

Mount Toubkal Circuit Trek - Morocco

Expedition Information Pack

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Why Choose Earth's Edge:

Our mission is to support you in exploring our incredible world and experiencing life-changing adventures in the safest way possible. We are passionate about protecting the planet and improving the lives of those we meet along the way.

- We are a **100%** Irish-owned small business. Our founder, James McManus, is passionate about climbing mountains, and his extensive experience is an invaluable source of support for our office team in our day-to-day operations.
- We're the only company to have a **dedicated expedition doctor** on every high-altitude trek, providing you with peace of mind knowing you're in safe hands from start to finish.
- Our exceptional expedition leaders are true experts in their region, passionate about sharing their first-hand knowledge about the local culture, history, and geography while ensuring we consistently deliver unforgettable experiences.
- We keep group sizes small to minimise our environmental impact and foster a strong group dynamic. Whether you're traveling solo or with friends or family, our small group sizes provide the perfect opportunity to bond over shared experiences and create lasting friendships.
- We run a **pre-departure training weekend** two months prior to each expedition. It includes a detailed expedition brief, two training hikes and expert advice from an experienced mountain guide. It's also a great opportunity to meet your fellow adventurers!
- We're here to support you every step of the way. Our friendly office team is available to answer any questions you have by phone, e-mail or video consultations. Each team member participates in an expedition every year, ensuring they can share up-to-date advice and insights drawn from their own first-hand experiences.
- Booking an Earth's Edge expedition entitles you to a discount from our equipment partners at Great Outdoors to ensure that you get the best gear for your expedition.



Responsible travel is at the core of what we do at Earth's Edge. As a <u>Certified B Corp</u> company, we are committed to using our business as a force for good; to support our communities both locally and worldwide as well as creating more environmental awareness.

We have a number of environmental programmes and community projects, including;

- A <u>yearly scholarship</u> that gives porters the opportunity to become guides on Kilimanjaro.
- We plant 8 trees in Nepal for every person who travels with us in partnership with <u>Eden:</u>
 <u>People + Planet</u>
- Our clients in Nepal help to remove waste from Sagarmatha National Park through the Carry Me Back Program.
- We collect clothing and gear donations for our amazing porters on Kilimanjaro.
- We are striving to increase the number of <u>female staff</u> across our expeditions.

To read more about our sustainability practices please visit our responsible travel page.

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Description & Detailed Itinerary:

Embark on an exhilarating **eight-day journey** through the rugged beauty of Morocco's **High Atlas Mountains**, crafted for trekkers with a solid level of fitness and a hunger for adventure.

Over **six immersive days on foot**, we traverse dramatic high passes and wind through remote valleys dotted with timeless Berber villages. This circular route takes you far from the beaten track into wild, untouched landscapes, culminating in the **summit of Mount Toubkal (4,167m)**, the highest peak in North Africa. While impressive in stature, Toubkal is a **non-technical trekking peak**, making it accessible to those with no previous mountaineering experience. Just determination and a love for the mountains needed!

Expect **jaw-dropping panoramas** at every turn; craggy peaks, terraced hillsides, and sweeping alpine valleys. Walk among **orchards of fig, apple, walnut, and cherry**, where friendly locals offer warm smiles and insights into the **rich Berber culture** that thrives in these highlands.

The adventure, however, doesn't end in the mountains. We'll also spend time soaking up the **vibrant energy of Marrakech**, offering a sensory feast of spice-laden souks, centuries-old palaces, and lively street scenes that leave a lasting impression.

This is more than just a trek. It's a journey through **wild landscapes, ancient traditions**, and the soul of Morocco.

Day 1: Arrive in Marrakech.

Arrive in Marrakech (RAK). Transfer to the hotel to relax or explore the city. There will be a full expedition briefing in the afternoon. Overnight hotel.



Day 2: Transfer Marrakech to Imlil, Trek to Tacheddirt, 5 hrs trekking.

After an early morning breakfast, we drive to Imlil (1,720m) in the heart of the Altas Mountains. Upon arrival we will meet the local guides and support team. After transferring our main gear bags to the mule team, we start walking. We pass by Ait Souka village and climb steadily to reach the Tamatert Pass (2,279m). From the pass we get great views of the day's route, before descending to the Ikkiss River and the beautiful Ouaneskra village. From the village, we follow the river for 45 minutes to reach Tacheddirt. Overnight camp. Altitude 2,300m.

Day 3: Trek Tacheddirt to Azib Likemt, 6 hrs trekking.

We start by crossing the Ikkiss River and then ascend slowly to reach the Likemt Pass (3,555m). It's a tough and steep route with some loose scree on the trail. The effort in reaching the pass is well worth it, as we are greeted with more great scenery, including good views of Mt Toubkal. From the pass, there is a long descent to reach our campsite in Azib Likemt (2,650m). Overnight camp. Altitude 2,650m.

Day 4: Trek Azib Likemt to Amsouzert, 7-8 hrs trekking.

A long day today, but it is much flatter than the previous day. The scenery on this day is very impressive, as we pass a variety of contrasting landscapes. We spend the night in a simple gite at Amsouzert village - one of the most beautiful villages in the region. Overnight gite. Altitude 1,740m.

Day 5: Trek Amsouzert to Ifni Lake, 4 hrs trekking.

A short day of walking to enjoy Ifni Lake in the afternoon. The route takes us through some more quaint villages, and is quite an easy walk. Ifni Lake is an impressive sight, surrounded by rocky mountains and large piles of moraine. Rest by the lake in the afternoon ahead of tomorrow's walk. Overnight camp. Altitude 2,295m.

Day 6: Ifni Lake to Mt Toubkal Refuge, 6 hrs trekking.

By this stage, everyone should be well acclimatised and ready for the two hardest days of trekking. From Ifni Lake we follow a steep scree path to the Ouanoums Pass (3,664m). It usually takes over 4 hours to reach the pass and is quite tough. From the pass we descend along a zigzag path to reach the refuge. Enjoy a good rest in the afternoon. Overnight refuge. Altitude 3,207m.

Day 7: Mt Toubkal Refuge to Marrakech, 8-9 hrs trekking.

We rise very early to summit Mt Toubkal (4,167m). It's a steady climb to the summit and it's important to maintain a slow and steady pace. The panoramic views of the Atlas Mountains and the distant sights of Marrakech and the Sahara desert from the summit are truly breathtaking. We return to the refuge for an early lunch, and then walk back to Imlil. Once in Imlil we drive to Marrakech and enjoy a celebratory meal in the main square. Overnight hotel.

Day 8: Depart Marrakech.



Enjoy your last bit of relaxing or do some more exploring in Marrakech before heading to the airport for your departure.

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Expedition Costs:

Total Cost: €1,099

- A deposit of EUR/USD/GBP 200 is taken at the time of booking to secure your spot.
- The **final balance** can be paid in instalments, but is due 90 days prior to departure.

For up-to-date prices in GBP and USD, based on today's exchange rate, please visit our website.

Flights:

Please consult us before booking your flights to ensure you arrive in time for the expedition briefing on the first day. It's essential you do not miss this meeting.

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Expedition Inclusions & Exclusions

Expedition Costs Include:

- Training Weekend
- Experienced expedition leader
- Dedicated expedition doctor
- Earth's Edge team of guides and a full support team
- All accommodation based on twin sharing in hotels in Marrakech, and in refuges and tents on the trail
- All meals and drinking water (except in Marrakech where accommodation is based on B&B)
- A celebratory dinner at the end of the expedition
- Permit for trekking Mt Toubkal
- All group gear consisting of a fully stocked med kit including an oxygen tank
- An Earth's Edge buff for all participants

Expedition Costs Exclude:

- International flights
- Training weekend accommodation and food
- Personal travel insurance
- Medical vaccinations
- Personal equipment



- Tips
- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, phone calls, alcohol, and excess baggage charges
- Any costs arising out of unforeseen circumstances which affect the itinerary such as bad weather, road conditions, and any other circumstances beyond our control

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Spending Money and Tipping

Spending Money

We recommend that you put aside **EUR300** in spending money for this trip. We recommend that you exchange your money for the local currency, Moroccan Dirham, either at the airport or in Marrakech, for purchasing small items like snacks on the trail. There are ATMs available in Marrakech where you can withdraw cash using a credit/debit card.

At the time of writing, EU passport holders do not need a tourist visa to travel to Morocco.

Our recommended **tip amount is EUR100** per person. Please give your tip to the Earth's Edge Expedition Leader and they will distribute the tip evenly among all of our Earth's Edge team in Morocco. The recommended spending amount above includes the tip for the Earth's Edge Team.

Tipping

At Earth's Edge it is important to us that the tipping process is transparent and that all team members are tipped fairly.

Here is an example of how we divide the tip to give you an idea of what share of the tip each person gets on the trek. Our average group size is 13 climbers plus our doctor = 14 people.

We recommend everyone tips **EUR100**. If everyone tips, that will give us a total tip amount of EUR 1,400 (13 x EUR 100 + EUR 100 as we tip on behalf of our doctor).

With a group of that size, our Earth's Edge team in Morocco will be made up as follows and receive roughly the following share of tips:

Expedition Leader: 1 person	EUR 450 x 1	= EUR 450
Head Guide: 1 person	EUR 400 x 1	= EUR 400
Head Cook: 1 person	EUR 350 x 1	= EUR 350
Muleteer: 1 person	EUR 150 x 5	= EUR 150



Driver: 1 person	EUR 50 x 1	= EUR 50
	TOTAL	= EUR 1,400

Please note the above figures are a guideline based on an average of 13 trekkers. We ask our clients not to tip any of the Earth's Edge team directly, as it's important that all of the team get their fair share of the tips.

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Training Weekends:

Before every expedition, we organise a training weekend where you'll have the chance to meet your fellow adventurers! Led by experienced guides, these weekends include a comprehensive expedition briefing, two training hikes, and invaluable advice covering everything from equipment to weather conditions. Please note that food and accommodation for the weekends are not included.

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Safety Standards:

At Earth's Edge, your safety is our top priority. Each expedition is led by an experienced leader supported by a qualified doctor with a keen interest in adventure travel and expedition medicine. Our expeditions are further supported by our dedicated Earth's Edge team of guides and porters, all selected for their skills, experience, and excellent references.

Our teams are familiar with the locations of local medical facilities and hospitals in each destination. While our doctor carries a comprehensive medical kit, we ask all participants to bring a basic first aid kit as outlined in the equipment list. Always follow the guidance of your expedition leader to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.

We recommend participants research local laws and customs before travelling to Morocco. Up-to-date travel advice is available on the <u>DFA website</u>.

On expeditions, the most common cause of illness is gastroenteritis (Delhi Belly), often caused by poor personal hygiene. The good news is that it is easily avoided by practising the following:

- Always wash your hands and apply hand sanitiser after going to the toilet and before touching food.
- Always use drinking water to brush your teeth and avoid ingesting water while showering or washing your face.



- Maintain a healthy diet and consider taking multivitamins and probiotics for one month before and during the expedition to help your body adjust to changes in your diet and keep you healthy throughout the expedition.
- **Drinking water** is provided by Earth's Edge on each day of the trek, this water is boiled and cooled. You may also wish to bring your own water treatment tables. If you wish to change the flavour of the water it is recommended to use electrolyte tablets/sachets or add a concentrated flavour drink.

To read more about our safety standards please visit our safety page.

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Special Offers:

- **Return Customer Offer** If you have travelled with us before please visit our <u>return</u> <u>customer</u> page for details on what discount you are entitled to.
- **Refer a Friend Offer** If you have a friend who wants to travel with us please visit our <u>refer</u> a <u>friend</u> page for details on our referral programme.
- **Group Discounts** If you are booking as part of a group please visit our group discounts page for details on what discount you are entitled to.
- Couples Offer If you are booking with a friend or partner please visit our <u>couples offer</u> page for details on what discount you are entitled to.

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Book Your Trip Consultation

You can now schedule a free trip consultation with a member of the Earth's Edge team! We're happy to talk you through the itinerary, preparation and training, equipment, and anything else you'd like to know. Book your <u>consultation here</u>.

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Expedition FAQ:

Do you have a question that wasn't answered in this information pack? If so, please visit our <u>FAQ</u> <u>page</u> for a full list of frequently asked questions. If you can't find your answer there please <u>contact us</u>.

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