

# Overnight Berber Valley Trek & Boutique Marrakech



## Highlights

Spend two days on a guided Atlas Mountains Valley trek hiking along winding mule tracks, cross high passes and overnight in traditional Berber Villages. Then, transfer to Marrakech and treat yourself to a stay in a stylish, boutique riad and lose yourself in the atmospheric souks.

The stunning **High Atlas Mountains** lie an hour and a half's drive from the Medina in Central Marrakech and provide a welcome contrast from the chaos of the City. Valleys are dotted with ancient Berber Villages consisting of simple mud houses built almost on top of each other. The views are magnificent, with arid valley sides, lush valley floors with sparkling mountain streams and of course the towering peaks that the range is renowned for.

You will start your trek in **Imlil Valley** a small Berber town dominated by Mount Toubkal, the second highest peak in Africa. From there, you will head off for 2 days trekking through the valleys, passing through small villages and staying in a basic gite. Supported by mules carrying your belongings and an English speaking guide, your meals are also included, freshly prepared and enjoyed with stunning views of the mountains!

After your trek, you will transfer to Marrakech, a city that you just can't help but fall in love with. Categorised as a Unesco World Heritage site, the focal point of the ancient medina is the world famous Djemma el Fna. The large square comes to life at night with food stalls, story tellers, snake charmers and acrobats. Away from the square, are the enticing souks, which consist of small winding roads full of colourful market stalls selling anything from slippers, to herbs and spices to ornaments. For the more culturally inclined, the ancient Bahia and Badi palaces offer an intriguing insight into how the imperial kings used to live. Here, you will be staying in a stylish boutique hotel, a luxurious retreat from the souks and busy medina.

## Is it for me?

The Atlas Mountains Valleys treks are designed to be suitable for those who'd rather see more of the villages and valleys than tackle the high peaks. Because they avoid the higher altitude passes, they are also suitable all year round. The treks are suitable for anyone with a reasonable level of fitness and children are welcome (assuming they are used to walking). Please note that the accommodation used is simple, with shared bathroom facilities.

Marrakech is an intoxicating city which delights all of your senses. Away from the main square, the medina is made up of many small winding streets, or derbs. Everyone, without exception, gets lost when they visit Marrakech. The best way to deal with this is to relax, embrace the experience and take a mobile phone with you so that you can call you riad if you get lost.

## Accommodation

### In the Mountains

Your first night will be in a family run guest house in the pretty mountain town of Imlil. The guest house has a roof terrace with lovely views and a small communal area downstairs for colder nights. Rooms are simple, but clean, and have en-suite facilities. Dinner is included in your stay. Here are some pictures of the guest house:

Prices from

**398** GBP (6 days) per person

## Why book with Tourdust?

- ✓ The Best Local Operators  
We handpick the best local operators
- ✓ Local Price Guarantee  
Pay what you would locally with our Best Price Guarantee
- ✓ Secure Online Payments  
Safe and easy online booking
- ✓ ABTA Bonding for your protection  
We even throw in complimentary Supplier Failure Cover





On your trek, you will stay in a traditional village Berber Gite. Gites typically offer shared bathroom facilities (with hot showers) and simple private rooms. Whilst basic, gites are usually owned by villagers and often have terraces with wonderful views.

Our Atlas treks include all meals. Your cook will prepare traditional simple Moroccan meals. Lunch usually consists of a large salad, bread and a tagine followed by fruit (taken at a picturesque picnic spot), dinner usually consists of soup, tagine and bread. Breakfast is a simple spread of fresh bread and jams. Without exception, copious amounts of mint tea are served throughout the day both at meal-times and during the trek. Salad and fruit is washed in sterilised water and bottled drinking water is available to buy throughout the treks.

#### In Marrakech

Marrakech's medina is chock a block full of riads - traditional buildings built around a courtyard which have been converted into boutique accommodation. Located mostly in the winding derbs that branch off from the small market streets, these hidden oases provide a calm antidote to the lively souks. Don't be misled by their less than salubrious exteriors, riads tend to be upmarket, often luxurious affairs.

You will be based for the duration of your stay in a boutique riad in the heart of Marrakech's ancient medina. Staying in one of four riads, all owned and renovated by a British couple, you can expect stylish and elegant accommodation, a welcome oasis to the hustle and bustle of the medina. Your riad will have a maximum of six bedrooms, all of which have their own unique and individual style. All rooms are ensuite with air conditioning with thoughtful features such as an i-pod docking station so you create extra special atmosphere. In addition, all rooms have a safe and wifi. The rooms all look out onto the central courtyard and there are several communal areas including a lovely roof terrace decked out with sun loungers and a lounge with an open fire, tv and a honesty box bar. In the courtyard you will find a small plunge pool where you can soak your hot and weary feet after pounding the souks all day. No children under the age of 12 are permitted to stay at the riad, guaranteeing a calm and romantic experience.



Breakfast is included in your stay and can be taken in the courtyard or on the roof terrace. Your breakfast consists of pastries, breads, jams, fresh juice and your choice of tea or coffee. The offering each day is different and it is all beautifully presented.

Dinner can be arranged at your riad. This needs to be booked in advance, as all meals are prepared daily. The three course meal will be enjoyed by candlelight either on the roof terrace or on the patio and is prepared using the freshest in-season products.

Please note itineraries are provided for guidance only and are subject to change if the weather or other factors change.

#### Day 1: Arrival

You will be picked up by a tourist class vehicle from Marrakech airport and transferred to the small town of Imlil in the Atlas Mountains. You will be staying in a family run guest house and will enjoy a traditional Moroccan dinner on the roof terrace (weather permitting)

#### Day 2: Marrakech – Imlil – Tizi Mzik – Ait Aissa (5-6 hours walk)

You will set off West up to the col of Tizi Mzik (2489m). From the col, you'll then traverse towards the head of the Azzadene Valley and the lovely Cascada d'Irhouidene waterfalls which flow year round. You'll then head down the valley via the village of Tizi Oussema to overnight in a Gite in Ait Aissa.

#### Day 3: Ait Aissa – Tizi Oudite – Imlil (4-5 hours walk)

After an early breakfast you'll trek up to the Tizi Oudite mountain pass at 2200m. You'll then head down to the villages of Malat and Agersioual in the Imlil Valley for a picnic lunch at the riverside before heading back up to Imlil from where you'll be transferred back to your riad in Marrakech.

#### Day 4: Marrakech

A day at leisure to explore the sites and souks of Marrakech. You can see [here](#) for ideas of what to do and see.

#### Day 5: Marrakech

Another day to explore Marrakech.

#### Day 6: Marrakech

You will be transported back to the airport in time to catch your flight home.

## Details

### Getting there

Flying from the UK... Marrakech has an international airport (RAK) which is serviced by several airlines flying direct from the UK. The airport is about six kilometres outside the city centre.

#### From the South East:

Gatwick: Easy Jet, British Airways and Thomson

Heathrow: Bmi

Luton: Ryanair

Stansted: Ryanair

#### From the Midlands:

East Midlands: Ryanair

#### From the North:

Manchester: Easy jet and Thomson both have several departures a week.

Joining Instructions... You will be picked up from the airport by a driver holding a Tourdust sign. Please make sure that we have your flight details.

### Price includes

Return transfers to the airport, Accommodation in a boutique Marrakech riad on a bed and breakfast basis, two day trek in the Atlas Mountains with a guide, muleteers, cook, all meals, gite accommodation, return transfers to the mountains in a tourist vehicle, one night in an Imlil guest house with dinner.

### Price details

If there are three of you in your group, then accommodation will be in a triple.

### When is best

These treks are possible any time of year, and are the perfect solution for those travelling in the winter months. From November to April, the mountain-tops are covered in snow, but you will be walking below the snow line on this day trip from Marrakech, so this shouldn't cause any trouble. The bonus of course is that the mountains look stunning with snow atop the peaks.

The summer months can get very hot, but it is perfectly manageable. Spring and Autumn are arguably the best time of year, with wild flowers in spring and stunning vibrant red Walnut groves in late autumn.

### Comfort level

Refined (boutique or luxury accommodation and food)

### Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed

### Travellers should bring

You will be sent a full kit list, along with all of your pre-departure information, once we have received your booking.

## Reviews of this experience

“ Our Guide was first class on our trek, very knowledgeable and always open to questions and was especially open in terms of background to the villages, the people of Morocco as well as the history of where we were trekking. The food, and Chef who prepared our meals, were delightful as well. The food was always more than enough and in the circumstances (on the side of a mountain pass) was first class and fresh. It really made a difference to have the meals prepared fresh and they were always plentiful. We were worried about the Taxi due to Marrakesh being notoriously difficult to find any location due to the mazy streets but the Taxi picked us up from our hotel dropped us at our Trek, and vice versa, no problem at all, which was a relief and very welcome after 2 days trekking. As far as the whole experience all we can say is that we both loved it and are planning to use Tourdust again in the near future. The service from the booking process, Taxi Driver, Guide, Cook and anyone else we encountered on our experience was second to none. I cannot recommend Tourdust highly enough.

I would just like to add though it might be nice if you add some info on the website about the villages. What I mean in that is we visited a family in a village that had very little but were kind enough to invite us into our home. We also encountered children in the village. Rather than handing out money like confetti we would of liked to have brought some simple items from home which may have been well received by the children, colouring books, pens or something as simple as balloons, playing cards or something of that nature. Something that is practical rather than tipping being the only currency. I realise that this might not be for all your consumers but as a side note I think it would of made a world of difference to us, we did feel slightly uneasy when visiting the village and the warm reception we recieved that we couldn't offer something back that would of been better than trying to tip someone. ”

Leighton Harvey-Smith reviewing Overnight Berber Valley Trek & Boutique Marrakech

“ An exhilarating two day trek soaking up beautiful scenery in the High Atlas. The guide was excellent, spoke good English and very knowledgable. We had many laughs with him. The picnic up the mountain was a very happy moment... a freshly cooked tagine tastes so good in the mountain air. Highly recommended ”

YoTakatsuki reviewing Overnight Berber Valley Trek & Boutique Marrakech

“ I'd give it a 5. Can't think of improvements. The experience itself was great and the guide/muleteer were both fantastic - friendly and generous guys who obviously knew what they were doing. It was the best experience of my holiday there - both the agency and the guides themselves were helpful, knowledgeable and friendly. So much of the trip exceeded my expectations and I wouldn't hesitate to book again. ”

Marcus Perry reviewing Overnight Berber Valley Trek & Boutique Marrakech

“ We had a wonderful and rewarding time in the Atlas Mountains. We loved the flexibility of the route and pace, which was possible because we had the guide to ourselves. This is definitely something Tour Dust has above the rest. Ali the cook and his trusty mule were also a bonus! ”

CLARE MACDONALD reviewing Overnight Berber Valley Trek & Boutique Marrakech

“ we have just returned tonight from Morocco and would like you to know how much we enjoyed our Atlas Valley Trek. The guides were fantastic and we were very impressed with Atlas - they responded extremely well to a situation which unexpectedly presented itself : Nanette's leg was causing her some pain so our schedule was slightly altered to give a shorter trip on the 2nd day (the anticipated 6 hours of walking was actually more like 8 hours which in the circumstances would have been too much so the 6 hour day which was then provided was preferable).

Just to give you some feedback - the change of plan was in fact a benefit in other ways as we did spend a very cold night in an unheated shelter on our first night and the change meant that we had a delightful night in a guest house in Imlil instead of a second freezing night in unheated lodgings. It might be useful in future in terms of info you give out to your guests at this time of year - winter sleeping bags are required even for an indoor mountain stay as the mountain gites aren't heated although the guest house in Imlil was. We both had adequate sleeping bags but hadn't expected to be quite as cold as we were when we got into them!

Overall this was a great tip and we would definitely use your company again for booking similar holidays in other areas. ”

June reviewing Overnight Berber Valley Trek & Boutique Marrakech

“ Tourdust made the booking of our 2-day trek in Morocco extremely easy. I called them up first to ask a bit more about the trek that I wanted to do and what kind of equipment we should take with us. These were all answered very quickly and I even got some advice for other parts of our trip in Morocco. The trek itself went exactly as it should have done, we were picked up promptly from our Riad, the guide was extremely knowledgeable and very friendly and the walk itself was off the beaten track and we saw only 2 other travellers during the full two days which was excellent and made for the true walking experience we were looking for, nothing touristy at all - Thank you! ”

Rebecca Hardy reviewing Overnight Berber Valley Trek & Boutique Marrakech