

# **Climb Mount Toubkal**

Rising to 4,167m (13,671 ft), Mount Toubkal—known locally as Jebel Toubkal—is the highest peak in North Africa and a must-climb for any adventurous trekker. Nestled in Morocco's stunning Atlas Mountains, just a short distance from the vibrant city of Marrakech, this iconic mountain offers not only an exhilarating trekking experience but also a deep cultural immersion into the heart of Berber life.

Our route takes you through remote Berber villages, where life has remained unchanged for centuries, and across diverse landscapes—from lush valleys to rugged alpine terrain. While the trails are well-marked, the climb becomes steeper and more demanding at higher altitudes. Weather conditions vary by season, with snow in winter and hot, dry conditions in summer, so preparation is key.

This non-technical climb requires a good level of fitness, and our experienced guides are committed to your safety and success. The trek leader has final authority on the mountain to ensure the well-being of the entire group.

The adventure begins and ends in Marrakech, where you can relax and enjoy vibrant markets, stunning architecture, and some of the best cuisines in Africa, including couscous, tajine, and pastilla.

Stunning views, authentic culture, and a true mountain challenge—Mount Toubkal has it all.

# **BASIC ITINERARY**

Day 1: Arrive in Marrakech International Airport

Day 2: Drive to Imlil

Day 3: Hike to Base Camp – The Toubkal Refuge Day 4: Tizi Ouanoumss Pass – The Toubkal Refuge

Day 5: Summit Day!

Day 6: Hike to Imlil – Drive to Marrakech

Day 7: Transfer back to airport for onward journey

#### **DETAILED ITINERARY**

# Day 1: Arrive in Marrakech International Airport

Arrive at Menara Airport Marrakech. Our guide and driver will meet you for the short transfer to your 4\* hotel/Riad. After a welcome cup of fresh mint tea and Moroccan pastries, the guide will do a briefing with you to talk through the days to follow as well as to go over some local rules/traditions to follow while you are in Morocco. If time allows, you can explore the old parts of the Medina such as Bahia palace, Majorelle Garden, Koutoubia Mosque and More.



## Day 2: Drive from Marrakech to Imlil (1,747m/ 5,731 feet)

We will leave the busy city behind us this morning and drive south towards the craggy peaks and plunging valleys of the Toubkal Massif. Crossing the Haouz Plain, we pass through the tiny town of Asni, from where our road begins to climb towards the foothills of the Massif. Below us the valley of the Oued Gheraya stretches out into the distance and small villages cling to the sides of the steep hills as we meander. We should arrive to Imlil by midday, and after lunch you will have time to walk into one of the surrounding passes or Villages as a warmup for the next day. Overnight in a guesthouse/Riad, breakfast, lunch and dinner included. 2 to 3 hours walking today. There is an optional cooking class that you can join in the afternoon with our Berber chef – free of Charge

### Day 3: Imlil – The Toubkal Refuge (Base camp) (3,200m/ 10,498 feet)

Today we will start our trek, heading along the Mizane Valley, first towards the village of Aremd and then onto the shrine of Sidi Chamarouch. Built on a moraine spur overlooking the valley floor, Aremd is the largest village in the valley and provides an interesting mix of traditional terraced farming, gites and streets that seem to be permanently gridlocked by goats and cattle. For generations, the local Berber villagers have worked on these lands, producing corn, potatoes, and walnuts in the harsh landscape. Continuing east and crossing the flood plain, our route takes us along mule tracks and up into the high rocky cliffs above the valley. Crossing the river, we eventually come to the pastoral shrine of Sidi Chamarouch, which attracts tourists and pilgrims alike (although only Muslims are allowed to cross the stone bridge to visit the shrine itself). The village sits beside a small waterfall, a jumbled cluster of houses that seem to melt together into an anarchic mass. From here the trail continues to climb steadily, snaking and zigzagging its way up to the snowline, and the Toubkal Refuge at 3,200m/ 10,498 feet, our stop for the night. Approx 5hrs hiking and 11km/6.8mi. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included today.

# Day 4: Acclimatization Day (3,600m/ 11,811 feet)

Today is an additional acclimatization day built into the itinerary. We will take the trail, which traverses uphill, to the famous Tizi Ouanoumss Pass at 3,600m/ 11,811 feet. From here, you will be rewarded with stunning views, overlooking the lush Tifnout Valley and Ifni Lake at 2,500m/ 8,202 feet. After enjoying the surroundings, we will return to Base Camp. The total distance today is 8km/4.9mi. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included today.

### Day 5: Summit Day - Jebel Toubkal 4165m/ 13,665 feet

Early in the morning, we will make our attempt to climb the summit of Jebel Toubkal, the highest peak in Northern Africa. Our route takes us up the south cirque, crossing the stream above the refuge and then heading across one of the mountains numerous scree fields, where we will have to negotiate a seemingly endless carpet of boulders and rocks. The walking is relatively straightforward, but the scree and the altitude will make the going quite difficult in parts, however, the views along the way make the journey more than worthwhile. Cresting the ridgeline, we find ourselves on the plateau, from where it is



a short walk to the summit and the vistas out across the surrounding landscape are breathtaking. From here there are unrestricted views in every direction, from the Marrakesh Plain to the High Atlas in the north and as far south as the Anti-Atlas and the Sahara. After taking our time enjoying the views and our accomplishment, we will descend back to the Refuge and stay overnight. Today will be a challenging day with 8k/4.9mi of steep and challenging terrain. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included today.

## Day 6: Toubkal Basecamp – Imlil –Marrakech

After Breakfast at the Base Camp, a pleasant descent takes us from an arid mountain landscape to the irrigated valleys below. We will follow the trail through Sidi Chamharouch (marabout) to the beautiful, cultivated area of Aremd 1,900m/ 6,233 feet, before we reach Imlil. This will be another 11km/6.8mi day for our final hike! From here, we will be picked up in our private transport for the one-and-a-half-hour drive back to Marrakech and our hotel for the night. We will have a team dinner tonight in the city to celebrate our success! Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included today.

## **Day 7: Onward Journey**

Today is the final day of the itinerary and we will pick you up at the hotel and transfer you back to the airport for your onward journey! Breakfast included today.

#### General Info:

**Transport:** We use clean - Heated & Air-conditioned Minibus or Bus according to the number of participants

**Accommodation:** In Marrakech we will stay in a 4\* hotel or riad in the Medina, to be as close as possible to the main sites of Marrakech.

In Imlil, we will stay in a Riad or Guesthouse, with private rooms. All accommodation is on a shared basis.

In the Toubkal Refuge (Base Camp), they have a limited number of private rooms, and the rest of the refuge is dormitories. We will always try to book the private rooms, but depending on availability, and how far in advance you make your booking, you may have to be in the dormitory rooms.

**Gear Transport:** We will use mules to transport all the gear to the Toubkal Refuge and back down to Imlil. You will carry a day pack with items you need during the day and all remaining gear, in a duffel bag, can be transported on the mules. No suitcases as they will not sit on the animals comfortably.

**Cook:** We use a local Berber chef and assistant to prepare all the meals while in the Mountains.

**Food:** Meals are mixture of Moroccan and western food, and we try to include meals that are suitable for all dietary needs.



**Guides:** We only use fully licensed mountain guides and assistant guides to lead all our treks up the Mountains. We will also have an official city guide in Marrakech for the monument visits.

**Water:** We provide bottled water on the trek; however, we prefer that clients bring water purification tablets or filters to treat all water. We want to protect the environment from using plastic bottles in an area where recycling is not readily available. We also provide boiled water if needed every morning and evening.

**Allergies:** Please list any food allergies/preferences on your booking form so that we can be prepared to accommodate your needs on the trip.

**First Aid Kit:** All guides have a communal first aid kit but please make sure you bring your personal kit and medication.

**Sleeping Bags:** We do have these to rent if needed.

## Included in the price of the trip:

- Airport Transfers
- Transport to and from Marrakech
- Accommodation throughout the trip
- Chef and Assistant Chef during the trek
- All meals and hot drinks during the trek (Not in Marrakech)
- Breakfast and dinner last night in Marrakech
- Official Mountain guide
- Assistant Guide
- Guided Tour of Marrakech if time allows
- Mules (porters in winter) carrying a maximum 15kg/33lbs
- Mineral Water
- Visit to a local Berber House in Imlil

# **Excluded in the price of the trip:**

- Soft drinks/alcohol
- Snacks
- Travel insurance
- Tips (USD 200)
- International Flights
- Lunches and first night dinner in Marrakech