

Leopard Track - 2017

THE LEOPARD TRACK

At middle afternoon on October 8th 2011, still under a hot sun, we finally found our exit from the maze of the Oued Draa, a bit east of Tan-Tan, when for our great surprise and his... A light brown coat of a full grownup leopard starts to run away, right in front of us, with no chance of taking the desired picture!

Not far away from there and by some natural crystal water lagoons where a few fish and frogs share the view, we found one of the best places to camp that we've been using since then.

We never heard or saw the sounds and foot marks of the cat again, but we are still hoping that one day that happy opportunity of seeing it will rise again.



THE COAST

Our adventure starts at the Tarifa harbor with the crossing of the Gibraltar Strait to Tangier. For four and a half days we go down the coast visiting the most important and old fortifications left by the Portuguese and French.

Heading south the territory offers us opportunities to explore gigantic cliffs with coves in between where small fishing communities subsists.

We end our first part of the journey exploring the old legion fort at Bou Jerif and we cross the 40km of the White Beach until we meet with the fisherman in Aoreora.

THE DESERT



The river mouth of the Oued Draa marks the beginning of our incursion in the desert along the wide valley. With hundreds of kilometers long the black wall of the Jbel Ouarkiz represents the insurmountable border to south. A narrow passage between two shiny stony mountains, gives us access to another valley up north. Spotted by acacia trees, this is where we make our second wild camp. At nighttime over the sound of burning wood we hear an owl nearby and on the next morning the foot marks of a fennec fox show us that we were not alone as we slept...

The sympathy and the professional service given by the two brothers, owners of Bordj Biramane, make this place the ideal spot for a rest day, because of his tranquility and quality. Here we can rest and imagine that time has stopped. On the very same day and for those who are still full of energy, we propose a special alternative by visiting the Amtoudi agadir, nested on the top of an isolated rock and loaded with stories about the region.

THE ATLAS

The third part of our journey starts right there at the entrance of the Anti Atlas between canyons of rock that we explore over large river beds of stone. The people stay true to their homes, built sometimes on the rock walls and resilient they search everywhere for a useful place to plant any seeds that helps them to survive in this harsh environment.

This is where we will camp in a magic place searched by man over 5000 years...

The High Atlas confronts us right after Taliouine and the increasing altitude of the track will start to give us the eagle's perspective over the deep valleys and the Berber villages. As we get into the Tifnou valley we start following under the shade of trees and as the villages go by we try to reach the 2295mts of Ifni Lake, which is cornered between two giants with four kilometers of altitude!



On the following day we head towards Marrakech by an ancient and renovated high mountain track where in 2006 and after a route mistake we spotted on the opposite slope a mother with cub of an Atlas Leopard!

THE FINAL

We make a farewell dinner by the Old Portuguese walls in Arzila, where everybody has the chance of reminding and sharing the most important things they saw and felt during the trip.