

Africa

Jebel Saghro: Morocco's Lost World









trip highlights

- Venture into Morocco's remote Jebel Saghro mountains, trekking through a wild landscape of volcanic pinnacles, rugged gorges and vast rocky plateaus
- Marvel at the towering Bab n'Ali rock formations as you explore a labyrinth of hidden canyons and ancient valleys
- Journey from Nkob's palm-filled oasis into the wild mountains, discovering traditional village life and the semi-nomadic heritage of the Aït Atta people
- Trek across the Kouaouch highlands, with sweeping panoramic views towards the distant High Atlas mountains
- Experience four nights of wilderness camping beneath star-filled desert skies, with the support of an experienced local trekking crew



Trip Duration	9 days	**Trip Code:** JSL
Grade	Moderate	

welcome to World Expeditions

Since 1975 we have run expedition-style adventures for active travellers, from our first trek in Nepal to remote routes on all seven continents.

Our philosophy is simple: take the paths less travelled. That means small groups, local crew, low impact, and routes most travellers never see.

Everything you need to know about the Jebel Saghro: Morocco's Lost World is in these notes.

why travel with World Expeditions?

Travelling through Morocco's remote mountain and desert landscapes requires careful planning, local knowledge and reliable on-ground support. Our itineraries are designed to balance active exploration with opportunities to experience the country's culture, landscapes and traditions.

Accompanied by experienced local guides and supported by dedicated trekking crews, you can focus on the journey while the practical arrangements are managed along the way. We work with local operators and communities, with an emphasis on responsible travel, respect for local cultures and minimising our environmental impact.

Our approach combines thoughtful itinerary design, experienced local leadership and well-organised logistics to help you explore Morocco with confidence.

Jebel Saghro: Morocco's Lost World

Venture beyond Morocco's familiar trails, trekking from the oases of Nkob into a remote wilderness of towering volcanic pinnacles, hidden gorges and ancient Aït Atta traditions.






We pair you with a traveller of the same gender, and if we can't, the room (and/or tent) is yours at no charge. Prefer your own space? Add the optional single supplement

the trip

Beyond Morocco's bustling medinas and familiar High Atlas trails lies Jebel Saghro, a remote mountain wilderness of towering volcanic pinnacles, dramatic gorges and vast rocky plateaus. Offering an alternative to the snow-covered heights of the High Atlas during winter, Jebel Saghro is one of Morocco's lesser-known cool-season trekking destinations, best explored from October to April.

Our 9-day adventure begins in the oasis village of Nkob, where lush palm groves and traditional kasbahs give way to the rugged beauty of the Jebel Saghro mountains. Following ancient trails through hidden canyons and striking rock formations, we venture into the heart of Aït Atta territory, discovering the traditions of the semi-nomadic communities who have inhabited this region for generations.

Over five rewarding days of trekking, marvel at the towering Bab n'Ali rock formations, explore remote valleys and climb towards the Kouaouch highlands, where sweeping views extend towards the distant High Atlas. Evenings are spent camping beneath star-filled desert skies, enjoying freshly prepared meals and the tranquillity of the wilderness.

With an experienced local crew supporting our journey, this traverse concludes in the traditional village of Tagdilt, revealing a wild and lesser-explored side of Morocco.

at a glance

DAY 1	JOIN MARRAKECH
DAY 2	CROSS THE HIGH ATLAS TO NKOB AND EXPLORE A TRADITIONAL OASIS
DAY 3	BEGIN THE JEBEL SAGHRO TREK THROUGH VOLCANIC VALLEYS TO IGHAZIOUN N IMLAS
DAY 4	TREK AMONG TOWERING ROCK PINNACLES TO THE SPECTACULAR BAB N'ALI FORMATIONS
DAY 5	EXPLORE THE RUGGED AFOURER GORGES AND HIDDEN VALLEYS EN ROUTE TO IGLI
DAY 6	CROSS THE KOUAOUCH HIGHLANDS FOR PANORAMIC VIEWS OF THE HIGH ATLAS
DAY 7	DESCEND THROUGH DRAMATIC MOUNTAIN SCENERY TO THE VILLAGE OF TAGDILT
DAY 8	DRIVE FROM TAGDILT TO MARRAKECH VIA OUARZAZATE
DAY 9	DEPART MARRAKECH

what's included

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 dinners
- Airport transfers on days 1 and 9
- 3 nights in traditional Moroccan riads and kasbahs on a twin share basis
- 4 nights fully supported wilderness camping
- 1 night in a traditional village gîte
- Camping equipment including tents, sleeping bags and foam sleeping mats
- All meals prepared by the trekking cook during the trek
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as listed in itinerary
- Private transport

what's not included

- Flights
- Travel insurance
- Visa
- Entrance fees for sightseeing not mentioned in the itinerary
- Aerated and alcoholic drinks

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trip dates

2027

24 Jan - 01 Feb
28 Feb - 08 Mar
25 Mar - 02 Apr
29 Apr - 07 May
28 Oct - 05 Nov
25 Nov - 03 Dec
12 Dec - 20 Dec

2028

20 Jan - 28 Jan
24 Feb - 03 Mar
23 Mar - 31 Mar
27 Apr - 05 May
19 Oct - 27 Oct
23 Nov - 01 Dec
14 Dec - 22 Dec

fast facts

Countries Visited:
Morocco

Visas:
Please check visa requirements with your reservations consultant*

Vaccinations:
Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Private Groups:
Available for this trip*

Leader:
Expert local bi-lingual leader

Advice for people with limited mobility
Not suitable

*Ask our staff for more information.

- → Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- → Tips
- → Anything not specifically mentioned as included

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Join Marrakech

Arrive in Marrakech, the vibrant gateway to southern Morocco, where you will be transferred to your traditional riad. With its bustling souks, historic medina and the cultural hub Jemaa el-Fnaa, Marrakech provides an interesting introduction to Morocco before our exploration of the Jebel Saghro mountains. Meet our local team for a welcome briefing, followed by a welcome dinner featuring traditional Moroccan cuisine. Accommodation: Riad Berta or similar

meals: D

DAY 2 Cross the High Atlas to Nkob and explore a traditional oasis

Depart Marrakech and journey across the spectacular High Atlas Mountains into southern Morocco. Following the Draa Valley, we travel through a changing landscape of rugged mountains, palm groves and traditional villages before reaching Nkob, an oasis settlement known for its historic kasbahs. In the late afternoon, enjoy a walk through the palm-filled oasis and into the foothills of Jebel Saghro. Along the way, meet local families and discover how communities have adapted to life in this dry and remote region.

Accommodation: Kasbah Baha Baha or similar.

Walking: ~ 1 hour

Driving: ~6 -7 hours

Distance: ~330 km / 205 mi

meals: B,L,D

DAY 3 Begin the Jebel Saghro trek through volcanic valleys to Ighazioun n Imlas

After breakfast, transfer from Nkob to Handour, where our trek into the remote Jebel Saghro mountains begins. Leaving the villages behind, we follow trails through dry valleys and across vast volcanic plateaus, surrounded by the rugged rock formations and dramatic landscapes that make this region so distinctive. As we venture deeper into the mountains, we make our way towards Ighazioun n Imlas, where our trekking team sets up our first wilderness camp. Enjoy the peaceful surroundings and the experience of spending a night in this remote corner of Morocco.

Accommodation: Wilderness camping

Walking: ~4 hours

Elevations: ~2,150 m

Distance: ~12 km / 7.5 miles

Driving: ~1 hour

meals: B,L,D

DAY 4 Trek among towering rock pinnacles to the spectacular Bab n'Ali formations

Leaving our wilderness camp behind, we continue deeper into the Jebel Saghro mountains, trekking through a dramatic landscape of towering volcanic rock pinnacles, narrow canyons and rugged valleys. Our route takes us towards Tadout n Toublah, where striking rock formations rise above the surrounding landscape.

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thoughtful travel

Our trips operate in small groups with experienced local guides and support crews, following responsible trekking and camping practices.

On this trek, mules are used to transport luggage and camping equipment, accompanied by local muleteers. We work with our local operator to promote responsible pack animal welfare practices.

Information about our community partnerships and the World Expeditions Foundation is available on our website.

trip grading

Moderate

This is an active trekking adventure involving five consecutive days of walking through the rugged Jebel Saghro Mountains, at elevations of approximately 2,150–2,550 metres. Expect around 4–7 hours of trekking each day across rocky trails, uneven ground, mountain passes and some steep ascents and descents. A good level of fitness is required to comfortably complete the trek and enjoy the experience.

We recommend at least 45 minutes of aerobic exercise three times a week for a minimum of three months prior to departure. Regular hill or stair walking with a 7kg daypack is also highly recommended to build leg strength and endurance. The fitter you are, the more you will enjoy this rewarding mountain adventure.

adventure travel

Adventure travel involves the unexpected. In remote regions conditions change, and itineraries may be altered at short notice.

Flexibility gets you far more out of the trip than a fixed plan will.

If you are unsure whether this trip suits you, talk to us before you book.

Continuing onwards, we approach the impressive twin rock towers of Bab n'Ali, one of the most distinctive natural landmarks in the region. Take in the extraordinary scenery before continuing through the rocky terrain to our next wilderness camp.

Accommodation: Wilderness camping

Walking: ~6 hours

Distance: ~16 km / 10 miles

Elevations: ~2,350 m

meals: B,L,D

DAY 5 Explore the rugged Afourer Gorges and hidden valleys en route to Igli

Today we continue our journey through the remote Jebel Saghro mountains, trekking through rugged ravines and the dramatic Afourer Gorges. Along the way, discover hidden water sources and areas traditionally used by the semi-nomadic Aït Atta people, offering a glimpse into how communities have adapted to life in this harsh mountain environment. Our trek leads us to Igli, where we establish camp beneath the impressive rock formations of Tassegdalte Tamejgagte. Depending on time and conditions, there may be an opportunity for an optional afternoon walk towards the distinctive Camel's Head rock formation, named for its unusual shape.

Accommodation: Wilderness camping

Walking: 5–6 hours

Distance: ~15 km / 9.3 miles

Elevations: ~2,550 m

meals: B,L,D

DAY 6 Cross the Kouaouch highlands for panoramic views of the High Atlas

Today we tackle one of the more challenging and rewarding days of our Jebel Saghro trek, ascending towards the Kouaouch highlands. Depending on weather conditions and the group's ability, we follow either the plateau or summit route, with spectacular panoramic views across the rugged Jebel Saghro mountains and towards the distant High Atlas peaks. After taking in the scenery, we descend through rocky valleys towards Almou n Oughioul, a traditional grazing area nestled within the mountains. Here, we settle into our final wilderness camp, enjoying one last evening surrounded by the peaceful mountain landscape.

Accommodation: Wilderness camping

Walking: 6–7 hours

Distance: ~17 km / 10.6 miles

Elevations: ~2,350 m

meals: B,L,D

DAY 7 Descend through dramatic mountain scenery to the village of Tagdilt

After breakfast, we leave our final wilderness camp and begin the descent through the rugged landscapes of Jebel Saghro. As we make our way down from the mountains, the scenery gradually changes, with dramatic rock formations and valleys giving way to the village of Tagdilt. Arriving in the village marks the completion of our five-day trek through one of Morocco's most remote mountain regions. This evening, spend time with our local trekking team, reflecting on the

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important note

These notes are current at the date shown on each page and replace any earlier version.

The itinerary is a guide. It may change due to weather, conditions on the ground or other circumstances beyond our control.

journey and the landscapes we've explored together. Overnight in a traditional village gîte (local guesthouse), offering a glimpse into rural Moroccan life and hospitality.

Accommodation: Village gîte (local house)

Walking: ~5 hours

Distance: ~14 km / 8.7 miles

Elevations: ~2,170 m

meals: B,L,D

DAY 8 Drive from Tagdilt to Marrakech via Ouarzazate

After breakfast, we farewell Tagdilt and begin our journey back to Marrakech. Travelling through Boumalne Dadès and Ouarzazate, we leave the rugged landscapes of Jebel Saghro behind and make our way across southern Morocco. Along the way, enjoy the changing scenery as we cross the spectacular High Atlas Mountains, passing through mountain valleys and traditional villages before descending towards Marrakech. Arrive in the city for our final overnight stay, with the evening at leisure to relax or explore at your own pace.

Accommodation: Riad Berta or similar

Driving: ~6 hours

Distance: ~313 km / 194 miles

meals: B,L

DAY 9 Depart Marrakech

Our journey through the Jebel Saghro mountains concludes today. Following breakfast, prepare for your onward travel arrangements. A transfer to Marrakech airport is included for your departure. Depart Morocco or continue your travels independently.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

suggested extensions

Essaouira Sojourn

country information

The Amazigh (Berber) people are among Morocco's earliest known inhabitants, with a history stretching back thousands of years. Morocco's position between Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean has shaped its development through centuries of trade, migration and cultural exchange. Phoenician and Carthaginian traders established settlements along the coast, followed by Roman rule over parts of northern Morocco. Roman sites such as Volubilis remain important reminders of this period, while Jewish communities also formed part of the country's early history.

Islam spread into Morocco from the 7th century, bringing significant religious, cultural and political changes. The Idrisid dynasty, established in the late 8th century, laid the foundations for an independent Moroccan state. Later Amazigh dynasties, including the Almoravids and Almohads, extended their influence across North Africa and parts of the Iberian Peninsula. The Marinids followed, contributing to the development of cities, architecture and centres of learning. The Saadian dynasty rose to power in the 16th century, followed by the Alaouite dynasty in the 17th century, which continues to rule today. King Mohammed VI has been Morocco's monarch since 1999.

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During the early 20th century, growing European influence led to the establishment of French and Spanish protectorates in 1912. Under colonial administration, new roads, railways and urban districts were developed, alongside changes to Morocco's political and economic structures. The independence movement gained momentum during the 1940s, and Morocco regained its independence in 1956.

Today, Morocco is a constitutional monarchy with a population of approximately 36.8 million, according to the 2024 national census. The country's cultural identity reflects its Arab and Amazigh heritage, alongside longstanding African, Mediterranean and European influences. Islam is the predominant religion, while Morocco also has a significant Jewish cultural heritage. Arabic and Amazigh are the official languages, with Moroccan Arabic (Darija) widely spoken in everyday life. French remains commonly used in business, education and tourism, while regional Amazigh languages are spoken throughout the Atlas and Rif Mountains and southern Morocco.

Education and literacy have improved considerably in recent decades. According to the 2024 census, approximately 75% of the population aged 10 and over is literate, although differences remain between urban and rural communities.

Morocco is renowned for its rich artistic and cultural traditions, including music, ceramics, textiles, leatherwork and jewellery. Its historic medinas, traditional kasbahs, vibrant markets and regional cuisine reflect centuries of craftsmanship and cultural exchange. From the Atlas Mountains and fertile valleys to the vast landscapes of the Sahara, Morocco offers travellers opportunities to discover its history, traditions and diverse communities.

climate

The Jebel Saghro Mountains are best explored from October to April, when cooler conditions are generally more suitable for trekking. Autumn and spring bring pleasant daytime temperatures, although late April can be considerably warmer. Winter days are typically cool, with overnight temperatures at higher camps occasionally dropping below freezing. Conditions can change quickly in the mountains, so warm layers, a windproof jacket and suitable cold-weather clothing are essential, particularly for December to February departures.

During winter, snowfall may affect travel across the Tizi n'Tichka Pass in the High Atlas Mountains, potentially causing delays or itinerary adjustments.

dietary requirements

Tell us at least one month before departure and we can cater for vegetarian diets and most medically recommended diets, including allergies and intolerances. Options are limited in remote locations. Some alternatives cost more or are not available, and on some trips you may need to bring your own food. We cannot guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip. Travellers with severe allergies must carry their own medication and be able to self-administer it.

accommodation on the trip

Accommodation on this trip includes traditional Moroccan riads and kasbah-style guesthouses in Marrakech and Nkob, four nights of wilderness camping in Jebel Saghro and one night in a village gîte in Tagdilt.

Riads and guesthouses are comfortable, locally run properties with traditional Moroccan charm. During the trek, our camping equipment and main luggage are transported by mules, with camps set up by our local trekking team. Camping facilities and accommodation in Tagdilt are basic.

Accommodation is generally on a twin-share basis. Single travellers will be matched with another traveller of the same gender unless a single supplement is requested and paid for in advance, subject to availability. Properties specified in the itinerary may change depending on availability.

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pre and post tour accommodation

If you would like assistance with pre-tour accommodation please ask your reservations consultant for details.

what you carry

In your daypack you will need to carry extra warm clothing (depending on the altitude, location and weather), a rainjacket, water bottle, camera gear, valuables and personal items such as sunscreen, lip-eze etc. All group gear and your luggage is moved by our team.

equipment required

Specialist gear required includes sturdy trekking boots with ankle support, warm layers, a windproof jacket and a daypack (a comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information upon booking).

vehicles & safety

We use a range of vehicles, each chosen for the route and the conditions.

Transport safety laws differ from those at home. We use vehicles with seatbelts wherever they are available, but some vehicles will not have them fitted.

visas

Visas are exempt for passport holders from the following countries:-

Australia

New Zealand

Canada

United States

United Kingdom

All other nationalities should check with your nearest embassy or consulate.

You may also need visas for countries you transit on the way. Check the requirements for every country on your route.

Visa costs and rules change often, so confirm with your Reservations Consultant or travel agent. Obtaining your visas is your responsibility.

carbon footprint & climate action

We measure the estimated carbon emissions of our trips to better understand their environmental impact and identify opportunities to reduce emissions, rather than relying on carbon offsets.

Our Carbon Labels, calculated with independent carbon consultancy ecollective, estimate emissions from accommodation, meals, ground transport, activities and guiding. International flights are not included and can represent a significant proportion of your overall travel footprint.

You can help reduce your travel emissions by choosing direct flights where practical, flying economy and taking fewer, longer trips.

Learn more under Climate Action in the Responsible Travel section of our website.

webinars & events

Join a live webinar to hear about a trip from the people who run it, and ask your questions directly. Can't make it live? Watch it on demand.

Upcoming sessions are on our website and in our enewsletter.

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private groups

The adventures you see on our website are just the starting point. We can tailor an itinerary around your interests, preferred dates and group.

Whether you're travelling with friends, family, colleagues, a club or community, talk to our team about creating an adventure that's uniquely yours.

subscribe to our e-newsletter

New trips, new departure dates and offers, straight to your inbox. Subscribe free on our website.

social networking

Follow @worldexpeditions on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Tag #WorldExpeditions on your trip photos and videos to be featured.

trip availability

We run small groups, so places go early. Check availability online, or call our team, who can often find options the website does not show.

Some trips depend on services we cannot confirm until you book, such as internal flights or permits. Booking early is the surest way to get the departure you want.

how to book

Book online, or call or visit one of our offices. You will complete a Booking Form and pay a non-refundable deposit.

Please do not book flights or make any other arrangements until your Reservations Consultant has confirmed every service on your trip.