



Life & Style / Travel

Rafting in Morocco, finding the world's best bars and more



See Morocco from a different perspective on a ROAM Adventures trip that includes rafting. (Hamish McMaster / ROAM Adventures)

By **Phil Marty**
Chicago Tribune

OCTOBER 27, 2017, 8:40 AM

Morocco is an exotic destination with fascinating cities like Marrakech and Casablanca as well as expansive desert terrain. Whitewater rafting might be the last things you'd expect to find there, but ROAM Adventures will change your mind with its tour Morocco — Rivers, Mountains & Deserts. The 12-day/11-night outing begins April 8, in Marrakech before quickly heading to the Atlas Mountains, where mountain biking is an option, and the Ahansel River. Three days of whitewater rafting follow, with four to five hours a day paddling rapids rated Class III and above. When not rafting, there will be visits to villages

and casbahs, with nights spent camping by the river. Later in the trip, there will be travel into the Sahara Desert by camel caravan for an overnight visit to a nomad village. After more immersion in Moroccan culture, the tour ends back in Marrakech, where there's the opportunity to cap off your adventure with a hot-air balloon flight. The tour is priced at \$3,495 per person, double occupancy, with international air extra. Info: 888-639-1114, <http://tinyurl.com/ycug93qf>

Setting a high bar

It's usually not difficult to find a bar when traveling, but if you want nothing but the top watering holes, check out the recently announced World's 50 Best Bars 2017. The list is the result of voting among more than 500 drink experts from around the globe. The U.S. boasts the largest number of bars on the list, at 13, though the No. 1 spot went to the American Bar at the Savoy Hotel in London. Seven New York bars made the cut, and Chicago had one: The Aviary. Toast the winners at <http://tinyurl.com/y8rblecfh>.

Igloo with a view

Viewing the Northern Lights is a never-to-be-forgotten experience. The mostly green lights pulse across the night sky, sometimes in just a small area, sometimes arcing overhead. The ebb and flow is mesmerizing. Often the best viewing is during winter and in far northern locations, making for a heart-warming but bone-chilling experience. The folks in Finland's Lapland region try to make it more cozy with their increasingly popular glass igloo resorts. These dwellings can be found in the vicinity of the Arctic Circle and consist of individual units with glass roofs that give panoramic views of the sky and, if conditions are right, the aurora borealis. Amenities may be as basic as a bed and small toilet area or as luxurious as full baths, kitchenettes and private saunas. At least 21 of these resorts offer glass igloos, with prices as low as about \$175 a night up to about \$815. Of course you need to get to Finland first. Finnair has flights to Helsinki from Chicago, Miami, New York and San Francisco. Find lots of information on glass igloos and other things to do in Lapland at <http://tinyurl.com/yazyjhmo>.

Phil Marty is a freelance reporter.