

Schools Worldwide

Group No. 1		Oswestry School						Ref. SW2913	
High Atlas Explorer				Morocco Itinerary				12	days
Morocco is an exciting and exotic destination for your group to visit. The vibrant city of Marrakech, with its bustling souks and busy streets, will provide a thrilling start to your trip where you will test your buying skills and enjoy the outdoor evening circus of the Djemma El Fna. 50km south, the High Atlas Mountains rise up out of the plains to an altitude of 4167m, the highest peak being that of Mt. Toubkal whose rocky ridges are separated by steep 'V' shaped valleys which spider outwards from its central point. Over the centuries, the endemic Berbers of this region have terraced and irrigated the otherwise bare hillsides and you will follow their winding mule tracks over high passes and through deep gorges from one impossibly positioned village to another.									
No	Day	Date	From	To	Activity	Description	Accomm	Meal plan	
1	Sun	6-Jul-08	UK	Marrakech	Arrive Marrakech	Fly from UK to Marrakech and stay overnight in the centre of the old part of Marrakech. Depending upon your flight arrival time, there may even be time to enjoy the early evening activities that take place in the Djemma El Fna, Marrakech's central square and just a stone's throw away from your hotel, where acrobats, storytellers, fire-eaters and snake charmers entertain locals and tourists alike.	Hotel	(D on flight)	
2	Mon	7-Jul-08	Marrakech	Oukaïmeden	Guided Tour	In the morning you will be given a 3-hour tour of the old city, taking in some of the palaces, the old Koranic school and the markets. After lunch in the hotel you will transfer to Oukaïmeden, a 2-hour drive along a good tarmac road. Oukaïmeden is situated at about 2700 metres, and here you will find flat, green valleys in which to stroll. Just behind the refuge are many sandstone boulders and on some of these you can find pre-historic rock engravings.	Refuge	BLD	
3	Tue	8-Jul-08	Oukaïmeden	Tacchedirt	High Atlas Explorer Trek Day 1	Using mules to carry the baggage you will ascend gently to the pass of Tizi n'ou Addi (2960 metres) after which the trail descends to the village of Tacchedirt in the upper Imenane valley, the highest village in the Atlas Mountains. Depending on conditions, there is an opportunity to ascend Oukaïmeden peak (3262 metres) on the way to the pass, but this is only for the very fit as it makes a long day. From Tacchedirt you follow the dirt road to a camping place near a gushing spring.	Camp	BLD	
4	Wed	9-Jul-08	Tacchedirt	Azib Likempt	High Atlas Explorer Trek Day 2	Above your camp is a huge stone filled bowl leading up to your next col, Tizi Likempt (3540 metres). A well-made and well-graded mule track takes you steadily up to the col from where you look down into the Tifni valley. You descend into the Tifni valley and then continue to the summer settlement of Azib Likempt, near which you will camp for the night. The Berber people live in these temporary 'azibs' only during the summer months, returning to their lower permanent villages for the winter.	Camp	BLD	
5	Thu	10-Jul-08	Azib Likempt	Azib Ouraine	High Atlas Explorer Trek Day 3	Today, you have a half day's trek along the delightful Tinzer valley, where the river cascades down in a series of tempting waterfalls and pools. After lunch at your campsite you have time to explore up to the head of the valley or even up to one of the nearby summits. This is often a chilly, windy place in the evening.	Camp	BLD	
6	Fri	11-Jul-08	Azib Ouraine	Amsouzerte	High Atlas Explorer Trek Day 4	A twenty-minute climb to Tizi Ouraine (3120 metres), the high point for the day. This is on the Atlas watershed, so from here you descend on the Saharan side of the mountains and soon notice just how much drier it is. You drop 1400 metres from the col to the village of Amsouzerte (1740 metres), which is connected by a dirt road to 'civilisation' and hence boasts some reasonably well-stocked shops. You will stay in another 'gite' and have the afternoon free to relax in the heat and to enjoy the relative comforts of the village.	Camp	BLD	
7	Sat	12-Jul-08	Amsouzerte	Amsouzerte	Optional Day Treks	Rest day in Amsouzerte. Optional daywalks are available to explore other villages in the area with you local guides.	Camp	BLD	
8	Sun	13-Jul-08	Amsouzerte	Lac D'Ifni	High Atlas Explorer Trek Day 5	Following the dirt road you head up the Islani valley towards Lac D'Ifni. Initially an easy and partly shaded walk, the gradient increases as it climbs up the terminal moraine, behind which you find the lake. An oasis in an otherwise barren landscape, Lac D'Ifni is the only lake in the area and provides you with a great opportunity to wash during the free afternoon that you will have here	Camp	BLD	
9	Mon	14-Jul-08	Lac D'ifni	Toubkal Base	High Atlas Explorer Trek Day 6	You need an early start today for the long ascent to Tizi Ouanoums (3664 metres). The path makes its way up a steep sided valley where there are many opportunities for water and rest stops. Depending on progress you may stop for lunch before crossing the col, or else you can continue to the other side. From the col you have your last look back to Lac D'Ifni, which has been hidden from view for most of the ascent. The descent on the far side is short but steep, again on a well-made path. You drop into the upper reaches of the Mizane valley and set up camp on the site below the Toubkal Refuge.	Refuge	BLD	
10	Tue	15-Jul-08	Toubkal Base	Aremd	High Atlas Explorer Trek Day 7	The ascent of Toubkal (4167 metres) is a 3 to 4 hour climb up a well-trodden track, which can be a little loose at times. You will take a simple pack lunch up with you so that there is no rush and you can linger a short while on the top of this, north Africa's highest, mountain. If the air is clear you will have fine views towards the Sahara. You can descend via a different route to rejoin with the wide mule trail back to Aremd. Aremd is the home of most of your staff who will hopefully join you in for a Berber style celebration in the evening.	Mountain Hotel	BLD	
11	Wed	16-Jul-08	Aremd	Marrakech	Transfer to Marrakech	After saying your last farewells to the Berbers early in the morning, walk down to the road head at Imllil, where you rendezvous with the minibuses that will take you back to Marrakech. You will be back in the hotel for lunch, and the afternoon is free for souvenir shopping in the markets and to enjoy the sight of the late afternoon and early evening activities that take place in the Djemma El Fna. You can sample more delights of Moroccan cuisine in the fine buffet that is usually available in your hotel.	Hotel	BLD	
12	Thu	17-Jul-08	Marrakech	UK	Arrive UK	This morning you will travel back to the airport for your flight back home to the UK.	Flight	B	

Flight Schedule Notes

All flight information will be detailed below once we have a reservation established with the airline. Please note that all flight dates and timings are given as "local time" and may alter at the carriers discretion. Amendments will immediately be provided to your Lead Teacher.

Date	Flight	From	Dep Time	To	Arr Time	Carrier
06/07/2008	AT801	Heathrow	1810	Marrakech	2200	Royal Air Maroc
17/07/2008	AT800	Marrakech	1110	Heathrow	1650	Royal Air Maroc