

THE DIRT MERCHANT MOROCCO



GROUP SIZE 4+ | DURATION 7 nights, 8 days | SKILL LEVEL Level 2 | FITNESS LEVEL Level 2-3 | TYPE all-mountain

AN EPIC ADVENTURE SUPPORTED BY LAND ROVERS AND LOCAL GUIDES. GREAT ALL-MOUNTAIN TRAILS IN A BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE WITH UNIQUE HOTELS INCLUDING A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS IN A TRADITIONAL BERBER TENT CAMP. RIDING THAT COMPARES TO UTAH. AN UNFORGETTABLE MOUNTAIN BIKE ADVENTURE!

WHY BIG MOUNTAIN?

Professional Leaders. Mountain bike trips to far-away places requires local knowledge. We work with the best guides in all destinations, many since 2001.

Your Safety. Our guides have first-aid certification, our trips have safety management plans and our riders' wellbeing is the number one priority on all of our trips.

Groups that Work. All riders complete a detailed Rider Questionnaire to ensure that they are well matched for the trip physically and technically and with the rest of the group. We almost always have optional rides just in case.

Preparation is Key. We offer excellent pre-trip support and all departures include a detailed Preparation Guide specific to the destination. Of course we've been on every trip that we offer.

Expert Trip Design. We know how to create exceptional mountain bike trips. And, we're constantly reviewing and improving itineraries if we feel that it's needed.

Piece of Mind. Travel & Medical Insurance is mandatory on our trips and Big Mountain Bike Adventures Ltd. has commercial general liability insurance.



OUR GUIDES

Originally from Switzerland, lead guide Pierre-Alain has been living in Morocco for over 15 years where he and his local team have been operating mountain bike events and adventures. You can expect Swiss organization with a deep connection to the region.

CHROMAG | EVOC | TREK

**BIG MOUNTAIN
BIKE ADVENTURES**

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ITINERARY THE DIRT MERCHANT

The following is a general outline for the Dirt Merchant trip. Big Mountain reserves the right to make alterations and substitutions to the itinerary as weather or terrain conditions dictate or as necessary to improve the trip quality or to accommodate the comfort, convenience, and well-being of our guests.



DAY 1

Arrive in Marrakech, transfer to our hotel.

Our Big Mountain guides will meet you at the Menara Airport and escort you to our hotel, centrally located near the famous Medina of Marrakech, the remarkable central square of the Djemaa-el-Fna. Overnight in our Marrakech hotel: The Golden Tulip Farah:

www.goldentulipfarahmarrakech.com

DAY 2

Ride Ourika Valley

This morning we load the Land Rover and head out to the Atlas Mountains, North Africa's biggest mountain range located less than an hour from the city. Today's ride? Our biggest day of climbing in red earth - just like Utah, but with National Geographic sights mixed in. Tonight we sleep in the beautiful Ourika Valley at L'auberge du Maquis: www.le-maquis.com

Distance: 48 km. ⚡ 1000 m. ⚡ 800 m.

DAY 3

Ride L'Oukaimeden

This morning we have a 4x4 transfer to the l'Oukaimeden station and the Taureau Pass...and an amazing 30 kilometer (19 mile) singletrack ride through the Tadmamt forest on black earth and through unique earth formations. Short transfer back to the beautiful Ourika Valley at L'auberge du Maquis: www.le-maquis.com

Distance: 30 km. ⚡ 350 m. ⚡ 1600 m.

DAY 4

Ride to Terres d'Amanar

Ride out the door of our hotel this morning and begin a gentle 20 kilometer (12 mile) climb followed by a sweet singletrack afternoon on trails called 'Highway 65' and 'The String.' Today is a point to point ride ending at tonight's accomodation, the Terres d'Amanar located in a spectacular landscape: www.terresdamanar.com

Distance: 45 km. ⚡ 500 m. ⚡ 1400 m.

DAY 5

Ride to the Takerkouste Lake

Today's ride is on beautiful singletrack through red mountains, reminiscent of parts of south-western USA. Although as soon as you roll into a Berber town you'll be reminded of where you are. Tonight we stay in a special lodge at 2000 m., at the Auberge d'Ali: www.gite-ali-agouti.com

Distance: 50 km. ⚡ 1100 m. ⚡ 900 m.

DAY 6

Ride High Atlas

Pedal from the door this morning into the High Atlas mountains. Today is an amazing day of all-mountain singletrack riding. We'll get picked up by our jeeps at the end of this mornings' ride, come back to our lodge for lunch, then head back out for 28 kilometer of singletrack for the afternoon. Tonight we're back at the Auberge d'Ali: www.gite-ali-agouti.com

Distance: 40 km. ⚡ 600 m. ⚡ 1500 m.

DAY 7

Ride Imin Talla, transfer to Marrakech.

Our last ride is a stretch of devine singletrack called Imin Talla. After lunch we head back to Marrakech to pack our bikes, grab some last minute gifts and explore of this spectacular city. Tonight we stay in a traditional riad, the Riad du Petit Prince for final night festivities! www.riad-dupetitprince.com

Distance: 20 km.

DAY 8

Au Revoir!

This morning we'll drive you out to the airport for the return home. Bon voyage!



*I travelled up this road, and I travelled down that,
What have I to show for it? Nothing flat.
All I brought were slippers which I took off and left by the door.
A silly calf ate them, soles and all. ~ Moroccan saying*

DETAILS

BIKE AND EQUIPMENT

The perfect bike for The Dirt Merchant is a dual-suspension all-mountain bike. A hard tail with a good front fork will also suffice. Also required: helmet, good riding / walking shoes, gloves and clothing for all types of weather. All participants are required to bring extra brake pads, tubes, patch kit, extra cleats for shoes and any other parts specific to your bike – and a small day pack, or large hydration pack is necessary. All participants are required to have their bikes in excellent working order before the trip begins. High-performance bike rentals available for the duration of the trip. Ask us about models and details. Cost is €280 for the duration of the trip.

SUGGESTED BIKE FOR THIS TRIP: TREK FUEL EX



CLIMATE

In big mountains, weather can change quickly and drastically - it could be 30 degrees Celsius one day and then nearly freezing on a mountain-top the next day – even in Morocco. Even though we will be riding in an arid landscape, the temperature can dip at night. Generally though, you can expect beautiful warm days and cool nights.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert Local Leadership.
- Accommodation in hotels & one night in luxury tented camp.
- All meals.
- Airport pick-up on scheduled days and all shuttle transportation.
- Detailed pre-departure information, trip extension assistance

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- International and domestic airfare.
- Personal travel and medical insurance
- Airport taxes and excess baggage charges (if any).
- Your bike and related equipment needed to ride.
- Personal items like drinks, snacks and energy supplements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE



Medical Insurance is mandatory on all Big Mountain Bike Adventures' trips and Travel Insurance is strongly recommended. Please [visit our recommended insurance provider](#) World Nomads to learn more.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

The technical ability required for this trip is rated as 'intermediate and above.' In other words, the trails are mildly technical with some sections that are more demanding. Some exposed areas will be encountered and loose rocks are common.

For fitness level, participants must be fit to very fit. All participants must train accordingly to fully enjoy this trip. Even though there will be Land Rover support each day you will enjoy the trip a lot more if you are in good shape. The altitude, jet lag recovery and accumulation of multiple long days of riding in a foreign land will add up. But, the rewards are FANTASTIC. On most days participants can ride in the Land Rovers if they need a break.

LODGING AND FOOD

We believe in choosing comfortable accommodation with character and views unparalleled – on this trip we'll lay our heads in a variety of abodes, from a 4-star hotel in Marrakech to cosy lodges in the mountains, to a 'luxury tented camp' and a traditional riad in the center of Marrakech. We will make sure that everyone is well fed. It is advised that all participants bring a box of energy bars with them. Please let us know upon booking if you have special diet needs.



DETAILS *cont.*



YOUR SAFETY

All participants must ride safely and within their limits daily as mountain biking is a dangerous sport with risks and hazards. Most accidents occur at the beginning of a trip due to jet lag, fatigue and unfamiliarity of trail conditions and obstacles; it is imperative that riders especially take it easy at the beginning of the trip. Alcohol and drugs are not permitted while riding. Participants will remain hydrated and rested throughout the trip. Riders will be responsible for their daily bike checks and keeping bikes in good working condition. Everyone is ultimately responsible for their own well being on our trips. Our guides have basic first aid training and if a serious injury is suspected, will call local search and rescue and/or an evacuation helicopter at the cost of the participant. The majority of our trips take place in remote regions with limited evacuation options. Personal medical travel insurance is mandatory on all trips.

THE NEXT STEPS

Call us toll free at 1-866-894-0220, or +1-604-902-1807 for international guests or email at info@ridebig.com to confirm there's space on this trip. If Skype is preferred please send us an email to arrange a meeting. We like to speak to everyone interested in joining our trips. This helps ensure everyone signing up is well matched for the group!

Make sure you have read and understand our [Terms and Conditions](#) and also our [Waiver](#). Both found on our website under registration.

To confirm your spot please complete our secure online [Booking Form](#) found on our website.

Once your online registration form has been received, we'll send you detailed pre-departure information, for review, to ensure you're well prepared for the adventure ahead.

PAYMENT

Once you've completed our online registration form and we've confirmed that we have the needed number of riders to proceed, we'll collect a \$750.00 CAD deposit that is refundable up to 14 days after registering (outside of 90 days before the trip departure), afterwards your deposit becomes non-refundable. At 90 days prior to the departure, the full trip balance will be collected. Please review our [Terms & Conditions](#) for full details on payment, cancellation and refund policies. Please note that while our land costs are quoted in the destination country's preferred currency, the balance and deposit are processed in Canadian dollars. The exchange rate is based on the daily rate quoted using the Bank of Canada. If you are paying with credit card and reside outside of Canada, you may incur a foreign transaction fee. If you wish, there's the option of paying with a wire transfer or you can also send us a cheque. Please contact us anytime to discuss your options.



WHY BIG MOUNTAIN IS YOUR CHOICE

Since 2001 Big Mountain Bike Adventures is the pioneer of performance mountain bike adventures to destinations worldwide. Our itineraries are designed by local professional guides and Big Mountain travel experts and lead by the very best local leaders available. Our mission is to deliver safe, quality trips with the best customer service - ensuring a trip of a lifetime.

REFERENCES

We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travellers.

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to call us at 1-866-894-0220 or email info@ridebig.com if you have any questions or need any additional information. We are here to help!

CONTACT US

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