

Jebel Sahro Walking Holiday

Trip Code: JBO

Version: JBO Jebel Sahro Walking Holiday



WALK & TREK



GUIDED GROUP



MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike through the stunning landscape of the nomadic Ait Atta Berbers
- Explore an incredible volcanic region and visit the rock gates of Bab n'Ali
- Camp next to nomadic settlements and summit a beautifully remote peak
- Discover Marrakech after trekking through a timeless Moroccan region
- Easily combined with Winter Toubkal, Jebel Sirwa or Edge of the Sahara

AT A GLANCE

- 4 days trekking
- Max altitude - 2600m
- Join at Marrakech

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- All meals included
- 1 nights Gite / Hostel
- 2 nights Hotel
- 4 nights Camping

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Home to a beautiful volcanic landscape, dramatic gorges, towering rock spires, charming villages and the Ait Atta Berbers, the undiscovered Jebel Sahro is a unique destination for a walking and cultural holiday. Lying south of Morocco's High Atlas Mountains, this timeless area offers that rare opportunity to observe an ancient nomadic lifestyle whilst trekking through a region which sees very few visitors. From Marrakech we cross the Tizi n'Tichka Pass and arrive in the Dades Valley, famed for its kasbahs and palm groves. As we enter the Jebel Sahro we'll follow footpaths which snake through the heart of the region, and camp beside nomadic settlements, adding a wonderful culture insight to the holiday. Standing on the summit of Kouaouch, this remote peak rewards us with spectacular views across to the beautiful peak of Mgoun and the impressive High Atlas Mountains. Towards the end of our trekking journey we hike towards the towering rock towers of Bab n'Ali in a landscape resembling a wild west. The chance to explore Marrakech is the perfect finale to this special [Moroccan holiday](#).

A Genuine Small Group Experience - The Secret of Our Success in Morocco

We are proud to say that this holiday in Morocco is limited to a maximum group size of 12, ensuring we leave only our footprints on the trails whilst enjoying a genuine small group adventure. We've been taking our clients walking, trekking and mountaineering for almost thirty years so we know the ingredients of a good guide and a successful group adventure. Those who are new to trekking in Morocco will take particular comfort in the presence of our experienced Moroccan guides, who we believe are the best in the business.

Is this holiday for you?

This holiday is suitable for regular walkers who are looking for a holiday away from the Mount Toubkal crowds in an unknown area of Morocco where a cultural experience is as important as the walking.

As a fully-supported camping trek there will be a trek crew and only need to carry your daypack each day. The maximum altitude on this trek is not high and we will not be camping much above 2050m.

The holiday does involve a fair amount of ascent and descent and approximately 6 hrs of walking each day. For most of the holiday we follow good footpaths between the valleys and villages.

Itinerary

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DAY 1

Meet at the group hotel in Marrakech. Transfers from Marrakech Airport are provided.

Your holiday starts at the hotel in Marrakech. On arrival at Marrakech Airport you'll be met by a KE representative who will assist with the short transfer to the group hotel. Depending on your arrival time and after settling in you may like to explore Marrakech which is fantastic place and great for wandering through. Most people head for the central square of Djemaa-el-Fna beneath the stunning minaret of Koutoubia Mosque. Here you can enjoy a bird's eye view with a refreshing mint tea at one of the cafes overlooking the square. If you would prefer to arrive a day or two earlier, please contact the KE office who can book you extra nights at the group hotel or we can offer you a choice of riad overnights if you would like a traditional Moroccan experience. In the evening there will be a briefing from the leader over dinner, which is generally taken in the hotel for ease and late arrival of a number of flights.

Meals: **D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 2

Cross the Tizi n'Tichka in the High Atlas and enter the valley of a thousand kasbahs.

An early breakfast and start is needed today as we prepare for our journey across the western High Atlas Mountains. After leaving Marrakech we head southeast across the Haouz Plain and pass traditional Berber villages before crossing the spectacular Tizi n'Tichka (2260m). Linking Marrakech and Ouarzazate, this spectacular road takes you through some of the High Atlas Mountains most beautiful scenery with constantly changing colours along the way. As the highest road pass in North Africa, the pass is the official gateway to the Sahara Desert and was constructed along an old caravan trail by the French military in 1936. Snaking its way through the mountains the name Tizi n Tichka translates to the Pasture Pass. After Ouarzazate we enter the Dades Valley, known as the Valley of A Thousand Kasbahs and wonderful fortified villages line our route. Our drive continues through the valley until reaching the village of Tagdilt. Here we overnight in a simple village house which is a perfect introduction to the local culture and traditions. Tomorrow we have the added bonus of walking directly from our accommodation.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Gite / Hostel

DAY 3

Hike through fig trees and shepherd pastures before the Tizi Ouzarzam Pass.

After waking up we'll enjoy breakfast before meeting our trek crew. Our bags will be loaded up before we set off walking directly from our accommodation. We'll leave the tiny settlement of Tagdilt by way of a small oasis dotted with fields of barley and slopes of fig trees. Our trail snakes through an incredible valley before we start ascending onto the volcanic sides of the Sahro. This dramatic area is full of deep gorges and red rocky peaks and hopefully along the way we'll pass a number of Ait Atta nomadic camps. The Ait Atta is a large Berber tribe that speaks Central Atlas Tamazight and like the majority of Morocco's indigenous people prefer the name Amazigh meaning free people, rather than Berber originating from Barbarian. The Ait Atta nomads live in south east of Morocco and although they are from Saharan descent, the area of the Jebel Sahro massif is their original home. They are mainly spread out in a range of valleys and live a nomadic lifestyle. Today we should get to see local shepherds grazing their flock which gives us the perfect excuse for an introduction and rest before heading over the Tizi Ouzarzam Pass (2300m). After descending we reach our camp and prepare for the first night of camping. Dinner will be prepared by our camp crew and in these remote areas away from light pollution we should be treated to a magnificent star filled sky.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Camping



Ascent
1050M



Descent
450M



Time
6 hrs walking



Distance
15KM

DAY 4

Stand on the summit of Mount Kouaouch (2600m) and camp beside the Camel Hump.

Today we start by enjoying breakfast as we prepare for a holiday highlight - the ascent of Mount Kouaouch (2600m). As one of the most prominent peaks in the region, Kouaouch is an important part of the Sahro region. Annual rainfall is minimal in this area and ranges between 100mm and 300mm, therefore the end result is an incredible lunar landscape in places. As one of the driest regions in the Atlas Mountain Range, the word Sahro means drought in the Tamazight language. On reaching the highest point of our journey, the summit of Mount Kouaouch we are rewarded with incredible views, which includes one of the most beautiful mountains in Africa, the snow-capped peak of Mgoun. With its dramatic ridge and majestic summit, Mount Mgoun is majestic as it dominates the horizon. To the south is the magnificent Sahara Desert stretching out into the distance. After enjoying the views and taking the all-important summit photos of the surrounding deep valleys and stunning formations, we'll descend to our campsite near the rocks of Tassigdelt, known as the Camel's Hump.

Meals: **B L D**

	Accommodation Camping		Ascent 550M		Descent 1150M		Time 6 hrs walking		Distance 15KM
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DAY 5

Visit the plateaus of Ait Atta Berbers and hike to the impressive rock gates of Ali.

After our summit attempt yesterday, we can enjoy a day of total contrasts as we head up onto the high plateaus of the Tadaout 'n Tablah. This incredible region is famed for its amazing rock formations and high grazing areas of the semi-nomadic Ait Atta Berbers. This Berber tribe have been in Morocco longer than the Arabs and the arrival of Islam in the 7th Century. During the 15th and 19th Century they were the leading Berber tribe, originating from the mountains of South Morocco. In the 16th Century they became a strong political force in the Jebel Sahro and up to now are still traditionally nomadic. This incredible landscape is part of their lifestyle and as we walk we are sure to meet them whilst surrounded by remarkable formations, including the Organ Pipe, Elephants Head and Camels Head. However one of the most impressive formations in the Jebel Sahro is Bab n'Ali known as Ali's Gate. We'll have the opportunity to stand at the base of these 60m monoliths in an area that is reminiscent of Monument Valley in the American south west! Tonight we camp close to Ali's Gate.

Meals: **B L D**

	Accommodation Camping		Ascent 300M		Descent 650M		Time 6 hrs walking		Distance 17KM
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DAY 6

Trek through wheat, clover, carrot, chilli and almond farms in the Hanedour Valley.

Today we head deeper into this region of quirky rock formations and monoliths so it's easy to forget you are actually in North Africa and think you are in the southwest of America! Dirt roads are still used as trade routes with the neighbouring Sahara Desert and as we head to the foothills on the opposite side of the Jebel Sahro, we'll walk through a number of small villages, hamlets and farms in the Hanedour Valley. The small local farms in this area have carefully irrigated plots of land, which grow wheat, clover, carrots, tomatoes, chillies and orchards of almond trees. After a wonderful final day of walking we'll set up camp and prepare for our last night under canvas before heading back to Marrakech tomorrow.

Meals: **B L D**

	Accommodation Camping		Ascent 250M		Descent 450M		Time 6 hrs walking		Distance 18KM
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DAY 7**Transfer to Marrakech and explore at leisure.**

After an early breakfast we start our transfer back to Marrakech as we head towards snow-capped Atlas peaks. We'll cross the Draa River and drive through an area of striking rock formations before arriving in Ouarzazate. Popular with movie-makers, Lawrence of Arabia, Prince of Persia and Gladiator have all been filmed here. We'll drive over the Tizi n'Tichka Pass before arriving in Marrakech late afternoon. After checking in at the group hotel there will be some time to explore at leisure in this legendary city. Maybe check out the remarkable central square of the Djemaa-el-Fna where at around 4 pm it becomes the focus of activities for local people and tourists. We'll then regroup for our final dinner in a local restaurant to round off a fantastic week.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 8**Departure day. Marrakech Airport transfers are provided.**

Your holiday ends after breakfast. Depending on your flight time you may wish to enjoy a final stroll around Marrakech before your transfer to the airport. The city has a number of highlights including Jardin Majorelle which was owned by fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent from the 1960s to his death in 2008. Ville Nouvelle is a cobalt-blue exterior which is surrounded by a delightful garden full of rare desert flora plus fuchsia bougainvillea and deep green palms. The result is an explosion of colour nestled in the city. The Bahia Palace is a wonderful palace set in gardens and well worth a visit. Built in the late 19th century, this beautiful building was reputed to be the greatest palace of its time. With a name meaning brilliance, the palace was built by craftsmen from Fez. If you wish to extend your time in Marrakech then please don't hesitate to contact the KE office. We can assist you in booking extra nights in the group hotel or in a recommended riad. We also can help you organise a Moroccan extension in the coastal gem of Essaouira or the magnificent Sahara Desert.

Meals: **B**

Extensions

When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



Essaouira Riad and Atlantic Coast

Friendly Essaouira provides a beautiful base for this colourful Atlantic Coast extension which offers a fantastic start or end to our holidays in Morocco. Described as the prettiest town in the country, the UNESCO port and medina are a riot of colour and activity. To ensure a relaxing time in Essaouira we take care of private return transfers and riad accommodation for 3 nights at the comfortable Riad Maison du Sud, situated within the ramparts of the medina and just a few minutes walk from the sea. Redecorated in Moorish style, it has a snug sitting room and sunny roof terrace with views of the Mellah and the Atlantic Ocean. Essaouira has plenty of things to do and so we leave your days free for you to enjoy at leisure. This extension starts and ends in Marrakech.

4 days from

✕9,223,372,036,854,776,000 per person

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- Marrakech Airport transfers (on Day 1 & 8 only)
- All land transport involved in the itinerary
- All accommodation as described
- All meals
- A full service on trek including food and all equipment (excluding personal equipment)

What's not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Visa fees (if applicable)
- Tips for staff
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

TRAVEL TO YOUR DESTINATION

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive than low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

The group will meet at the hotel in Marrakech.

Airport transfers are provided for all clients to the group hotel.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals are included in the holiday price from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8.

Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. You should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a [Water-To-Go bottle](#)) to treat your water. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

All food whilst on trek is purchased locally and cooked for us by our excellent trek cooks. KE groups are always surprised at what the cook team conjure up! Breakfasts are continental style, with tea and coffee, muesli, bread, jam, honey and soft cheese.

A morning snack is also provided and this usually consists of a type of Moroccan 'trail mix' with dried figs and dates, peanuts, sugar coated peanuts and other nuts.

Lunch usually starts with the Berber speciality of mint tea, followed by a buffet of rice, pasta or couscous, with a freshly prepared salad - onion, tomatoes, green peppers, grated carrot, green-beans, with tinned sweetcorn or peas added. Hard and soft cheeses, tinned fish, olives, biscuits and bread are also on the lunchtime menu.

Dinner starts off with soup and bread. The main course is usually rice, pasta, couscous, spaghetti or chips, with a vegetable stew (or tagine) consisting of some of the following - onion, potato, carrot, green pepper, zucchini, turnip, parsnip, green beans, and peas. There will be some meat (usually chicken, lamb or beef), however meat is not prominent in the menu. All dishes come with traditional sauces which are rarely (spicy) hot. To round off dinner, there is the usual range of hot drinks.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your diet with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

During this trip the group will spend 2 nights at a tourist class hotel in Marrakech. While there are several more expensive hotels in Marrakech, we try to strike the right balance of a comfortable and conveniently located hotel while maintaining a really good value holiday.

In Tagdilt we have 1 night in a gite. Here the accommodation is in small dormitory rooms (mattresses on the floor), usually shared by 4-6 people. Facilities are simple.

We have 4 nights camping. This camping is fully supported with all baggage being carried by mules, as well as tents, mess tent and toilet tent. You will have a team of staff to look after you including a cook. A mattress is provided, although some people like to bring their own thermarest as well. You will need a sleeping bag. Sleeping bags are available to hire, please contact the KE office to arrange this.

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single hotel rooms and/or single tents are available for a supplementary cost (except the 1 night in the gite). If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights at the group hotel or in a range of different hotels and Riads in Marrakech are available on request.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified tour leader. The group will also have the support of a full trek crew including cook, baggage animals and their handlers.

Altitude

This holiday involves going to moderately high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 2500 metres. Most people will have no difficulty with this level of altitude but before coming on the holiday, we recommend you read the advice on [trekking at high altitude](#). You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude.

Spending Money

Approximately £100 per person (or equivalent in US dollars or Euros) should be allowed for tips, soft drinks, snacks and miscellaneous expenses. Alcoholic drinks, souvenirs and optional activities are additional so you may wish to budget for these.

You cannot usually purchase Moroccan Dirhams outside the country. You can withdraw money in local currency from ATM's on arrival at the airport in Marrakech or in Marrakech. You can choose to take your money in pounds sterling, dollars or euros, and you will be able to exchange it at the airport. Credit cards are useful and it is a good idea to carry one in case of emergency.

Guidance on Tipping

Tips are the accepted way of saying 'thank you' to your local guides and porters. They do not form part of their wages and any tips they receive are seen as a personal thank you from group members. For our part, we advise local teams that tips are not a duty or a prerequisite but are a bonus and entirely dependent on the service that was given.

This is your 'thank-you' to the crew and the final amount should be decided by the group. We estimate that approximately £45 per group member should provide an appropriate level of tips. However, for the leader, we leave the tipping amount totally at your own discretion.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage, which should be a soft duffle bag, and a daypack. Your main baggage whilst trekking will be carried by pack animals and the packed weight of it should be no more than 15kg. It is possible to leave clothes or other items not required on trek at the hotel in Marrakech. You may wish to take a foldaway bag for this purpose.

For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status and so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Visa Morocco

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays.

Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

VACCINATIONS

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella, along with hepatitis A and typhoid. A good online resource is [Travel Health Pro](#).

Currency

The unit of currency in Morocco is the Moroccan Dirham.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience. Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience.

You should be aerobically fit and comfortable with walking 5 to 6 hours for consecutive days. Hill walking, with a good amount of ascent and descent, is the best training. Running, cycling and swimming are also good for developing cardiovascular fitness and stamina.

Climate

The region of the Jebel Sahro is extremely hot in the summer months. However, from late October through to mid April we can expect to find very pleasant temperatures for trekking. Daytime temperatures will be around 20 to 25°C, dropping close to freezing point at night at our highest camps. This part of the world receives very little rainfall and we can anticipate fine weather. However, weather in mountainous areas is notoriously difficult to predict, and rain or even short-lived storms can occur.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that prior to travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You should bring the following items:

- Hiking boots
- Trainers or sandals for camp / gites
- Socks & underwear
- Trekking trousers / shorts (please respect local culture and don't wear in villages and town)
- Lightweight waterproof over-trousers
- Thermal baselayers
- T-shirts / tops / shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Sunhat / Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Lightweight thermal or fleece gloves
- Daypack 30 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including lip sun screen)
- Water bottles 1 Litre (x2) - hydration system is useful e.g. camelbak or platypus (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Sleeping bag (comfort rated -5°C and -10°C for Winter and Spring departures)*
- Small padlock (to lock your kit bag)
- Antibacterial handwash
- Washbag and toiletries
- Toilet roll
- Small trek towel
- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, Insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

The following items are optional:

- Sleeping bag liner
- Thermarest (a foam mattresses is provided)
- Trekking poles (recommended)
- Down Jacket (Winter and Spring departures)
- Camera
- Travel clothes (can be left in Marrakech in a foldaway bag)
- Biodegradable wet wipes (washing water can be scarce at camp)
- Pen-knife (note: always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Equipment hire:

*Available for hire/rental through KE Adventure Travel

Cotswold Outdoor



Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 12.5% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers.
[>> Find out more](#)

Land Only Information

We sell this holiday on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The holiday starts at the hotel in Marrakech and transfers are provided from Marrakech Airport.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

KE offers only a select few departures to this unique Moroccan region. The untamed natural beauty of the Jebel Sahro is magnificent and this undiscovered region offers a rare opportunity to head off the beaten track and truly step back in time.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 18/05/2024 and the trip is subject to change