

## TOUBKAL ASCENT



Although just a short flight away from Heathrow, Morocco seems like a world away from life in the UK. This expedition to North Africa offers a chance to explore the cultural and geographical diversity of Morocco. From watching the snake charmers in the Medina square to exploring the stalls in the labyrinth of the market, Marrakech really lives up to it's mystical reputation. It's then off to the High Atlas to begin the real challenge, climbing the highest mountain in North Africa! The views over the mountains and deserts are breath taking, and offer a real contrast to the next phase of the expedition, which is a chance to relax in the charming fishing port of Essaouira.

## The trip ...

### Day 1 London – Marrakech

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Fly from London to Marrakech. We will be met on arrival and transferred to our hotel.

### Day 2 Marrakech - Assagou

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The morning will be spent in Marrakech, exploring the hidden sides of the town and the beautiful gardens and the famous square of Jemaa Elfna.

Marrakech is a vibrant city, as well as a market place where the southern tribesmen and Berber villagers bring their goods, spend their money and find entertainment. The heart of the city is Djemaa El Fna (the square), which is really no more than an open space in the centre of the city. This is the stage for a long-established ritual in which shifting circles of onlookers gather round groups of acrobats, drummers, pipe musicians, dancers, storytellers and comedians.

In the afternoon we will meet our team of mules, mule drivers, cook and guide at Imlil (1,700m). We will then begin our trek heading off towards Assagou (1800m), where we will camp for the night.



The longest established inhabitants of Morocco, the Atlas Berbers never adopted a totally orthodox version of Islam and the Arabic language has, even today, made little impression on their indigenous Tachelhait dialects. Their music and ahouache dances are unique. Berber women in the Atlas go about unveiled and have much higher profiles than their rural counterparts in the plains and the north. They perform much of the heavy labour - working in the fields, herding and grazing cattle and goats and carrying vast loads of brushwood and provisions. During the trek we will encounter Berber villages and meet children, visit houses, experience village life and see local craftsmen at work.

*Approx trekking time 2 hours.*

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### Day 3 Assagou – Imsker

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Today we trek uphill through pines to Tamarthe Pass (2,300m), where we will have panoramic views of the Atlas mountains. After a short break to take photographs of this stunning scenery we will continue our trek down to Imnane valley. We will then have lunch in the village of Arg (1600m), before continuing along the river to our camp at Imsker (1500m).  
*Approx trekking time 6 hours.*

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### Day 4 Imsker – Tiziane

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This morning we head for El Bour Pass (1550m), and then trek downhill to Imi Oughlad (1,400m). From here we carry on climbing progressively through junipers and oaks to Techt (2,100m). We then continue to the Azadene valley, finishing by the river at our camp for the night at Tiziane(1,600m).  
*Approx trekking time 6 hours.*

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### Day 5 Tiziane – Imin Talat

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This morning we start by trekking along the river towards the remote berber village of Tizi Oussema (1,850m). We then continue uphill to Azib N'Tzikerte(2,700m). After a break here we will continue trekking to Imin Talat (3,200m) where we will camp for the night.  
*Approx trekking time 6 hours.*

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### Day 6 Imin Talat – Neltner

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Today we will take the zigzag path to Auelzimz Pass (3,700m) where we will have stunning views of the valley right across to the plain of Marrakech. We will then start our descent towards our camp near the Refuge of Neltner (3,200m).  
*Approx trekking time 5 hours.*

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### Day 7 Neltner - Toubkal – Isswale

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After an early wake up and hearty breakfast, we then start our gradual climb to the peak of Toubkal (4,167m), the highest peak in north Africa – and our goal! Tired but exhilarated to be at the summit there will be time to enjoy the views – and our achievement – before heading back down the mountain. We will then head for our camp at Isswale via Sidi Chamharouche (2,300m). The rest of the afternoon will be free to relax.  
*Approx trekking time 8 hours.*

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### Day 8 Isswale – Essaouira

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After breakfast we head downhill to Imlil, where we will meet our vehicles. We will then set off for Essaouira (via Marrakech).  
*Approx trekking time 1hour.*

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### Day 9 Essaouira

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The coastal town of Essaouira is a wonderful, vibrant and colourful place, and enormous fun to explore! We can walk around the old ramparts for an excellent view of the city and the sea, set off down narrow streets to see whitewashed and blue-shuttered houses, visit the amazing souks and fine-tune our bartering skills! Heading towards the harbour, we can watch boats being built, and see fishermen unloading their plentiful nets of sardines, and many other fish. Later we can just chill by our hotel pool. Overnight in hotel in Essaouira.

### Day 10 Marrakech – London

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We head back to Marrakech and the airport for our return flight to the UK.

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#### The Itinerary

While Far Frontiers Expeditions will make every effort to provide the itinerary as presented, this is sometimes not possible and your patience and understanding are requested if the itinerary should change.