

## Mount Toubkal Weekend Expedition

### *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 guides and leaders** are fully trained in wilderness first aid, and true experts in their region. They are passionate about sharing their first-hand knowledge of 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 [Certified B Corp](#) 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 [yearly scholarship](#) that gives porters the opportunity to become guides on Kilimanjaro.
- 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 [female staff](#) across our expeditions.

To read more about our sustainability practices please visit our [responsible travel page](#).

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## Description & Detailed Itinerary:

The Mount Toubkal Weekend Expedition is designed to offer a challenging yet achievable introduction to high-altitude mountain trekking. Standing at **4,167 metres**, Mount Toubkal is the highest peak in North Africa and one of the most **accessible big mountain summits** for fit hikers with **no previous altitude experience**.

Short, sharp, and hugely rewarding, this expedition delivers a **true sense of adventure** in just a few days. From the energy and colour of Marrakech, we travel into the heart of the Atlas Mountains to begin our ascent.

Starting from the **Berber village of Imlil**, we trek steadily through dramatic mountain scenery, passing traditional settlements and the **sacred shrine of Sidi Chamharouch**, an important pilgrimage site nestled high in the mountains. As we gain altitude, the landscape becomes increasingly rugged and expansive, opening up **incredible views** across the surrounding peaks and valleys before we reach Toubkal refuge, our base for summit day.

An early start sees us climb by headtorch **as dawn breaks over the Atlas Mountains**. The ascent is taken at a **slow, steady pace**, with regular breaks and full support throughout. Reaching the summit rewards us with sweeping views across the Atlas range and, on clear days, out toward the Sahara Desert beyond. It's a demanding day, but one that delivers **an unforgettable sense of achievement**.

We finish where we began, back in Marrakech, with **time to relax, explore, and celebrate**. The Mount Toubkal Weekend Expedition is the perfect introduction to high-altitude, and **a big mountain experience packed into one amazing weekend**.

**Day 1: Arrive in Marrakech.**

Arrive into Marrakech Airport (RAK) and transfer to the centrally located riad. Depending on arrival time, there may be an opportunity to explore the surrounding streets and soak up the atmosphere of this historic city. In the afternoon or evening, you'll meet your guide for a full expedition briefing, covering the route, final equipment check, safety considerations, and what to expect over the coming days. Overnight riad/hotel.

**Day 2: Transfer Marrakech to Imlil, Trek to Toubkal Refuge, 6 hrs trekking.**

After an early breakfast, we transfer south from Marrakech into the Atlas Mountains, arriving at the Berber village of **Imlil (1,740m)**, the main trailhead for Mount Toubkal. Here, we meet our local guides and mule team, who will support us throughout the trek.

From Imlil, we begin our ascent on foot, following well-established mountain trails through the Mizane Valley. The route passes through traditional villages and climbs steadily towards the sacred shrine of **Sidi Chamharouch (2,300m)**, an important spiritual site for local Berber communities. After a rest and lunch, we continue upwards through increasingly rugged terrain to reach the **Toubkal Refuge (3,207m)**, our base camp for summit day.

The afternoon is spent resting, hydrating, and enjoying the dramatic mountain surroundings as our bodies begin to acclimatise. Overnight camp. Altitude 3,207m.

**Day 3: Summit Day - Mount Toubkal (4,167m) to Marrakech (10-12 hrs trekking)**

We rise well before dawn for the highlight of the expedition - the summit of Mount Toubkal (4,167m). We climb steadily as the sun begins to rise over the Atlas Mountains. This is a long but manageable day, taken at a slow, guided pace with regular breaks and full support throughout. The route ascends through rocky high-altitude terrain, with expansive views opening up as we gain height. Reaching the summit is a powerful and rewarding moment, offering panoramic views across the surrounding peaks and, in clear conditions, towards the Sahara Desert. After time on the summit to celebrate and take photos, we descend back to the refuge for lunch before continuing all the way back down to Imlil. From here, we transfer back to Marrakech for a well-earned rest and a celebratory meal in the city. Overnight hotel.

**Day 4: Depart Marrakech**

Depending on flight times, enjoy a relaxed morning and some final time in Marrakech before transferring to the airport for your departure.

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**Expedition Costs:**

You can find our detailed expedition pricing [on our website](#).

- A **deposit** of EUR/USD/GBP 199 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.

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### **Flights:**

Aer Lingus and RyanAir offer return flights from Dublin to Marrakech Airport (RKA). We'll share recommended timings that line up with our complimentary group transfers approximately 10 months pre-departure.

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

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## **Expedition Inclusions & Exclusions**

### **What's Included:**

- Pre-departure training weekend in Wicklow
- An Earth's Edge softshell jacket and a buff for you to keep
- A highly experienced local mountain guide
- Dedicated expedition doctor
- Full support team including guides, cooks and mules
- All accommodation based on twin sharing:
  - 2 nights hotel in Marrakech
  - 1 night camping at Toubkal refuge
- All meals and drinking water on the trek (Except in Marrakech where accommodation is based on B&B)
- A celebratory dinner at the end of the expedition
- All planned group transportation throughout the expedition, including airport transfers
- Permit for trekking Mt Toubkal
- All group gear, including a fully stocked med kit, tents and cooking equipment

### **What's Excluded:**

- Flights
- Training weekend accommodation and food
- Personal travel insurance
- Medical vaccinations
- Personal equipment
- Tips
- Expenses of a personal nature such as 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 **EUR150** in spending money for this trip. This includes the **recommended tip amount of EUR25 per person**.

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.

### Tipping

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

Any gratuity is entirely at your discretion and based on your experience, level of satisfaction, and personal circumstances. If you are happy to tip, our suggestion is €25 per person, which you can give to your guide at the end of the trek.

Below 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. If everyone tips, that will give us a total tip amount of EUR 350 (13 x EUR 25 + EUR 25 as we tip on behalf of our doctor).

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

<b>Expedition Leader:</b> 1 person	EUR 125 x 1	= EUR 125
<b>Head Guide:</b> 1 person	EUR 95 x 1	= EUR 95
<b>Head Cook:</b> 1 person	EUR 85 x 1	= EUR 85
<b>Muleteer:</b> 1 person	EUR 30 x 1	= EUR 30
<b>Driver:</b> 1 person	EUR 15 x 1	= EUR 15
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= EUR 350</b>

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 team directly, as it's important that everyone gets 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. Not only are these events educational, but they're also enjoyable, set against the breathtaking backdrop of Glendalough, Co. Wicklow. 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 local mountain guide, supported by a qualified doctor with a keen interest in adventure travel and expedition medicine. Our expeditions are further supported by a dedicated team of guides and muleteers, 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 guide and doctor 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 [DFA website](#).

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 tablets. 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 [return customer](#) 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 [refer a friend](#) 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 [couples offer](#) 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 [consultation here](#).

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### Expedition FAQ:

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

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