

Walking in the Atlas Mountains

Trip style: Guided Walking Holidays

Destination: 📍 Morocco

Trip code: MRZ08-WHW10

Trip Walking Grade: 3



Holiday Overview

Taking you from the buzz of Marrakech's medina to the High Atlas Mountains, this Morocco walking holiday reveals the North African nation at its most memorable. As part of a welcoming group guided by our expert local leaders, you'll travel to Agouti in the Aït Bouguemez 'Happy Valley' – a wonderfully green pocket of orchards, gorges and Berber villages. Enjoy unhurried walks that reveal everyday mountain life, plus time to visit Ouzoud Waterfalls, the Dinosaur Museum and tour all the highlights of Marrakech.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- A sightseeing tour of Marrakech's Medina, souks and Jemaa el-Fnna square
- Experiencing the Berber way of life in the Atlas Mountains
- Discovering Aït Bouguemez valley, known as the happy valley
- Walking in the shadow of Mt Toubkal, North Africa's highest mountain
- Marvelling at the mix of scenery, from the Ouzoud Falls to M'Goun mountain

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A choice of two walks a day with experienced local leaders
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 8 nights' touring accommodation in Marrakech & Atlas Mountains
- 8 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 8 dinners
- An evening of traditional Berber entertainment
- All sightseeing and entrance fees (as per itinerary)
- Return flights from UK including baggage and transfers

WALKING GRADES AND OPTIONS

This tour is graded level 3 which is moderate. There is a choice of two walks per day one harder than the other. Distances walked on the easier walk average at 4 miles (6.5km) while the harder walk averages at 8 miles (13km). The terrain is uneven and at times rocky underfoot and the trails are not always well defined, and we will be walking around hillsides. A good level of fitness and mobility are necessary.

ITINERARY – ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival Day

Arrive in Marrakech and transfer to your accommodation. Settle in and relax or explore the local area. This evening enjoy your first experience of Moroccan cuisine with a welcome dinner.

Day 2 Discover Marrakech

We begin our morning walking tour of Marrakech in the medina with a visit to the spice-scented souk. A feast for the senses, aromatic spices in a rainbow assortment of colours are piled high, while stall holders tempt you with free samples of Morocco's delicious nuts and dates. See the communal ovens where local women come to bake bread and visit the 19th-century Bahia Palace to marvel at its masterful Zellige decoration. We'll also stop by the Madrasa Ben Youssef famous for its intricate architectural design, before rounding off in Jemaa el-Fnaa square, the heart of the old quarter where you can find just about anything to buy.

The afternoon is at your leisure. Perhaps visit the Secret Garden where you can have a coffee overlooking the restored ancient gardens or relax in your riad, with some mint tea and patisserie.

Day 3 High Atlas Mountains

Today we leave the hustle and bustle of the city and drive through the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains to the Berber town of Azilal where we'll have the chance to see Ouzoud Falls. We'll pass mountains, gorges, and mud brick Berber villages on our way to the heart of the High Atlas, including Aït Bouguemez, also known as happy valley. Then it's on to our accommodation in the village of Imelghas, which will be our base for the rest of our time in the mountains.

Day 4 Aït Bouguemez Valley

Option 1 - Sidi Moussa and Tighza Gorge

Distance: 9.5 miles (15km)

Passing the shrine of Sidi Moussa, a conical hill with an ighrem building (defensive mud brick granary store) perched on top, we'll wind our way through fields and orchards. Look up and you'll see stork nests balanced on top of trees as we make our way to a picnic stop near the Gorges of Tighza. On the other side of Aït Bouguemez valley, we'll walk to the village of Aguerd N Ouzrou before returning to Imelghas.

Option 2 - Iskataffen - Ain Souss

Distance: 3.8 miles (6km)

We'll walk westwards past Iskattafen, where juniper bushes, lush vegetation, twisting streams, and orchards line the valley floor. Walk past the village of Taghdouit, spectacularly built on the end of a mountain ridge, and have tea with a Berber family. Then we'll continue along the valley to Ait ouchkhachan back to Imelghas.

Day 5 Souss Region

Option 1 - Iskattafen – Ahabbay - Ighil n Tissila

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 950ft (300m)

Today we'll walk through the village of Imelghas, past Iskattafen, and up into the foothills below the mountain of Ighil n'Aït Ourit. Rocky paths are lined with juniper and oak trees as we follow the valley to Ahabbay. Walnut and apple trees also blanket the valley below, while the fields are still managed by hand. We'll climb up to a picnic spot with views towards M'goun then walk to the small shepherds' huts to Ighil n Tissila and back down the valley to Imelghas.

Option 2 - Sidi Moussa – Timit – Aguerd Nouzrou

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Ascent: 450ft (140m)

From the village, we'll walk to Sidi Moussa, built on the top of a distinctive conical hill, which was used until recently to store and protect all the village harvests. The ascent is very short but quite steep. We'll then descend into the village of Timit, carrying on across fields to the village of Aguerd N Ouzrou. Keep an eye open for dinosaur tracks in the exposed rock. Apple orchards and streams also surround our return walk to Imelghas.

Day 6 Berber Villages and Orchard Valleys

Option 1 - Tabant - Ait Imi - Ibakalloun - Rbat

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 1,450ft (450m)

Today's walk leads us along the orchard-lined tracks to the south towards Tabant, where the main souk happens every Sunday. We'll then walk up the valley to the village of Rbat where nearby you can see fossilized dinosaur footprints on exposed slabs of rock. Starting the climb from Ibakalloun, there's the option of a picnic at the top before descending into the valley, crossing the river and continuing to Imelghas.

Option 2 - Tabant – Ibakallone

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Walk through fields from Imelghas, following tracks that weave through apples orchards and criss-cross over irrigation ditches. Once we reach the main village of Bouguemez - Tabant, we'll stop for a coffee here before walking alongside the foothills of Adazene on mule tracks to Ibakliwn village. We'll return via Ait Imi where the Tizi n'Ait Imi pass walk starts.

Day 7 Trails Around M'Goun

Option 1 - Ighil N Ourir

Distance: 4.5 miles (7km)

Ascent: 550ft (170m)

We head south into the foothills of the Ighil n' Ait Ourir ridge, where 2,800-metre-high peaks tower above us. Follow the valley past fields, oak trees and juniper. Mule tracks then take us past Iskattafen with a short climb to loop to the next valley. We'll return along Tadghouit valley to Imelghas.

Option 2 - Aguerd N Ouzrou – Igoudammen – Tabant

Distance: 8.5 miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,150 ft (350m)

This walk explores the southern parts of the valley towards the mountain range that includes M'goun, the second highest peak in North Africa. We'll pass the village of Aguerd D Ouzrou and climb up Ighill n' Igoudamene towards the high mountain pass of Tizi n'Ait Imi. We'll then descend to the village of Tabant on stony mule tracks.

Day 8 Visit Women's Co-operative, return to Marrakech

Our last day is an opportunity to visit the Women's Co-operative of Imelghas in the beautiful Ait Bouguemez valley. Meet the talented women who create traditional rugs from natural wool and dyes, each piece telling a unique story. Learn how they work together to preserve these crafts, and if you like, try your hand at weaving or baking Berber bread. The co-operative not only provides a source of income for these women but also a warm space for connection and creativity during the colder months. In the afternoon, we'll travel back to Marrakech and enjoy a traditional dinner to celebrate our final night.

Day 9 Departure Day

Transfer to Marrakech airport for departure.

Daily Walk Options



Medium Walks

Walks follow well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas, or along rugged coastal footpaths. These may be rough or steep in sections and will require reasonable fitness.

Accommodation

Riad Bahia Salam, Marrakech

What was once a traditional Moroccan family home has now been lovingly converted into a luxurious and tranquil oasis just a short stroll from the bustle of Jemâa El Fna square. Simple yet tastefully decorated rooms are furnished in typical Arabo-Berber style while public areas are all long low sofas, covered in plush cushions, and handwoven Arabic rugs. Outside, you'll find a sleek pool and terrace area complete with a fully stocked bar, and a mosaic-tiled courtyard garden ideal for cooling off in the shade. When it comes to dining, there's a beautiful restaurant serving local cuisine.

Auberge Dar Itrane, Aït Bougmez valley - Morocco

Surrounded by the green-carpeted mountains of the Aït Bougmez valley, this traditional riad-style lodge provides spectacular views over the stunning landscape – particularly from the roof terrace. Rooms are simple and the accommodation is basic but boasts an outdoor pool and a restaurant serving typical dishes using local ingredients. And thanks to the lodge's remote location, a clear night rewards with incredible views of the starry skies.

Riad Nesma, Marrakech – Morocco (30 October 2026 only)

Built in traditional Moroccan style around an attractive central courtyard this riad is only a few steps from the famous Jemâa El Fna square. It has a rooftop terrace decorated with plants, panoramic views of the medina and Atlas Mountains and a plunge pool and jacuzzi. As with all riads, no two rooms are the same as they are individually designed with traditional décor. They are air conditioned, private bathrooms and free Wi-Fi. There are seating areas on the rooftop and inside.

Useful Holiday Information

Morocco's climate varies from warm/hot in the cities to cooler/cold in the Atlas Mountains. Our tours run in spring and autumn with temperatures around the low to mid 20s Celsius with light rainfall from time to time. Like other places in the world

highs and lows in temperature are changing so it is advisable to pack layers so you can adapt to the changes.

Essentials

- Walking boots with good ankle support and grip
- Lightweight clothing including a rain jacket or poncho
- Jumper/jacket for the cool evenings
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat for the Mountains
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone/camera
- Insect repellent
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy

Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel (pool in Marrakech accommodation)

Optional extras

- Small mat for sitting on during rests and picnics on walks

Trip Information

Please contact us as far in advance as possible if you have any specific dietary requirements and we will do our best to meet your needs.

If you require a specific meal on the flight, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than 96 hours before travel.

This information is subject to change. In all cases, we highly recommend you consult your GP both for up to date details and for more information on what is appropriate to your situation.

As a rule, travellers should be up to date with their routine vaccinations and boosters as recommended in the UK – including, for example, the MMR and diphtheria, tetanus, polio vaccines. Hepatitis A & Tetanus vaccinations are recommended. Diphtheria, Typhoid and rabies are sometimes recommended too.

This information is for those travelling with a full 'British Citizen' passport; for all other nationalities or passport holders, please check with your local consulate for advice.

Passport

Your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay; no additional period of validity beyond this is required but it's recommended to have at least 6 months additional validity beyond your date of entry.

Visa

British nationals don't need a visa to enter Morocco for tourism for up to 3 months. Make sure your passport is stamped on arrival – some tourists have experienced difficulty when leaving because they don't have an entry stamp.

Tripnote validity

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred. In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary. The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

Document produced: 23 July 2026

