


THE MOROCCAN SOUTHERN VALLEYS AND RANGES

MOUNTAIN, COUNTRY AND VALLEY HIKES

NICE 'N EASY ANY DAY ONE DAY HIKES FROM OUARZAZATE

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:- GRADE ONE:-  WALKING MOSTLY ON PATHS AT LOWER LEVELS, SOMETIMES ROCKY, SELDOM FLAT, FOR ABOUT 5 HOURS EACH DAY. GOOD TRAINERS WOULD DO, BUT TAKE BOOTS IF YOU ARE USED TO THEM. FOR ANYONE WHO LEADS A REASONABLY ACTIVE LIFE. HIKING ALWAYS INVOLVES SOME EFFORT. CLEARLY THERE ARE MANY DIFFERING FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE DIFFICULTY OF A PARTICULAR HIKE, INCLUDING LENGTH OF DAY, TERRAIN, ALTITUDE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS. SINCE THESE FACTORS ARE NECESSARILY VARIABLE, ANY SYSTEM OF GRADES CAN ONLY PROVIDE A GENERAL INDICATION. WE HAVE TRIED TO MAKE OUR SYSTEM AS CLEAR AS POSSIBLE, BUT IT CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR PERSONAL ABILITIES OR EXPERIENCE.

KSAR AÏT BEN HADDOU - UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

OBTOZZ01 5 HOURS' HIKING



Departure from Ouarzazate at around **08:00** in the morning northwards towards the magnificently exotic ksar complex of Aït Ben Haddou, declared, and rightly so, a Worldwide Heritage Site; we stop en-route at a bend in the winding road to look at the Berber village of Elouad El Malh, with its ochre-red kasbah set amongst a palmeraie to then continue on towards Aït Ben Haddou. Here we alight from our vehicle to visit these various kasbahs, so closely-knit that they appear to be but one complete building, backed up against the looming mountain in a stretch of unforgiving Hamada. The thick, high, sheer, elaborately decorated pisé walls, stepped-up housing, turreted, crenulated ramparts, balustrades and arched 'babs' are a sight not to be missed. Obviously, here Hollywood shot many of its films, including, as everyone will tell you, "Laurence of Arabia". One of the more spectacular sights in the Atlas ranges, set upon a rock above a reed-strewn assif, commanding the area for miles around, this kasbah controlled the route to Marrakech until the French blasted a road through the Tizi n'Tichka. From here, we shall walk the back trails for some 3 hours through some impressive, ever-changing countryside of the Tamdaght Valley to the ancient Kasbah of the Glaoua at Tamdaght, those once all-powerful brothers, the "Lords of the Atlas", who ruled this southern region, siding with the French occupying forces of their Protectorate. We shall take a field picnic at the foot of the kasbah within the memories of the splendours of the past and a magnificent vista of a beautiful valley full of small streams and of storks perched on their nests on the kasbah turrets. As these brothers once said: "To last a long while, our homes and castles must have a good hat and good boots". We thence shall wend our way back for a further 2 hours through palmeraies, past rugged outcrops and the occasional screeching eagle overhead to rejoin our vehicle at **16:30** to return to Ouarzazate after a day in the back of beyond.



OUR PRICES WILL INCLUDE: **Private** round trip transportation Ouarzazate - Aït Ben Haddou - Ouarzazate. An experienced licensed bi-lingual mountain guide throughout. Field picnic lunch *. * If **vegetarian or vegan** please pre-advise.

OUR PRICES WILL NOT INCLUDE: *Accommodation pre & post, nor transfers from/to Ouarzazate's airport.* Gratuities to guide and chauffeur. Any expenditure of a personal nature. Bottled or gaseous water, nor anything not specifically mentioned in the itinerary.

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IT IS RECOMMENDED YOU BRING WITH YOU: Good trainers; rambler pole (optional); hats, lip balm, sunscreen, sunglasses; nibbles; filled water bottle.