



Winter Toubkal Trek

6 - 10 Feb 2019
Open Charity Challenge



Challenge Highlights

Summit North Africa's highest peak (Mt Toubkal) with the added challenge of crisp and white winter conditions on this 3 day High Atlas winter trek

Empty trails, clear air and spectacular views from the summit, weather permitting

Achievable with a good fitness level, even if you're new to winter walking

Although a non technical climb, the use of crampons and ice axes is usually required

Explore the ancient walled city of Marrakech - voted world's best destination 2015



Fast Facts

Destination	Morocco
Difficulty	Moderate
Altitude	4167m
Trip Duration	5 days UK ~ UK
Nights on Trek	2 nights, 3 days
Nights in Hotels	2 nights
Meals	All meals on trek, B&B in hotels



Mt Toubkal Winter Charity Challenge

This challenge will take you to the summit of Jbel Toubkal (4167m), Morocco's and North Africa's highest peak, in testing winter conditions. It is a 3 day trek; 5 day overall trip UK - UK including travel.

This is a tough challenge under summer conditions but add the winter element and it spices it up a bit! Despite that, it requires little winter mountaineering experience as it is designed as a non-technical winter climb. Crampons and ice axes will be supplied and you will get plenty of instruction from your guide and time to practice using them before summit day.

Winter conditions here can be absolutely fabulous; crisp white snow and ice covering the entire terrain and can make progress underfoot easier if it's thick enough. You are highly likely to be trekking without anyone else (apart from your Guide); absolute bliss!

On arrival in Marrakech, you have an overnight stay before departing for Imlil early the next day. You will meet your wonderful support crew before heading straight up to the imposing French Alpine Refuge at Neltner. A safe place in all weathers, this is your base for 2 nights to enable the summit to take place.

Summit day can be tough, weather depending. It's a pre-dawn start and a 4 - 5 hr ascent is normal with the decision whether to, and where to, put the crampons on will be with your experienced Guide although most of the time, it will be obvious. The weather, physical exertion and the altitude will all have a bearing on your success. The view from the top is quite extensive if it's clear.

On your final trekking day, you will descend to Imlil, say good bye to your trekking crew and travel back to the colourful and captivating city of Marrakech where you will have time to enjoy a Hammam or explore the famous Djema El Fna, Marrakech's main square and the endless maze of markets in the Medina.

This trip provides an excellent short challenge in what can be very demanding conditions at worst and superb winter conditions at best. Your local guide can tell you all about the local culture and traditions, so you get an amazing insight into the region.

To sum up the challenge...

A physical challenge to summit North Africa's highest peak, Jbel Toubkal (4167m) in winter when trails are empty and the air is clear and crisp!



Why choose our Mt Toubkal Winter Charity Challenge?

No supplements of fuel charges

Our trip costs include all your flights related costs so you won't have to cover an unknown additional cost at a later date.

Early Guarantee Status

Our challenges are guaranteed to run once we receive bookings from between 2 and 6 people depending upon the trip. This means you can fundraise safe in the knowledge that your trip will go ahead and not be cancelled due to low numbers at the last minute.

Low Minimum Number

Our trips are perfect for solo travellers wishing to book on their own to join a trip which is guaranteed at an early stage. Low Minimum numbers enables small pre-formed groups to tailor their trek to suit particular dates as opposed to joining a fixed group, and without incurring high additional charges.

Route through Marrakech

All of our trips to Morocco use Marrakech as the hub. It is a reliable flight destination with numerous options of flight carriers and therefore has a high degree of flexibility and resilience.

Flexible and Resilient itinerary

This is adventure travel and there can be numerous reasons beyond our control that can alter the intended plan. Our itineraries are sufficiently flexible and resilient to withstand a good deal of adjustments and still retain the aim.

Challenging but Safe

Weather conditions can often make our trips more challenging. There is a fine line between challenging and unsafe and we take pride in the experience of our Guides to make the right decisions combined with the support we have in place.

Qualified English Speaking Local Guides

We employ our local guides full time and we ensure that their training, including first aid, is renewed regularly. They know what they're doing, loved by our clients and they love their jobs.... and it shows!

No supplements to extend

If you wish to extend your trip in Morocco, we do not charge admin fees for using different departure and/or return flight dates. We're also happy to help you arrange your extended break.

All Meals Included on Trek

All meals on trek are freshly prepared for you by our experienced chef. All dietary requirements can be catered for including Vegan and Gluten free - just let us know.

Peace of Mind

All our trips have full ATOL protection. See the last page for full details.



Itinerary

Day 1. Depart UK, fly to Marrakech

For Land Only packages, your trip starts on arrival in Marrakech.

Fly from London on a direct flight to Marrakech. On arrival in Marrakech, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel/Riad. Once you have settled in, you will want to experience the famous Djemaa el Fna square.

Your first experience of the square is one of a senses explosion; entertainers performing, a myriad of food stalls all lit up with the smells to accompany them, and the general melee of activity.

Day 2. Depart for Imlil, begin trekking to Nelter Refuge (3200m)

After breakfast, you will depart and drive into the High Atlas mountains to the town of Imlil. This is just a 90 min journey. Once you have met your trek crew, you will be on your way. It will take between 5 and 6 hrs to reach the Refuge; a steady climb throughout the day. BLD

Day 3. Toubkal (Summit Day) - Return to the Refuge

A pre-dawn start for the ascent of Toubkal (4167m). The terrain varies and can be steep in places. Any ropes that are required will be carried by your Guide. There are some great views from the infamous triangle that marks the summit. The descent is by the same route. Overnight at the Refuge. BLD

Day 4. Descend to Imlil, transfer back to Marrakech

In the morning, it is a 4 hr descent to Imlil where you will say goodbye to your trek crew. The transport will take you back to Marrakech.

The have the rest of the day and evening to explore the city. BLD

Day 5. Depart for London

At the appropriate time, you will be transferred back to the airport for your return flight home. B

Note - B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner

Inclusions

- International flights London - Marrakech - London
- Return airport transfers in Marrakech
- Fully qualified English speaking local guides from arrival in country
- Private road transfers to and from the trek
- All accommodation during your trip on a twin share basis
- All meals on trek and B&B in hotels
- Local porter assistance on trek (mules)
- All necessary trek and National Park access permits
- Challenge Manual containing everything you need to know
- Full support before and during your trip

Exclusions

Travel Insurance

This trip will require a policy that covers you for trekking up to a max altitude of 4167m and using crampons. Check any existing policies before taking out specialist insurance. Budget £60 for a stand alone policy.

Vaccinations

All standard boosters should be up to date. Please check with your GP or travel nurse for any additional requirements.

Tips for local staff

We would recommend you should set aside £35 in Moroccan Dirhams to be divided between the staff. Advice will be provided on our recommended ratio in our final travel information.

Personal spending money.

Challenge Costs

Self Fund	Minimum Sponsorship	Flexi Fund
Trip Cost £870	Trip Cost £870	Trip Cost £870
Deposit: £250 on booking PLUS Interim payment: £200 (7-8 months prior to departure) PLUS Final balance: £420 (60 days prior to departure)	Deposit: £250 on booking PLUS Fundraising Target: £1,240 (completed 10 weeks prior to departure) Interim payment paid by the charity	Deposit: £250 on booking PLUS Interim self payment: £200 (7-8 months prior to departure) PLUS Fundraising Target: £840 (completed 10 weeks prior to departure)
All funds your raise go to the charity	Min of £420 goes to the charity	Min of £420 goes to the charity

Payment Options Explained

There are 3 payment options to choose from when you sign up. With all 3, there is the initial deposit which is your personal contribution towards the cost of your challenge.

If you choose either the Minimum or Flexi Fund Options, the fundraising targets are the minimum amount you need to raise to make sure that the charity gains by a minimum of 50%. All funds you raise above the target will benefit the charity in full.

All fundraising targets are excluding Gift Aid.

Self Funded

This option allows you to pay the entire cost of your trip yourself. An interim payment is due 7-8 months prior to departure with the balance payment due 60 days prior to your departure. You can then make arrangements directly with your chosen charity and all money you fundraise will go directly to that charity.

Sponsorship Funded

You commit to raising a minimum amount of sponsorship for your chosen charity from which the remaining balance for your trip will be paid. You will be asked to complete a pledge form with the charity setting out the target dates and any guidelines required; this is a requirement of your booking. Your chosen charity will support your fundraising throughout and all sponsorship money you raise must be paid to them upon receipt.

Generally, the sponsorship target is set to ensure that a minimum of 50% of the money you raise is retained by the charity. All money raised above the target will also be retained by the charity. Your fundraising target must be met, and paid to the charity, a min of 10 weeks prior to your departure date. This enables them to pay the remaining balance for your trip with no financial risk to themselves.

Flexi Funded

In addition to the deposit, you pay a 2nd personal contribution, 7-8 months prior to departure which reduces the fundraising target. You then commit to raising a minimum amount of sponsorship for your chosen charity from which the remaining balance for your trip will be paid. You will be asked to complete a pledge form with the charity setting out the target dates and any guidelines required; this is a requirement of your booking. Your chosen charity will support your fundraising throughout and all sponsorship money you raise must be paid to them upon receipt.

Generally, the sponsorship target is set to ensure that a minimum of 50% of the money you raise is retained by the charity. All money raised above the target will also be retained by the charity. Your fundraising target must be met, and paid to the charity, a min of 10 weeks prior to your departure date. This enables them to pay the remaining balance for your trip with no financial risk to themselves.

Your financial protection

You are financially protected against our insolvency.

Our ATOL Licence number is 10755. [Click here to view verification.](#)

When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of

the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. That agree that in return for such a payment of benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

[Click here](#) for Consumer Information on your ATOL protection.



Many of the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. But ATOL protection does not apply to all holiday and travel services listed in this brochure. Please ask us to confirm what protection may apply to your booking. If you do not receive an ATOL Certificate then the booking will not be ATOL protected. If you do receive an ATOL Certificate but all the parts of your trip are not listed on it, those parts will not be ATOL protected. Please see our booking conditions for information, or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate



Your questions answered

Is this challenge for me?

You will be walking between 4 - 7 hours per day. Trekking days are usually measured in hours rather than distance as the terrain plays a huge part in how far you travel.

As challenges go, this is a Moderate challenge but due to the winter conditions, it adds an additional element of risk. The ascent to the summit is over 1000m but taken at a steady pace, it is very achievable. Mountain weather conditions in winter can be extremely cold so you would need to be well equipped. Overnight accommodation is in the Neltner Refuge so it is a safe warm environment. You will need mental and physical endurance to undertake this trip and we would recommend a good general level of fitness.

After booking, you will be asked to complete an Emergency Details Form which will include your medical history. If we have any doubts about your ability to take part in the challenge, we may ask you to provide a letter of fitness from your GP, therefore we would recommend that if you have any concerns, you speak to your GP prior to booking.

What is a typical day like on trek?

Life is made a little easier on this trek as it uses a building for accommodation.

Breakfast is usually about 7am and trekking gets underway by 8am although it will be earlier for the Toubkal summit day. Bear in mind in winter, daylight hours are shorter.

Trekking is steady with regular breaks as and when required.

Packed lunches are provided as appropriate and you will also need to take sufficient snacks and water with you to last the day (there are no shops!). When you reach your night stop you will be offered tea and biscuits. Dinner is towards dusk.

What will the food be like?

The food whilst on trek is freshly prepared by our skilled camp chef and his team and the food is really good!

Breakfast is an open air buffet style with cereals, porridge and Moroccan breakfast on offer with all the condiments you could imagine.

Open lunches (where used) are usually a leisurely affair with fresh salads and often a hot dish such as Moroccan pulses and fruit to follow. Packed lunches are used where appropriate (carried with you).

Tea/coffee and biscuits is offered after a day's trekking on arrival in camp and your evening meal will be a three course feast served by your guides and followed by "sleepy tea" to aid a peaceful nights sleep.

What about special dietary requirements?

We can cater for all individual dietary requirements if you let us know in advance.

Can I travel on my own?

Yes! Our 'Open Challenge' trips are available to anyone wishing to join, either as a group or as an individual. Groups form close bonds even if they have never met before the challenge, which makes our trips such a

huge success with those taking part and leads to lifelong friendships. In some situations, it's also possible to join one of our closed groups challenges if the charity and the group are open to additional members. There is no harm in asking!

What will the accommodation be like?

Marrakech - We use a variety of hotels and traditional Riads depending on the size of the group.

Riads are traditional houses or Palaces with interior gardens and courtyards and tend to be within the maze of the Medina streets. Whilst having a limited number of rooms, each one is decorated differently and furnished in a Moroccan style.

Our hotels are much larger to cater for bigger numbers and therefore are a little further out of the centre. They are of 4* standard or above and usually have swimming pools, a bar, safety deposit boxes, etc..

Mountain Refuge - the Neltner Refuge is a huge purpose built stone building (with a heli-pad) designed to house mountaineers and trekkers who are active in the area. It has dorm style rooms and all of the facilities you need to live (toilets, kitchen, etc...). There is a space to camp next door.

What do you mean by 'Early Guarantee Status'?

Unlike many companies, we will guarantee a trip with numbers as low as 2 people, even if they are two independent travellers. This means that from a very early stage you can fundraise and make your travel plans, safe in the knowledge that your trip will not be cancelled at a late stage due to minimum numbers not being reached.

We have organised many trips at the last minute for people who have achieved their fundraising total, only to find that the trip is cancelled by other companies two months before they are due to depart. We know how vital this assurance is.

How big are your groups?

Our average group size in the mountains is 4 - 6 but we can accommodate groups 2 - 12.

Can I extend my stay?

As long as you let us know at the time of booking, we can adjust your outbound or return flights so that you can enjoy some additional time in country. We don't make any charge for this adjustment and as long as your revised dates are not affected by increase flight prices, the cost will remain the same.

If you would like to extend and discuss the options with us then we're more than happy to help.

Some suggestions:

- Spend an extra night or two in Marrakech.
- Enjoy a few nights relaxing by the sea in Essaouira, a charming and vibrant port and resort town on the Atlantic Ocean. It's just a couple of hours away by road.

Your questions answered

Will I have to pay a single supplement?

Not unless you request sole occupation.

Generally, all accommodation is on a twin/triple share, same-sex basis. We will pair you with another member of the group. If you wish to be paired with someone specific within the group, just let us know.

If you decide that you would like to have your own room/tent, we can accommodate this in the majority of cases and an additional fee will be applicable and payable personally. Please indicate your preference on the booking form.

If you do not indicate that you wish to have sole occupation and you happen to be the odd one out, then you will be accommodated on your own at no additional cost.

Requested Sole Occupation fee for this Challenge: £80

When is the best time to go?

Nov - Mar is considered the optimum months for completing this challenge. Within that timescale, conditions are considered 'winter' and that usually involves snow! Weather conditions will always dictate safe access and is never guaranteed.

Temperatures can vary enormously in the mountains but expect low temperatures, usually sub zero overnight.

How safe is Morocco?

The safety of our trekkers is of paramount importance and we follow formal procedures as well as taking practical common sense measures, should the need be there, to ensure you are safe.

The stark reality of life today is that of a global threat of terrorism. Morocco (Marrakech) has been attacked in the past and so too has London! It doesn't happen everyday but always possible.

The only source of travel advice you should seek is that of the UK Govt's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). If their advice is 'not to travel' or 'all but essential travel', then we would be cancelling the trip.

The FCO's travel advice is taken from numerous sources including the UK's Intelligence Services and from other countries too. If attacks were imminent, the advice we are sure would change.

Practical Measures. Even though the FCO's advice may be unchanged, if our staff in Marrakech are aware of any form of local civil unrest they may affect your safety, we would take measures to move you out of Marrakech. We have yet to encounter any form of negative activity in Morocco and in the mountains you will hardly see anyone else!

Can I book if I'm travelling from overseas?

Yes. If you live outside the UK then please contact us and we will be able to make arrangements for you to meet us in country on a Land Only basis or connect with our flights from the UK.

Can we book as a private group?

Yes. All of our challenges can be booked for a private group either through the charity of your choice or as an independent group of friends fundraising for one or more charities. You will have the option to choose dates to suit and also amend the itinerary to either lengthen or shorten

your trip as required.

Can I choose any charity?

You can choose your charity when booking onto an open challenge or if you are booking as a group. We work with many of the large as well as smaller charities which are local, national and internationally based.

Before your booking can be processed, we need confirmation from your chosen charity which we will organise on your behalf. Please be aware that some larger charities will now only accept self funded challenges.

How soon should I book? / How long to fundraise?

We would always advise that you book your challenge as soon as possible (many opt to book a year in advance) to allow plenty of time for fundraising. Fundraising final target dates are 10 weeks before departure.

That said, if flights and the trip you are interested in still have availability, you can book at any time, particularly if you are choosing the self funded payment method.

If you want to book onto a specific challenge then we would always advise that you contact us first to discuss the funding options in relation to the timescale before departure.

How do I book?

Go to our Booking page and complete the on line booking form. <https://www.charitytravelandtrek.com/booking-charity-challenge-treks/>

The booking form, how to pay and Booking Conditions can all be found on that webpage.

If you have any questions at all about the process just call us and we will guide you through the process.

A Charity Challenge is one of the most rewarding events you can take part in. Once you decide what you want to do and when you would like to go, the next thing is to decide which charity you would like to fundraise for. We would even suggest that you contact us to have a chat about the challenge and in particular if you are taking on a sponsorship method so that we can contact the charity to seek their approval for the funding.

What happens after I book?

Once we receive your completed booking, we will issue you with a confirmation letter, ATOL certificate, receipt invoice, the Challenge Manual and details of any retail discounts available to our clients. You will also be provided with a link to the client area of our web site. Here you will be able to access our required forms, and information which will help you prepare for your challenge.

