

'MEHAREE' DROMEDARY TREKS BEYOND MOROCCO'S ERG CHEBBI

'Meharée': Trek with 1 dromedary per person



OBTADS03 3DAYS/ 2NIGHTS

DAY 1: ERFOUD - MERZOUGA - ERG CHEBBI. From our rendezvous point at the Hotel Tizimi in Erfoud at 2pm during the



winter months, 3pm in summer, we set out half an hour later for an hour's drive in our 4x4 towards the south, crossing the Oued Ziz, first along a asphalt road for some 16km, then another 35km of sandy piste trails carved out of the sandy crust by motorbikes and other adventurous vehicles to the tiny desert town of Merzouga in an enormous palmeraie. We shall see, in a dramatic line almost perfectly from north to south, the incredible panorama of the sea of sand dunes of the Erg Chebbi. Once we've arrived at Merzouga, we alight to enjoy a traditional welcoming glass, or two, of mint tea at the Auberge Du Sud whilst your baggage is being loaded onto the pack animals. At around 4pm (winter) (5pm summer) we set off, one person per dromedary, across a sea of golden dunes. This is the only 'true' desert area of the kingdom of Morocco and an area where meteorites continue to be found, as were crocodile teeth, shark, pterosaur and spinosaurus fossils. We stop in the middle of nowhere to witness, from the high dunes, Nature's incredible light show of sunset over ever-changing colours of dunes, to continue on under the star-filled heavens to our bivouac site of a carpeted Berber tent in a small oasis. First things first, a glass of mint tea once our packs are being unloaded. Our tagine dinner is prepared and, after dessert, tea or coffee, all around our romantic camp fire, - it can get cold at night! - we can chat or sing-along to our heart's content. **D.**



DAY 2: ERG CHEBBI - TISERDIMINE. Our Berber breakfast of tea, 'sand' bread, jam and cheese is ready around 7 o'clock,



having awakened to an unforgettable sunrise to equal last night's setting of the sun. Our dromedaries are being saddled up for the next stage of our adventure, now towards the west for some 3½ hours, crossing the region of the Guir Hamada, a stony part of the desert pan carved out by the long-dried-up yet seasonally flooded Oued Guir, a plateau of black stones dotted with the hardy acacia, pistachio bushes, the occasional date palm, stunted shaking poplars and small dunes. We reach the tents of a nomadic tribe at Timmtimya where we shall stop for our picnic of Moroccan salad, cheeses, bread and mint tea out of the blazing sun. Some 2 hours later, we set off again towards the northeast on our 2 hour méharée across the desert plateau towards the almost deserted hamlet of Tiserdimine, where we shall

bivouac for the night in the shade of some date palm trees. As our evening's dinner of tagine or kebabs* or couscous is being prepared, we have, once more, the spectacle of a magnificent sunset. **BLD.**

DAY 3: TISERDIMINE - MERZOUGA - ERFOUD. Our last brilliant sunrise, our final Bedouin breakfast and we set off at



around 8:30 for our final Méharée of some 2½ hours back towards the south-west, crossing the Erg Moulay Amar to follow the Oued El Beida alongside the eastern face of Erg Chebbi via the Berber hamlet of Adrouine to the Auberge Du Sud, where we'll take a shower before boarding our 4x4 and an hour's drive back up to Erfoud and our original starting point at the Hotel Tizimi. **B.**

OUR PRICES FOR THE STANDARD PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE: Transfer by air-conditioned Land Cruiser Erfoud-Merzouga-Erfoud with an experienced bi-lingual driver; trained dromedary and cameleer and cook throughout; meals* and Berber tented accommodation (maximum 4 persons per tent), sleeping on mattresses with sheets and blankets as detailed; chemical toilet. Medical and Accident Insurance. * Those vegetarians or vegans amongst us need to pre-advise us at time of reservation



OUR PRICES FOR THE DELUXE VERSION WILL INCLUDE: Transfer by air-conditioned Land Cruiser Erfoud-Merzouga-Erfoud with an experienced bi-lingual driver; trained dromedary and cameleer and cook throughout; meals* and Berber tented accommodation (maximum 4 persons per tent), sleeping on raised beds with sheets and blankets as detailed. Folklore music & dancing around camp fire; towels, lanterns and candles; dinner includes hors d'oeuvres, 2 main courses of tagine and couscous or kebabs*, fruit basket, mint tea, Moroccan pastries, 1 bottle of wine. Medical and Accident Insurance.



OUR PRICES WILL NOT INCLUDE: Accommodation pre & post nor transfers from/to Fes', Marrakech's or Ouarzazate's airports.

Gratuity to driver, cameleer and head campman. 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: Rucksack, day pack; trainers or sandals; long trousers and sweater; windcheater (seasonal), broad-brimmed hat (or you may purchase a 'Chèche' before you set out from Erfoud); change of walking socks; lip balm; personal toiletries and towel; hygienic 'Wipes'; small First Aid kit; torch with batteries (non-essential); filled water bottle; water purification drops - usually iodine; sunscreen, sunglasses; penknife - do not pack in hand baggage for flights; nibbles and/or dried fruit. Drinking chocolate if preferred. Camera, film and plastic bags for lenses; extra toilet rolls could come in handy! For those who wear contact lenses, it could be a good idea to bring along a spare pair of glasses.