 hours).

Meals are prepared by our association team of cooks, or hotels, which are licensed under tourist classifications. On the Atlas treks, food is provided via the camp – which works consistently with international travel groups. Bottled water is recommended throughout and is widely available and inexpensive.

SAFETY & SECURITY

Adventurebug is highly committed to ensuring the best measures of safety and security are attended to throughout travel of this nature in Morocco. We keep a close watch on our vehicles, drivers, hotels and regions of travel. In over 20 years of operations leading school groups and expeditions with corporate clients, tour operator services and international charity events, we have had NO serious incidents outside of mild travel illness.

We are indebted to the school staff for participating and we ask that they take charge of the daily and nightly supervision and care for their pupils while the Adventurebug team can focus on the trip logistics, organization and safety measures of the provided activities.

Setting boundaries and time parameters is important and we ask pupils and staff to respect these throughout the journey. Matt will be giving regular briefings on this subject where required.

Adventurebug will provide a detailed RISK ASSESSMENT and EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN for the program. Although it may not prevent mishaps (some things are beyond our control), it does aim to handle any incident or scenario in an efficient and professional way.

In the event of any health issue, emergency or illness. Adventurebug relies on a network of private professional medical centers (where accessible), and this detail is outlined in our EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN. However, at the same time on must accept that travelling in the remote developing world can be restrictive in terms of what level of care is always available. We are committed to doing our best in response to what emergency may occur. **IT IS OBLIGATORY THAT PARTICIPANTS HAVE FULL TRAVEL INSURANCE WITH EXPATRIATION IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCIES OR ILLNESS.**



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