

# Trek the Sahara

8 Days | Starts/Ends: Marrakech



*Trek through the heart of Morocco's magnificent Sahara Desert on this unique walking holiday. Follow in the Berbers' footsteps, marvel at towering sand dunes, snaking wadis and beautiful deserted villages, and wild camp for three nights under the Saharan sky on one of our most adventurous tours.*

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners
- 2 nights simple hotels, 2 nights fixed camps and 3 nights wild camping
- Return airport transfers on days 1 and 8
- A full service trek including food and all equipment (excluding personal equipment)
- Escorted by an English speaking Moroccan tour leader
- All land transport involved in the itinerary
- Group size - Minimum: 4 Maximum: 12

This evening we enjoy our first group meal together at the hotel.

**Overnight - Marrakech (D)**

## Day 2 : Tichka Pass (2260m)



Marrakech - Ouled Driss. After breakfast we travel out of the city and across the High Atlas via Tichka Pass (2260m) - the highest road in the country. After we have crossed the mountains we descend into Ouarzazate and the Draa Valley. The largest palm grove in Morocco is here and stretches for over 100km on the banks of the River Draa. Then we pass through Agdz, Zagora and Tagounit en route to our final destination Ouled Driss - perched on the edge of the Sahara. During this incredibly scenic journey there will be plenty of stops for photo opportunities.

We arrive at our traditional Berber camp late afternoon and this evening we enjoy our first dinner in the desert. Our desert accommodation is in fixed tents, which have been upgraded with certain western comforts

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Walking through the heart of the magnificent Sahara - the third largest desert in the world
- Experiencing an incredible variety of rich desert landscapes from dry wadis to the sweeping crests of dunes
- Hiking on little-used trails and enjoying the incredible feeling of remoteness
- Enjoying sunsets, sunrises and star gazing amongst the magnificent dunes of Zahar
- Camping amongst magnificent dunes and beneath star-filled Saharan skies - a true wilderness experience
- Exploring magical Marrakech and the colourful UNESCO listed Djémea El Fna

### What's Included

### What's Not Included

- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- International flights and visa

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Marrakech



Upon arrival at Marrakech airport you will be met and transferred to our hotel in the city. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore the city or just relax at the hotel.

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www.onthegotours.com  
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updated on 21-05-2019

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

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such as hot showers. **Overnight - Ouled Driss - fixed camp** (B, L, D)

## Day 3 : El Ghizlane



Ouled Driss - El Ghizlane. Whilst enjoying our breakfast our trusty camels will be loaded up before we head out into the desert. We travel east today across palm groves and fields as we reach the edge of the sands and the dramatic cliffs of the harmada of Draa in the south. Whilst we are walking, our camels will be following slowly behind as they meander the dunes towards El Ghizlane. We will pass through a small and deserted village whose previous inhabitants had mastered the art of living comfortably in this arid environment.

We stop for an early lunch at Rass Nkhel before our final two hours of walking. Our camp tonight is near the holy shrine of Sidi Naji. Dinner tonight is amongst the dunes.

**Overnight - El Ghizlane - wild camp** (B, L, D)

## Day 4 : Dunes & Desert



El Ghizlane - Zahar. Today we continue along the left bank of the Draa (Morocco's longest river) which is surrounded by a desert landscape shaped mainly by the wind. In the Sahara desert there is a special vocabulary to describe the different forms that deserts take. 'Wadi' is a dry river valley, 'hamada' a wind-swept stony plain and 'reg' is a gravel plain.

When talking about a desert, especially one as famous as the Sahara, many people's imaginations conjure up vast seas of sand rippled with sand dunes - these are known as 'erg'. Today we'll encounter all of these forms as we walk from our camp towards the distant dunes of Erg Ez-Zahar.

Our camels will join us at first as we head to Malga Ouedane - the meeting of the Wadis where we will stop for lunch. This afternoon we continue through a vast empty expanse to reach the magnificent dunes of Zahar. Our camp this evening is in the middle of the dunes. We will sip tea and admire the sunset before enjoying dinner and settling down for a night beneath the stars.

**Overnight - Zahar - wild camp** (B, L, D)

## Day 5 : Draa riverbed walk



Zahar - Tilhatine. This morning we begin to head north and cross a wide bed of the Draa. The Draa is home to some incredible fauna like the tamarisk and acacia trees which are able to find water from the dry stony desert floor. Our lunch today is under the shade of the tamarisk trees before we continue into the desert. Our final destination is Tilhatine - a part of the desert with smaller dunes.

**Overnight - Tilhatine - wild camp** (B, L, D)

## Day 6 : El Mansour Eddhabi dam



Tilhatine - Ouled Driss. After breakfast we continue our trek on the right bank of the wadi - this wadi has remained dry for 35 years since El Mansour Eddhabi dam near Ouarzazate was constructed. Before then the waters would reach Iriki Lake during desert rainstorms and it supported a rich ecology of fish and birds - it is now a dry plateau. After lunch at Ras Nkhile we cross the dry riverbed and walk back to our fixed camp back at Ouled Driss.

**Overnight - Ouled Driss - fixed camp** (B, L, D)

## Day 7 : Atlas Mountains



Ouled Driss - Marrakech. We have an early breakfast this morning before we drive back to Marrakech via the Atlas Mountains. After hotel check in we will head out into the famous Djeema El Fna for dinner on our final night.

**Overnight - Marrakech** (B, L, D)

## Day 8 : Marrakech



Our adventure ends today and complimentary airport transfers are provided. Should you wish to extend your stay we are happy to arrange post tour accommodation for you. (B)

### PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. Prices shown

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are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room/tent. No Compulsory Single Supplement - If you are happy to share a room/tent with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who would like their own room/tent and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. Please note that single tents are not available for the 2 nights in Ouled Driss. Please DO NOT book flights until we have contacted you to confirm your booking and informed you that the tour is guaranteed to run.

### PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
12 Oct	USD 835	USD 1,015
02 Nov	USD 835	USD 1,015
21 Dec	USD 835	USD 1,015
28 Dec	USD 835	USD 1,015

### PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
11 Jan	USD 835	USD 1,015
15 Feb	USD 835	USD 1,015
21 Mar	USD 835	USD 1,015
11 Apr	USD 835	USD 1,015
10 Oct	USD 835	USD 1,015
31 Oct	USD 835	USD 1,015
19 Dec	USD 835	USD 1,015
26 Dec	USD 835	USD 1,015

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