

Classic Toubkal Trek Information and itinerary



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Introduction

This classic one week challenging trek is one of the most popular in Morocco. Pick your time and you will see hardly anyone else.

Our trips summit Toubkal midweek so it avoids the weekenders!

In our view Morocco is an under-rated trekking destination as it probably has one of the most diverse variety of trekking routes within easy reach of the UK (under 4hrs flying time to Marrakech).

On arrival in Marrakech, you will be met by your Guide at the airport and transferred to your Riad within the Medina for your overnight stay.

If it is your first visit to Marrakesh, you will enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of both the Medina and the famous Djemaa el Fna square.

After breakfast the following day, you will drive to Imlil (90 mins), which is the start point of your trek.

After meeting your friendly trek crew, you will begin the trek. It will take you through some very varied countryside dominated by Berber villages (mountain people). Many of the villages are literally dug into the hillsides and you can be sure of a warm welcome wherever you go.

On the first day, the route goes over the Col de Tamatart (2227m) and continues to climb, camping at Assaro (2300m).

A longer day and big climb on day 2; up and over the Tizi n'lkemt (3550m) before descending and camping at 2900m.

An easier 3rd day on trek, down through Berber villages, passing the cold, green lake of Lac d'Infni. You will camp here (2263m). Take a dip if you dare!

Day 4 gets back into the climb, up and over the 3600m Tizi n'Ouannoms before reaching the Nelter Refuge (3200m); a large remote building which

marks the entrance to the ascent of Toubkal. You will stay here the night in preparation for your ascent the following day.

It is, on average a 4hr ascent to the summit and you will therefore need an early start to ensure that you reach the summit during optimal weather conditions. The weather is never guaranteed so you will need to be well prepared for all eventualities; the conditions can change rapidly in this micro-climate.

Although the descent will be much faster, there is a fair amount of scree on this route so trekking poles are a good investment to assist your footing and balance.

The height of the summit (4165m) is more than enough to catch those more susceptible to altitude sickness. A delayed headache might occur but it should subside as quickly as it appeared once you descend. You may have to rest a while if it persists.

On your descent, you will stop at the Refuge for a rest before moving on a little further down. On the final day, you will trek down to the start point, say goodbye to your trek crew and then return to Marrakesh by vehicle.

You should have enough time in Marrakesh on your return to get out into the Medina and/or perhaps experience a Hammam.

Details

Duration:
9 days UK - UK

Min/Max pers: 2/12

Max altitude:
4165m/13,664ft

Accommodation on trek:
Camping/Refuges

Dates: See website

Cost: £525

Our trips formally begin and end in Marrakesh

When to go

In general terms:

Mid May - Sep inclusive

Variations on the route are possible to allow year round trekking. Ask for details.

Travel and Trek Limited is a truly independent company specializing in adventure trekking and touring. We pride ourselves on the personal touch and whether you are travelling solo or in a big group, we can adjust itineraries to suit you.

Important information

Costs

Costs are based on 2 people sharing and are per person (singles see below)

Fully Bonded

Your money is safe. We are protected by Insurance Passenger Protection (IPP), which protects YOU against OUR insolvency.



Trek Dossier

On booking, you will receive a comprehensive Trek Dossier, which includes:

- Clothing and equipment list
- Medical notes (including vaccination requirements)
- What to do on arrival in Marrakesh
- Food, money and more...

Airport arrivals

We pick you up on arrival and transfer you back on departure.

Passports

Passports should be valid for a minimum period of 6 months on the date on entry into Morocco.

Tourist Visa

A tourist visa is not required for UK Nationals.

Itineraries

Day 1 of your itinerary is deemed to be your departure day from the UK.

Hotel Accommodation

We use typical Moroccan Riads (hotels), which are of 3* standard with very friendly staff to attend to your every need. Our costs are based on a B&B basis, twin share. All rooms are en suite. If you wish to use a higher grade hotel, then please ask us for details.

Accommodation on Trek

This is a camping trek and you will be accommodated in 2 man tents.

Food on Trek

All food is included and prepared by a very skilled Camp Chef. Please inform us if you have any dietary requirements such as vegetarian.

Singles

Travel and Trek does not believe in penalising single travellers unnecessarily. If you are a single traveller and do not request sole occupancy of a room, you will be accommodated with another member of the group of the same sex.

If there is an odd number travelling and you happen to be the odd one out then you will be allocated sole occupancy. You may be charged a small additional cost for this, typically £20 per hotel night (not for nights in tents!).

If you do wish to request sole occupancy throughout all or part of the trip, then call us for advise.

Extended Stays

You are free to extend your stay in Morocco with extra days before or after the trek. We can assist you with accommodation if you wish or you are free to make your own arrangements.

Our Guides

Our personable Moroccan Guides are all qualified, licenced, English speaking Guides with a wealth of experience and knowledge.

Fitness

Walking in the Moroccan mountains does require a certain amount of fitness, primarily endurance. A reasonable level of fitness based on the ability to walk at a comfortable pace for 6 - 7 hrs a day (with rest stops), for several consecutive days carrying a day sack weighing approx 6—7 kg is all that is required.

High Altitude

High altitude also brings its challenges for some. This trek sleeps no higher than 3200m although it does summit at 4165m, which is well into altitude sickness territory. Due to the base altitude being relatively low, any discomfort you may experience should be short lived.

Clothing and equipment

A comprehensive list is provided on booking.

Medical/Vaccinations

You are advised to consult your GP if you are in any doubt about your physical condition to undertake your chosen trek. Whilst we do provide information on vaccinations, you should also seek professional advice on what vaccinations you require for Morocco and other locations should you have an extended trip. For planning purposes you should need: Hep A, Typhoid, Tetanus, Polio and Meningitis.

Local Payments

Travel and Trek does not charge any local payments.

Travel Insurance

It is absolutely vital that you have adequate travel insurance. See the section in this document.

Expert Help

If you have any queries in the planning stage of your trip, call our experts on 01476 562763 or 07725 943108

How To Book

- Complete the booking form (downloadable from the website) and return it with a deposit of £150 pp.
- Booking forms can be completed electronically and returned as an attachment to an e-mail.
- Details of payment options are on the booking form.
- Balance payments are due 10 weeks prior to departure.

Trip inclusions and exclusions

Inclusions

- Return international airport transfers
- Hotel accommodation in Marrakesh, total 2 nights on a twin share, B&B basis
- Tented accommodation throughout the trek (twin share), including foam sleeping mats
- All food on trek, including plates, cups, utensils
- All ground transport required to and from the trek
- Services of an English speaking, qualified Moroccan Guide throughout the trek
- Porterage
- Comprehensive Trip Dossier and other associated documentation

Exclusions

- International flights
- Personal spending
- Staff gratuities, advice will be given if required
- Personal travel insurance

Marrakesh



No trip to Morocco would be complete without visiting Marrakech.

A city to whet your appetite; one that conjures up a picture of an ancient walled city within which traders ply their goods and find entertainment – it is still true today.

All Travel and Trek trips begin here.

You will be accommodated in a local, traditional Riad a few minutes away from a square full of entertainment - the Djemaa el Fna. This square comes alive after dusk with the bright burning lamps of the food stalls, the story tellers, the musicians all entertaining the tourists and locals alike.

The Medina is also on your doorstep; it is a myriad of lanes that lead to many Souks (markets) selling local crafts such as carpets, leather goods, metalwork, wooden crafts and specialist foods including spices

Itinerary

1 Arrive Marrakesh

Our trips formally begin and end in Marrakesh.

You will be met at the airport and transferred to your traditional Moroccan Riad (hotel) inside the Medina.

Once you have settled in, you will want to experience the famous Djemaa el Fna square. Your first experience of the square is one of a senses explosion; entertainers performing, a myriad of food stalls all lit up with the smells to accompany them, and the general melee of activity.

Enjoy your first traditional Moroccan meal.

2 Depart for Imlil, begin trekking, camp at Assaro (2300m)

After breakfast, you will depart and drive into the High Atlas mountains to the town of Imlil. This is just a 90 min journey.

Once you have met your trek crew, complete with mules, you will be on your way.

The first let will take about 4.5 hrs to Assaro via the Col de Tamartart (2227m).

3 Assaro - Foot of Tizi t'Ourai (2900m)

It is an early start for the long climb up to the Tizi n'lkemt (3550m), passing shepherds with their flocks of sheep and goats.

Lunch is 2450m after which, the trek continues to the camp at the foot of the Tizi t'Ourai (2900m).

About 6.5hrs

4 Trek to Lac d'Infni (2263m)

A very pretty and longish descent down to the berber villages with their traditional architecture.

You will pass the Lac d'Infni, a very green and cold looking mountain lake. Have a dip if you dare!

The camp is at the side of the lake. About 6 hrs.

5 Lac d'Infni - Nelter Refuge (3200m)

Another early departure to climb up to the Tizi n'Ouannoms (3600m).

It's then a nice descent to the Nelter refuge (3200m) where we camp at 3200m.

A shorter day today, with a chance for a rest in the afternoon.

6 Toubkal (Summit Day) - trek to Sidi Chamharouch (2300m)

A pre-dawn start for the ascent of Toubkal (4167m).

The terrain varies and can be steep in places. You will also highly likely cross patches of snow.

There are some great views from the infamous triangle that marks the summit.

The descent is by the same route. Once back at the Refuge, you can take a little rest before descending further to camp near the village of Sidi Chamharouch.

It is a long day; close to 9 hrs with a 1000m of ascent.

7 Trek to Imlil and transfer back to Marrakesh

In the morning, it is a descent to the point where the trek begun, meet the transport and head back to Marrakesh.

The afternoon is free.

8 Departure

You will be transferred back to the airport for your flight to UK at the appropriate time.

Travel Insurance

It is absolutely essential that you have adequate travel insurance. Be truthful to your insurance company about precisely what activities you are undertaking and to what altitude (max). Failure to do that may invalidate your policy.

To fly a patient back to the UK under any form of medical supervision (ie on a stretcher) is estimated to cost well into £000's.

In terms of activities for insurance purposes, you are trekking. There is no climbing involved.

This Foreign & Commonwealth Office link is a useful reference and recommended read:
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/staying-safe/travel-insurance/>

So What Happens If I Have An Accident?

If you have an accident that requires professional medical help, the first priority is to get you to the nearest medical station (provided that you can be moved). Your Guide and his staff will do this as quickly as possible.

The Guide will have a mobile phone and will know where to obtain a signal and who to call. Vehicular access may be possible otherwise it may be on a mule!

All in cases, the fastest and most appropriate method will be used; common sense must always prevail.

Please be aware that mobile coverage does not reach all parts of these mountainous areas and therefore delays may occur in contacting the relevant people.

Any serious injury that requires a helicopter will require the immediate involvement of your travel insurance company. They will be contacted and informed of the situation if you are unable to do so yourself. The insurance company should do the rest.

A Little Preparation May Save Your Life

Some insurance companies provide a very handy credit card sized card with all of their contact details on it. If your company does not, then try using this very handy website Ucardit.co.uk. Travel and Trek clients get a 10% discount.

For about £5 (including P&P), you get a virtually indestructible credit card sized card with all of your important information on it. You can either use one of three pre-designed Travel and Trek cards or design your own. An example is shown below. You can literally put whatever you want on it from flight details, mobile numbers, addresses, insurance details, etc...

To try it, go to the Home page, click 'Travel'. Then scroll down, bottom left, click on the 'Travel and Trek' banner and either use a branded template or design your own. These are example cards from the website (not full size).

