

Responsible Tourism Update

Mount Toubkal Charity Climb in aid of the Audley Charity Portfolio

As part of our commitment to the Audley Charity Portfolio, we are delighted to invite you to join a fundraising trek to the summit of Morocco's Mount Toubkal in May 2007. It is a wonderful opportunity to climb the incredible Atlas Mountains in the company of fellow Audley travellers as well as members of our North Africa and Arabia team, and is the first trip Audley has offered with the specific aim of raising money for the projects in our charity portfolio. We are delighted to confirm that mountain leader Alan Ward, who currently works for the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, will be leading the trip. Here are a few words from him:

"Having previously led groups on Mount Toubkal, I was delighted to be asked to lead Audley's first charity trek next year. Having led treks around the world I consider the High Atlas a great introduction for travellers wishing to experience mountains and interesting foreign cultures. It is an

area I immensely enjoyed visiting, both for the spectacular scenery and the local Berber people. Previous trips have been combined with time to enjoy the lowlands and Marrakesh, our gateway city, with its colourful bazaars and the fascinating Jemaa El Fna where you will find performers, musicians, story tellers and evening food stalls.

Next year's trip will commence with a couple of acclimatisation treks up the side valleys, leading from our base for the weekend, the spectacular Kasbah du Toubkal. On the first day we climb to the col (pass) of Tizi-n-Tamert and on the second to the stunning Imane valley and the Berber village of Aguersiwal.

There'll be a fairly early start on day three when we commence the ascent. The route, initially climbing steeply up through a wooded area, takes us to Aremd - the last habitation on our route. Crossing the river we climb gently up to Sidi Chamharouch, a small shrine for pilgrims and where we'll come across several stalls selling drinks. Climbing southwards, a series of zig-zags

helps us gain altitude before the path levels out and rises more gently. We will pass a small rock face with a trickling stream, where an enterprising Berber sells cool drinks and a few souvenirs. From here we continue on to the Neltner refuge at 3,207 metres. If the weather is poor we will sleep in the refuge but our plan is to stay nearby in a comfortable tented encampment. Again, climbing high, sleeping low will aid our altitude acclimatisation.

A slow steady pace, with rest stops when required, is essential for the final day when we'll embark early on the last part of the climb to the summit. Here we can look forward to the far reaching views across the High Atlas before returning to the Kasbah for a celebration dinner where we can start planning our next trip!"

To find out more please call Katherine Goodsell on 01869 276 278 or visit the Responsible Travel section of our website.

www.audleytravel.com/RT/toubkal



The High Atlas



Ascending Mount Toubkal



Roof terrace of the Kasbah du Toubkal

Carbon Offsetting

We are delighted to announce our support of the Friends of Conservation carbon offsetting programme. Recognised as the most carbon intensive way to travel, flying contributes 3% of all greenhouse gases, generating nearly as much carbon dioxide in one year as the total population of Africa. Audley are currently working with Friends of Conservation on a new scheme that will enable Audley clients to offset the carbon emissions from their travels. Please look at the Responsible Travel page on the Audley website from the end of September when further details will be available.

London Marathon in aid of Friends of Conservation

Our wholehearted congratulations go to Sara Wells in our Indian Subcontinent team who ran the London Marathon this year in aid of Friends of Conservation. Completing the marathon in 4 hours 28 minutes and 6 seconds, we can now confirm that Sara raised an incredible £3,024 for the charity, a member of the Audley Charity Portfolio.



The High Atlas



Traditional dining at the Kasbah du Toubkal

Schools of Cambodia new library project at Lolei School

On behalf of Schools of Cambodia, Audley would like to thank the Association of Independent Tour Operators for their recent grant to support the building of a new library at the Lolei school situated near the Roulos group of temples. The building project, with which Audley has recently become involved, is due for completion by the end of the year. Several Audley clients have already scheduled a visit as part of their forthcoming trips.

Thank you to those of you who purchased tickets to our recent charity event – a talk by Antony Barrington-Brown. After a generous donation by Mr Barrington-Brown from the sale of his book *First Overland* on the night, we were able to make a further contribution towards the library project.



Lolei school in Cambodia