

# Sahara Trek

Morocco, The Camel Caravan Trail Trek



Ultimate Challenges

T: 020 3642 9830  
events@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk  
www.ultimatechallenges.co.uk

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## The Camel Caravan Trail Trek

Morocco is a land of enduring fascination and enchantment. Our Sahara trek takes us beyond Ouarzazate and Zagora, where the gates of the desert open to the infinite. We witness the legendary Draa Valley; a silvery thread of water flanked by palm groves and ochre Kasbahs and pass the last oasis of Mhamid, where the sand then overwhelms the environment. The Sahara is the largest hot desert in the world by a huge margin, stretching from the Atlantic coast of Mauritania to the Red sea coast of Egypt. Its landscape varies from a stony flat expanse to perfect wind blown sand dunes, broken only by the occasional oasis. The feeling of space and of solitude is awesome.

We will follow the steady rhythm of our camel caravan, for 5 stunning trekking days and discover the Ergs of Smar and Ebidlya, these names synonym of silent spaces submerged by lights. After Erg Ebidlya, we trek to the exploration of the canyons of Oued Mhasser, where the miraculous presence of water in this area gives birth to superb gueltas, and small oasis deeply enrooted in the rocks. Our Moroccan adventure finishes with time to explore Marrakech, the 'pink city'. Where there will have time to explore this historic walled medina with its bustling souks and Djemma El Fna (main square) whilst being entertained by street acrobats, snake charmers and fortune-tellers.



# Detailed itinerary

## Day 1: Depart London to Ouarzazate, Morocco

Arrive Ouarzazate airport. On arrival we will be met by our guides, transferred to the Hotel Mercure and have a trek briefing about the adventure ahead.

## Day 2: Ouarzazate to Mhamid - Oued Attach – 6 ½ hour drive Approx. 2-3 hours trekking

After breakfast and a full trek briefing about our challenge ahead, we drive South through the legendary Draa Valley, to the town of Zagora in Morocco's deep south.

After passing Zagroa, we stop for a picnic lunch in the valley at the village of Mhamid. From here, our trek leads us to our first camp at Oued Attach “The Thirst Wadi”.

## Day 3: Oued Attach to Erg Smar 5-7 hours trekking

Our trek begins today after we break camp and pack up our camels and head off into the desert! We trek along the dry wadi bed, passing an amazing tamarisk “forest” and head towards the first dunes in the distance with our caravan of camels. We aim to reach our first camp at Erg Smar by mid afternoon.

## Day 4: Erg Smar to Erg Ebildya 6-7 hours trekking

After an early breakfast we trek for a full day, discovering the dune massif of Ebidlya and the warm colours of the sand. After a traditional Moroccan picnic, we ascend the highest dune of the Erg 150m. It's a tough climb, but the views from the top are magnificent. We camp overnight at Erg Ebildya.

## Day 5: Erg Ebildya to Mhasser Canyons 6-8 hours trekking

We have a tough day of trekking, as we leave the dunes behind and head towards the Bani Range and walk for approx. 34km to cross a Reg (stony plateau). On reaching our overnight camp at Mhasser canyons, we will enjoy a well-earned rest and delicious dinner under the African stars!

## Day 6: Mhasser Canyons to Aferdou to Oued Feija - 6-7 hours trekking

Our stunning trek continues. The scenery changes today as our route takes up towards the canyons of Oued Mhasser, passing ambient gueltas (desert pools) with running water, a welcome oasis after the rocky river bed. We continue over the Fom Lachar pass to our last night's camp at Oued Feija.



# Detailed itinerary

## Day 7: Oued Feija to Ouarzazate to Marrakech (6-7 hour drive)

Our breath-taking drive to Marrakech takes us back towards Ouarzazate, over the high Anti-Atlas mountain range including the Tinifift pass at 1600m and the Tichka pass at 2268m. We will arrive in Marrakech late in the afternoon and transfer to our hotel. In the evening we will meet for a celebration dinner in the Medina at one of the city's more traditional Moroccan restaurants.

## Day 8: Marrakech – departure day

After breakfast, depending on the return flight there will be time to explore this stunning city.



*© Ultimate Challenges  
Itinerary complex and subject  
to change*

### Grade

Moderate to Tough

### Best time of year

November to February



# Why choose Ultimate Challenges?

- We have over 16 years experience running pioneering charity challenges e.g. Kilimanjaro , the Inca Trail, California Bike
- We choose the most unexplored and upcoming regions for our amazing expeditions
- We are built on a team of Senior Event fundraisers
- Our team is driven to provide inspiring, life changing and effective fundraising events for our charity partners
- We use the best ground agents, the most experienced trek staff and doctors to ensure your supporters have a safe and memorable challenge
- We operate an Ethical Code of Conduct with all our ground handlers to ensure fair treatment of all our local staff. We have high health and safety expectations and all our partnerships are conducted with respect for local cultures and environmental concerns
- We offer an end-to-end service to ensure our charity partners are given full support from our experienced staff ensuring you maximize your income

## **Our pricing policy**

We believe that we are very competitive and offer excellent value for money. However, it can be confusing when comparing prices, as small alterations in an itinerary, can make a substantial difference. We would be happy to review proposals you may have received from other tour operators, as we are confident that we can beat any genuine quote.

***‘ Choose your Tour Operator with your head, so your supporters can follow their hearts when they travel’***



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25 - 27 Vanston Place, London. SW6 1AZ  
T: 020 3642 9830  
E: [events@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk](mailto:events@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk)  
[www.ultimatechallenges.co.uk](http://www.ultimatechallenges.co.uk)



**ABTA**  
ABTA No. W0745