MOROCCO WAYFINDER · HIGH ATLAS EXPEDITION LOGISTICS DOSSIER

Atlas Day Trekking & Mountain Biking: Imlil Field Guide

By Youssef El Amrani (Overland & Mountain Route Specialist) · Save offline prior to leaving Marrakech

1. Emergency Dispatch Numbers & Guide Accreditation (Law 05-12)

Mobile reception drops rapidly inside High Atlas river gorges and behind high passes. Save these national emergency numbers before leaving Marrakech (UK FCDO Morocco Emergency Guidance): **Royal Gendarmerie (Mountain Passes & Rural Rescue): 177 · Civil Protection (Ambulance & Medical Evac): 150 (Mobile) / 15 (Landline) · Urban Police: 190**.

- **Official Guide Verification:** Morocco regulates tourist and mountain guides (*Guides des Espaces Naturels*) under Law 05-12 via the Ministry of Tourism. Upon arriving in Imlil (1,740 m), visit the official Bureau des Guides (31.1384° N, 7.9189° W) or ask your guesthouse to inspect your guide's official badge and confirm route rules, turnaround times, and total fee.
- **High-Altitude Cellular Coverage:** Deep valley walls around Imlil and Aroumd create dead zones across all Moroccan operators (Maroc Telecom, Orange, and inwi). Consult the regulator's ANRT Quality of Service Reports and crowd-sourced reception maps on nPerf Morocco (Maroc Telecom layer) before travelling, and always download offline GPX tracks and vector maps in Marrakech.

2. Verified Trail Specifications & GPS Waypoints Around Imlil (1,740 m)

Route distances, elevation gains, walking durations, and difficulty ratings depend on whether you remain in the Ait Mizane valley floor or climb to the eastern passes. Confirm current trail conditions locally before departure.

Route & GPS Waypoints	Total Distance	Elevation & Ascent	Active Duration	Difficulty Grade	Local Guide Requirement
1. Imlil ↔ Aroumd Valley Loop Start: 31.1377° N, 7.9197° W Aroumd: 31.1255° N, 7.9135° W (FriendHike Specs)	~2.3 km one-way (~4.6–5.0 km return)	1,740 m → 1,960 m (+218 m ascent)	1h 30m – 2h 30m walk	**Easy–Moderate (2/5)** Graded mule track & stone terraces	Optional on main village path; recommended for cultural context & side trails
2. Imlil ↔ Tizi n'Tamatert Pass Bureau: 31.1384° N, 7.9189° W Col: 31.1489° N, 7.8936° W (Riad Jnane Imlil · Atlas & Sahara)	~10.0 km return (~5.0 km each way)	1,740 m → 2,279–2,287 m (+512–540 m ascent)	4h – 5h return walk (2.5h–3.5h by MTB)	**Moderate (Trek) Grade 3–4 (MTB)** Sustained walnut & pine climb	Strongly recommended for pass junctions, MTB spotting & local check-ins

Route & GPS Waypoints	Total Distance	Elevation & Ascent	Active Duration	Difficulty Grade	Local Guide Requirement
3. Tizi n'Tamatert → Talamrout Ridge Summit: 31.1585° N, 7.8860° W (Places Without Doors · Serenity Tours)	~12.5 – 13.0 km return or loop	1,740 m → ~2,600 m (+850 m+ cumulative gain)	5h – 7h full-day outing	**Moderate–Challenging (4/5)** Steep rocky crest & wind exposure	Licensed mountain guide (Ministry of Tourism) essential

3. Illustrative 1-Day Budget for Two Travelers (Unverified Draft Estimates)

The figures below are indicative planning estimates in Moroccan Dirhams (MAD) for two adults, not official tariffs or live quotes. Withdraw sufficient cash in Marrakech and confirm all rates locally before committing.

Logistics Category	Budget Route (Shared Transit)	Self-Drive Comfort (SUV Rental)	Private Agency / VIP Concierge
Roundtrip Marrakech Transit (64 km × 2)	200 MAD · Shared Grand Taxi	600 MAD · Fuel & Rental Car	1,600 MAD · Private Van & Driver
Secure Parking Fee in Imlil	20 MAD	30 MAD · Central Imlil Lot	Included in Driver Service
Certified Mountain Guide	400 MAD · Bureau Roster Desk	500 MAD · Dedicated Private Guide	800 MAD · Specialist MTB / Alpine Lead
Trail Equipment / Bike Rental	200 MAD · Trekking Poles & Daypacks	900 MAD · 2× Hardtail Mountain Bikes	1,800 MAD · 2× Full-Suspension Enduro Bikes
Traditional Berber Lunch	140 MAD · Village Homestay Tajine	220 MAD · Panoramic Terrace Restaurant	400 MAD · Kasbah du Toubkal Dining
Trail Hydration & Energy	60 MAD · Bottled Water & Walnuts	100 MAD · Energy Packs & Citrus	150 MAD · Dried Fruit & Electrolytes
Total Estimated Outlay (2 Persons)	**1,020 MAD**	**2,350 MAD**	**4,750 MAD**

4. Chronological Field Log & Pre-Departure Hardware Checklist

Sample Day-Trip Timeline (Confirm Turnaround Time Locally)

- **07:00 – 09:30 | Segment 01 — Marrakech to Imlil Transfer (64 km, 466 m → 1,740 m):** Depart Marrakech via Route R203 through Tahanaout to Asni, then follow Route P2017 up the gorge to Imlil. Park in the designated central lot and verify guide credentials at the Bureau des Guides.
- **09:30 – 13:30 | Segment 02 — Aroumd Terraces or Tizi n'Tamatert Ascent:** Walk the graded mule path through Aït Souka walnut groves to Aroumd (1,960 m, ~2h return) or ascend through pine forest to Tizi n'Tamatert Pass (2,279 m, ~4–5h return).
- **13:30 – 17:30 | Segment 03 — Controlled Descent & Return to Marrakech:** For MTB riders, inspect hydraulic disc brakes before descending rocky singletrack, yield to villagers and pack mules, and regroup in Imlil by 16:00 to return down P2017/R203 before dusk.

Essential Hardware, Cash & Hydration Checklist

- **Footwear & MTB Braking:** Rigid-sole hiking boots with ankle support for rocky moraine trails; mountain bikes equipped with hydraulic disc brakes (minimum 180 mm rotors) and reinforced tubeless tires (2.35"–2.60"), plus a certified helmet and basic repair kit.
- **Water & Nutrition:** Minimum 2 liters of sealed bottled or treated water per person plus electrolyte tablets; never drink untreated water from open mountain streams or irrigation channels (*seguia*).
- **Cash & Offline Files:** Carry cash in MAD (small denominations) for parking, guide fees, and village lunches; keep offline GPX maps and this PDF saved on your device.

Morocco Wayfinder (moroccotravelmate.com) · WhatsApp Concierge: +212 670 951 796 · Independent travel logistics guide (not affiliated with ONMT or ONCF).