Trek Sahara Desert

Trek deep into the Sahara, over giant dunes and past towering mountains to oases shimmering in the distance. Enjoy Moroccan feasts around camp fires, shooting stars and a glimpse into nomadic desert life.

actionchallenge in the Sahara Desert

An exhilarating journey across the rolling Saharan sand dunes as we hike from dune to oasis, past towering mountains and along routes used for centuries by Bedouins and camel caravans. Spending a week trekking in the Sahara desert is a challenge with a difference.

The golden, silky sands of the Sahara rise up in giant dunes, rolling across the horizon. The stunning cliffs of the Draa loom large, the rocky plateau of the Djbel Bani rises up and scrub grows where it can. We trek along dried-out riverbeds, snaking their way through the emptiness of the desert and along ancient irrigation channels, still in use today. Together we experience life in the desert and the excitement of seeing palms and Tamarisk trees shimmer in the distance, leading us to tranquil oases and our desert camps.

After an exhilarating day of hiking the sun sets, the dunes take on their golden glow, and we gather together around the camp fire to share delicious Moroccan feasts. Away from the noise and lights of cities, the desert’s peaceful night sky glistens with far-away constellations and shooting stars.

Back in Marrakech we explore the atmospheric souks and the bustling Djemaa el-Fna square before celebrating our Saharan adventure with a delicious feast and partying into the night!

at a glance

- Activity: Trekking
- Location: Sahara Desert, Morocco
- Duration: 8 days / 5 days trekking
- Difficulty: Moderate
- Distance: 78 km
- Group size: 15 - 25

trip highlights

- Walk in the Sahara Desert
- Camp on the banks of Oued Mzouaria
- The beautiful Drâa valley
- See the impressive cliffs of the southern Drâa
- Trek Djbel Bani’s rocky plateau
- See the wonders of the Saharan night sky
- Shop in the Souks of Marrakech

_actionchallenge have been leading inspirational team adventures across the world for individuals, private groups, charities and corporate clients since 1999. Our trips enable people to experience the world’s most exhilarating locations, often in aid of charity. At the heart of every challenge is team spirit and fulfilment; together we take on once-in-a-lifetime adventures, achieve formidable goals and forge friendships for life._

www.actionchallenge.com
trek
Sahara Desert

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introduction
This fully-inclusive adventure to the Sahara Desert will begin as soon as you register! You will receive a challenge pack including a training guide, kit list and discounts for all the essentials you may need. If you are raising money for a charity, we will sort out all the formalities so you can concentrate on your own preparation and fundraising. We offer pre-challenge briefings and training weekends in the UK, where you can meet our trek leaders, members of your group and others taking part in challenges around the world.

On the day of departure you meet your group and Action Challenge leader at the airport in London. Whether you’re joining the challenge on your own or with others, you will instantly be made to feel welcome. As a team we will board our flight to Marrakech, ready to take on the Sahara Desert and the trekking adventure of a lifetime!

brief itinerary

| Day 1       | Arrive Ouarzazate            | Day 5   | Mzouaria            |
| Day 2       | Dunes of Rad Nkhal           | Day 6   | Ouled Driss         |
| Day 3       | Ait Ourir dunes              | Day 7   | Half day in Marrakech |
| Day 4       | Trek to Tel Attin Wells      | Day 8   | Arrive in London    |

what’s included

- International flights
- Action Challenge trek leader
- Full support team, including local guides
- UK medic
- All accommodation
- All meals, except in free time
- Treated drinking water
- All transfers in local vehicles
- National Park entrance fees
- Celebration dinner in Marrakech
- Training weekends in the Peak District, Snowdonia & Brecon Beacons
- Fitness and training guide
- Discounts from UK retailers
- Reduced rates at Nomad Travel Clinics and Masta Health

dates
Please visit our website for more details

cost
All inclusive trip cost from £1,299 for 2017/2018.
Initial £199 deposit to sign up

how tough is the challenge?
We will be walking for over five hours per day at temperatures ranging from 25 to 40 degrees Celsius with little respite in the form of shade. A good level of endurance will be necessary to deal with the high temperatures.

extensions
Why not stay on after the challenge and explore some more of Marrakech’s highlights?

Please email us for more information

when to go
October to April are considered the optimum months for completing this challenge. Temperatures will range between 28 - 38 degrees during the day and 10 - 15 degrees at night.
**breakfasts each morning will be in camp, lunches will be en-route and evening meals will be freshly prepared in camp in time for your arrival. in Marrakech, all meals will be at the hotel or a local restaurant, except in free time. all meals are full of carbohydrates, protein and nutrients to keep us well fuelled for our hikes. we can cater for all dietary requirements if informed in advance.**

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**Itinerary**

**Day 1 - Arrive Ouarzazate**

We arrive at night in the city of Ouarzazate – an ancient staging town situated in the heart of the Draa Valley, whose name is derived from the Arabic meaning “the door of the desert”. Here we retire to our hotel and prepare ourselves for the challenge ahead.

**Meals:** D **Accom:** Hotel

**Day 2 - Dunes of Rad Nkhal**

After an early breakfast, we head east to the mountains, crossing narrow passes between the snow-capped Atlas Mountains. We drive through the bustling town of Ouarzazate and Zagora, the original starting point for camel trains bound for Timbuktu. We arrive into Ouled Driss where we load our camels and begin our trek to our first camp, set amongst the rolling dunes of Rad Nkhal. Tonight we enjoy a traditional Moroccan dinner by a campfire under huge African skies.

**Meals:** B,L,D **Accom:** Tent **Distance:** 8 km / 3 hours

**Day 3 - Ait Ounir Dunes**

We start trekking early, making the most of the morning’s cooler temperature. Together with our guides and camels, we trek past the impressive dunes of the southern Drâa valley and over pristine wind-smoothed dunes. We climb the dunes of Ait Ounir to arrive in tonight’s camp, shaded by the Tamarisk trees, an ideal canopy for dining under!

**Meals:** B,L,D **Accom:** Tent **Distance:** 16 km / 5 - 6 hours

**Day 4 - Tel Attin Wells**

After breakfast we head north towards Djbel Bani, trekking over dried out river beds which snake through the emptiness of the desert. After lunch we continue to Erg Smar and the wells of Tel Attin and in it’s tranquil oasis we set up our camp for the night.

**Meals:** B,L,D **Accom:** Tent **Distance:** 16 km / 5 - 6 hours

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**Food**

Breakfasts each morning will be in camp, lunches will be on-route and evening meals will be freshly prepared in camp in time for your arrival. In Marrakech, all meals will be at the hotel or a local restaurant, except in free time.

All meals are full of carbohydrates, protein and nutrients to keep us well fuelled for our hikes.

We can cater for all dietary requirements if informed in advance.

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**Accommodation**

- Three nights in a 2-3* hotel
- Four nights camping

All accommodation is on a twin/triple-share, single-sex basis and we will pair you with someone of a similar age, where possible.

If you wish to share a room with someone you are travelling with, please specify this on your registration form.

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**Single Supplement**

If you decide that you would like to have your own room on the challenge, we can accommodate this in the majority of places.

Please email us for more information

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**Additional Costs**

- Insurance - approximately £60
- Vaccinations - up-to-date on boosters.
- Tips for local staff - recommended amount £30
- Airline fuel surcharge
A kit list will be sent to you on receipt of registration. Many everyday items can be used on this challenge, and we offer a kit hire service to keep costs down.

**Day 6 - Ouled Driss / Ouarzazate**

Today we have a half day trek back towards the lush palmeraies of Oulad Driss via the Erg Lihoudi dunes. We then transfer back to Ouarzazate where we have an early night to prepare for our time in Marrakech.

**Meals:** B, L, D  **Accom:** Hotel  **Trek time:** 4 - 5 hours

**Day 7 - Marrakech**

This morning we transfer to Marrakech and spend half of the day in one of Morocco’s most exciting cities, exploring the famous souks, bustling medina and Djemaa el-Fna square. Tonight we mark our achievements with an evening of celebrations!

**Meals:** B  **Accom:** Hotel

**Day 8 - Arrive in London**

This morning we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. When we arrive back in London we bid farewell to our newfound friends.

**Meals:** B, L, D

**Kit & equipment**

A kit list will be sent to you on receipt of registration. Many everyday items can be used on this challenge, and we offer a kit hire service to keep costs down.

**Land only**

If you are planning on travelling to Marrakech before the challenge or wish to organise your own flights, we do offer a land only option, with a significant discount off the trip price. You will be required to meet your group at the hotel on day two of the itinerary.

Please email us for more information

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**Training weekends / briefings**

We run a number of training weekends throughout the year in the Peak District, Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia. These are fully-inclusive - 2 nights accommodation and all meals. We also organise training days in London and the North and South downs. On both, you will get the chance to meet our mountain leaders and test out your kit and fitness!

**What’s not included**

- Alcoholic drinks
- Drinks and food outside of meals, other than water
- Personal kit / equipment
- Airline fuel surcharge

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**+44 (0) 207 609 6695**  
[www.actionchallenge.com](http://www.actionchallenge.com)  
**events@actionchallenge.com**
payment options

A REGISTRATION DEPOSIT of £199 is required to secure your place.

Once registered, there are 3 PAYMENT OPTIONS to fund the balance of the trip cost. Full details are on our website.

1) SELF FUNDED
For anyone who wants to pay for the entire trip themselves. It’s then completely up to you whether or not you choose to raise any money for a charity of your choice.

The total all inclusive cost of this trip is £1,299 for 2017/18, after you pay the £199 Registration Deposit, leaves a balance of £1,100. This final balance is due for payment 10 weeks before your departure along with any fuel surcharges levied by the airline.

2) SPONSORSHIP FUNDED
This is for anyone who wants to take on this challenge and will link it with fundraising a significant sum of money for a charity of their choice. You would have to raise at least £2,200 for 2017/18 via sponsorship and donations from friends, family and colleagues, and be confident at the outset that you can achieve this total.

Pay the Registration Deposit and nominate a charity to fundraise for. All fundraising goes directly to your charity and providing that you raise at least £2,200, your charity will pay for the balance of your trip costs to Action Challenge. That balance, paid by your charity, is £1,100 (the same as if you were you were ‘Self Funded’) - the charity will retain at least £1,100 to help fund their work. You will have to pay any airline fuel surcharges 10 weeks prior to departure.

3) MIXED FUNDED
A mix of the 2 options above! You pay about half the trip cost yourself, and also fundraise for your charity. They pay the remaining balance of your trip costs.

Ideal for anyone who wants to take on the challenge and also fundraise for a charity, BUT is happy to pay a reasonable proportion of the trip cost themselves, which with your registration deposit, is set at a level that covers at least the costs of flights & accommodation; perfect for those who feel more at ease asking for sponsorship in respect to the ‘challenge’ component of their trip.

Pay the Registration Deposit and nominate a charity to fundraise for. All fundraising goes directly to your charity and providing that you raise at least £1,320, your charity will pay a portion of your trip cost to Action Challenge. That balance, paid by your charity, is £660. At the same time, you will be required to pay the remaining balance yourself, which will be a figure of £440 (These two amounts add up to the same as the ‘Self Funded’ final balance) - the charity will retain at least £660 to help fund their work. You will have to pay any airline fuel surcharges 10 weeks prior to departure.