

# Sahara Trek 2026 for St Nicholas Hospice Care

2 – 7 November 2026



Venture into the heart of the Sahara on  
an unforgettable trek across golden  
dunes and diverse desert terrain.



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*because  
you matter*

**St Nicholas  
Hospice Care**

A Registered Charity No. 287773

This trip is operated by The Different Travel Company (ATOL 6706) on behalf of St Nicholas Hospice Care (Registered Charity No. 287773). The ATOL scheme financially protects the flights in this brochure. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk).





### Trip overview

#### The Trek

This trek through the Moroccan Sahara offers a unique glimpse into its vast, ever-changing landscapes and the traditional Berber way of life. Over two full days and two half days, you'll journey across ancient dried-up riverbeds, rolling sand dunes, and expansive sun-baked plains. Each night, you'll camp beneath a breathtaking star-filled sky (weather permitting) and enjoy delicious, authentic Berber cuisine prepared by the team—an experience not to be missed.

#### Morocco

Located in Northwest Africa, the Kingdom of Morocco is home to a population of over 35 million people. The country boasts a diverse landscape, with both Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines, as well as a rugged interior featuring mountains and desert. The towering Atlas Mountains and the expansive Sahara Desert make Morocco a dream destination for adventure enthusiasts. Marrakech, in particular, is a vibrant city, offering a sensory experience with its rich spices, tranquil mosques, lively entertainers, and the bustling energy of merchants in the historic medina.

#### Sahara

The Sahara spans over 3,600,000 square miles, making it the third-largest desert in the world, after Antarctica and the Arctic. It stretches from the Mediterranean and Atlantic in the north to the Red Sea in the east, reaching as far south as the Niger River. As the hottest desert on Earth, the Sahara has recorded temperatures exceeding 50°C. Despite its extreme conditions, the desert is home to various species of flora, including acacia, palms, and grasses, all of which have adapted to the harsh, arid environment.

#### Berbers

The Berbers, also known as the Amazighen, meaning "free people," are an indigenous ethnic group of North Africa with a culture that dates back over 4,000 years. Traditionally, Berber men are responsible for caring for livestock, while women manage the household and create handicrafts for domestic use and trade. Their lifestyle is primarily nomadic or semi-nomadic, with significant Berber communities found in the rural areas of the country.

### What is the experience like?

#### Who accompanies us?

You will be guided by professional, English-speaking Berber guides who possess extensive knowledge of the region's culture and hiking routes. The guides are trained in first aid and will provide support throughout your journey. Additionally, a team of support staff, including cooks and camel handlers, will accompany you, along with a tour manager from Different Travel Company.

#### How tough is it?

The trek is considered moderately challenging for individuals with a good level of fitness. The terrain includes a mix of flat, sun-baked plains, ancient dried-up riverbeds, expansive sandy dunes, and rugged rocky outcrops. One of the key challenges is the heat, with temperatures historically reaching up to 35°C. It's important to be in good physical condition before departure to ensure quick recovery each day.



## What is the climate like?

Temperatures during the day can range from 25°C to 35°C, with nighttime temperatures potentially dropping to around 0°C. However, you should be prepared for possible variations beyond our control. The weather will generally be dry, although strong winds may occur. While rain is extremely rare, it is not impossible. Please note that the temperatures and conditions mentioned above are based on historical data, but climate change can affect seasonal patterns, meaning you may experience unusual conditions during the trip. The guides will assess the situation and make decisions to prioritize the enjoyment and safety of the group.

## How do we get to the desert?

Reaching the desert involves long drives (approximately 9 hours, including breaks) along winding mountain roads that offer breathtaking views of snow-capped peaks and lush valleys. If you are prone to motion sickness, it is recommended to bring your usual anti-nausea medication. Regular stops will be made throughout the journey.

## What is camping like?

During the trek, you'll sleep in tents (two people per tent), or if the weather permits, you can opt to sleep under the stars—this is highly recommended! Foam sleeping mats are provided, but you'll need to bring your own sleeping bag. Toilet facilities consist of a small 'toilet tent' over a hole in the ground. There are no showers or bathing facilities in the desert, so be sure to bring a pack of baby wipes for personal hygiene.

## What is the food like?

During the trek, meals will be prepared by a chef who will cook traditional Moroccan dishes. Breakfast and lunch will be enjoyed outdoors, while evening meals will be served in a mess tent at camp. Plates, mugs, cutlery, and other necessary equipment will be provided. While in Marrakech (and Ouarzazate, if applicable), meals will be taken at the hotel or local restaurants.

## Practical information

### Who can take part?

The minimum age is 18. It may be possible to participate if you are 16 or 17 years old but you must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no upper age limit. The ideal candidate would be fit, healthy, determined, open to adventure and adaptable to unexpected changes.



## Medical Declaration

We require a medical form to be completed by everyone upon registering, and any pre-existing conditions, medications used, and other medical issues must be specified. All your medical details are treated in the strictest confidence.

A qualified medical professional will securely screen the information, and details provided to your tour manager and local guides, so our staff are adequately informed and prepared to support you during the trip. By completing our booking form, you are giving consent for us to contact you confidentially with any follow-up questions regarding your health.

If you declare any medical conditions, you may be asked to provide more information, or we may request to contact your GP.

If your medical issues at the time of booking represent a concern for your safety and well-being or the safety and well-being of others in the group, you may be recommended not to take part. If this happens your booking will not be confirmed, and the deposit will be refunded.

We must be informed if any conditions or medication change, or if new conditions develop. If necessary, confirmation of fitness to travel from your GP or specialist may be required.

Please note that we will never unreasonably deny participation in a trip nor contravene the Equality Act 2010.

## Health and Safety Assurance

Your health and safety is our top priority so rest assured that we are taking steps to ensure you not only have a memorable experience, but a safe one too.

We constantly monitor and follow the advice of the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) who provide recommendations and advice to British travellers about travel to certain destinations.

Health and safety is our top priority so we will **NEVER** operate a trip in an area where there is clear and present risk to our team members, whether that is due to a health outbreak, political instability, natural disasters or anything else.

If travel restrictions either in the UK or Morocco prevent safe travel we will look to either postpone or cancel your trip at no cost to you.

Please note that at the time of travel, there may be enhanced safety and security measures in airports, bag drop may take longer, and you may need to provide a certificate of health or proof of vaccination.

We will inform you about any information pertinent to your travel arrangements.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [info@different-travel.com](mailto:info@different-travel.com).



## Trip cost

A **£395 registration fee** is payable at the time of booking and then, with the support of the fundraising team, you are asked to **fundraise £2,000 for St Nicholas Hospice Care**. 80% of this (£1,600) must be raised by 10 August 2026 with the remainder by the date of departure.

### What is included?

- ✓ Return flights from the UK (inc. current taxes and fuel surcharges),
- ✓ Transfers and transport in Morocco
- ✓ Accommodation in hotels (2 nights)
- ✓ Tents and sleeping mats on trek (3 nights)
- ✓ All meals as specified
- ✓ Local guides, camels and camel handlers on trek
- ✓ Different Travel UK tour manager

### What is excluded?

- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Tips (£40-45pp)
- ✗ Personal expenses (e.g. drinks, souvenirs etc.)
- ✗ Vaccinations

### Is the trip ATOL protected?

St Nicholas Hospice Care is acting as agent for The Different Travel Company, ATOL 6706. The flight-inclusive trip in this brochure is financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay your registration fee you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate and ATOL Confirmation Invoice. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk).



## Itinerary

### Day 1 (Monday 2 November 2026):

#### London to Marrakech

We'll fly together to Marrakech, where our guide will meet us for a transfer to our hotel for the night. Depending on our flight arrival times, we may begin our journey to the desert today, staying overnight in Ouarzazate (approximately a 4-5 hour drive).

*Meals: Dinner*

### Day 2 (Tuesday 3 November 2026):

#### Marrakech to Sahara

If we stay in Marrakech, we'll set off early, crossing the Atlas Mountains and following ancient caravan routes into the Sahara, with a stop for lunch in Ouarzazate. The journey takes approximately 9 hours, including breaks. If we begin in Ouarzazate, the drive to the desert is shorter, around 4-5 hours.

Upon arrival, we'll be welcomed by the rest of the trek team and our camels before starting our trek. We'll then settle in for the night, camping under the stunning stars of the Sahara.

*Approx. trek distance: 5km*

*Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

### Days 3–4 (Wednesday 4 – Thursday 5 November 2026): Sahara Desert

Our trek continues through the desert over the next two days, navigating rolling dunes and rugged, lunar-like landscapes. We'll be supported by our local Berber team, including experienced guides, a cook, and camel owners—our camels will carry our luggage and equipment.

Each day, we'll take in the diverse beauty of the Sahara while gaining a deeper appreciation for the power of nature in this vast landscape. We'll cover an average of 15-20km per day, though distances may vary. As we journey, we'll also experience the nomadic way of life, from traditional cooking to sleeping under the stars and reading the breathtaking Saharan night sky.

*Approx. trek distance: 15-20km*

*Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

### Day 5 (Friday 6 November 2026):

#### Sahara to Marrakech

This morning, we embark on the final leg of our trek, arriving at a small village where we say our goodbyes to the trek team. From there, we begin our journey back to Marrakech, a drive of approximately 9 hours.

*Approx. trek distance: 5km*

*Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

### Day 6 (Saturday 7 November 2026):

#### Marrakech to the UK

Depending on your flight schedule, you may have some free time to explore Marrakech before departing for the UK.

*Meals: Breakfast*

**Note:** This itinerary is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as weather conditions or group ability. While we will make every effort to follow the planned schedule, certain factors may be beyond our control. In all cases, the guide and tour leader will make the final decisions to ensure the health and safety of the group.

