

## **Nine days to encounter the mysterious beauty of the East**

Probably the most varied route. It will take you from verdant palm groves to the harsh cedar tree forests passing by the ochre sands of the Erg Chebbi.



### **Best seasons :**

Early April to mid May and  
early September to mid December

### **Accommodation :**

One hotel of high standards,  
charming guesthouses,  
a lodge with Berber tents (khaima),  
two bivouac-style luxury camps.

### **Highlights :**

The dunes of Merzouga, the circus of Jaffar,  
the Souk of Imilchil.

### **Travel distance :**

1700 km

First impressions of typically Moroccan landscapes on the road of a thousand kasbahs between Ouarzazate and *BOUMALNE DADES*. Departure the following day for a North to South crossing of the Djebel Saghro heading for *ZAGORA* a tourist village known for its legendary sign indicating "Timbouctou 52 days" which remains one of the most photographed subjects of the country. It is only a few kilometers further that a piste starts towards the famous red sands particular to the Eastern part of Morocco. On this pretty much forsaken trail, we will set up our *CAMP* close to an ancient lake formation, which has now been drained. Our eastward journey will end at the foot of the famous dunes of *MERZOUGA*, of which the highest is over a 100 meters. After having taken time to climb it, we will leave the sand desert behind us heading north to the verdant Tafilalet, region of origin of today's ruling dynasty. It is in the neighborhoods of Boudnib, that we set up another luxury *CAMP* in the shade of a small quiet oasis. The following day, continuation and end of our drive northwards through a still desert and little attended area. An undoubtedly welcome stay as comfortable and friendly as you can think of awaits us in *MIDELT* where one can already feel the chilly breeze from the High Atlas. This is where our ascension towards the breathtaking Cirque of Jaffar will begin through cedar forests. At the end of this route towards the West and right in the middle of the striking mountains of the High Atlas we will reach *IMILCHIL*, its weekly Souk definitely being the most significant and genuine of the entire region. The inn where we will spend the night is located near two mountain lakes, which according to the legend resulted of the tears of lovers separated by their enemy tribes. Last but not least, our journey will take us over a steep and exposed pass trail, and finally through Morocco's deepest Gorges opening into the valley of Dadès. During the final kilometers of our journey back to *OUARZAZATE* one can admire the many kasbahs along the way.

