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**OneLife Adventure**

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# Western Sahara Explorer

5<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Western Sahara**.... little known and little visited about sums up this territory – well, here's your chance to rectify this ! ..... join us as we explore the deep south of Morocco. After the cessation of the decades-long armed dispute between Morocco and the Polisario Front in 1991, this territory has remained un-explored. Since our first expedition here in 2010 it has quickly become a firm favourite of guests – a mixture of salt/silt flats, rolling hammada, sand dunes, rocky jebels and archaeological sites complete with pot fragments, flint tools and rock engravings. It's wild and remote but remains safe and free from trouble. Read LRO's John Pearson's [Epic Western](#) article on our website to get a taste of this fascinating destination.

Taking the new autoroute to Agadir we quickly descend Morocco to enter the Anti Atlas mountains and head for Assa via the Gorges d'Ait Mansour – a huge cleft through these intensely folded mountains. Once south of the Anti Atlas we enter the expanse of the Zemmour, a huge hammada extending down towards Mauritania. Driving conditions remain varied however, mainly rock and sand with many dry river crossings before crossing the Krab Hawa and dropping into the Oued Seguiet al Hamar and reaching Jdiriya and ultimately, the main town of Smara.

We leave Smara for the far south via the Jebel Winselwan, which is one of Morocco's most prolific pre-Islamic rock engraving sites. Once at the southern end of the Jebel we swing southwest out across the desert towards Oued al Khatt. We'll descend into the pans of Sebkat Aridal before following a dune line north towards Laayoune . From Laayounne we follow the cliff top pistes north and explore the pre-Islamic tombs and tumuli in Oued Chbika. Entering Tan Tan we continue NE to drive the classic Plage Blanche beach and follow the cliff top pistes and ship wrecks to Sidi Ifni, Agadir and the transit back to Europe. The route is a mix of hammada, with some dunes and mountains, remote and wild. While the pistes to Smara are used, further south things get seriously empty! It's very different to the rest of Morocco, free of the "bon-bon stylo" hassel that unfortunately mars elsewhere, it's exciting desert travel under warm blue skies, definitely a trip for those who want to be amongst the first to explore this remote, western edge of the Sahara.





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## Summary

<b>Start point</b>	Tarifa, Southern Spain
<b>Finish point</b>	Tarifa, Southern Spain
<b>Number of days</b>	16 days, 16 nights - meet night of 4 <sup>th</sup> March.
<b>Approx. distance</b>	3500 kilometres in Morocco
<b>Road conditions</b>	Mixture of sand, gravel and rock tracks, some local roads.
<b>No' of vehicles</b>	Maximum of 6 vehicles or 12 adult guests plus our support vehicle.
<b>Accommodation used</b>	Accommodation will be predominantly wild campsites. In some places we may use organised campsites or auberges, where good toilet/shower facilities are available.
<b>Specialist equipment - vehicle</b>	A well maintained and serviced 4x4 vehicle fitted with underbody protection. A CB radio must be fitted. Tyres of All Terrain or Mud Terrain tread patterns are most suitable. Front and rear recovery points and a full set of recovery equipment (strops and shackles) is essential along with a spade. A winch is not essential. A total fuel range of 800 km is required, (jerry cans are OK), and water capacity of 60 l each. A vehicle fridge is recommended for cold drinks and keeping food fresh for extended periods.
<b>Specialist equipment - camping</b>	Either roof (preferable) or ground tents are suitable. You will need good quality sleeping mats if using ground tents, along with sleeping bags. You should bring your own chairs, table, stove, pans, cutlery and utensils. Clothing can be light as the days will be hot, however you should bring some warm and windproof outer wear. Protection from the sun and UV is needed.
<b>Passport</b>	Required.
<b>Visa</b>	Not needed for citizens of the UK.
<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small first aid kit and EHIC advisable (European Health Insurance Card - available from UK Post Offices).</li><li>• Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Polio, Typhoid vaccinations are recommended; confirm needs with your doctor.</li></ul>
<b>Cost of living</b>	A lot less than the UK - 1 GBP = approx' 12 Dirham, with diesel at 8-9 dir/l. ATM's are present in large towns and cities but are not always reliable. Bureau de Change facilities can be found at the border. You will need to bring cash, to change upon entry to Morocco. Vehicle insurance may be bought at the border if required.



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## Weather

Generally dry and warm with low humidity, occasionally very hot in the valleys during the days but it can be cool in the hills and at night. Dust can reduce visibility during the spring period.

Marrakesh	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average daily temp °C	18	20	23	26	29	33	38	38	33	28	23	19
Rainfall mm	25	30	35	25	15	10	5	5	10	25	30	30

## Food and Shopping

Food is readily available in Morocco, but choice will be restricted compared to the UK. Opportunities to buy food in Western Sahara are non-existent, once beyond Smara and Laayoune. Meals can be cooked either individually or communally, the choice is yours. We can assist you with purchasing food in country, as necessary and will co-ordinate shopping for group meals.

## Schedule and Pace

The route and timings are not fixed. We will be free to break journey, stop and explore, as you desire. We aim to be in the campsite by 17.00 on most days to allow us to relax and enjoy the experiences of the day. The daily distances driven vary due to the terrain and ground conditions but a typical day will be 2-3 hours driving in the morning, 1 hour for lunch and then a further 2-3 hours driving. For the transit from Tangiers to Agadir we will use the autoroute network and this will take approximately 1.5 days. There will be one rest / non driving day during the trip when you'll be free to explore or rest as you choose.

## Outbound shipping

The crossing from Dover to Calais is made by ferry and is included in the expedition price. You are free to specify your own preferred dates and times and this route will give you the option of enjoying France and Spain on the way down. We can also offer an option to take a Brittany Ferries crossing from Portsmouth/Plymouth to Santander/Bilbao at additional cost, please contact us for a quote. This is a cost effective option, saving the diesel cost, tolls and a long drive down, the dates of the trip are timed to coincide with Brittany Ferry sailings.

**Note** – While this section of the expedition is unsupported by OneLife Adventure, we are happy for you to join us as we drive down to the starting point of the trip – perfect while you get used to driving “on the wrong side” ! Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.

## Inbound Shipping

The return crossing from Calais to Dover is made by ferry and is included in the expedition price. Again, you are free to break the return journey and specify the ferry dates and times allowing you to extend your holiday as you choose.

**Note** – As for the outbound journey, this section of the expedition is also unsupported by OneLife Adventure but again you are welcome to join us for the return. Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.



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## Cost

- £ 1599 per person – for the first 2 adults (based on 2 sharing), **inclusive of ALL ferry crossings**. Ask us for a quote for Brittany Ferries, we credit you the Channel crossing, you simply pay the difference.

The expedition price includes **flexible return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais and from Spain to Morocco, all campsite/accommodation costs and full backup and guiding from the support team.**

- *If one adult and one under 16 only then the price is for 2 adults*
- *Under 16's - £350 each*
- *Adult single supplement, add £525*
- *For each additional adult up to a maximum of 4 per vehicle add £450*
- *It does not include your fuel, food, snacks, drinks, vehicle insurance and personal spending.*



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR  
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE ON THIS  
EXPEDITION  
PLEASE CONTACT US**

**NUMBERS ARE LIMITED – maximum of 6 vehicles or 12 adults !**

## OneLife Adventure Expedition Rating System

### Sahara Occidental Explorer



The whole territory is remote, the terrain is predominantly flat/gently rolling sand and rocks with many oued's. Some low mountain ranges exist and near Laayoune there are dunes.



Easy, short driving days, suitable for families and drivers with basic off road driving skills.



Easy camping with occasional wild sites interspersed by sites with facilities, no technical needs, suitable for families and young children.



Higher off road content, moderate driving days, suitable for families and medium off road driving skills.



50% wild camping, some technical needs, suitable for families and young children used to camping.



**Longer days occasionally and high content of off road driving, recoveries likely and moderate levels of off road skills needed.**



**80% wild camping +, weather or environment requires some technical clothing/equipment, suitable for experienced families with older children.**



Long days and long distances are the norm, likely to encounter severe hazards and will require teamwork to succeed, experienced drivers.



Extreme weather (hot, wet or cold), will require extensive technical equipment, irregular meals and physical discomfort will be the norm! Success is achieving the destination – Camel Trophy style.



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