

DISCOVER MOROCCO

Multi-Centre Tours in Morocco



GENERAL INFORMATION

Morocco is a country of enormous geographical contrasts. From its Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts, plains sweep inland to the foot of the forested Middle Atlas Mountains. Beyond, rise the High Atlas mountains with peaks over 4000m, before the long, dry, stony descent to the great emptiness of the Sahara. It is a country which embraces rich agricultural land, the oasis valleys in the south with their millions of palm trees, and barren mountains and desert. The bustling thrill of city souks and staggering landscapes inspire 'Awe and Wonder'. Such has been the diversity of cultural influences on Morocco over many centuries that visitors from Europe, the Middle East and Africa south of the Sahara all find familiar reminders of home. They also discover an extraordinarily exotic country where the trappings of the twentieth century have not yet obscured its medieval framework. Morocco is frequently described as the place where Europe meets Africa, but the 20km separating the northern tip from Spain across the Strait of Gibraltar could be 2000km!

DISCOVER LTD IN MOROCCO

Discover has worked in Southern Morocco and the High Atlas Mountains since 1976. In 1989 we started the process which led to the development of our base, "The Kasbah du Toubkal", in the High Atlas Mountains, for which we have subsequently been rewarded for our work in sustainable development and eco-tourism in Morocco. Our local contacts, resources and specialized knowledge enable us



to organise a range of tours which deliver the academic, experiential, cultural and recreational objectives that you have for your group. Over the years our reputation for offering exceptional school travel experiences has grown and the majority of our work is with schools, colleges and universities, organising study tours both in Morocco and at our field studies base, The Eagles Nest, in the South of France.





MOROCCO WITH DISCOVER LTD.

We have a range of tours of different lengths, based around Marrakesh, the High Atlas Mountains and the Sahara desert. It is up to you to choose the emphasis of your tour; we offer a fully bespoke service to all our groups. Whether you want to focus on the geography of this fabulous country with its incredible diversity of landscapes and issues associated with its rapidly developing economy, or on simply experiencing a dramatically different culture to your own, our experienced, friendly and knowledgeable group leaders are there to help you. We offer a range of tours to suit your educational needs:

A Taste of Morocco: 5 to 8 day two-centre tours which are based in Marrakesh and the High Atlas mountains. Discover this exciting and vibrant city before heading into the mountains for trekking, community work or geography or biology fieldwork.

Highlights of Morocco: 8 day three-centre tour. A fast-paced tour which takes you from the deep-south in Zagora, where you will ride camels and experience our Tuareg camp, to the High Atlas Mountains, before enjoying the vibrant city of Marrakesh.

Morocco Experience: 9 or 10 day three-centre tours. More relaxed tours of Marrakesh, the High Atlas Mountains and the Sahara desert, which enable you to explore more fully this friendly and exciting country.

Fieldwork:

A field studies trip to Morocco offers the opportunity for students to see, experience and study different issues whilst feeling sufficiently safe and familiar (most Moroccans speak French) to allow students and staff to relax and enjoy a different culture. After touring Morocco with us, many experienced geography and science teachers are surprised at the diversity, contrasts and text book examples of topics in their subject. Highlights for geographers are the contrasting living standards, especially the rural-urban divide and witnessing the resourcefulness of the people, particularly in agriculture, where intensive terracing and traditional irrigation systems have enabled people to live in extreme environments. Towards the Sahara, the classic arid landforms and geological features are a breathtaking backdrop to the trip.

Our typical itineraries take in several different environments, gives staff and students a broad insight into the human and physical geography of Morocco, a very rapidly changing, diverse country. These experiences can lead to a wider enthusiasm for the subject once they return!

You may wish to concentrate on geography and biology studies, using one of our tailor-written fieldwork units:

- Water cycle and water resource management
- Contemporary urban environments and regenerating places (Marrakech)
- Changing places – economic growth and challenge
- Ecosystems under stress





- Dry and arid lands, and desertification
- Arid environments and desert ecosystems
- Geographical skills
- Tourism and ecotourism

Trekking:

The focus of your tour may be trekking in the High Atlas Mountains. This can take the form of a day trek to one of several outstanding Cols in the Imlil basin, or even, at some times of the year, on a multi-day trek to a neighbouring valley, or the summit of Mont Toubkal, at 4165m the highest mountain in North Africa.

Community Work and CAS:

Alternatively, you may want to spend some of your time in Morocco 'giving back' to this fabulous country and its amazing people, who always surprise with their kindness and welcoming generosity. We have many projects in the Imlil valley to which your group may like to give of its time and energy, from repairing footpaths and irrigation channels, to litter collection and engaging local children in play and craft projects. You may like to fund-raise or collect materials for a



specific project before your trip, and spend your day in the Imlil area putting your efforts to good use. Past projects have included the construction of the village incinerator, ensuring a safe drinking water supply for the village, and working with the children in Imlil Primary School, listening to children read, playing games and doing craft work. Gifts of stationery and balls are always appreciated and will be put to good use! Please talk to us if you would like to fund-raise and take part in one of our larger projects.

Education for All Morocco:

Discover Ltd helped to found the charity 'Education for All Morocco', which builds boarding houses near to secondary schools, enabling girls to continue their education beyond the primary level. We remain extremely involved in this charity and are looking for schools who want to get active and help sustain the project, to fund-raise to support the girls and in return visit the project during their tour. Please contact us or visit our website for further information.

YOUR TOUR WITH DISCOVER LTD.

Accommodation:

In Marrakesh, Ouazarzate and Zagora, we use hotels offering basic but good accommodation, some with swimming pools. In the High Atlas, you stay in one of our village houses in Imlil, a Riad, or even the Kasbah du Toubkal. If you choose the three-centre tour option you may choose to go camel trekking, in which case you will camp out in a Tuareg desert encampment.

Transport arrangements:

To get to Morocco, we can arrange flights on behalf of your group, typically using Royal Air Maroc, at an approximate cost of £250-£360 per person, depending on time of year and availability. Flights are typically from London. Please discuss your requirements with us. Alternatively, you may choose to organize your own flights (Ryan Air and Easy Jet fly direct to Marrakesh from the UK), in which case staff pay for their flights but still receive the land-only free staff member for every 10 paying student.

Typically, all groups will be allocated their own transport (minibuses or coach as appropriate to the size of the group), for the duration of the tour. Occasionally, it may be necessary for small groups to combine for parts of the tour, for example airport transfers.

For the 10-day trips groups of 20 or more paying places will travel in a coach exclusively for their use. For smaller groups, Discover may need to combine your group with another for transport to Zagora, or a surcharge may apply.

Travel Itineraries:

Our typical itineraries detail our two- and three-centre tours. Itineraries may vary slightly due to the requirements of the group or logistical reasons. We are happy to arrange other itineraries to suit your individual requirements - perhaps prolonging the tour and visiting the coast at Essaouira or a different itinerary altogether. There is a supplement for camel trekking. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

Cost:

The cost is based on a minimum group size of 10 paying places, with 1 free staff place per 10 paying passengers. The final invoice price is fully inclusive and includes:

- Flights (additional cost as detailed) and insurance;
- All transfers in Morocco (taxi, local buses, coach/minibus);
- All accommodation, food and drink with meals;
- Hire of local guides and mules as required;
- Services of a Discover Ltd. group leader;
- DVD containing study units, background information and all health and safety and risk management procedures for the trip leader. Photocopy and distribute these resources as necessary for your group.

Important information:

Due to the physical nature of our typical itineraries, a reasonable level of mobility is required. Please contact us should anyone in your group have special needs such as learning difficulties or reduced mobility.

You will be asked to provide medical and dietary information prior to your tour. This will be treated in confidence and it is important that this information is returned to us not more than one month before the trip commences.



Making a Booking

The next step is to contact us to make a provisional booking, so that you know your dates are secure and you can begin to recruit your group. We will normally hold your provisional booking for one month.

If you have any queries, wish to discuss your trip in more detail or wish to make a provisional booking which we will hold whilst you recruit your group, please contact **Kate Crofts** at the Discover Ltd. UK office. Normal Office hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm:

Tel: 01883 744 392 | Fax: 01883 744 913 | kate@discover.ltd.uk

Further information about the many services offered by Discover Ltd. can also be found by visiting our websites:

www.discover.ltd.uk

www.kasbahdutoubkal.com

www.efamorocco.org

