

# THE RIF COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

## 2010 - *The Rif Odyssey – Gibraltar to Chefchaouen*



***'Thank you for your interest in RIFCOM and its movement to empower and change the lives of those living in poverty. We welcome you to join our 2010 Challenge Event that aims to raise funds for our on-going projects in the Rif!'***

*- The Rif Community Foundation*

### ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

This event is a TEAM CHALLENGE that takes us from the comforts of home to the underdeveloped communities of North Africa – only hours away. From the moment we embark on the crossing to Africa until we arrive at Chefchaouen, you will work with your team to complete the course and earn points. The Challenge is designed for all levels and abilities although you must be able to trek all day in mountain conditions, regardless of the weather.

Participants are not required to carry all their gear, only a day pack with water and lunch. Mules and guides are employed by Rifcom to assist with this. The challenges are not physical alone:

They represent *navigation, group decision making, finding and collecting items, engineering tasks, brain teasers* and more, many of them directly related to RifCom's work. The concept is 'challenge by choice' meaning not every team member must complete every trial but at least some members from each team must have done every trial. However, the trekking component is compulsory to all members.



Above all, this team challenge aims to be insightful, educational and of high value to participants. There is no better way to experience the beauty and exoticness of the Rif Mountains than taking part in this expedition. As well as donating your time and resource to a needy cause, you stand to gain personally too.

### POINTS STRUCTURE

Teams will receive a TEAMBOOK and EXPEDITION TOOL KIT at the beginning of the event. This must be carried throughout the expedition. The book contains the challenges, trials and guidelines for the event. It also outlines the routes and destinations. Points are awarded or subtracted based on your performance(s) and timings are monitored each day. The event is essentially a RALLY RAID concept. An awards presentation on the final night in Chefchaouen will celebrate the expedition and crown the champion team!

### WHAT TO EXPECT

The Rif Mountain region is largely rural with small farm holdings and a mixture of pastures, crops and protected forest and National Park zones. The area is desperately poor and basic standards such as fresh water, sanitation, electricity and permanent housing is minimal. Education for children exists but is sparse and access to medical facilities and doctor support is nearly non-existent. Infrastructure such as stable road networks, housing development, waste disposal and water purification is in a very poor state. Food production and nutrition standards are of higher standard than other impoverished regions due to reasonable soil, climate and a population dedicated largely to agriculture, particularly women, but with their main cash-crop now largely impossible to grow they are falling ever further into poverty.



In general, the people of the Rif are authentic country dwellers who although shy, are welcoming and value the family and their simple life cycle with nature. Rifcom visitors, despite seeing first-hand the amount of poverty and deprivation, feel connected to the Rif people and come away inspired to help

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### Day 1 – Thursday, 27 May

The Challenge begins at 08:00 with a racing start from Casemates in Gibraltar. We will cross the Straits via ferry and venture into Morocco, accomplishing a number of tasks en-route. As with many elements of the Challenge, points will be awarded for speed, accuracy and ingenuity. In Morocco our private coach will take everyone to our jump-off point in the heart of the Rif Mountains, from where we'll make our way to our base camp for two nights. After setting up our tents, the first trekking challenge will combine stunning scenery with community support work.

**TREKKING TIME / LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:** Approximately 4 hours / mod-diff with some climbing  
*Camp at Akchour / Tents / Dinner supplied at camp and dinner. Participants to bring own lunch.*

### Day 2 – Friday, 28 May

This day will be all about direct community support as we'll be based in and directly helping with one of the areas worst hit by the winter flooding and landslides. We will hike to a local mountain village and will spend the day on local community projects, such as working with the local school to enhance the children's educational experience and carrying out cultural workshops with students. This is not a tough trekking day but it will be challenging and rewarding to all participants as you'll be supporting RifCom's work in a very hands-on way and interacting directly with the Rif People.

**TREKKING TIME / LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:** Approximately 2 hours / moderate. This is a long day with both physical and mental challenges throughout + Exposure to the elements.  
*Camp at Akchour village area / Tents / All Meals and mineral water supplied*

### Day 3 – Saturday, 29 May

Today we undertake a long mountain trek through the heart of the Rif, into the Talassemtane National Park and our destination of the remote village of Azilane. This part of the Rif is an area of incredible beauty and home to colonies of Macaque Monkeys (Barbary Apes) and the enchanted "Pinsapo" forests (a rare and protected species), yet it is also suffering from erosion, deforestation and poverty. A full day trekking with navigational check points and problem solving on route, teams are staggered in the form of a Relay Raid and must accomplish "trials" along the way.

**TREKKING TIME / LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:** Approximately 8 hours / moderate to difficult with mixed terrain and footpaths passing through mountain landscapes. Exposure to variable elements.  
*Camp at Gite area in Azilane / Tents / All Meals and mineral water supplied*

### Day 4 – Sunday, 30 May

Our final team challenge day takes us to the blue heart of the Rif, the town of Chefchaouen, after a full day's walk over the mountain range. A brilliant hike on tracks and footpaths, this route promises some of the best views of the expedition and the possibility of going up Jebel Tissouka Peak (a challenge in itself at 2,122 metres!). Today's navigational challenge passes through a number of small Rif communities, offering insight to what development work is required. After finishing at Chefchaouen, groups have free exploration time before a final celebration dinner.

**TREKKING TIME / LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:** Approximately 8 hours / moderate to difficult with long ascent to start the day. Exciting finish into Chefchaouen at end of trek! *Accommodation in hostel – twin to quad share / bathrooms outside of rooms. All meals and mineral water supplied.*

### Day 5 – Monday, 31 May

After breakfast at the hostel, teams can have a final exploration / shop in Chefchaouen's fascinating medina and market before returning to Gibraltar. *Breakfast and mineral water supplied. All transport arranged from Chefchaouen to Gibraltar.*