

## SAHARA ODYSSEY

The Sahara of Morocco presents with a bold spectacular beauty of at least 40 km of undulating sand dunes that reach heights of 300 meters. Imagine camping next to the dunes in total silence, gazing at the moon and an endless display of stars. The Erg Chegaga dunes are remote, over 60 kilometers away from the nearest road. Our nomadic guides appear to have an internal GPS system that gets you to the dunes and back to villages again. This is a rustic, low impact, sustainable experience done with guides who grew up here. We will be staying in Nomadic tents. You will be eating very good Moroccan food and sand bread. We will experience riding a camel for short distances but primarily will travel by 4x4. You will also be able to visit, have mint tea with occasional nomadic families in the area.

**Day 1** Marrakech arrival, overnight at hotel in Marrakech

**Day 2:** Marrakech ---- Ouarzazate ----- M'hamid (Small village and door to Moroccan desert, Sahara)

We will travel to the Moroccan desert on a breathtaking road that zigzags through the high Atlas mountains, going through Tizi-N-Tichka pass at 2260 m altitude. Lunch in Ouarzazate. We now begin the descent into the Draa valley and the longest river of the kingdom (1220 km). We will arrive at the bivouac in the desert near M'hamid, last village-Oasis of the Draa valley. There is typically music in the evening provided by our guides while we sit around a fire. You will be sleeping in a nomadic tent or if you want, under the stars.

**Day 3:** M'hamid —Desert Sidi Naji— Erg zahar

After breakfast, we begin by passing by the ancient kasbah of the Palm Grove, stopping for lunch, next to sidi naji, where you will find The Tomb of a former marabout, which became a place of pilgrimage for the nomads. The Dunes of Zahar are up to 200 meters high. We will view a sunset from this majestic sand dunes. Evening will be around the fire, eating a delicious tagine.

Day 4: Erg zahar—Erg Chegaga, We stop at the Sacred Oasis before we reach the dunes of Chegaga. There are palm trees here, and it is a source of water used by nomads. The Erg Chegaga dunes reach a height of 300 meters and a span of 40 km. You can experience calmness and tranquility here.

Day 5: Erg Chegaga. Explore and climb some of the dunes, visit some of the nomadic families living in the desert. After a scenic sunset over the sand dunes of Erg Chegaga, enjoy dinner and spend the night in the nomad tents or under the stars.

Day 6: Erg Chegaga —Ouazararete - Sunrise over the dunes, depart in 4x4 vehicles to Taznakht for lunch,

Day 7: Ouazararete — Marrakesh, We will see Ait Benhaddou, A 16th century UNESCO site, is one of the best preserved and most spectacular kasbahs in Morocco.

Day 8: transfer to the airport.