

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HU

Telephone: +44 (0) 1732 455133 Fax: +44 (0) 1732 456143

Email: admin@sevenoaksschool.org

IB GEOGRAPHY EXPEDITION

MOROCCO

MARCH 2012

September 2011

Dear Parent

Re: I.B. Geography expedition to Morocco, 22 March – 31 March 2012

The Geography Department will be running an expedition to Morocco during the first half of the Easter holidays, 2012. This expedition is an opportunity that is available to all students studying IB Geography at HL or SL.

This is an area to which we have been many times in the past, we know very well, and which offers unrivalled opportunities for exciting and varied geographical studies. The expedition relates directly to several parts of the Geography IB syllabus at both HL and SL:

Part 1: Core theme – patterns and change

Part 2: Extreme Environments and Urban environments

Part 3: Global Interactions.

One or two pupils may also wish to use their experiences as the basis for an Extended Essay in Geography.

We will be visiting three contrasting environments:

Marrakech

We travel to the enchanting and vibrant city of Marrakech, the capital of Southern Morocco, the meeting place of the Plains and Mountains, the Arabs and the Berbers. We will spend a day in Marrakech carrying out studies into its urban geography. In particular, we will compare the *traditional city* (the ancient, walled Medina), with its famous Djemma el Fnaa square, souks craft industries, and narrow winding streets, with the *modern, western city*, with its wide boulevards, hotels, industry and government buildings.

The High Atlas Mountains

We then travel to the High Atlas Mountains, where we will stay at Dar Imlil <http://www.darimlil.com> a luxury guest house, sited at 1800 metres in the village of Imlil. The village is sited in an area of spectacular mountain scenery in the Toubkal National Park, and nearby Mt Toubkal rising to 4167 metres is the highest mountain in North Africa. We will spend a day trekking with mules in the mountains and valleys of the High Atlas and spend an afternoon playing games, making crafts with local children and visiting one of the rural boarding schools that money raised from the school 'Geography Calendar' is given to. This will be a unique opportunity to experience the traditional Berber way of life and some dramatic mountain scenery.

The Desert fringe – The Sahara

We then drive across the High Atlas, over the Tiz-n-Tickaa pass to Ouarzazate on the edge of the Sahara desert, and visiting Ait Ben Haddou, a fortified hilltop oasis town which has featured in several major films, including “*Gladiator*” and the ‘Atlas’ film studios. We travel down the Draa valley (a river oasis) to the town of Zagora. Here we visit a traditional pottery-makers and silver makers at Tamegroute, and then go on to Tinfou to consider issues of desertification and sand dune encroachment. The highlight of the trip, for many, will be a camel trek into the desert to spend the night “under the stars” in a traditional Bedouin tent. We will study desert landscapes and oasis agriculture.

The trip, therefore includes a range of fascinating human and physical landscapes – city, mountain and desert, and will provide a wealth of case study materials for pupils to use in their I.B. studies. In particular, we will be looking at the following themes:

- Desert Landscapes and human activity in desert regions – subsistence farming, oasis agriculture, modern irrigation schemes, problems of desertification
- Mountain landscapes and human activity – this is a “high energy” environment with evidence of glacial and peri-glacial activity, mass movement, and river flooding; subsistence farming in a mountain environment
- The role of tourism in a developing country
- Gender issues and Sustainable Development
- Urban geography in a traditional walled North African city

These will provide excellent case-study materials, and the expedition is a “never to be forgotten” experience of life and landscapes of a developing country.

The trip is being organised by “Discover Ltd”, and you might like to visit their web site at <http://www.discover.ltd.uk/morocco/index.html> for further information.

The all inclusive cost of the trip will be about £890 per student. This is broken down as follows:

- Return air fare of £63 + airport taxes of £120 (airport tax subject to change) and coach transport of £25 to and from Heathrow airport
- Accommodation, meals, transport and guides in Morocco, £ 628
- Camel rides, £30

I estimate that there will be about 40 L6th IB Geography students on the trip accompanied by four members of staff (male and female). Insurance will be provided by the school, although you may wish to take out your own travel insurance. A risk assessment has been carried out for this trip and is available on request.

All participants must have a valid British or EU passport – **non EU citizens may have to apply for a Visa and this is the responsibility of the student/parent to organise well in advance of the trip.**

If you would like your son/daughter to participate in the field trip, would you please complete the booking form below, and include a preliminary deposit of **£130**. Please return the form as soon as possible, and by **Friday 30 September** at the latest. The balance of the monies will be collected at the start of the Lent term 2012.

Yours sincerely



Mr Paul Thompson
Head of Geography

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO MOROCCO

I would like my son/daughter to go on the Geography field trip to Morocco (**Thursday 22 March to Saturday 31 April 2012**).

I understand that the cost of the trip will be about £890, and that a deposit of £130 is due with this reply form (cheques payable to Sevenoaks School.) The balance of monies will be collected during the Lent term, 2012.

Name:..... Tutor group:

Signed:..... Date:

Please print name:

Please return to Mr Thompson in the Geography Department