PHOTOGRAPH MOROCCO
WITH BEN PIPE

4TH-10TH NOVEMBER 2011
Join Living Earth Adventures and Ben Pipe on this six-day photography workshop in the heart of Morocco. This photographic adventure will take you to the majestic sand dunes of the Sahara, the impressive Atlas Mountains, and colorful old town centres. You will have the chance to immerse yourself in Morocco’s rich culture, while learning how to take pictures like a pro.

Introduction
Brimming with contrast, color and mystery, Morocco is a photographer’s dream. Situated between the Mediterranean and Atlantic, Europe and Africa, Morocco has always been a land of foreign exchanges and enriching encounters. Since early antiquity, it has been a land of successive invasions - by the Phoenicians, the Romans, and then the Byzantines. Berber, Arab, Jewish and Christian cultures have learnt to live together and blend cultures. Each has contributed to making Morocco a land of shared beauty.

Living Earth Adventures invites you to travel to this fascinating country during a six-week photographic workshop. Throughout the trip, you will be guided by professional photographer Ben Pipe, who will offer guidance and help you be the best photographer you can be.

YOUR GUIDE
Ben Pipe first became interested in photography when he started experimenting with a second hand Olympus at school, and decided to study photography at college. After having worked as a portrait photographer, Ben became a freelance photographer, which allowed him to follow his passion for travel. Visiting areas such as Asia, Africa, and America, he produced images that were published in publications like The Guardian, The Independent, and The Telegraph. Throughout the trip, Ben will be available to answer questions and offer advice. Moreover, he will present several photographic workshops, teaching you how to take pictures like a pro.
The Location

Despite the triumph of tourism here, Morocco still manages to feel rooted in a different world with untouched landscapes, ancient cities, centuries-old customs and an inescapable air of being different. It’s hard to believe the UK is only a couple of hours away when you’re on an adventure holiday watching a snake charmer in the medina of Marrakech, climbing the dunes of the hot Sahara, or absorbing the otherworldly beauty of the Atlas Mountains.
Group Size
You will travel in a small group of between five and ten people only (not including your guides).

Price
This trip costs £859 per person.

Included in this price are:
! All transport, fuel, tolls, road taxes and fully equipped vehicle for the duration of the trip
! Guidance by Ben Pipe and a local guide
! Meals as per the itinerary (most days do NOT include lunch)
! All accommodation as per the itinerary
! Entrance fees to all National Parks
! All activities stated in the itinerary

Not included:
! Meals as per itinerary (we will make sure we are close to a restaurant for all lunches)
! Flights
! Items of personal nature
! Travel insurance

Your Itinerary
Day 1 Marrakech
You will be met at the airport and transferred to Riad. You will be welcomed at the airport by Ben and your guide/driver. Ben will brief you on the itinerary, after which you will have some time to unpack, unwind, and explore your surroundings.

Day 2 Marrakech – Ouarzazate – Zagora
You will be picked up early in the morning and head towards Ouarzazate via the Tichka Pass, the highest road pass in Morocco. This trip will offer you views of the High Atlas Mountains and beautiful scenery. You will also travel through small Berber villages typical of the region. We will make a stop in Ouarzazate to visit Kasbah Taourirt, the old Gladoui palace, which is residence of the Pasha of Marrakech. Then, on route to Zagora, we will visit the small town of Agdz and the impressive Kasbah of Tamnougalt with distinctive wall decorations and tapering towers. We will continue passing the scenic River Draa Valley, which is lined by many palm groves and Berber villages.

Day 3 Zagora – Tamengroute – M’hamid – Erg Chigaga
We will depart in the morning toward Tamegroute, which is home to a famous Koran library that contains many rare books and documents. In the library, you will see documents written on gazelle skin that date back to the 13th Century. You will also have a chance to visit the underground Kasbah and pottery artisans. After that, we will drive to M’Hamid, known as “the doors of the desert,” the last town of the Draa River. The palm oasis and the road all dissolve into nothing but sand and rocks as we drive through the sand dunes. We will pay a visit to a small, unique water oasis in the desert, called Oasis Sacred. Later in the day, we will arrive at Erg Chigaga, just in time for the sunset. At night, we will sit around the fire, enjoy the starry sky, and listen to local Berbers play their drums.

Day 4 Erg Chigaga – camel trek
We will get up early to take images of the sun rising over the sand dunes, which gives the sand a beautiful mix of colors. Then, after a leisurely breakfast, we’ll saddle our camels and trek over the area, crossing the impressive and surrealistic sea of sand dunes.
Day 5 Erg Chigaga – Taznachkt – Ait Ben Haddou
We will swap our camels for 4x4 vehicles and head to the old Paris-Dakar road to Forum Zguid, crossing Lake Iriki, a dried salt lake bed. We will stop for lunch in Taznakht, where you can watch local women making handmade Berber carpets. Then we will continue north to arrive at small village by the Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou.

Day 5 Ait Ben Haddou – Marrakech
Early in the morning, we will visit the UNESCO protected Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou. This Kasbah is one the most impressive and well-preserved fortress cities in Morocco. Built on a hilltop, Ait ben Haddou has been featured as a backdrop for memorable films, including Lawrence of Arabia and Gladiator. The views from the upper heights of the Kasbah are impressive and well worth the required climb through winding, narrow streets. A perfect spot for some photography. Then we will start heading back toward the Atlas Mountains via the Ounila Valley – an off road that offers unparalleled views of green valleys, river and remarkable colored slopes and hillsides. The region nearby is home to salt mines that produced a product once as valuable as gold. We will visit Telouet, a rustic town that was once a principal stop on the main caravan route to Mali. Here we visit an amazing relic of Moroccan history, the crumbling Kasbah that was once the palatial residence of extremely powerful Glaoui family. Then we will cross the Atlas Mountains back to Marrakech.

Day 6 Marrakech
A free morning to wonder the streets of Marrakech, before we head back to the airport after lunch.
PHOTO GALLERY
All photographs taken By Pen Pipe