

Toubkal Expedition Invitation - 2011

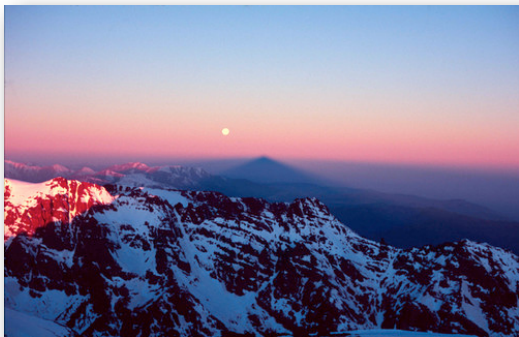
Do you fancy an adventure driving through the Sahara desert and then climbing a 4000 ft mountain?

Jbel Toubkal (4167m) is North Africa's highest mountain and is situated in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. This two week expedition is split into two halves and you can choose to join either half or complete the full adventure - think Top Gear challenge but with a mountain to climb at the end of it!

My plan is to drive through the Sahara desert, camping in the desert and driving offroad for the entire journey, soaking up the sunrise and sunsets and experiencing the vast wilderness as a self contained team. The drive starts in Marrakesh and here we can hire 4x4 vehicles. At the moment flights start at £69 return from the UK or if you have your own 4x4 you can drive from the UK, across Spain and get the ferry across to Morocco.



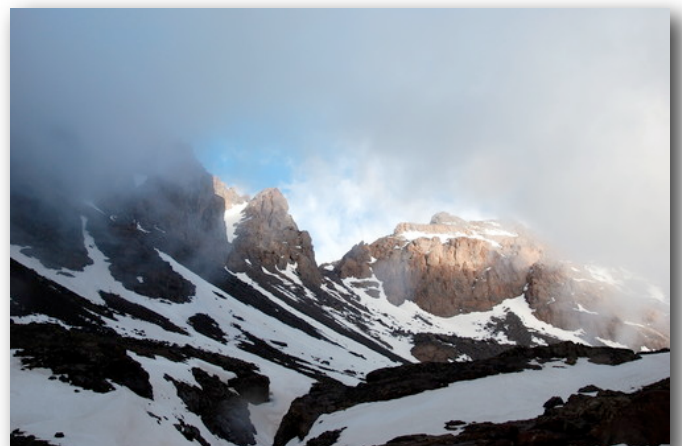
We will then spend 6 days out in the desert with the company of a guide/bush mechanic and support vehicle. The route will take in the best of the Sahara with about 8 hours driving on each day, wild camping and cooking out each night.



We will then spend a day back in Marrakesh which is an exotic, colourful and mysterious city buzzing with life, charm and character. It is a place which floods the senses with colourful and overwhelming sights, sounds and smells.

From Marrakesh we will then head to the village of Imilil and begin our trek towards the summit of Toubkal. At over 4000m high the mountain is comparable to those of the French Alps but requires no technical climbing. The summit can be gained in a couple of days but we will take four to allow ourselves time to acclimatise and to explore the Berber villages.

Pre-requirements: To join the expedition you need to have completed one of our winter skills courses and be fit and healthy. As with all of our expeditions only existing clients of mine will be invited. The expedition will not be advertised and we will have a pre-expedition training day to allow the team to meet up and get to know each other.



Costs: At the moment these costs are simply an approximate guide as I will be able to provide a fixed price once I have got exact numbers. They should be accurate to within £200. I have split the cost into the two parts of the expedition:

Overland safari through the Sahara: 6 days from Marakesh and back - **£1000** including vehicle hire based on 3 people sharing a vehicle and on accommodation being camping. This includes the cost of the vehicle, local guide and support vehicle and the camping.

Climb Toubkal - 5 day expedition from Marakesh and back - **£800** per person to include hostel accommodation whilst trekking.

Dates - Exact dates to be confirmed but sometime in October/November 2011

Extras: Flights - From £69 return

Accommodation in Marrakech - We will stay together in a nice hotel. Prices are about £30 per night for something good.

Food - The safari is self catering. Food is provided in the lodges we stay in on the trek.

Equipment - You will need to provide your own clothing, boots etc and axes and crampons. A full list will be provided.

