

Morocco Road Bike

Cycle from Marrakech to the High Atlas Mountains



Ultimate Challenges

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Marrakech to the Atlas Mountains

An epic 5 day road cycling challenge

Charged with the exotic, but with its roots in Africa, Morocco represents the closest truly “different” destination to the UK. Twice our size, but with only half the population, much of Morocco is a desolate desert and a vast wilderness of towering mountains, where rural life has changed little over centuries. Add to this superb hospitality and an incredible network of roads, and all the ingredients are there for a fantastic road bike challenge! Morocco is a land of enduring fascination and enchantment.



Our tour starts from the 1000 year old city of Marrakech. A fascinating ride from Marrakech towards the mountain range of the High Atlas Mountains. Cycling on the flat Haouz plains, you will be quickly challenged by the imposing Atlas Mountain slopes, climbing Morocco's highest roads. You will have the opportunity to discover Berber lush valleys and rugged high plateaus and discover the traditional local way of life, authentic architecture and landscapes of a rare beauty.

We finish our epic challenge in Marrakech where we have a evening of celebrations.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart London to Marrakech

Depart London for our flight to Marrakech. Upon arrival we will be met by our guides and transferred to our hotel. This afternoon we will have a bike fitting and briefing about the challenge ahead. Overnight Marrakech.

Day 2: Marrakech to Zat Valley

Distance: 58kms / 36 miles

Max Altitude: 1,065m

After an early breakfast we will have a one hour transfer east towards the small city of Sidi Rahal. From here our biking challenge begins! We start by cycling south hitting the first hills of the Atlas Mountains. We ride hilly terrain with colourful landscapes of red clay and basalt. Our first serious climb will take us to Touama where we will then ride through Berber villages and cultivated terraces. Our final climb of the day will take us to Tidili before an easy descent towards our hotel on the Zat Valley.

Day 3: Zat to Ourika to Ouirgane

Distance: 95kms / 60 miles

Max altitude: 1,813m

Today our ride starts along an enjoyable flat stretch across the Haouz Plains. The road then leaves the lush valley and starts snaking up west. For the next 14km, we will climb steadily along the mountainside and gently gain altitude enjoying some impressive views across the Atlas Mountains and the Berber villages. Once we reach our highest point at the Tizi n'Tadmamt (1813m), we will have a more relaxed section following the contours of the mountain hillsides overlooking the superb views stretching towards the Haouz Plains far north. After Sidi Fares, we will enjoy an amazing downhill section for 10km towards Asni, our finish point today. Overnight and dinner at a lodge.

* For those who still have some energy left there will be an optional ride up to the ski resort of Oukaimden, an epic 18km climb – cycling the highest road in Morocco!

Day 4: Tizi n'Test

Distance: 152kms / 95 miles

Max altitude: 2,100m

Starting from our hotel, we will cycle along the beautiful N'fiss Valley to discover the wild beauty of the High Atlas Mountains following the course of the Nfis River. On route we pass through some small Berber settlements and stop for a visit to Tinmal Mosque, one of Morocco's oldest mosque's. The mosque dates back to the 12th century and was built by the same Berber dynasty who built the magnificent Koutoubia mosque in Marrakech. We then tackle a challenging 30km climb, but our efforts will be rewarded as we reach the top of one of the highest roads in Morocco, the Tizi n'Test at 2100m. On a clear day we can enjoy panoramic views southward over the Souss Valley to Taroudant and across to the Atlas Mountains! It is then a well deserved descent to our hotel.

Detailed itinerary

Day 5: Ouirgane to Kik Plateau to Takerkoust

Distance: 50kms / 31 miles

Max altitude: 1,250m

After a good breakfast, we start cycling on quiet roads snaking up towards the shrine of Moulay Brahim. This is a holy place where a well known Moroccan Sufi saint was buried. At the highest spot of the ride we will cross the magnificent limestone plateau with the often snow capped Toubkal peaks in the background. The ride across the terraces will be punctuated by few villages before we reach the western end of the Kik. From now on, it's a long decent to reach the Takerkoust lake where we spend tonight.

Day 6: Takerkoust to Marrakech

Distance: 55kms / 34 miles

Max altitude: 900m

The final day of our epic challenge! Today we ride the Atlas foothills to the city of Tahannaout and then a long flat ride to reach Marrakech early afternoon. Tonight we will have an evening of celebrations in Marrakech. Overnight in 4* hotel.

Day 7: Marrakech

Free day at leisure in Marrakech. Dinner in Marrakech. Overnight 4* hotel.

Day 8: Marrakech to London

Transfer to the airport for our return flight to London.

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This itinerary is complex and subject to change

Challenge grade

Tough

Best time of year

All Year

