

THE MOROCCAN HIGH ATLAS
MOUNTAIN COUNTRY AND VALLEY HIKES
NICE 'N EASY PRIVATE ONE DAY ANY DAY HIKES
FROM THE DOUAR SAMRA TAMATERT



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:- GRADE ONE:-

WALKING MOSTLY ON PATHS AT LOWER LEVELS, SOMETIMES ROCKY, SELDOM FLAT, FOR ABOUT 3-6 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.

THE MAGNIFICENT JBEL TOUBKAL AND SISTERS

OBTdsRAK02m 6 hours' easy ramble

DOUAR SAMRA - AROUND - SIDI CHAMHAROUCH - DOUAR SAMRA. We set off today at 09:00 towards the southwest skirting



the Berber town of Imlil (1740m), known as Morocco's 'Little Chamonix', set, as we are, in the upper level foothills of the Western High Atlas mountains of the Toubkal National Park. With streams and paths branching out in all directions, we traverse the Tamatert Valley until we reach the hamlet of Achelm to strike out for some 4km towards the south and the Berber village of Around (Aremd) (1843m), passing the hamlets of Taourirt, Targa, and Imoula, up and down the stark slopes, the jagged Western High Atlas peaks of the Jbel Toubkal Massif - at 4167m the highest peak in North Africa - before us, with her awe-inspiring sister peaks the Jbels Aguelzim (3547m), Aksouâl (3847m) and the Adrar Adj (3122m) watching us all the way. We shall stop at Around to visit this rather singular village in the Assif Aït Mizane Valley, built seemingly house upon house on a large moraine spur overlooking ancient irrigated terraced fields of barley, corn and vegetables and always surrounded by almond and walnut trees. We thence carry on for another 8km to the equally-quiet village of Sidi Chamharouch, a Berber village set beside a waterfall and small stream, again with its pisé homes seemingly built somewhat chaotically one into another. This village is a place of pilgrimage for devout Moslems and it is where there is a marabout shrine - forbidden to non-Moslems - said to be a relic of a pre-Islamic religious and naturalist cult. We take a break for a picnic, within full view of Jbel Toubkal, prior to setting off back down the other side of the valley at a gentle pace back to the delightful Kasbah Samra where you bid farewell - 'b'ssalaama' - to your mountain guide.



OUR PRICES WILL INCLUDE: An experienced licensed bi-lingual mountain guide throughout. A field picnic lunch. Field picnic lunch - fresh Moroccan salad, cheese, tinned tuna fish*, mint tea, bread, fruit. *If **vegetarian or vegan** please pre-advise. Medical and Accident Insurance.

OUR PRICES WILL NOT INCLUDE: *Accommodation pre & post, nor transfers from/to Marrakech.* SHOULD YOU NOT HAVE ALREADY BOOKED YOUR TRANSFERS TO/FROM AND ACCOMMODATION IN THE DELIGHTFULLY-UNIQUE KASBAH SAMRA, WE SHALL BE DELIGHTED TO DO SO FOR YOU. Gratuity to guide. Any expenditure of a personal nature. Bottled or gaseous water, nor anything not specifically mentioned in the itinerary.

IT IS RECOMMENDED YOU BRING WITH YOU: Good trainers or walking boots. Rambler pole (optional), hats, sunscreen, sunglasses; nibbles and/or power bars; hygienic 'wipes'. Walking socks; day pack 'bum bag', insect repellent, camera and filled water bottle, possibly some biro's and sweets for the local mountain Berber children.

Should you wish to hire a mule to accompany you on this hike, there'd be an additional sum to pay per beast.