

DISCOVER

Multi-Centre Fieldwork Tours



Risk in Perspective

I have been visiting Morocco for over 20 years both personally and as a leader of 16 School trips from 8 to 28 days in duration. I have recently (October 2016) returned from a 12-day School trip to the Desert and Atlas. I have also been fortunate to lead School groups to Arctic, Himalayan, Andean and Tropical destinations.

With adventure comes risk and although safety is always a primary concern on all school trips it is important for parents and students to understand that factors such as the quality of mountain roads, the nature of the environment and the remoteness of some expedition locations make the risks of travel greater than in the UK and much of Europe. The most significant risks, which are road traffic and dealing with medical emergencies, often remain the same irrespective of destination.

In the time I have been visiting Morocco driving and the quality of roads have both improved as has the communication network with excellent mobile phone coverage. In terms of road transport and medical risks I feel that the country is now a safer destination than it was in the past.

As far as acts of terrorism are concerned then sadly almost every destination I have visited over the last 20 years has now experienced a terrorist event. The key factors that would concern me when planning travel are that there is an identified risk of terrorism significantly greater than that in the UK and/or signs of hostility towards travellers from local people. As far as these are concerned then at present Morocco does not raise any special concerns for me. Local people are as warm and hospitable as ever and the risk of terrorist activity is probably no greater than the one I face in everyday life at home or when travelling in Europe.

Each terrorist event is shocking and tragic but it is important to keep these in perspective when every year in the UK there are 20,000 serious injuries and 1,700 fatalities on the roads and around 250 fatalities in house fires. That 'common things occur commonly' is always worth keeping in mind – travel in daytime in the best quality vehicles, check how to get out of your room in a fire and think about some medical 'what ifs' – these are all likely to be more significant to your safety than changing your plans on the basis of a perceived terrorist threat.

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