

Sara Lee Trust 30th Anniversary Sahara Challenge

11 - 19 Nov 2026

11 Nov 2026 Arrive Marrakech

You will be met on arrival in Marrakech (airport), and transferred to your hotel/Riad. Once you have settled in and after your Guide briefing, you will want to experience the famous Djemaa el Fna square (if time permits). Your first experience of the square is one of a senses explosion; entertainers performing, a myriad of food stalls all lit up with the smells to accompany them, and the general melee of activity.

Do make sure you are aware of the timings for the morning (breakfast and departure time), and you are stocked with some drinking water for the journey.

Overnight accommodation: Hotel Marrakech
No meals

12 Nov Drive Marrakech to Ouarzazate (Visit Ait Ben Haddou)

After breakfast, your journey down to the Desert begins. You will drive over the High Atlas mountains, potentially experiencing snow at the higher altitudes demonstrating the vast difference between the country's high and low points and stunning scenery. There will be a number of stops to allow you to experience the views.

The 5hr journey will be broken with a rest stop as well as a visit to Ait Ben Haddou (probably for lunch). This is the filming location for many blockbuster films, including 'Gladiator' and 'Game of Thrones'.

Your overnight stop is in a traditional Moroccan Riad in the desert town of Ouarzazate. Enjoy a tagine and perhaps a glass of wine before you reach the miles of glorious sand that await you tomorrow.

Here, you need to sort out your trekking gear from what is being left behind here in Ouarzazate for your return.

Total journey time 5 – 6 hrs, lunch en route.

Overnight accommodation: Hotel/Riad Ouarzazate
Breakfast

13 Nov Drive to M'Hamid, begin trekking

This 5hr drive follows the beautiful Draa Valley. The Draa river allows this valley to remain lush. A lunch stop will either be en route or at the support team meeting point at M'Hamid. M'Hamid is a desert town and where the road literally turns to sand. Here you will meet your support team, complete with camels and handlers and your trek begins. The first section is fairly short to introduce you to the terrain and also allow you to set up your tents for the first time. The team will help you if needed.

Total journey time ~5 hrs, lunch en route.

Overnight accommodation: Camping
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

14 Nov Desert Trekking

For your first full day, you will trek further into the desert, experiencing what life there is (and there is more than you think) and the tranquillity that it can bring. Life is simple here.

The route you take can vary enormously and will depend on a variety of factors such as the weather and group size.

With no ambient light and the desert to absorb all sound, the evenings and nights are just so dark and quiet. It is quite eerie even just to sit on a small dune overlooking the camp site and just look and listen. The stars are so bright and it is very easy to spot the orbiting satellites as they speed across the skies above you.

If the temperature allows, try sleeping outside of the tent, under the stars.

Overnight accommodation: Camping
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

15 Nov Sunset on Erg Zaher

As you trek deeper into the Desert you will experience deeper and more abundant dunes until you can see Erg Zaher on the horizon. Camping tonight will be amidst the dunes close to "Eric", as our clients fondly call it, and once camp is set up, you will climb this 300m (1000ft) dune to watch the sunset across the Sahara.

Don't underestimate the ascent! The sand is extremely deep, soft and steep.

This is a moving and quite surreal experience for most people as the colours of the desert are highlighted by the setting sun. A time to reflect why you are here, and truly experience the silence surrounding you.

Overnight accommodation: Camping
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

16 Nov

Desert Trekking

Today you will continue your journey and by now you will be wondering how your Guide is navigating; it all looks so similar with no landmarks to speak of. Although your days are spent walking separately from your support crew, they will always be miraculously waiting for you when you arrive at your lunch or evening stop.

Overnight accommodation: Camping
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

17 Nov

Final Trekking Day, Overnight Ouarzazate

A final trekking leg will take you to meet your transport where you will say goodbye to your support crew and head back to Ouarzazate. Once in the hotel, you can relax and have that well earned shower! Then it's time to get those clean clothes on and celebrate your achievement.

Overnight accommodation: Hotel/Riad Ouarzazate
Breakfast

18 Nov

Drive to Marrakech, overnight Marrakech

After breakfast, it's back towards Marrakech.

We get you back as soon as we can leaving you plenty of time to get out into the Medina and experience the multitude of Souks. The bartering and market activity is something special.

In the evening, enjoy a traditional meal in any one of many restaurants or try your chance by eating on one of the street stalls.

Overnight accommodation: Hotel Marrakech
Breakfast

19 Nov

Depart Morocco

At the appropriate time, you will be transferred back to the airport.

Breakfast

The meals that are not provided are because you are either travelling (en route between A - B) or to provide the opportunity to experience local restaurants. On both counts, it is impractical to provide meals. It also allows you to explore and not be tied to a specific meal plan.