

ATLANTIC COAST AND ANTI ATLAS BIODIVERSITY TESTING IN MOROCCO

JOURNEYS FOR NATURALISTS

31 January to 8 February (2009)

31

14:00 : Pick-up point at Marrakesh airport and transfer to the coastal town of Sidi Wassay. Approx. 5 hours.



1

Testing in Souss Masa National Park

2

Transfer to Sidi Ifni (approx. 3 hours). Testing in the hills around Sidi Ifni.

3

Testing on Plage Blanche, south of Sidi Ifni.

4

Up to the Tafraout region in the heart of the Anti Atlas. Testing en route.

5

Route through the Tafraout region. Testing in the Anti Atlas.

6

Transfer to Essaouira. Testing en route: Anti Atlas and the coast between Agadir and Essaouira.

7

In the morning, transfer to Marrakech. (2 hours)

8

Travellers should make their own airport transfer arrangements for their flight home

This expedition provides an opportunity to photograph the local flora and fauna and along the way, enjoy the richly varied geology, from active sedimentary environments in the dunes and lagoon areas along the Atlantic coast to geological formations dating back more than 500 million years in the Anti Atlas. Between these two extremes, we will travel through the Western Atlas, an alpine mountain chain where upheaval and erosion is still active. This process has shaped a stunning relief with steep-walled valleys, gorges and mountain ranges near the coast.



The vegetation includes dry Mediterranean forest and succulent shrublands with acacias and wild olives, like the landscape in semi-arid parts of the Canary Islands with even a local dragon tree variety (*Dracaena draco ajgal*) which grows in shady parts of some steep valleys in the Anti Atlas. There is a wide variety of cactus and shrub spurges (*Euphorbia officinarum*, *E. beaumierana*, *E. resinifera* and *E. obtusifolia*) which grow in coastal areas and the mountains of the Anti Atlas, along with the olive-like Argan (*Argania spinosa*), Barbary gum (*Acacia gummifera*), Mediterranean fan palm (*Chamaerops humilis*), African juniper (*Tetraclinis articulata*) and Wild olive (*Olea europea subsp. Maroccana*) amongst many others. Palms and oleanders grow in moist areas.

biodiversidad
V I R T U A L

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY TESTING?



It consists of taking as many photos as possible of an area's biodiversity and then posting them on the Virtual Biodiversity website, where the species

are identified and the data are used to help scientific research, dissemination and conservation. To take part, you don't need to have any prior knowledge, just a great thirst for knowledge about the world around us.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

>TRIP DETAILS:

At Kasbah Itran we promote the use of low-impact accommodation provided by local inhabitants. This means sometimes staying in places that may seem unconventional for Western tourists, although they undoubtedly add authenticity to the journey. It is important to understand that this programme may not suit people seeking a more conventional trip.

We will stay in a very simple hotel with shared bathrooms in Souss Massa, apartments in Sidi Ifni and Essaouira, a rural hotel in Tafraout and a riad (guesthouse) in the heart of the Medina in Marrakech. Throughout the trip we will be accompanied by local guides and experts from



the Virtual Biodiversity project.

> MATERIAL

• VALID PASSPORT
• Appropriate footwear, camera, sleeping bag (recommended), small day pack, bath towel, warm clothes, swimmers.

>COST PER PERSON: 495 €

The price includes travel insurance, all transport and accommodation as per the programme, local guide, meals:

Breakfast on days 1, 2, 5, 6 and 8; dinner on days 4 and 5; lunch (sandwiches and fruit or similar) on days 1, 3 and 5.

>FLIGHTS TO MARRAKESH: The flight is not included in the cost. Each person must book their own flight.

www.easyjet.com
www.atlas-blue.com
www.ryanair.com
www.clickair.com
www.royalairmaroc.com
www.iberia.es
www.terminals.es

For those travelling on 30/01, we can arrange for accommodation in a riad in Marrakech that night.

>CONDITIONS AND RESERVATIONS:

1.-Before booking your flight, check first to confirm the trip (groups must have a minimum of 8 and a maximum of

25)

2.-Transfer the initial booking fee (200 € per person) to ensure your reservation. This fee will only be refunded if the trip is cancelled.

Spanish Bank: Caixa de Catalunya
Account name: Kasbah Itran S.L

BIC: CECESBXXXX
I B A N : ES4320131573640200186022

3.-Transfer the rest of the cost at least 15 days prior to the start of the trip.

When you make your first transfer, send the following details by email to angel@kasbahitran.com for the insurance policy: name and surname, ID or passport number and postal address.