

TRANSHUMANCE ATLAS

OUARZAZATE / SUD M'GOUN / HAUT ATLAS CENTRAL/ MARRAKECH

PROJECT A 13 DAYS / REFERENCE : PRINTEMPS 2026

Date	May 22 to June 3, 2026
Difficulty	★★★☆ 3 to 6 H trekking / 11 days
Start & End of stay	Ouarzazate Airport / Marrakech
Ouarzazate Lodging	Riad Dar Daïf (1 night / Day 1)
Transhumance Lodging	Tent bivouac (10 nights / Day 2 to Day 8 / Day 10 to Day 11)
Bougmez Lodging	Home-stay (1 night / Day 9)
Marrakech Lodging	Riad Maïalou or other (1 night / Day 12)
Trek Duration	10.5 days
Discovery Details	Ouarzazate – ½ day Dadès Valley – ½ day (by vehicle) M'goun Valley – ½ day on foot TRANSHUMANCE Trek – 10 days (Trek on foot with camels / mules) BOUGMEZ – ½ day North Atlas – ½ day (by vehicle) Marrakech – ½ day

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Désert et Montagne
M A R O C

Every spring, nomads from the Saghro in Southeast Morocco leave their pastures with their families and herds of goats, sheep, and camels. The caravan travels across the Dadès plain and climbs the southern slopes of the Atlas to over 3,000m. They reach Lake Izourar and its high plateaus. Some settle there, while others continue to the northern slope of the Atlas.

The Aït Atta are a group of the Amazigh Berber population originally from the Sahara. Jbel Saghro is their original stronghold, though they have expanded into the Tafilalet, Ziz, Dadès, and Drâa valleys. The transhumance arrival occurs in early June. Host populations in the Atlas choose the best spots first; the following day, the Aït Atta enter these territories, and locations are distributed by drawing lots. In autumn, the process reverses as they return to avoid the snow-covered Atlas heights. In exchange for summer pastures, the Aït Atta invite Atlas villagers to bring their herds to the milder Saghro pastures for winter.

This is not a classic hike. It is an experience following the requirements of a caravan made up of a family and a massive herd. The itinerary and stages are chosen based on the herd, the family, and weather conditions. Participants live with the family and share daily tasks: loading camels, gathering wood, fetching water, herding, and preparing bread and meals.

Detailed Program

Day 1 (Fri, May 22): Marrakech > Ouarzazate

- Arrival at Ouarzazate airport or bus station.
- Transfer to Riad Dar Daïf in the village of Talmasla.
- Rest in the kasbah with garden, pool, and hammam.
- Dinner and overnight at Dar Daïf.

Day 2 (Sat, May 23): Ouarzazate, Skoura, M'Goun, Dadès

- Departure by vehicle toward the Dadès Valley via the "Road of 1000 Kasbahs".
- Pass through the Skoura palm grove and Kelaa M'gouna.
- Start of the 12-day trek in the Dadès Gorges (2–4 hours of walking).
- First bivouac with the Aït Atta family.

Day 3 (Sun, May 24): Bivouac 2

- Early morning departure with the caravan.
- Climb to Tizi'n Madeumt (2,150m).
- 3-5 hours of walking before setting up camp.



Day 4 (Mon, May 25): Bivouac 3

- Travel through the wadi bed, passing troglodyte dwellings of the M'goun semi-nomads.
- Climb to Tizi'n Toudat (2,658m) with views of the Saghro.
- 5 hours of walking to the Marouane gorge bivouac.

Day 5 (Tue, May 26): Bivouac 4

- Walking between the gorges of Jbel Marouane.
- 3 hours of walking to the Imejdag bivouac.



Day 6 (Wed, May 27): Bivouac 5

- Crossing Jbel Abouch (3,121m) and entering M'Goun territory.
- 5 hours of walking to the foot of Adar pass (2,750m).

Day 7 (Thu, May 28): Bivouac 6

- Pre-dawn departure crossing four passes over 3,000m.
- A difficult day crossing Jbel Amesrika with narrow ledges and steep cliffs.
- 6–7 hours of walking to Tizi'n Igroul (3,200m) with views of Jbel Azourki (3,600m).
- Night celebration with singing and dancing.

Day 8 (Fri, May 29): Bivouac 7

- Entering the Central Atlas (peaks of 3,500–3,700m).
- Walking along Lake Izourar, passing stone shepherd huts (azibs).

Day 9 (Sat, May 30): Bougmez Valley

Briefly leaving the nomads to discover the high-altitude oasis of the Bougmez Valley.

- 4 hours of walking to Aït Ouchi.
- Overnight at a local home-stay.



Day 10 (Sun, May 31): Bivouac 8

- Rejoining the nomads through a forest of oaks and thuyas.
- Crossing summer pastures (Agdals).
- Festive meal of "Télouète" (traditional dough balls) with butter and whey.

Day 11 (Mon, June 1): Bivouac 9

- Morning spent watching sheep shearing.
- A sacrificial meal with steam-cooked meat and skewers.
- Moving camp in the afternoon.

Day 12 (Tue, June 2): End of Trek – Marrakech

- 1–2 hours of walking to reach the vehicles.
- Pass through Aït Mohamed for the weekly market.
- Drive 190km to Marrakech.
- Transfer to Riad Maïalou near Jemaa el Fna.

Day 13 (Wed, June 3): Marrakech Airport

- Free day in Marrakech followed by airport transfer.



Videos

- ❖ <https://www.desert-montagne.ma/les-roses-en-fleurs-randonnee-dans-les-jardins-du-mgoun/>
- ❖ [lien Transhumance Aït Atta retour septembre 2025](#)
- ❖ Vidéo <https://www.desert-montagne.ma/transhumance-des-nomades-ait-atta-retour-septembre-2025/>
- ❖ Podcast <https://www.desert-montagne.ma/podcast-7-transhumance-des-nomades-ait-atta-retour-septembre-2025/>
- ❖ <https://www.desert-montagne.ma/transhumance-nomades-ait-atta-une-des-dernieres-2023/>
- ❖ <https://www.desert-montagne.ma/transhumance-des-nomades-ait-atta-2022/>
- ❖ <https://www.desert-montagne.ma/transhumance-des-nomades-ait-atta/>
- ❖ <https://www.desert-montagne.ma/transhumance-des-nomades-ait-atta-2018/>
- ❖ <https://www.desert-montagne.ma/transhumance-2017-rencontre-dune-experience-hors-du-commun/>
- ❖ <https://www.desert-montagne.ma/transhumance-des-nomades-ait-atta-2016/>
- ❖ <https://www.desert-montagne.ma/transhumance-des-nomades-ait-atta-2015/>
- ❖ <https://www.desert-montagne.ma/transhumance-des-nomades-ait-atta-2014/>
- ❖ <https://www.desert-montagne.ma/transhumance-des-nomades-ait-atta-2013/>

Pricing (Per Person)

Projet A 13 jours Prix par personne en Euros

1 person	2.560 €
2 persons	1.950, €
3 persons	1.680, €
4 persons	1.650, €
5 to 6 persons	1.640, €
7 persons	1.620, €
8 persons	1.570, €
9 to 10 persons	1.540, €

Supplements and Options

- Single room supplement: 50 € (1 night Ouarzazate, 1 night Marrakech).
- Extra night Ouarzazate (Dar Daïf): 70 € (1 person) / 90 € (2 persons); includes free dinner.
- Sleeping bag rental: 40 € (includes warm bag, liner, pillow, small towel).
- Individual igloo tent rental: 200 €

What is Included :

- **Support:** From Day 1 (Ouarzazate airport) to Day 13 (Marrakech airport).
- **Transfers and Transport:** Comfortable 4x4 or minibus (2 days: Day 2 and Day 12, plus Ouarzazate airport pickup and Marrakech airport return).
- **Full Board:** From dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 13.
- **Meals:** Freshly cooked, generous, and high quality. Mineral water is provided throughout the entire stay and circuit.
- **Ouarzazate Accommodation:** 1 night (Day 1) at **Riad Dar Daïf**, our 3-star guest house in the village of Talmasla (5 km from Ouarzazate), overlooking gardens, the lake, and the Atlas range (4000m). Features: Hammam, swimming pool, and terraces.
- **Transhumance Accommodation:** (Alt. 1400m – 2800m) 10 nights (Days 2 to 8, and Days 10 to 11). Comfortable bivouacs with tents in the heart of the Atlas.
- **Bougmez Accommodation:** (Alt. 2080m) 1 night (Day 9) staying with locals.
- **Marrakech Accommodation:** 1 night (Day 12) at **Riad Maïalou** or another 2-star riad in the medina with a terrace.
- **Trek Supervision:** Provided by the agency *Désert et Montagne Maroc*.
- **Staff:** Accompanying guide plus a cook (for groups of 7 or more).
- **Drivers:** For all 4x4 or minibus transfers.
- **Camels / Mules (10.5-day Atlas crossing):**
 - A caravan of camels/mules to transport collective and personal luggage, food, and tents.
 - An **assistance camel or mule** (for groups of 5 to 8 people) to carry the picnic, the traditional tea set, and for participants to rest on or ride for pleasure alternately when the terrain permits.
- **Collective Equipment:**
 - 1 white canvas nomad tent for evening meals (fits the whole group) and for sleeping (up to 5 people).
 - 1 igloo tent for couples (available upon request, no extra charge).
 - 10cm thick foam mattresses with covers.
 - Shower tent (for groups of 3+ people).
 - Toilet tent (for groups of 5+ people).
 - Kitchen tent and equipment.
- **First Aid:** Emergency first aid kit.

What is Not Included:

- Airfare: Round-trip flights (Europe / Ouarzazate - Marrakech / Europe).
- Insurance: Travel, cancellation, and repatriation insurance.
- Visits: Any tours or visits outside the stated program.
- Personal Expenses: Drinks, wine, tips, and other personal costs.
- Changes/Interruptions: Costs or refunds resulting from any modification or interruption of the circuit by participants, regardless of the cause or duration.
- Specific Meals: Lunch on Day 1 and Day 13; Dinner on Day 13.
- **Mandatory Insurance: "Mondial Assistance" type insurance for repatriation to the arrival airport and back to your home. Coverage for search and rescue, medical, and pharmaceutical costs. This insurance is mandatory: you must provide a copy of your policy details and contract number before arrival.**
- **Optional Insurance: Cancellation, force majeure, or illness insurance.**

Payment & Reservation

1. By phone, letter, or fax to choose and confirm your dates.
2. Confirm by email or WhatsApp with the following details:
 - Exact date, expected number of people, and their names.
 - Payment of a deposit of 300 Euros per person.

Payment Dates

- For the Deposit: At the time of booking confirmation.
- For the Balance: Due 45 days before your arrival in Ouarzazate.
 - By bank transfer or credit card: The balance payment via credit card can also be made on-site in Ouarzazate upon arrival at Dar Daïf on the first day.
 - By cash on-site: A 4% discount is applied to the balance (Dirhams or Euros).
- Invoice: For all payment types, an invoice will be provided upon your arrival at Dar Daïf, detailing the total amount paid and the methods used.

Payment Methods

1. Bank Check: Made payable to Désert et Montagne Maroc. Send by registered mail to: Désert et Montagne Maroc - BP 93 - 45 000 OUARZAZATE - Maroc.
2. SWIFT Bank Transfer: Please send us a copy of the transfer receipt.
 - Bank Ref: ATTIJARIWAFABANK in Ouarzazate center, Bd Mohamed V / MOROCCO
 - Account Name: Ste "Désert et Montagne Maroc"
 - IBAN (24 digits): MA64 007 550 0001553000000684 46
 - Bank Code: 007 / City: 550 / Account: 0001553000000684 / Rib: 46
 - BIC - Swift Code: BCMAMAMC
 - Note: All transfer fees (sender and receiver) are at your expense.
3. Credit Card: Send us via email:
 - A signed and dated letter stating your full name and your choice to pay for the trip by credit card, indicating the amount in Euros.
 - A photocopy of the front and back of your credit card. If the copy is not clearly legible, please specify the card number, validity date, and the CVV security code (on the back), and add your signature next to it.
4. Cash: Only for the balance (Dirhams or Euros). On-site payment provides a 4% discount on the balance (corresponding to the bank fees of other payment systems).

After Booking Receipt

Once your reservation is received, we will send you by mail:

- A receipt for your reservation.
- An additional information file regarding your trek.
- A list of recommended personal equipment and clothing.

Cancellation Conditions

Please note that cancellation insurance does not yet exist in Morocco.

If you pay for your trip with a **credit card**, some cards provide access to potential cancellation coverage and reimbursement.

In case of cancellation, the following fees will apply based on the confirmed rate:

- **30 to 21 days before:** 20%
- **15 to 20 days before:** 40%
- **13 to 14 days before:** 60%
- **9 to 12 days before:** 80%
- **8 days to the day of arrival:** 100%

Cancellations must be made as quickly as possible by letter, WhatsApp, or email, explaining the reasons if possible. **Cancellations due to officially recognized natural disasters or pandemics will not incur any penalty.**

Getting to Ouarzazate

By Plane (from abroad):

- **Royal Air Maroc:** Connecting flights to Ouarzazate from Casablanca or Marrakech almost every day.
- **Other Airlines:** Air Arabia Maroc, Transavia, Air France, etc. (Check online for schedules).
- We will meet you upon your arrival in Ouarzazate to take you to Dar Daïf.
- *Flights must be booked by you. Please provide us with your arrival and return dates and times.*

By Plane (within Morocco):

- From Marrakech and Casablanca via **Royal Air Maroc**. We will meet you at Ouarzazate airport.

By Private 4x4 or Minibus:

- From Marrakech to Ouarzazate: 207 km / 4 hours 30 min trip.
- Transfer cost: Marrakech to Ouarzazate (or vice versa): 220 € per trip (for 1 to 6 people). We can group multiple travelers together to share costs.

By Local Bus:

- From Marrakech to Ouarzazate: 207 km / 5 hours.
- Modern and comfortable buses via CTM (ctm.ma) or SUPRATOURS (supratours.ma).
- We will meet you at your arrival in Ouarzazate. Please specify the company and scheduled arrival time.

If you are coming from abroad, we can reserve the bus of your choice for you (please provide your flight arrival time in Marrakech).



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