

# Marrakesh and the High Atlas



## Day 1

Upon arrival at Marrakesh Menara Airport, your group will be met by your Discover guide and taken to your accommodation, the Hotel Foucauld in the ancient medina of Marrakesh. Depending on your arrival time, you may begin your exploration of this exciting city, and visit the Djemaa el-Fna, the infamous 'Place of the Dead', in the heart of the ancient city of Marrakesh. Dinner is taken in the hotel restaurant.

## Day 2

After breakfast, your Discover guide will accompany you and a local Marrakchi guide on a horse-drawn caleche tour around the city walls. You will spend the day exploring this enchanting city, perhaps bartering for goods in the souks, experience a local Berber apothecary, or carrying out a field study on the human geography of this rapidly developing city – a rapidly developing city in an LEDC, where youthful, dynamic and aspiring Moroccans live alongside more traditional Islamic culture. In the evening, you may choose to

return to the Square and spend time watching the local entertainers, where snake charmers and acrobats, fortune tellers and dancers vie for your attention, and visit the spectacular food stalls which make the atmosphere unforgettable...

## Day 3

After breakfast, your transport will take you to the High Atlas village of Imlil. Stops can be made en route to view some of the issues which affect a rapidly developing city in north Africa such as water supply and tourism. On arrival in Imlil, you will walk to your accommodation and settle in before lunch. After lunch, you may like to do a short trek to a tea house, and simply absorb the fabulous mountain scenery around you. Mount Toubkal (4165m), the highest mountain in North Africa, dominates the valley and always impresses. Dinner is taken in your accommodation, and evenings are spent reviewing the day, star-gazing, chatting and reflecting.



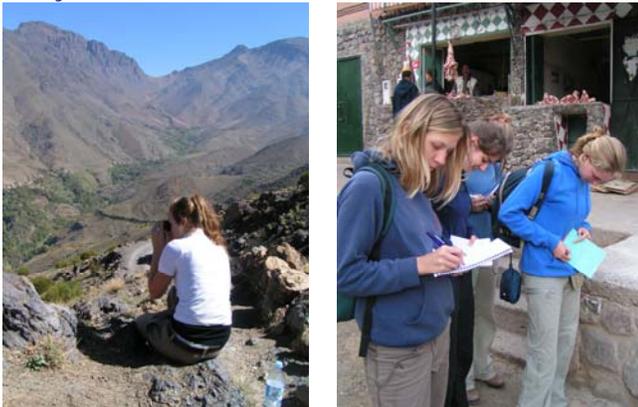
## Days 4, 5, 6

Your time in Imlil may be spent in a variety of ways:

**Trekking.** Trek from Imlil to one of several mountain passes from which you can view the mountain environment in all its splendour. With your Discover guide, a local mountain guide and mules will walk with you at your pace, and lunch is served as a Berber picnic on your arrival at your chosen vantage point. Awe and Wonder are the themes of your trek, as you discover this fabulous mountain environment, one of the world's classic mountain ranges. Alternatively, with more time available in the mountains, you may choose a multiple-day trekking trip, into a neighbouring valley, or even to the summit of Mount Toubkal.



**Fieldwork.** You may choose to spend your time in Imlil carrying out one of our fieldwork investigations. We have a range of studies enabling your students to study flooding and hazards in a mountain environment, river morphology, tourism and eco-tourism, cold environments, rural settlement, microclimates or ecosystems.



**Community work.** You may wish to spend your time in the mountains 'giving back' to the local community. We have many projects to which students can contribute their time and energy, from repairing footpaths to clearing irrigation channels, from clearing litter to engaging local children in play.



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 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!

## Day 7

This morning, you may like to visit the village of Imlil to chat with locals and perfect your haggling technique, perhaps enjoy a hammam (traditional Moroccan steam bath), or even just relax and reflect on your time in this vibrant country. After lunch, return to Marrakesh for your last night in this vibrant city.

## Day 8

Depending on the time of your return flight, you may have time to visit the Jardins Marjorelle, Yves St Laurent's fabulous garden in Marrakesh, before your return to Marrakesh Menara Airport for your flight.

