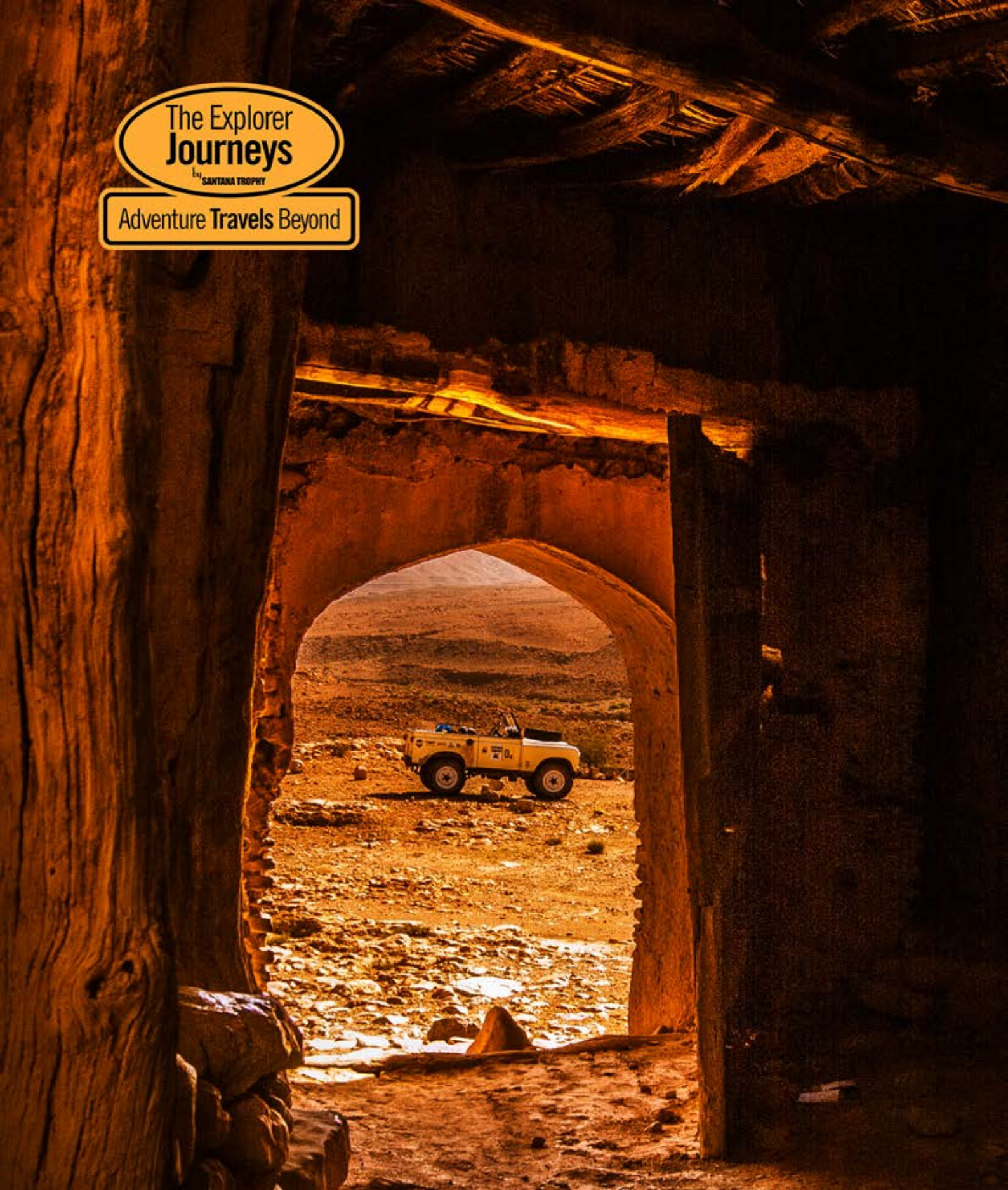


The Explorer  
Journeys

by SANTANA TROPHY

Adventure Travels Beyond



# BRIEFING N°6

## FINAL ITINERARY AND TRACKS



## COMMUNICATION No. 6: FINAL ITINERARY AND TRACKS

### DAILY DYNAMICS:

The departure time each day is scheduled for 9:00 AM local time. At that time, vehicles and their occupants should be ready to start the journey.

### APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE:

- 8:00 AM: Breakfast (included)
- 8:30 AM: Briefing with the most important information of the day.
- 9:00 AM: Start of the route with stops for lunch, meals, and taking photos. (Lunches and meals are in a picnic format with supplies that each team must carry).
- 6:00 PM/7:00 PM: End of route / check-in at hotels
- 8:30 PM: Dinner (included)

### DAILY:

#### DAY 28

ALMERIA/NADOR

Hotel MasterHome\*\*\* (NADOR)

All information regarding the reception schedule at the port and boarding can be found in the communication related to this aspect.

Once in Morocco (estimated arrival at 6:00 PM), we will take the opportunity to stock up on fuel, Moroccan SIM cards (recommended), and it's important to have Moroccan Dirhams in cash for the toll road the following day.





Once the logistics are complete, we will head to the MasterHome hotel in Nador (16 km from the port) where we will have dinner and rest.

## DAY 29

NADOR/TAZEKKA/FES

Hotel Zhalag Palace \*\*\*\*\* (FES)

<http://www.zalagh-palace.ma/fr>

After about 90 km of highway, we reach Taza, the city closest to the Tazekka National Park, where we will do a 60 km route through its most emblematic tracks.

This park was created in 1950 with the initial aim of protecting the cedar forests that covered Mount Tazekka, but over time it expanded to include a variety of ecosystems. Today, it is a refuge for a wide range of flora and fauna, and its landscape is known for its scenic beauty.

- The park covers more than 13,000 hectares.
- The highest mountain in the park is Mount Tazekka, which reaches 1,980 meters.
- The park is famous for its Atlas cedar forests.
- Tazekka is home to species like the Barbary macaque, wildcats, wild boars, and birds of prey like the golden eagle. Efforts are being made to reintroduce animals that once lived in the region, such as the Barbary deer.

The highway will allow us to pick up the pace to reach the hotel in Fes. (It is recommended that those who want to visit the Medina of Fes do so after checking in at the hotel and preferably travel by taxi).





## DAY 30

FES/IFRANE/ERFOUD

L'HOTEL BY Chateau de Sable\*\*\*\*\* (ERFOUD)

<http://www.zalagh-palace.ma/fr>

Today, different teams can choose alternative plans for which different tracks will be provided:

1.- Visit Fes and travel along the tourist road of the Ziz to Erfoud. The road heading south from Fes/Ifrane is renowned for its contrasting landscapes, making it one of Morocco's most visited routes: The Cedar Forest, the Ziz Valley and its Palm Groves, or the Legionnaires' Tunnel accompany this route of approximately 400 km.

It is not recommended to enter the tracks of the Atlas later than around 12:00 PM.

2.- Leave Fes at 9:00 AM and take the Middle Atlas tracks. Although the terrain is not challenging, it adds kilometers to an already long day. The total kilometers for this route (about 60 km) will be around 460 km.

The Azrou Cedar Forest is one of the most fascinating places in Morocco due to its size and natural diversity. Besides the beauty of the forest, one of the main attractions is the presence of a large colony of Barbary macaques.

It's important to remember that monkeys are wild animals and should not be fed or touched. It is advisable to respect their space and maintain a safe distance. Visitors should also be careful with personal belongings, as monkeys can be very agile and steal items like food, cameras, or backpacks.

The road through the Ziz Valley with its palm groves and landscapes will accompany teams, whichever itinerary they choose. The city of Errachidia (capital





of this province) announces our arrival at the desert, and from there, a few kilometers separate us from tonight's resting place.

We have changed the final destination of this stage to Erfoud. This will allow us, without significantly altering the mileage, to venture further into the desert in the coming days.

## OCTOBER 1

ERFOUD / ERG CHEBBI / MHARECH

Auberge Camping El Mharech (Traditional Tents)

**ATTENTION:** The route for this day passes through areas that have recently experienced heavy rain, so it is possible that some tracks have changed or even disappeared. We will continue gathering information on the condition of the various routes from our contacts there and will inform you if there are any changes.

Today, the group will follow a single track and there is an option to navigate part of the route with a roadbook.

From L'HOTEL, we will head to Erg Chebbi, first visiting Lake Yasmina, a curious accumulation of water just north of Erg Chebbi that has filled up due to recent rains after more than five years of being completely dry. From here, we venture into one of the most beautiful areas of Morocco that will surely surprise everyone: newcomers for its beauty, and veterans for how much it can change after a storm episode like the one that recently occurred.

The welcoming Fom Marech awaits us in traditional tent accommodation. If the clouds allow, tonight we may discover the starry skies of this area.





## OCTOBER 2

MHARECH / SIDI ALI/ ERFOUD

L'HOTEL BY Chateau de Sable\*\*\*\*\* (ERFOUD)

<https://www.lhotel.ma/>

ATTENTION: The route for this day passes through areas that have recently experienced heavy rain, so it is possible that some tracks have changed or even disappeared. We will continue gathering information on the condition of the various routes from our contacts there and will inform you if there are any changes.

Waking up in the middle of the desert in a traditional tent is certainly an experience to enjoy when traveling to this wonderful country. After a traditional Berber breakfast, we will set off. Today's itinerary will allow teams to engage in some activities in the area during the afternoon (shopping, walking through the dunes, etc.).

## OCTOBER 3

ERFOUD/MEKNES

HOTEL MENZEH DALIA \*\*\*\* (MEKNES)

<https://www.hotelmenzehdalia.com/>

Today we head north via the same road we took to descend into the desert, and teams will have the opportunity to visit the city of Meknes and its Medina.

Meknes, called the "Moroccan Versailles," is an imperial city with a wealth of historical monuments and natural sites. It has more than 40 km of imposing defensive walls and many mosques, which is why it is also called the "City of a Hundred Minarets." Additionally, it is the closest to the Roman ruins of Volubilis (Oualili). Meknes has a wine and olive oil culture that dates back to Roman times.





## OCTOBER 4

MEKNES/ASILAH

HOTEL ALKHAIMA\*\*\* (ASILAH)

Today, teams can opt to visit the nearby Roman ruins of Volubilis or take a route through the unique Mamoura Forest. At the end of the day, the ancient Portuguese colony of Asilah awaits us.

Volubilis is an ancient Roman city located in what is now Morocco, about 20 km north of Meknes. It was the capital of the kingdom of Mauretania until the ascension of Juba II and became a Roman city when the Roman Empire absorbed the kingdom. The archaeological site of Volubilis is possibly the best-preserved Roman site in this area of North Africa. It was included in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1997.

Although it has shrunk in size, the Mamoura Forest is the largest cork oak forest in North Africa and one of the largest in the world. Its proximity to large cities like Rabat and Khenifra is its greatest threat. Mamoura retains the essence of traditional forest management: cork from its cork oaks, wood from pruning, and other uses are still in place today.

Asilah, also known as Arcila or Assilah, is a coastal city in northern Morocco, bathed by the Atlantic coast, with a population of around 30,000. Although the city originated with the Phoenicians, it was the Portuguese conquest that defines the current visual identity of its white Medina, with a regular design and 1,250 meters of wall protecting it from the new city, but especially from the force of the Atlantic Ocean. The Medina is an artistic hub known for its murals and the annual Moussem Culturel International d'Asilah festival.





## OCTOBER 5

ASILAH/TANGER MED /ALGECIRAS

Farewell day: depending on the routes to be taken in Europe, the group will disperse and head to their respective departure points. Some may take a last stroll through Asilah, make some final purchases, or have a swim at the beach... Afterwards, Europe awaits.

DEPARTURE **TIMES OF FERRIES** (TRASMEDITERRANEA):

10:00 AM / 1:00 PM / 4:00 PM / 7:00 PM / 10:00 PM

