

# THE MOROCCAN TOUBKAL MASSIF ATLAS RANGE

## MOUNTAIN COUNTRY AND VALLEY HIKING

### FROM THE Kasbah Du Toubkal Imlil

#### ANY DAY DEPARTURES



The months from December through to mid-March could possibly preclude the Toubkal summit climb due to sudden, heavy snowfalls. We shall advise you of adverse climatic conditions and alternate nearby peak or col climb prior to your setting out from the Kasbah. For those who wish to brave the summit in mid-Winter, crampons may be hired on-site.

#### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:- GRADE TWO TO THREE



BETWEEN MODERATE AND STRENUOUS (SUMMIT), HIKING MOSTLY ALONG ZIGZAGGING MULE TRACKS AT UPPER VALLEY LEVELS FOR ABOUT 6 HOURS EACH DAY. THE ACTUAL SUMMIT CLIMB IS NON-TECHNICAL, BUT CAN BE HARD GOING. LEATHER MOUNTAIN BOOTS WOULD ALWAYS BE PREFERABLE. FOR ANYONE WHO LEADS A REASONABLY ACTIVE LIFE, HIKING AT ALTITUDE (FROM 5,710 TO 13,668ft) 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.

# TO THE ROOF OF NORTH AFRICA

## 2DAYS/1NIGHT OBT KDTRAK05m

### DAY 1: KASBAH DU TOUBKAL IMLIL - AROUND - SIDI CHAMHAROUCH - TOUBKAL REFUGE.



Setting out after breakfast from this aerie perched above the main trailhead Berber town of Imlil (1740m), Morocco's 'Little Chamonix', set in the upper level foothills of the Western High Atlas Mountain's Jbel Toubkal National Park, we shall strike out for some 4km towards the south up to the Berber village of Aroumd (Aremd) (1843m) alongside the mountainside hamlets of Taourirt, Targa, and Imoula, up and down the stark slopes, the magnificent Western High Atlas peaks of the Toubkal Massif immediately before us. We shall stop at Aroumd 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 fruit trees and vegetables. We thence carry on for a further 8km to the equally-quaint 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 and said to be a relic of a pre-Islamic religious cult. We take a break for a picnic, within full view of mighty Jbel Toubkal, at 4167m the highest peak in the Maghreb, prior to setting off up to the Toubkal Refuge for our dinner, and overnight accommodation in the Refuge. **LD.**



### DAY 2: TOUBKAL REFUGE - SUMMIT JBEL TOUBKAL - SIDI CHAMHAROUCH - AROUND - KASBAH DU TOUBKAL IMLIL.



A very early breakfast to set out at the crack of dawn to witness a spectacular sunrise and attain, after a three hour non-technical but steep climb across some scree, the highest peak in the Maghreb (4167m). The panorama from here is simply stunning. This remarkable climb and view is what you have come so far for. The first recorded climb of this peak, in 1923, was made by the French mountaineers V. Berger, M. Doubleau and the Marquis de Segonzac; many serious trekkers since then have made the highly rewardable effort. Whenever you are ready, we shall take the Ikkhibi Sud or South Cirque for a straightforward - with your guide - 2 to 3 hour descent back to the Refuge for our picnic. We shall now set off towards the north along steeply descending, zigzagging trails of the higher slopes of the Valley of the Assif n'Isouhouanem n'Ouagounss towards the Berber village of Sidi Chamharouch (3106m). Before entering the village, we shall notice a tree, sacred to the local Berbers, on which they hang strips of coloured cloth and pile up stones around the trunk. We descend high above the valley of the Assif Aït Mizane, down zigzagging trails around granite and basalt grey rocks for about 8km to the remarkable village of Aroumd (Aremd) (1840m), commanding one of the more fertile valleys of the High Atlas mountains with terraced, irrigated plots and fields of maize, onions and fruit trees on all sides. Here we shall stop for our picnic prior to continuing on along the floor of the valley, thence up a well-defined mule track zigzagging above the river for some 4km. to arrive, at around 4 in the evening, after a long day's activity, back at the Berber village of Imlil and the Kasbah. **BL.**



In the event of choosing to bivouac vice overnighting in the Toubkal Refuge, the price should be reduced per person per night.

**OUR PRICES WILL INCLUDE:** Private round trip transportation from the hotel in Marrakech to trailheads and return to the hotel or airport in Marrakech. An experienced English-speaking licensed mountain guide throughout. Tents and undermats; cook and equipment; all meals and accommodation as detailed; mules and muleteer/cook. Medical and Accident Insurance. Clients are always requested to check their own personal travel insurance to see if any adrenaline activities are precluded.

**OUR PRICES WILL NOT INCLUDE:** Accommodation pre & post, nor transfers from/to Marrakech's' airport. **SHOULD YOU NOT HAVE DONE SO ALREADY, PLEASE SELECT YOUR ACCOMMODATION FROM OUR RECOMMENDED HOTELS/RIADS**

To choose you hotel or ryad, please close this page and go to [Find a Hotel](#) or [Find a Ryad](#)

Gratuities to guide/cook/muleteers. Personal gear. 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:** Stout mountain walking boots (which can take crampons between mid- November & mid-March); change of socks, sleeping bag (3-4 seasons); rucksack, windcheater or duvet jacket (seasonal); lip balm; LED head lamp or torch with batteries (optional); earmuffs, ski cap or balaclava, slickers, thermal underwear, gloves (all seasonal Nov-Apr); filled water bottle (bottled water or water purification drops - usually iodine); rambler pole(s); penknife - do not pack in hand baggage for flights; personal toiletries and towels; hygienic 'Wipes'; insect repellent; sunscreen, nibbles (muesli or dried fruit) drinking chocolate if preferred. Extra toilet rolls and a trowel would come in quite handy.

N.B: Meals during the hike are normally:-

Breakfast - mint tea, coffee, chocolate powder, milk, bread, butter, jam, cheese, cereals.

Picnic lunch - fresh Moroccan salad, cheese, tinned tuna fish\*, mint tea, bread.

Dinner - Tagine (chicken or mutton\*), couscous or spaghetti rotated according to the duration of the trek; bread, coffee, mint tea, cake, fruit. \* **Those vegetarians or vegans** amongst us need to pre-advise at time of reservation.