



## 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

## Adventurebug MOROCCO Multi Activity & Community Development

EVENT FOCUS:	School (secondary) Visits to carry out Development Projects
EVENT DURATION:	7 nights & 8 Days
EVENT STYLE:	Educational / Community Service / Culture & Adventure Travel
LOCATION:	Morocco Central & South / Atlas Mtns & Sahara Desert Regions



### About this Experience

Morocco is a land of contrasts - where Africa meets Europe and the Middle East adds its own flavor. Considered a moderate Islamic state, Morocco opens its doors to everyone regardless of ethnicity, religion or political status. From ancient philosophers and scholars to Bob Marley and Jimmy Hendrix, Morocco has hosted many! If you're looking for a colorful and diverse experience, this is the place. From the wild markets of *Marrakech* to the snowy peaks of the *Atlas*, the silence of the *Sahara* and pristine beaches of the *Atlantic*, Morocco is simply amazing. Our journey combines the best of

everything – *cities, villages, mountain, desert, music, food, shops and the coast*, plus opportunities to do community services and some fun adventure activities along the way! Expect plenty of interaction with the friendly Berber tribes' people of North Africa. Learn their unique drumming, practice the language and taste the delicious food. We'll fill your week with a lifetime of memories and educational experiences that are second to none.

### Highlights

- Full travel circuit of Morocco that includes *Casablanca, Marrakech, the Atlas Mountains, Sahara Desert, Berber tribal villages and the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean.*
- Adventure activities such as *camel trekking, rock climbing, canyon walk, dune tumbling, rappelling, adventure challenges, nature treks, desert camping and more.*
- Community Service volunteer projects with the Berber culture.
- Visits to historical monuments and famous movie locations.
- A beach afternoon at Casablanca's Atlantic coast.
- Character hotels (some with pools), and safe, modern and reliable microbus transports





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### 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 tour with Matt.

*Adventurebug has led travel programs, large expeditions, challenge events and tours for over 12 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. We are happy to provide references from a wide range of cliental worldwide.*

## Itinerary

### Day 1 / ARRIVAL – TRANSFER TO MARRAKECH

ARRIVAL Casablanca followed by transfer direct to Marrakech via toll motorway (2.5 hours). Pack lunch for journey included. Evening walk through Marrakech's exciting souk including the *Jemaa El Fnaa square*, a living theatre with snake charmers, acrobats, story tellers, astrologists and more. Our hotel is a Riad in the heart of the medina with great shopping and sightseeing right out the door. Lunch and dinner provided today.



### Day 2 / TELOUET & AIT BENHADOU

After breakfast we transfer by private mini buse(s) over the high Atlas Mountain pass of Tizi-N-Tichka. This fascinating national road offers us breathtaking views in all directions. Our first destination is the valley of Telouet where we offer our services to a small development project in this impoverished mountain region. We'll also have a look at the remains of a former Kasbah (fortress) that controlled the caravan trade routes for many years. We then carry on towards the Sahara desert to Ait Benhadou (famous for Hollywood films such as *Gladiator*, *The Mummy*, *Kingdom of Heaven* and *Lawrence of Arabia*). We spend the night here in a comfortable tourist class hotel that has a small pool and a great terrace overlooking the Hamada (stone desert of the Sahara). Perhaps we get involved in some local drumming this evening with our hosts! Travel time approximately 4 hours total. All meals included today.

### Day 3 / TODRA GORGE

This morning after exploring the famous Kasbah and film locations of Ait Benhadou, we set off for *Todra Gorge* – a vast canyon of the Atlas Mountains. Before Todra, we'll have a stop at Skoura in the *Valley of a Thousand Kasbahs* for a light trek through the date palm oasis to observe the strange sand castle-like homes. Soon after we reach our hotel in the canyon and spend some time exploring on foot and if time permits, we can rock climb with your guides and get involved in some creative challenges and games. Travel time approximately 3 hours total. All meals included today.

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### Day 4 / THE SAHARAN DUNES

Today we head for the great Sahara dunes of *Erg Chebbi* – Morocco’s most authentic location. Before leaving however we take part in a few adventure challenges in the canyon and a short trek through an amazing oasis plantation, perhaps visiting a Berber home for mint tea. Carrying on to the dunes, we arrive late afternoon to find our camels waiting to take us (2 hours approximately) to a unique Bedouin style desert camp where we sleep in comfortable tents under the stars. Time permitting we can explore the high dunes and climb, jump, roll, etc. to our heart’s content! Tonight we enjoy Sahara Berber drumming and perhaps a fire to keep us warm – unless you prefer to dance! This experience is a highlight of any visit to Morocco. Travel time approximately 4.5 hours total. All meals included today.



### Day 5 / OUARZAZATE

This morning we make a pilgrimage up the high dune to catch the sunrise over the desert – A moment that lasts a lifetime... After breakfast our camels guide us back to civilization and we transfer via the southern desert road with spectacular scenery to the bustling market town of Ouarzazate. Here we tour a film studio and have some time for shopping and exploring the markets. Ouarzazate was an important center on the camel caravan between Tomboktu and Marrakech, it still has an exciting frontier feel about it. Tonight we stay in Ouarzazate in a comfortable hotel with a small pool. Travel time approximately 6 hours total. All meals included today.

### Day 6 / ASNI COMMUNITY SERVICE

Today we leave early to return over the high Atlas and onto *Asni*, a small agricultural region on the foothills of the Atlas. Here we get involved in on-going community projects that assist the region. We will interact with children in education, games and sport as well as helping with some light infrastructure work and perhaps even an agriculture project. Part of this experience will be a light guided trek through the villages to gain an idea of what Berber life is like here. Accommodation is in the Association building (Berber style), where large simple rooms are provided with mattresses on the floor. The building, used another international school, is simple but clean and safe for our purposes. All meals are provided by the Association volunteers and our group can offer a hand with all preparations. This is a very rewarding experience and an opportunity to both learn how NGO volunteer projects work, and to give back. Travel time approximately 5 hours total. All meals included today.

### Day 7 / CASABLANCA

Today we return to Casablanca and have an afternoon of relaxation, last minute souvenir shopping, optional sightseeing and if the weather cooperates, a bit time on the beautiful Atlantic beach Casablanca is known for! November can be a chilly time in the ocean but it’s a great location for relaxing after the adventure. Tonight we stay in a comfortable hotel near the city center. Travel time approximately 3.5 hours total. All meals included today.



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### Day 8 / CASABLANCA DEPARTURE HOME

After breakfast we can make a small tour of Casablanca's highlights before heading for the airport. Departure time early afternoon (14:30). Breakfast only included today.



### INCLUSIONS

*1 free staff provided and additional staff places are priced at a modest discount*

- 7 nights accommodation (twin, triple and some quad share)
- Land transport in private licensed tourist class microbus(s)
- Airport transfers as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in itinerary
- Camel trekking and dune camp
- 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
- Limited material costs 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 guides and drivers in Morocco*

*Drinks at meals*

*Telephone or miscellaneous hotel charges*

*Additional entrance fees and attractions*

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**Adventurebug Worldwide Community Service Programs**



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### REGISTRATION DETAILS

Please consult us directly for our registration and info pack.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (about Morocco)

Morocco has few annoyances or serious health problems. Society is non-violent and the Arab Spring of 2011 was little more than public demonstration in a few large cities. The King of Morocco has had his recent constitutional change accepted by the people – and so far it has been a success. Harassment to buy items in the market place 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 a risk in November.

- *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 on this tour will be in the form of a private mini bus (possibly two – numbers pending). A certified 'tour operator' 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 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.*
- *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.*
- *Gifts for children and donations. Through our foundation Rifcom, we appreciate 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 – additional donations to Rifcom Foundation are gladly accepted via our Gibraltar office.*

### ACCOMMODATION, TRANSPORT & MEALS

We have selected a range of suitable accommodation for your school group. All lodgings are 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 high standard. Some hotels have pools and gardens, others are simpler. The Akchour Association building is a charity project in which visiting international schools utilize for lodgings. It is simple and we utilize the space by sleeping on the floor – mattresses provided and there are simple bathrooms and a shower facility for both genders. Our desert tent camp contains twin share tents (or group tent scenarios), with mattresses provided on the sand. There is also a washing and toilet area at the camp. All rooming is based on twin and triple share where applicable. Single room accommodation can only be offered (limited) to the support staff only. Transport services are the same throughout and careful selection of vehicle type (16 seat modern tourist minibuses with seatbelts), 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 6 hours, with plenty of stops).

Meals are prepared by our hotels, which are licensed under tourist classifications. In the desert, food is provided via the camp – which works consistently with international travel groups. Bottled water is recommended throughout and is widely available and inexpensive.

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### 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.**

### KIT LIST:

Please bring few items as you are required to carry ALL your own luggage. We recommend a small duffel bag or back pack. **DO NOT BRING SUITCASE OR ROLLING BAG!** This is a 'UNITED NATIONS' style community service expedition, so be prepared to rough it beyond normal expectations!

- \_\_\_ Clothing you can work in and get paint on, make dirty, muddy and wet
- \_\_\_ Good footwear or trainers / trekking shoes or boots (walking 2 hours day minimum)
- \_\_\_ Extra pair of shoes to wear if first ones get wet (and socks)
- \_\_\_ Work gloves
- \_\_\_ Loose casual wear for evenings (non formal)
- \_\_\_ Raincoat or 'good' poncho **(THIS IS A MUST! THE RIF MOUNTAINS HAVE RAIN)**
- \_\_\_ **Sleeping bag**
- \_\_\_ Warm clothes for mountain weather (hat / gloves too)
- \_\_\_ Toiletries (tooth brush, soap, shampoo, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Towel
- \_\_\_ Torch (head torch)
- \_\_\_ Hand wash (optional) antibacterial – for washing hands before meals
- \_\_\_ Small day pack for carrying lunch / water / rain coat during the days out
- \_\_\_ Camera / batteries **(NOTE – CHARGING OF PHONES IS VERY DIFFICULT WHERE WE ARE!)**
- \_\_\_ **WATER BOTTLE** – essential – we will NOT distribute plastic bottles anymore!
- \_\_\_ A musical instrument and / or your favourite ART or DRAMA supplies or activity!
- \_\_\_ Other: French phrase book, small gifts for students, address cards to give out



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### DONATION ITEMS:

The region is very poor and there's a lack of warm clothing, rain protection and footwear. If you can donate any clothing items like this please bring them along – YOU WILL HAVE TO CARRY IT OVER YOURSELF (and it will be MOST APPRECIATED!).

Other items include books (non religious themes), sport and game equipment and even some electronics that still work like mp3 players and cameras. Footballs or ANY kind of football kit would be massively appreciated!

School supplies such as pens, pencils, rulers, compass, calculators and more are very handy too.

### DO's & DON'Ts – A ROUGH GUIDE:

- Do:** *Communicate with everyone locally and just be your self*  
*Practice some Moroccan Arabic language and learn a local song or two!*  
*Help out with the camp, the tidying up and the LEADERSHIP of the projects*  
*Enjoy yourself and don't feel guilty that you have so much and they have much less*
- Don't:** *Take photos of adults or children without their consent*  
*Drink the water from any tap – use bottle water*  
*Sit back and wait for things to happen – take initiative and get STUCK INTO the projects!*  
*Bring loads of material things for yourself, travel LIGHT and make space for donations instead*  
*Smoke anything you 'find' or has been offered to you – it's a criminal offence and jail is harsh and you will be made an example of, even as a minor...*



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## Rifcom-Adventurebug Expeditions / Pre-Event



Before we set off, our own charity (NGO), RIFCOM ([www.rifcom.org](http://www.rifcom.org)), needs your help! To make these expeditions a real success for everyone, it's important we start the GROUND WORK now... Here is a template we like to work from. **QUESTION FOR PUPILS:** What projects will you participate in?

### 1. THE RIFCOM INFORMATION PACK

We need a 'dossier' of about the regions we are visiting... Can you find any of the following?

- a. *Infancy mortality rate*
- b. *Adult mortality rate*
- c. *Level of education (age most people reach)*
- d. *Number of days of school, main subjects, up to what grade, etc.*
- e. *Health information and statistics (disease, ailments, operations, recovery, follow up)*
- f. *Gross domestic product (how much money is earned by people?)*
- g. *Industry and commerce info (what makes the region 'tick'?)*
- h. *Political setup (how is it governed?)*
- i. *National Parks and Protected Natural areas (are there any? What is being done?)*
- j. *Economic Aid and Support (is there any, from where?)*
- k. *Religion and language (what are they?)*

### 2. MEDIA TEAM

We'll need a media team to organize the audio and visual aspects of this expedition. You'll need to 'script' your coverage so that a fair and well-rounded report is made. You can work with the local students on this too.

### 3. SOCIAL NETWORKING WITH OUR MOROCCAN COUNTERPARTS

We need to make contact with our counterparts in Morocco. Via social media – you are welcome to start with **Rifcom** on Facebook (or create a new site?), we can begin connecting now with the students and organizations on the Moroccan side.

### 4. PRE WORKSHOP PREPARATION

You will be taking part in workshops with students in the developing world. They have little experience with this and will be seeking your leadership. We recommend that you begin by deciding WHICH workshop(s) you will attend. Also, think about what you will contribute and how you will deliver this: WORKSHOPS

1. *Social Issues Workshop – A general language and cultural sharing group.*
2. *Art Workshop – Painting, sketching, sculpting, modelling, photography, etc.*
3. *IT Workshop – Interchange of IT skills and interests*
4. *Music Workshop – Sharing interest and skills in music*
5. *Drama Workshop – Theatre skills and performing*
6. *Sport / Games Workshop – Participating and Coaching games to others*
7. *Teacher Training Workshop – Offering teachers valuable resources and methods*
8. *Infrastructure and Engineering Workshop – Helping with hands on projects*
9. *Health Workshop – Looking at state of health and care services available*



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10. Environmental Workshop – Creating a model for sustainable conservation
  11. Tourism – What works and what doesn't
  12. Industry and Innovation – What's happening now and what COULD happen next
  13. Creation of a short promo video about your group's life in Spain and at Sotogrande

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DO ANY OF THE ABOVE, IT WILL PREPARE YOU BETTER FOR THE ADVENTURE AHEAD. IT ALSO OPENS UP YOUR EXPERIENCE BEFORE TRAVELLING SO YOU CAN BE EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE ON THE GROUND ONCE IN MOROCCO!**



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## EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES

### General Expeditions / Tours / Charity Events

The following is an EMERGENCY PROTOCOL designed to assist *Adventurebug Leaders, Company or Organizational Reps* and all *participants* with what procedures to follow in the event of an emergency, illness, accident or lost persons on general tours or expeditions.

#### SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS DURING EMERGENCIES:

Please note that **all** Emergency Scenarios are unique and in foreign countries, it can be unpredictable what form of medical assistance is available at any given time. As a result, it is imperative that we accept the following guidelines:

1. *Helicopter rescue IS NOT a consistent option in all locations of the world – even in Europe and North America. Alternative evacuations must be carried out by lifting (human), vehicle shuttles, possibly by animal (horse, camel, mule) and in the best-case scenario, ambulance vehicle service.*
2. *Ambulance Paramedic service IS NOT always readily available in the regions that we are both travelling by road and trekking.*
3. *Trip leaders have First Aid training and Matt Butler (if present) is qualified in Mountain First Aid.*
4. *Specialty items such as a defibrillator, intravenous treatment and / or emergency operation procedures are not always available in the remote areas of this excursion – evacuation of the casualty is essential!*
5. *Emergency evacuations in very remote locations, when required, regardless of the severity of injury or illness, will be carried out by whatever means of transport we find available. The procedure would initially be:*
  - *First utilize helicopter, 4x4 or vehicle support to assist in the shuttle.*
  - *Or hire a car, taxi, van or other private vehicle to assist in transferring any casualty.*
  - *Or, best case scenario, locate an ambulance (subject to availability and access).*

#### HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ABROAD

Your expedition leader will have on hand, the listing of nearby hospital facilities nearest your activity site.

In the event that LIFE THREATENING emergency services are required (*respiratory illness, fractures, traumas, allergic reactions, digestive emergencies, etc.*), the following procedures apply:

#### 1. IF LIFE THREATENING:

- a) *Immediate transfer to listed hospital emergency services that provides life-sustaining treatment (ie. Defibrillators, intensive care ward, etc.). Transfer time and method to such a facility is UNPREDICTABLE and best efforts will be made for a safe transfer via the options listed above (under Support and Logistics during emergencies).*
- b) *Once a casualty's vital signs have stabilized and they can be downgraded from intensive care, a decision will be made regarding follow up treatment and recovery.*

#### 2. IF NON LIFE THREATENING:

This may categorize injuries such as breaks and sprains, general illness, fatigue, stress, etc. that may/may not require medical attention but **do not** warrant intensive care treatment.

- a) *For breaks that require cast / splinting (normally need treatment in first 3 hours) it's imperative to visit the local medical facility.*
- b) *For illness, fatigue, stress related problems, we will try to deal with the scenario on the expedition itself and if this is not manageable, proceed to evacuate the casualty to nearest hospital or hotel for further recovery.*



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### POSSIBLE HAZARDS ON TREKS & EXPEDITIONS

(general / not rated for severity):

- Exhaustion – physical strain and fatigue
- Hypothermia (cold) or Heat exhaustion
- Dehydration – lack of water intake and electrolyte imbalance
- Heart attack / stroke – More risk for those over 30 years old
- Injury to limbs / broken bones – twisted ankles and knee strain
- Previous illness links – problems associated with other illnesses
- Accident (vehicle) – road vehicle accident risk tour

### General Guidelines for Adventurebug Trip Leaders & Volunteers

In the event of any emergency it's important to stay calm, get all the facts and be sure that you and others around you are safe and accounted for. Every situation is unique and a calm, cool approach is necessary before action can be taken!

### Recommendations for Safe Practice on Adventurebug Excursions:

1. Ensure a FIRST AID kit is carried on all days
2. Ensure Activity Leaders set safety boundaries for participants and give warning to any possible hazards including weather patterns, terrain, wildlife and any items of nature that could be a danger.
3. Ensure that a leader is ALWAYS present when participants are in water, rivers, etc.
4. Ensure that adequate research is done regarding weather patterns / tidal charts, wind estimates, etc.
5. Communication system in place between groups and their supervising leaders.
6. Always watch out for one's personal safety in areas of outdoor pursuits and double check on fellow peers when doing activities.
7. Ensure that an escape route / plan is in place and / or provisions for repatriating an injured or sick from an activity site (this is done on a continual basis with our local guiding team – every part of the route is considered with GPS, topo maps and in consideration of what tracks / roads are available for any evacuation).

### In the event of any accident or serious illness scenario:

1. If working with a team of guides – tell them what has happened and they will launch their own emergency procedures. If not:
2. Provide any necessary First Aid to patient & call in further Emergency Services if necessary. Our first line of assistance is:
  - A. Dial 112 if in Europe (and Worldwide) for **any language** emergency response
  - B. Adventurebug (Matt Butler) (34) 635 817 819 (Office) (34) 952 894 308
3. Ensure the rest of group is together and not in any danger
4. If hospital services required, 1 trip leader or rep and / or 1 other group member accompany patient to hospital.
5. Ensure that a local language speaker is present (if no English is spoken)
6. Based on severity of incident, decide how to best continue activity session with rest of group.

### In the event of a lost person:

1. Ensure all other members of group are accounted for first.
2. Get as much information regarding location person last was seen.
3. Contact supervising monitor to advise.
4. Follow instructions of supervisor.
5. Keep rest of group in one place under supervision

When in the remote areas trekking, should a person not be found within 1 hour / and depending on environment / an emergency search and rescue must be carried out (with the help of local officials). In this case, dial 112 or the Guardia Civil in Spain at 062. *Note – this information is a guideline only and Adventurebug cannot be held responsible for the handlings and procedures – including outcomes of emergency responses.*