

TREKKING IN STYLE

IN THE HIGH ATLAS MOUNTAINS OF MOROCCO

**2 NIGHTS IN MARRAKECH,
2 NIGHTS IN ESSAOUIRA AND
5 NIGHTS IN THE MOUNTAINS**



TREKKING IN STYLE is a new concept in trekking that allows visitors to stay in luxury accommodation without all of the hardships traditionally associated with trips to this spectacular region. Combine your visit to the mountains with a stay in the exotic city of Marrakech and the sleepy coastal town of Essaouira.

Marrakech

Marrakech is a fascinating city that has long since been high on the list of places to visit by the discerning traveller. It comprises the ancient *medina* (old town) and the new town of Guéliz, with its neighbouring suburbs, which play host to modern restaurants, fast-food chains and big brand stores.

Marrakech is built around the 12th century Koutoubia Mosque whose beautiful minaret dominates the skyline and can be seen from almost every approach to the city. Any visit to Marrakech must include a visit



to the *medina* and its colourful *souk* (marketplace) where you can barter for carpets, leather goods, jewellery, lanterns and spices. Another must-see is the legendary Djemaa el-Fna, the busiest and most famous square in Africa, where snake charmers, storytellers, acrobats, medicine men and musicians compete for your attention.

There are several places to visit including the Majorelle Gardens owned by the late Yves Saint Laurent, the Menara Gardens, the Saadian Tombs, the medieval Medersa Ben Youssef (Koranic university) and the Musée de Marrakech.

Accommodation in Marrakech is on a bed and breakfast basis, giving you the opportunity to dine at some of the superb restaurants available in the city.



Essaouira

Essaouira, which lies approximately 105 miles from Marrakech, is a magical fortified coastal town on the Atlantic Ocean, built by the Portuguese in the 16th century. In total contrast to Marrakech, the pace of life here is relaxed and slow. Essaouira was made famous by Orson Welles who filmed *Othello* here, and





more recently by Jimi Hendrix and the Rolling Stones who stayed here in the 1960s.



Unlike Marrakech and Fes, there are no single places of major historical note to visit, but Essaouira in itself has become an historic location and is not to be missed. The fishing port creates a lively backdrop to the white painted buildings of the Medina. The souk is small when compared to that of Marrakech and easy to navigate without a guide.

Essaouira is a haven for artists and as such handmade works of art are to be found in abundance. Being a fishing port, fresh fish is readily available and lunch on the port is a must as the day's catch is cooked in front of you. The wide-sweeping beach offers windsurfing, kite surfing, camel and horse riding and quad bike excursions.

The High Atlas Mountains

The High Atlas Mountains, which dominate the skyline to the south of Marrakech, have always played an important role for the city, not least with regard to commerce.

With several peaks above 4000 metres, the Western High Atlas is part of a larger chain of mountains



that spreads from the Atlantic Coast in the west to Tunisia in the east. The mountains are home to the indigenous Berber people who have inhabited Morocco for at least 5000 years. The Berbers live in small clusters of earthen adobe houses which cling precipitously to mountainsides and are often only accessible by mule or foot.

Guests will stay on a full-board basis in our luxury accommodation at Dar Imlil (or the Kasbah) in the trailhead village of Imlil (just 40 miles from Marrakech, but seemingly a thousand miles from the hubbub of the city!), and also in our Trekking Lodge in the remote Azzaden Valley where peace and tranquillity prevail. All trekking is fully supported with a mule and muleteer to carry your luggage whenever required.

Our *Trekking in Style* package also provides each couple with their own personal mountain guide who will be on hand for the duration of your stay to help with planning treks. You can choose to walk as little or as much as you like!

Our treks take us from the village of Imlil along footpaths and mule tracks which mount through the lush, irrigated terraces, apple orchards and walnut groves to other villages where you will have a glimpse into a way of life that has barely changed for centuries, and where traditional values and hospitality have been largely unaffected by the outside world.

“HOW MANY MOUNTAIN REFUGES in the Alps offer rose water to sprinkle on your hands and face after a hard day's hike? If that and other traditional Berber touches sound tempting, then look no further...than the Kasbah du Toubkal's recently opened three-bedroomed lodge.”

Tala Skari, TIME Magazine



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Day 1

Private transfer from Marrakech Menara Airport where you will check in at your 4* hotel or luxury *riad* (a traditional Moroccan house with an interior garden or courtyard). Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis, giving you the opportunity to dine at some of the superb restaurants that Marrakech offers.

Day 2

After breakfast the day is free for you to explore the fascinating and vibrant city of Marrakech. Luxury accommodation at your hotel or *riad* is provided.

Day 3

After breakfast, your driver will take you to the seaside town of Essaouira, 105 miles from Marrakech, a journey of approximately 2.5 hours' duration, where you will check in at your luxury *riad*. Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis, giving you the opportunity to dine at some of the superb restaurants that Essaouira offers. This magical fortified coastal town is in total contrast to Marrakech and offers many photographic opportunities.

Day 4

After breakfast the day is free for you to explore the seaside town of Essaouira. Luxury accommodation at your *riad*.

Day 5

After breakfast, you will be taken to Imlil, a journey of approximately 4.5 hours' duration. Luxury accommodation will be provided at Dar Imlil. Depending on your arrival time there will be an introductory walk in the area and you will have the opportunity to discuss your preferences for walks and treks with your personal mountain guide. Dinner will be provided at Dar Imlil.

Day 6

A day to relax and enjoy free time in the Imlil area, or a chance to explore the Imlil Valley with your personal mountain guide. This can be separate morning and afternoon walks or one full day walk. Alternatively, you may wish to venture further afield to an outlying valley. A picnic lunch will be provided if required or lunch will be served at Dar Imlil. Dinner and luxury accommodation at Dar Imlil.

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Day 7

A supported trek of 3-4 hours' duration* with guide, mule and muleteer to our remote trekking lodge in the Azzaden Valley, a beautiful setting barely touched by the modern way of life. A picnic lunch en route with dinner and luxury accommodation at Azzaden Trekking Lodge is provided. You may wish to enjoy a relaxing *hammam* (steam bath) on arrival.

Day 8

After breakfast, a day to explore the stunning Azzaden Valley with your personal mountain guide. There are several treks of varying lengths to choose from. You may choose a moderate walk amongst the villages of the Azzaden Valley or a taxing 7-hour circular route passing the Lepiney refuge hut and the Tizi n'Tzikert col at 2930 metres, or indeed anything in between. Other options of a similar length include the slightly easier and very beautiful 7-hour circular walk passing the cols Tizi n'Teouti at 2450 metres and Tizi n'Tougdalt at 2700 metres. A picnic lunch en route will be provided on full day walks, otherwise lunch will be served at the Lodge. Dinner and luxury accommodation at Azzaden Trekking Lodge.

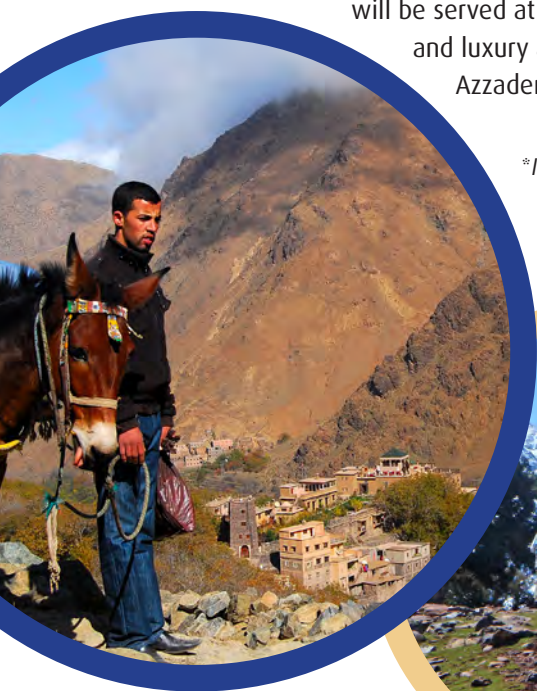
**longer routes available*

Day 9

After breakfast, depart Azzaden Trekking Lodge and trek back to Imlil via a route of your choice with your personal mountain guide. A picnic lunch en route will be provided. Dinner and luxury accommodation at Dar Imlil.

Day 10

After breakfast, return by private transfer to Marrakech Menara Airport for your departure.



COSTS



Trip reference: MEDLD

Two people sharing a room on a bed and breakfast basis for the first four nights, followed by full board basis throughout the five nights in the mountains (excluding flights and insurance):

1340 euro per person
990 euro single supplement

Included in the price...

- Private transfer from Marrakech Menara Airport on Day 1 to your 4* hotel or luxury riad and the return journey on Day 10 from Imlil. Private transfer to Essaouira on Day 3 and to Imlil on Day 5.
- The services of qualified mountain guide and muleteer throughout the mountain part of your trip.
- All food and soft drinks on a full board basis during your stay in the High Atlas Mountains and on a bed and breakfast basis during your stays in Marrakech and Essaouira. (Please feel free to bring your own alcoholic drinks if you wish.)
- The use of a private hammam when staying at all accommodation in the mountains.
- All taxes including a 5% levy to Village Association (further details on request).
- An upgrade to Kasbah du Toubkal may be available in lieu of accommodation at Dar Imlil (further details on request).
- All accommodation approximately 1800 metres above sea level.



CONTACT DETAILS



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