



Your Challenge, Your Charity, Your Journey



Sahara Desert Challenge November 2019



Gloucestershire Young Carers

An amazing Sahara Desert Challenge for Corporate and Individual supporters of Gloucestershire Young Carers.

Gloucestershire Young Carers supports children and young people whose lives are affected by having family members who are long-term ill, disabled, experiencing mental ill health or who are affected by substance misuse. We work with young carers from 8 years old upwards to reduce the impact of their caring role.

This year we are encouraging you, our supporters, to step outside of your comfort zone – just like young carers do on a daily basis. Rise to the challenge of: The Sahara Desert Challenge. A 100km trek over 5 days through the plateaus, dunes and stunning oases of the Sahara Desert.

We aim to raise a total of £6,000 which would fund one of our respite support groups for young carers for a year, giving these young people an opportunity to take a break from their adult-sized challenges at home, meet with other young carers and have access to youth workers trained in young carer issues. For this reason we ask each participant on this Challenge to commit to fundraising between £250 and £500 each. We appreciate that the amount individuals are able to raise may vary but we will help to publicise your involvement in this exciting challenge.

Thank you for your support.

Challenge Highlights.....

- Experience the terrain and the wildlife of the Sahara Desert
- Trek over plateaus and sand dunes and through valleys, gorges, and stunning oases
- Trek between 12-28km per day, total of 100km
- Fully supported trek with camels and desert guides and cooks
- Experience the extremes of the desert's day and night temperatures
- Sleep under canvas looking at the clear African skies
- The final night celebration to salute the group's impressive achievement

Dates and group size

The maximum group size is 18 people and the minimum is 10 people. The group will be accompanied by a Tribal Tracks UK Leader as well as supported by local, in-country guides. Due to the limited places they will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The planned dates for this challenge are from Monday 11th November to Sunday 17th November, however these will be subject to flight availability. As soon as the team is confirmed we will be able to book flights and confirm exact dates, but the earliest departure date will be 11th November.

Self-Funded Payment

The supporter covers the full cost of the challenge themselves and raises as much sponsorship as they can through the on line donation page set up by Gloucestershire Young Carers. The supporter pays their deposit on booking and final payments 56 days before departure directly to Tribal Tracks' Trust Account.



Your Itinerary

Day 1 Marrakech – Ouarzazate

Arrive and met by our guide at the airport. We transfer via Tichka Pass, the highest and most beautiful road pass in Morocco, to the south of Morocco, to Ait Ben Haddou and onto Ouarzazate. Overnight in a 4 Star hotel in Ouarzazate, lunch and dinner.

Day 2 Faija to Amda Noumssafi

After an early start we transfer to the start of our trek at Plateau Faija where we will have lunch and then trek through Jebel Bani, Col Umm Laachar and finish at Amda Noumssafi. Approx. 3 hours trekking. Overnight desert camp Amda Noumssafi, full board.

Day 3 Amda Noumssafi – Chegaga

Passing by Lmhasser, we will set out along a dry riverbed taking us out into the desert sands. From there, we will start at a rocky plateau, just after the pass at El Abbes we head to Chegaga, taking in the deep desert's stunning views and atmosphere. 8-9 hours trekking. Overnight desert camp Chegaga, full board.

Day 4 - Chegaga – Bougarn

Today will take us out of the multitude of small dunes in Chegaga toward the direction of Mhamid and Oued Draa. We will have lunch under the trees at Tamarist and then head on to the dunes of Bougarn. Today will be arduous on our feet as we trek over hard, rocky terrain and hot sand. 7 – 8 hours trekking. Overnight at desert camp Bougarn, full board.

Day 5 - Bougarn - Wadi Naam

An early start so we can appreciate a spectacular desert morning. The small shrubs, small dunes, Tamarist trees and desert acacia create a wonderful atmosphere as the sun rises in the east. We will then head out across the dunes and desert plain to camp at Oued Naam. 7 – 8 hours trekking. Overnight desert camp Oued Naam, full board.

Day 6 - Oued Naam - Mhamid – Ait Ben Haddou

On final day of our challenge we trek towards to Mhamid, we will take a well-earned rest before returning to Ait Ben Haddou just after lunch. Tonight we can celebrate our achievements. 3 – 4 hours trekking. Overnight 4 Star hotel in Ait Ben Haddou, full board.

Day 7 – Transfer to Marrakech

After breakfast we will transfer back to Marrakech for our flight home. Breakfast and lunch.



Desert Camping

Dining tent- this will be a comfortable communal area with cushions and tables with lamps

Open fire to sit around every night

Toilet tents, we would have a Ladies and Gents

We provide twin share tents with mattresses

Hot water provided to wash with in the morning. No shower facilities

Food - Moroccan dishes will be provided Tagines, Couscous, Salads and fruit

Drinks – water, tea, coffee, hot chocolate

2019 Price Per Person - £1595

£400 Non Refundable deposit

£1195 Final payment due 8 weeks before departure

The Trip Includes:

Tribal Tracks Leader (first aid qualified); 1 Complimentary place for Gloucestershire Young Carers (based on min numbers), International economy class flights between London and Marrakech; UK international departure tax; Passenger Service Charges; Accommodation in shared rooms in Ouarzazate and Ait Ben Haddou; Accommodation in shared tents on desert trek; Supporting In-country guides; Camel supported trek; All transfers by minibus or bus as per itinerary; All meals from lunch on day of arrival to breakfast on day of departure; Vegetarian or other meal plan can be provided, please specify at time of booking

The Trip Excludes:

Personal Travel Insurance, Immunisation costs; Personal equipment and clothing; Boots suitable for desert trek, Sleeping bag; Visa fees (currently not required for UK passport holders); Any locally paid international airport departure taxes; Items of a personal nature; Tipping for local guides and driver; single supplement

Travelling in Morocco

Is Morocco safe? It's a question we do get asked and is one worthy of a detailed and clear response from Tribal Tracks.

The short answer is that according to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office guidance, **Morocco** is currently **safer** than the UK.

Safety has to be put into context to allow risks to be adequately assessed. For example, while horrific, the Manchester concert bomb incident did not render travel to the whole of the UK unsafe. Similarly, a single incident in Morocco, or an incident involving a person born in Morocco, does not make the entire country unsafe. As the Sahara is remote, and away from the populated areas where a terrorist incident would have the most impact, the threat of an incident on a trek is extremely low: it would be like comparing and equating the terrorism risk in North West Scotland, to that of London.

Tribal Tracks subscribes to the UK Government's Foreign & Commonwealth Office's Travel Advice feed. This is regarded as one of the best global sources for up-to-date, on the ground, effective travel advice. It provides detailed information on the terrorism threat, entry requirements, vaccination advice and general risks to travellers for all countries in the world, and we take our lead from it. If the FCO advises against travel, or all but essential travel, Tribal Tracks would not recommend travel either.

Morocco is a Muslim country and as is the case in most countries of the world, there is a risk of terrorism. However, in stark contrast to the UK, the last terrorist incident was in Marrakech, some seven years ago (April 2011). The current advice on the FCO website is '*Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in Morocco. You should be vigilant at all times.*' To put it in to context, that puts Morocco on a par with the USA and Australia, but below the risk we face in the UK, where the threat of attack is 'Severe'.

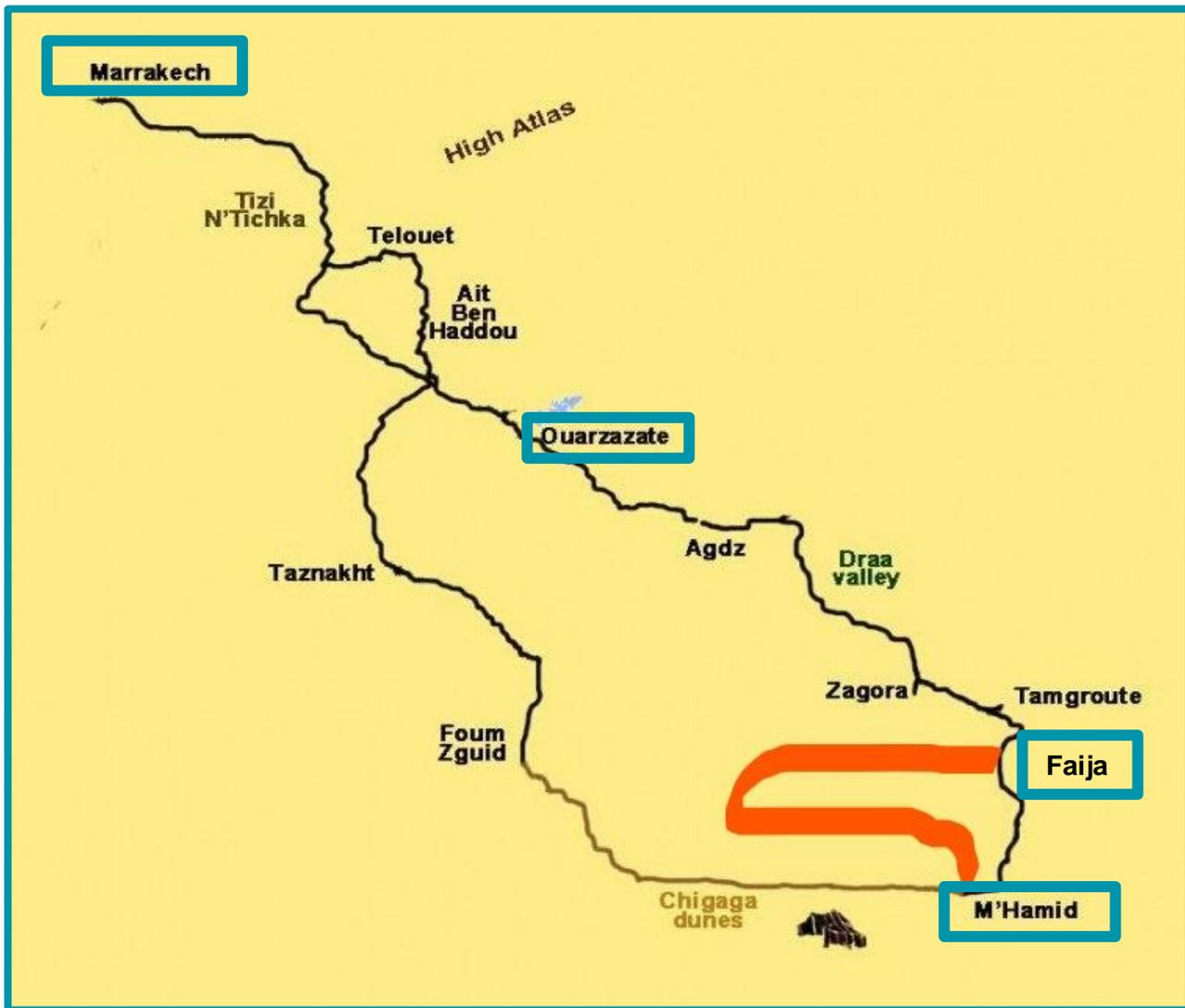
We do live in a world faced with global terrorism. It is a personal choice of where you choose to travel to and if you feel safe. However, the chances of experiencing any incident in the Moroccan mountains or Sahara is extremely low. Terrorists seek publicity, which is why they usually choose high profile, busy locations in which to carry out an attack.

We use common sense measures at Tribal Tracks.

In the unlikely event of an incident in Morocco, we have procedures in place with our ground operation crew, which would allow us to adapt and amend itineraries where, and if, necessary. In addition, our native speaking, in-country team is highly professional, experienced and can react quickly and effectively to a changing situation.

In this case, the team will be accompanied by a UK Leader as well as experienced Moroccan guides and all transfers will be in private minibuses, lessening any risk (although mild) of using public transport.

Map of itinerary



 Desert trek route