

Moroccan Children's Trust – GMH Morocco Volunteer Project



In partnership with Groupe Maroc Horizons, a local Non-Governmental Organisation, The Moroccan Children's Trust regularly sends volunteers to participate in a development project in Taroudannt, South Morocco.



Taroudannt



The Main Square

We invite enthusiastic volunteers to join us on our community programmes in Taroudannt, Southern Morocco, situated in the foothills of the mighty Atlas Mountains. The volunteers we look for must have a sound grasp of French or Arabic, and be committed to the goals of socio-economic development and the building of ties of friendship and cultural understanding.

The project offers a full induction course in Arabic, Moroccan culture and history, alongside specific preparation for the roles volunteers will be carrying out.

All volunteers are fed and lodged in a Moroccan host family, giving them a unique insight into the everyday lives of Moroccans and a key view into their culture.

During the programme, a number of guided excursions around Morocco take place, including a final long trip at the end of the project to destinations such as the mighty Atlas Mountains or the great Sahara desert.

Taroudannt and its environs

The project takes place in the town of Taroudannt, long regarded as the gateway to Southern Morocco.

Taroudannt is a town of around 30,000 inhabitants and has a long and rich history. The most obvious symbol of this are the great earth walls that encircle the city and lend it the aspect of a fortress.

The Rough Guide (2006) describes it as “one of the most elegant towns in Morocco”, and it is famous for its souks and the quality of the craftsmanship to be found in them. The great, often heat-hazed Atlas Mountains offer an imposing backdrop to the North of the town.

Our partner organisation – Groupe Maroc Horizons

The volunteer scheme is overseen by our in-country partner, Groupe Maroc Horizons (GMH), a not-for-profit educational organization that works with children in the Taroudannt area. It also has a number of other offices in towns across Morocco.



Volunteers at dinner with GMH committee members

GMH is a voluntary NGO completely independent of any other political or religious organization. The association committee is composed of sixteen members, who mostly specialize in education.

GMH organizes a weekly programme of activities for its 400 children, which can be as varied as manual activities and crafts, theatre, sport, music, or even trips around the country. In addition, GMH organises a pre-school class and free-of-charge literacy lessons to older members.

While in Morocco, the association takes care of the volunteers and offers them a pastoral support system. The volunteers work closely with the association and its members, and are responsible for setting up weekly activities with its children. GMH provides the opportunity for volunteers to meet Moroccans of their age as soon as they arrive in the country- each volunteer is assigned a “buddy” of his/her age and sex. It is their role to help introduce the town and its people to the volunteer, and to show them local life.

Accommodation & food

Morocco is famous for its culinary delights and Taroudannt is no exception. Volunteers live in a host family, and receive full board. This provides them with the opportunity to experience at first-hand the Moroccan culinary experience.



Dinner with host family

Staying in a host family gives volunteers a unique insight into the life and culture of Morocco- a very valuable commodity. This way, the reality of everyday life is revealed, over and beyond the first exotic impressions open to Western tourists who may be passing through. Islamic and Moroccan culture is very rich and only through full integration is this depth fully apparent!

Work placements



Lalla Amina
Orphanage
Disabled Unit

Volunteers work in one or two of the institutions listed below. As far as possible, they have a choice in where they work and in the roles they carry out. In this way, work programmes suit each individual volunteer's strengths and interests as much as possible.

The typical timetable will involve five to six hours work a day, plus two hours for lunch. Volunteers work five days a week.

The Lalla Amina Orphanage

In the orphanage, you could work caring, washing, feeding and playing with the twenty or so babies the orphanage caters for at any one time; or you could spend time helping the disabled children of the orphanage, setting up activities for them. In addition, you could also organize sporting activities or support lessons for the school-age orphans.

The Al Wifaq School

You could be teaching basic IT to the children of the school. There are twelve 10-12 year olds in each class. Those who usually do not have access to computers are chosen for participation in the course, which takes place in the school's IT room, furnished with the help of The Moroccan Children's Trust.

There is also the potential for teaching English/French support lessons to the children of the school.

The Mansur Addabhi School

The school caters for a class of deaf and dumb children. Its teacher has a great amount of experience in the domain and works ceaselessly for their rights. Volunteers act as assistants in the class, help to teach the children, and carry out manual activities with them.

A programme of basic IT teaching, in parallel with the one taking place at the Al Wifaq school, takes place. Classes are small and work with Microsoft Office, Paint and digital photography is done, equipping children for their future schoolwork.



IT teaching at the Al Wifaq school

Alongside work placements, which last four days a week, volunteers dedicate their fifth day to setting up an activity of their choice for GMH's members, who are normally between seven and eleven years old. Volunteers carry out their activity with the help of a GMH organizer. Activities as diverse as painting, touch rugby, dance, or recorder playing- to name but a few- can be set up. Volunteers are given much support to realize their chosen activity, and having fun is the most important thing!

Excursions around Morocco

Volunteers arrive in Marrakech, where they spend the night before being taken over the spectacular Tizi N' Test pass, which cuts right through the heart of the Atlas. It is an incredible way to arrive in the country.

Three guided visits organized by GMH are set up for all volunteers during their stay. In addition, there is a long trip at the end of the project, giving volunteers the chance to discover destinations such as the Sahara desert or Mount Toubkhal.

We are always on hand to discuss the programmes we offer, and are very approachable – so if you have any questions or would simply like to find out more, contact us at info@moroccanchildrenstrust.org

Other key links

Groupe Maroc Horizons, www.groupemarochorizons.org



Marrakech - the fantastic Djemaa Fna

Visit www.moroccanchildrenstrust.org to find out more!
