

Adventure Travel
4x4 Expeditions
Consultancy
Training

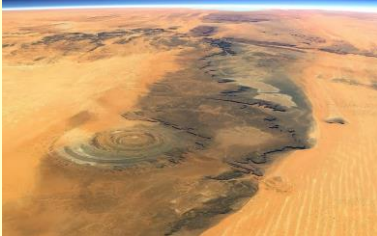


Mauritania Explorer

25th February to 20th March 2024

This incredible expedition will take you further across the desert than we have been for many a year, almost to the bottom of the Sahara and the remote, seldom visited sands of Mauritania. While “Timbuktu” is often used to refer to reaching the proverbial end of the world, neighbouring Mauritania is far more deserving of the title. This remote and large country is sparsely populated, with most of the population living in the western side of the country, near the Atlantic Ocean. The interior is the western edge of the Grand Erg Occidental, 30,000 sq miles of sand. Here, on the edge of the sand sea, the dunes slowly give way to a mix of sand sheet, mountains and plateaux's.

Crossing the border from Morocco we head east, following the famous iron ore train line to explore ancient Islamic libraries at Chinguetti before heading to Oudane. From the Maur Adrar dune field we'll head into the Guelb er Richât, nicknamed “the Eye of the Sahara, this bulls eye structure is of special note as one of the world's natural wonders. This area is also covered in stone artifacts and tools and we'll visit the small village of El Beyedh, home to probably the world's most remote museum. Built over the years with artifacts collected by the elderly village head, Monsieur Yislim; as a young man Yislim was the guide of Theodore Monod, one of the greatest French explorer/naturalists of the Sahara. We'll then head SE over the Tidjikja plateaux to Rachid and the southern edge of the sands to search for the last of the Saharan crocodiles, dwarfed over the centuries by scarcity of food and space and now confined to a few seasonal gueltas and remote water holes. We then swing northwest towards Nouakchott before following the surf north along the Atlantic beaches to the Banc d'Arguin National Park, the largest winter concentration of wading birds in the world, before we cross back to Morocco for our return home.





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SUMMARY

Start point	Algerciras, Spain
Finish point	Algerciras, Spain
Number of days	17 days in Mauritania plus 8 days Moroccan transit time.
Approx. distance	8,000 kilometres.
Road conditions	Varied but predominantly sand! A mixture of dunes, sand, gravel, rock pistes, beaches, even some tarmac.
No' of vehicles	Maximum of 6 guest vehicles plus support vehicle.
Accommodation used	Mainly wild campsites set in the incomparable desert. Some sites may be campsites with toilet/shower facilities when available. We may also use auberges and local hotels as required.
Specialist equipment - vehicle	A well maintained and serviced 4x4 vehicle fitted with underbody protection and recovery points, a snorkel is desirable for dust. A CB radio must be fitted. Tyres of All Terrain tread patterns most suitable. A full set of recovery equipment (strops and shackles) is essential along with a spade. A total fuel range of at least 800 km is required; it may be carried in jerry cans. A vehicle fridge is highly recommended for cold drinks and keeping food fresh for extended periods. A winch is not essential.
Specialist equipment - camping	Either roof (preferable) or ground tents are suitable. You should bring your own chairs, table, 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. You'll need to carry about 50 litres of drinking water at any one time.
Passport	Required.
Visa	Mauritania - Needed for UK citizens and obtained on the border at entry
Health	Seek medical advice for current position. Malaria : Exists throughout the year in the southern section of the country but not in the north during the winter – in the south preventative treatment via drugs is recommended, normally atovaquone/proguanil or doxycycline or mefloquine. In the north, bite avoidance and other bite preventative action is recommended. Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Rabies: Vaccination recommended. Comprehensive health insurance with medivac recommended.



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OneLife Adventure

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Food and Shopping

Food will be restricted in choice and availability compared to the UK. We co-ordinate and assist you with food purchasing and meals can be cooked individually or communally, the choice is yours. The cost of living is cheap, but its Africa, supplies are variable; most food is bought in local markets. Credit cards are rarely accepted and only Nouakchott and Morocco will have ATMs. The bulk of your shopping will need to be done before leaving Spain. Ensure you bring cash to exchange into local currency. Most nights we will have a fire to cook over.

Cost of Living

A lot less than the UK – MOROCCO 1 GBP = approx' 12 Moroccan Dinar, with diesel at 14-16 dir/l. MAURITANIA 1 GBP = 49 OUGUIYA, with diesel at 39 oug/l. You will need to bring cash as Euros or Pounds to change upon entry to Morocco and Mauritania. There will be no ATM's in Mauritania – bring cash with you. Credit cards are not accepted in Mauritania.

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 3-4 hours driving in the morning, 1 hour for lunch and then a further 3-4 hours driving. Some days will be longer than this due to the distances to be driven. The transit days in Morocco are all 700 km plus days, but the traffic is light, and we'll use hotels to make this stage easier.

Outbound shipping

The crossing from Algeciras to Tangiers is made by ferry and is included in the expedition price. I suggest you use Brittany Ferries to cross to Spain, contact us for cheaper rates and suggested dates and times. This crossing is not included in the expedition price.

Inbound Shipping

The return crossing from Tangiers to Spain 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.

Weather

Generally dry and warm with low humidity, occasionally very hot in the dunes and valleys during the days but it can be cool in the hills and at night. Rain is rare away from the coast.

	Temp (°C) mean day max		Rain (mm) mean month	
	Feb	Mar	Feb	Mar
Mauritania	33	34	0	0



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Cost

- **£ 2500 per person – based on 2 adults sharing 1 vehicle, inclusive of ferry crossings.**

The expedition price includes ferry from Algeciras to Tangiers return, all campsite and accommodation costs on the expedition, full backup and guiding from the support team including local guides in country and all the entry costs to natural parks and sites.

- ***If one adult and one under 16 only then the price is for 2 adults.***
- ***Adult single supplement, add £999.***
- *For each additional adult up to a maximum of 4 per vehicle add £900 pp.*
- *Under 16's – add £550 pp.*

Your fuel, food, snacks, drinks, ferry to Spain or France, vehicle insurance, visas and personal spending are not included.

OneLife Adventure Expedition Rating System

MAURITANIA EXPLORER



99% 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.

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

NUMBERS ARE LIMITED – maximum of 6 vehicles!

