



## Raft or Kayak in the High Atlas Mountains, Morocco

There are few places on our planet where you can find incredible adventures in the spring time but once again **MRE** have found a gem of a river hidden up in the high Atlas Mountains of Morocco.

We have designed this trip for kayakers and private rafters who want to escape the cold of Europe and enjoy some fun white water in the sun.

Morocco is a fascinating country that has a huge diversity from high mountains to pristine beaches and of course the Sahara Desert. Not to mention the colours and tastes that make this place vibrant in culture.

This is the shortest expedition style trip that we have on offer at **MRE** and it's a perfect taste of expedition kayaking and rafting. Although Morocco is located in North Africa, it's a simple hop, skip and jump away from Europe, making it an easy and cheap destination into the sunshine for your Easter holidays.

We start our trip in the city of Marrakech where we soak up the good vibes and prepare for the adventure that awaits us. We then drive up into the Atlas Mountains to find the Meloud and Ahansel River.

As the snow melts on mount Toubkal, the water carves its way through the Atlas Mountains down to a lake known as bin Oudiane, leaving gorges 70 meters deep with a continuous flow of white water, giving us the perfect playground for our river adventure.

We get to experience, great food, local culture and amazing white water during the days and our nights are spent under the African starlit sky.



## Your fun filled itinerary....

### Day one: Riad Hotel Gallia

Arrive in Marrakesh. Come out of the airport and grab a local taxi to the main square, "Djemna el Fna". Believe me on arrival into the main square you will feel the positive energy of this place that you will simply want to drop your bags in the hotel and go straight out to explore. We will be staying in the Riad Hotel Gallia right in the centre of the Medina.

In the evening you will be met by a **MRE** trip leader who will talk you through the plan of the trip and answer any questions that you may have. **Hotel, D**

### Day Two: Journey to the river

After breakfast we will load up our minibus and start our journey into the Atlas Mountains. It's a long drive up to the start point but we take it easy so we can soak up the spectacular views that Morocco has on offer. We will stop for lunch, overlooking the lake Bin el Oudiane, and then carry on up to the starting point of the river Ahansel, Cathedral Rock where we will set up camp for the night in the gardens of a local Gite and enjoy our first night under the stars and an incredible Tajin.

**Camping, B.L.D.**

### Day Three: Raft or Kayak the Meloud River

We have a lazy morning at camp, drinking coffee and outfitting our kayaks and rafts ready for our warm-up paddle down the Meloud river that flows into the Ahansel, and back to camp. We will have a late lunch at camp and our afternoon is spent relaxing at camp or going for a walk. **Camping B.L.D.**

### Day Four: Raft or Kayak the Ahansel

Wake up and get excited as today we start our river trip down the mighty Ahansel River. The white water is continuous and scenery is unforgettable. We will stop for a lunch once we have passed through the narrow gorges of Tiloguite, and then carry on down to our camp site at the "Marias" rapid. **Camping, B.L.D.**

### Day Five: Raft or kayak the Ahansel

Today is one of those days filled with excitement around every bend of the river. We will spend our day negotiating rapids with names such as "Rock the Kasbah" and "the big shawarma". We will have lunch on the river and we will visit a local Berber village hidden in the mountains, before carrying on downstream to our next campsite at the "Cheeky Monkey" rapid. **Camping, B.L.D.**





### **Day six: Raft or Kayak the Ahansel**

After another great breakfast we load up our boats and navigate our way through the narrow gorges of the Ahansel river down to the lake "Bin el Ouidiane". The gorge walls rise up to 70 meters high in some spots and they can get pretty narrow in some places. Once through the gorges the river opens and it's all flat until the river meets the lake, where we have the challenge of navigating through the soup "debris" to meet up with our pontoon motorboat, which will then tow us and all our gear across the lake to our Hotel Bin Ouidane where we will spend the night. **Hotel, B.L.D.**

### **Day Seven: Drive to Marrakesh**

After breakfast at the hotel, we will start loading up our minibus and trailer so that we can start our journey back to Marrakesh. It's a good 5 hours of driving back to the city. Once back in Marrakesh you can either catch your flight home or head off on your next tour, the Sahara Desert or the town of Essaouira on the coast in which we are happy to help. Although Lunch and dinner are not included on this day, for those that are in Marrakech we can go for dinner in one of the many nice restaurants around the Medina. **Hotel Riad Gallia, B**



**End of trip....**

### **Adventure Dates:**

We only operate this trip through the months of March and April each year when the river Ahansel has its best water levels.



**Unfortunately, in 2024 we will only be operating one departure date.**

**10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



### **Costs:**

**Chf 1650 per person**

**Single Supplement charge is chf 150**

### **What's included in the cost of the trip?**

- Your hotel on the first and last night of the trip. (Riad Hotel Gallia and Hotel Bin Ouidane)
- Transport to and from the river in a mini bus.
- 4 days of river running in a kayak or raft
- Coaching and advice from our team of professional guides
- A gear raft to carry all your personal gear and the camp kitchen and toilet.
- All your meals mentioned in the itinerary marked **B.I.D.**
- All the necessary river and camping equipment.
- The permit to run the river through the Royal Moroccan Rafting Federation.
- A **MRE** trip leader and guides that row the gear boats

### **What's not included in the cost of the trip?**

- International airfare
- Airport transfers before or after the trip. (It's a five-minute taxi ride to the centre of town. If you are bringing a kayak, let us know and we will try and pick you up)
- Your kayak paddle and spray skirt.
- Any meals that are not mentioned in the itinerary
- Sleeping bag and air mattress
- Any beers and liquor that you may wish. As its Ramadan during all of our trips in 2024, we suggest that you either buy a bottle in Duty free or place a drinks order with us to buy for you before the trip.
- A returnable damage deposit of chf 300 per person
- Gratuities to the guide team

### **Important:**

We need a minimum of 4 people to operate this trip and we can only take a maximum of 6 people, The minimum age limit for the trip is 12 years of age.

### **How to Sign up for the trip:**

All reservations are made by simply filling out the reservation form on our web page and paying a deposit of chf 500 per person

For more info on this incredible adventure, please download the information pack from our web site or simply send us a mail to: [miniraftseurope@gmail.com](mailto:miniraftseurope@gmail.com) as we're always happy to talk about the places we love.

### **Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner:**

Each day we prepare breakfast and lunch at camp, and in the evenings, we will cook up a feast at our camp.

### **Camping and Hotels:**

We will be staying on beaches and grass camps at the side of the river. MRE will provide everyone with a tent and an air bed so that all you need to bring is your sleeping bag and head torch.

On our first night and last night, we will be staying in hotels. All Hotels are based on double occupancy. If you desire to be in a room by yourself a single supplement charge will be applicable.

**Rivers:**

The river Ahansel and the Meloud are rivers fed by snow, so when the sun starts warming up in March, the snow melts and the rivers start flowing. They are both very narrow and fast moving, between class 2 and 4 white water the whole journey.

**Rafts:**

We have Five rafts of 12 ft all rigged with centre frames and either cataract or Carlise oars of 7 or 8ft. We also have three rafts of 10ft which are perfect to simply R2 on the more technical runs.

**Kayaks:**

We have a fleet of eleven kayaks for you to be able to choose from. PYRANHA, 9r or shiva. DAGGER, Rpm, Nomad 8.3. WAKA, Tuna 2, Tutea. SPADE, ace of spades, Bliss. DRAGAROSSO, Kush, DRX. ZET cross. If you are kayaking then you should bring your Skirt and paddle with you, as we only have a few that we bring as spares.

**PPE:**

Personal Protective Equipment. You will need your PFD, helmet, foot wear, thermals and possibly even a spray jacket as it can get fresh when passing through the canyons.

**River Skills:**

Alex is an assessor for three different organizations and an instructor for rescue 3. He loves to pass on his knowledge to any river enthusiast and while scouting rapids he will show you the best lines and boost you with enthusiasm to just go for it while providing you with safety.

**Who is MRE**

MRE is short for Mini Rafts Europe, powered by Alex Aitken and his partner Ceci Kuchen.

Alex has rafted and kayaked his way around the world for 40 years and has lead expeditions in nearly 60 countries. In 2020 he started MRE with the idea of introducing the sport of private rafting to Europe. Teaching new river enthusiasts how to row, designing and selling quality rafts and gear and running adventure trips to all his favourite rivers.

Ceci has spent the past 20 years working in the tourism industry and dedicates to administration and logistics. Whenever possible she joins Alex on his river adventures around the world and after four 35-day trips down the Blue Nile in Ethiopia she is known as the queen of the Nile.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

[www.miniraftseurope.com](http://www.miniraftseurope.com)

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