



MOROCCO

WALKING SAFARI WITH THE NOMADS

BY FOOT

9-DAYS

Twice a year the semi-nomadic tribe of the Ait Atta migrates in search of pastures for their vast flocks of animals. This unique Morocco trekking tour follows the migration of one such family as they move south from the High Atlas Mountains into their homeland, the Jebel Saghro, a remote and dramatic mountain range in the south of Morocco. This is a real life adventure that will appeal to those in search of something different. It offers beautiful scenery and an enthralling cultural experience. During this weeklong trek, you'll witness a way of life unequivocally different from our own - one that has been handed down through centuries of Ait Atta civilization. Travelling at the gentle pace of the nomads and their flock of goats, sheep, mules and dromedaries, we follow a trail over rocky passes, crossing bright oases and camping in wilderness locations. Walking for 4 - 5 hours per day, there's plenty of time to enjoy the landscape.

Day 1

MARRAKECH

ARRIVAL

On arrival in Marrakech you will be met by a BikeHike Adventures representative and taken to our hotel in the centre of Marrakech. Flights often arrive in the evening, giving us just enough time to head out for a get-together meal and short briefing. Overnight in a comfortable hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: none



Day 2

MARRAKECH - JEBEL SAGHRO

TRANSFER

After breakfast we are met by our transfer vehicle(s) to take us the six hours or so to the village of Tagoudilt on the edge of the Jebel Saghro. The route takes us through the High Atlas over one of the highest paved passes in North Africa, the Tizi-n-Tichka, and down into the largely desertified south of Morocco. En route we'll stop for lunch before continuing to the town of Boumalne Dades. Here we'll take a short warm up hike through agricultural land in the Dades Valley, before taking a half hour jeep road to our destination. Tagoudilt is a small village set on an open plain between the High Atlas Mountains and the Jebel Saghro. It's a popular trailhead for groups traversing the Saghro and lies on the route that the Ait Atta nomads take from the High Atlas to the Jebel Saghro. In Tagoudilt we'll enjoy a pre-trek tajine (a local stew cooked in a conical clay pot) and stay overnight in a "gite d'etape", a basic local house licensed to offer rooms to passing visitors. It's here that we'll meet our team of mules for the trek, and Zaid our nomad host for the five-day hike. Dinner and overnight in a gite.

Accommodation: B & B

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Day 3

JEBEL SAGHRO

TREKKING

Setting off from Tagoudilt, the next five days will take us on a route traversing the Jebel Saghro from north to south until we reach the village of Hamdor, just north of the town of N'Kob. The route we take follows the traditional migration route of the Ait Atta nomads; a route that can vary slightly from year to year depending on climatic conditions and the state of grazing lands. The autumn migration route is often different from the route taken in the spring as scarcity of water can threaten grazing land. On trek, each day will follow the same format of walking in the morning, setting up camp at lunchtime and relaxing in the hot afternoons. The nomads set up a traditional camel hair tent which is a perfect spot from which to watch the world go by. With a large flock of goats and sheep, dromedaries, mules, dogs and chickens there is invariably plenty of activity on the hillsides that surround camp. For those wanting to walk further, there are always possibilities for further exploration (including some summits) in the afternoons and those who want to learn the art of baking bread in the wild are welcome to join in. The nomad way of life follows this pattern as the afternoon is time set aside for the grazing of animals. Four nights camping in modern one and two man tents and night 7 spent in a gite in Hamdor.

Trekking Duration: 4-5 hours

Accommodation: Tent

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4

JEBEL SAGHRO

TREKKING

We will continue to follow the traditional migration route of the Ait Atta nomads while following along with their daily routine.

Trekking Duration: 4-5 hours

Accommodation: Tent

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5

JEBEL SAGHRO

TREKKING

We will continue to follow the traditional migration route of the Ait Atta nomads while following along with their daily routine.

Trekking Duration: 4-5 hours

Accommodation: Tent

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6

JEBEL SAGHRO

TREKKING

We will continue to follow the traditional migration route of the Ait Atta nomads while following along with their daily routine.

Trekking Duration: 4-5 hours

Accommodation: Tent

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7

JEBEL SAGHRO

TREKKING

We will continue to follow the traditional migration route of the Ait Atta nomads while following along with their daily routine.

Trekking Duration: 4-5 hours

Accommodation: Tent

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



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Day 8

TAGOUDILT - MARRAKECH

TRANSFER

Having completed our trek and bid farewell to the Ait Atta we transfer back to Marrakech, through the Draa Valley, and visiting the kasbah at Ait Benhaddou en route. Ait Benhaddou is the best-preserved of Morocco's kasbahs and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here we'll have a chance to wander around the site which dates back to the 11th century. The journey time back to Marrakech is about six and a half hours, retracing our route back over the Tichka pass and down onto the fertile Haouz plain around Marrakech. Arriving back in Marrakech is a real highlight. Having arrived in the evening at the start of the trip we had little time to explore the Marrakech medina (old town), a UNESCO Heritage Site and said to be the second largest medieval complex in the world, after Cairo. Much of the medina is a beguiling labyrinth of tiny alleys and passageways where men ply their trades in tiny box-like workshops that have hardly changed in hundreds of years. The medina is also home to the famous souqs (markets) of Marrakech - ideal for devotees of ethnic fashion and decoration, but worth a look for the sights, sounds and smells of this most exotic of markets. Tonight we explore the main square - the Djemaa el Fna - to witness one of the world's most animated nighttime spectacles. At night the square is transformed into a giant open air restaurant where men in white coats serve anything from sheep's head stew to snails

in hot sauce. The rest of the square is dedicated to other forms of entertainment such as snake charmers, story tellers, acrobats and dancers. Later we will enjoy a farewell dinner in a restaurant before exploring what Marrakech has to offer in the way of nightlife. Overnight in a comfortable hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



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Day 9

MARRAKECH

DEPARTURE

Free time before transferring to airport for homeward flight. Most flights depart in the afternoon so there's more time to explore the city and pick up a few last minute souvenirs.

Meals: Breakfast

TRIP INCLUSIONS

Trip Includes

All accommodation (twin shared), meals as indicated, internal transportation, all equipment (camping gear) and English-speaking guides.

Not Included

International airfare, airport departure taxes, gratuities, meals not indicated, and items of a personal nature.

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