

SAFAR

Promoters: **Matondo Guevart,
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Type of activity: **education to
multi-culture**



SAFAR, meaning *travel* in Moroccan Arabic, is
Solidarité **A**ltruisme **F**raternité **A**ction **R**encontre
(from French: solidarity altruism brotherhood action meeting).

There are various meaning for word **travel**: touring, business trip, emigration, etc. For SAFAR members, travelling is a different way to live, it's a school that teaches you everyday, where you learn to adapt, to observe, to enjoy, to look at the world from another point of view.

SAFAR Association is part of **TADAL** (*Tissus Associatif pour le développement local de Ain Leuh*), a local network of social operators and actors for a responsible tourism.



AIN LEUH REGION

Ain Leuh is a village in the Middle Atlas, at 1500 mt of altitudes, with about 6000 inhabitants (10000 counting the all region); there is an high school and a college, in addition to a primary school.

The population is relatively young, and there is a strong human, economic and natural potential. The village is growing: 300 new apartments, a new village centre (pavements, gardens, a new taxi station out of the centre), a new policy for rural development, population increase (due to urbanization of both shepherds and semi-nomads Berbers). Even though all that, there is no organization in charge of young people!

There is a strong need for young people to be taken in consideration, to be listened to, to be able to put into action their initiatives. Moreover, knowledge of young French by young Moroccans and vice versa is very little, so the idea of travel as both educational instrument and local initiative booster was born.



OBJECTIVES AND PHILOSOPHY

promoting and implementing
**intercultural exchange and international solidarity projects
 for young people:**
 accommodating both European groups in Morocco and Moroccan
 ones in French, for work camps in common
 (sport, environment, building, culture, art and craftsmanship, ..)

developing the potential of Ain Leuh region
 (natural, human, agricultural, craft, rural touristic)
 encouraging a **sustainable development**

creating in Ain Leuh an
accommodation for both groups and independent travellers
(Chez Safar)

The principal aim is passing messages and values through out travel. Staying abroad young people can experiment citizenship and solidarity, by acknowledging and making the most of their activities. European young, being in a new environment, in Morocco ("reach" in human, natural and cultural terms), will be able to enhance his own opinions with other points of view. On the other side Moroccan young, guessed by his European colleague, can make his own opinion about life in Europe.

PROJECTS



Work camps of Fair Rugby

<i>type of activity</i>	education to multi-culture, sport
<i>participants</i>	French boys and Moroccan boys (with both French and Moroccan team managers)
<i>age</i>	between 13 and 17 years
<i>where</i>	Middle Atlas (Morocco) / France
<i>when</i>	July 2007 (Morocco) February 2008 (France) July 2008 (Morocco) February 2009 (France) July 2009 (Morocco)

In partnership with **AJC** (Animation Jeunesse du Carmausin) and **CJM** (Chantiers de Jeunesse Marocaines), in **July 2007 SAFAR** organized the first exchange between French and Moroccan young people: that exchange was based on introduction to rugby of the Moroccan boys by the French ones. The initiative was so succesfull that the French immediately started to prepare to welcome the Moroccans in France, at Carmaux, in **February 2008**. The project has then gone on with two new camps, in **July 2008** at Ain Leuh and in **February 2009** in France, involving other groups of French and



Moroccan young people. Last camp was held in **July 2009** in Morocco, with rugby rules for training and refereeing as main theme



Environmental work camps

<i>type of activity</i>	education to multi- culture, environment
<i>participants</i>	French boys and Moroccan boys (with both French and Moroccan team managers)
<i>age</i>	between 14 and 17 years
<i>where</i>	Ain-Leuh
<i>when</i>	July 2008 October 2009 April 2011

In **July 2008** the first international camp about environment was held, in collaboration between **SAFAR** and **SAJ** (Service Animation Jeunesse) of Marignier. That camp consisted in two main activities, **reafforestation** and **rubbish recycling**, based on a preceding idea exchange by internet, among French and Moroccans, about the issue of rubbish recycling (tires, scrap iron, wood, etc) and creation of interest for rubbish treatment.

In parallel to the camp, some events/activities have been implemented in order to promote exchange and mutual understanding between French and Moroccan cultures.

The last environmental work camp was taken end of **April 2011**, managed by **SAFAR** and the French Association **SolAfrica**, and both French and Moroccan young people participated. The subject was building some **cooking ovens for wood-saving**; the ovens were then installed in sheperd community and semi-nomadic tribes in the area. The work camp ended with a gardening activity (tree and flower plantation) in the area in front of taxi parking in Ain Leuh.



Social work camps

<i>type of activity</i>	education to international solidarity
<i>where</i>	Ain Leuh (Morocco)
<i>when</i>	October 2009

In partnership with the French Association **Via Brachy** and **CJM** (Chantiers de Jeunesse Marocaines), **SAFAR** organized a **social theatre work camp**, in **October 2009**, on the subject "smile, dream, play". The work camp is due in the year of the 20th anniversary of the *ONU Convention on the Rigths of the Child*.



Chez Safar

<i>type of activity</i>	responsible tourism: accommodation
<i>where</i>	Ain Leuh
<i>since</i>	June 2008

Chez Safar is a Youth Hostel, where young Europeans involved in intercultural exchange and work camp are accommodated, reducing the general cost. In that way you can enlarge the potential basin, involving people from various social environment, so that a larger number of young people can live this experience.

Chez Safar consists of 2 dormitories, each one with 7 bunk beds (one for girls and the other for boys), a room with 3 beds for team managers, kitchen, toilette and showers, and a terrace. Restoration was completed in **June 2008**, and the first groups were accommodated in July 2008.

Besides **Chez Safar** is suitable to all responsible travellers, who wish for a close contact with local community in Ain; spending the night at Chez Safar, the traveller can support the project and the people in charge of meals, and he can all the info about guided excursions or trekking: one day or more, among cedar forests, lakes and waterfalls.

Projects impact

For young people: self reflection, others discovery, open-mindedness and spiritual enhance, adaptation to different environment, autonomy, responsibility, citizenship

Locally: youth development, meeting international solidarity, enhancing village solidarity; besides, *in Morocco:* actions for public utility, sustainable development, economic support, international exchange, in a country where mass tourism is growing more and more.



FUTURE PROSPECTS

In long term, if the balance of first years will be positive, it is forecasted a **service centre:** a travellers reception and orienteering (with constant presence of tour consultants giving advice and support about trekking itineraries, local guides and local associations/cooperatives to be visited), but also a platform for all associations of the area of Ain Leuh (even for consultancy for example for funds raising) and finally a permanent structure hosting young people.

A project, even more ambitious, is a **French Department**, in charge of both partners contacts and a **Reception and Training Centre** dedicated to people interested to work camps in Morocco with **SAFAR**. Among the issues of training: inter-culture, project management, team building, etc.



PARTNERS

Morocco France

local associations
 Ain Leuh town council
 Délégation provinciale jeunesse et sport
 Local authorities (Province, etc)
 Tourist office
 Ifrane National Park (Ministry for Water and Forests)
 Djemme - Slow Travel
 YALLAZ
 Barbara J. Anello

MJC de Labastide Saint Pierre
 AJC (Animation Jeunesse du Carmausin)
 Carmaux Rugby School
 Puy Saint Georges Community Centre
 Léz'arts de vivre Association
 Marignier Young People Centre
 Mélonié Riding School
 Speleology Association
 Association le buvard d'ô
 Asso déclic
 Arts et beaux arts
 Solafrika

Type of partnership

starting and managing project
 logistic, free accommodation
 responsible travel organization

Type of partnership

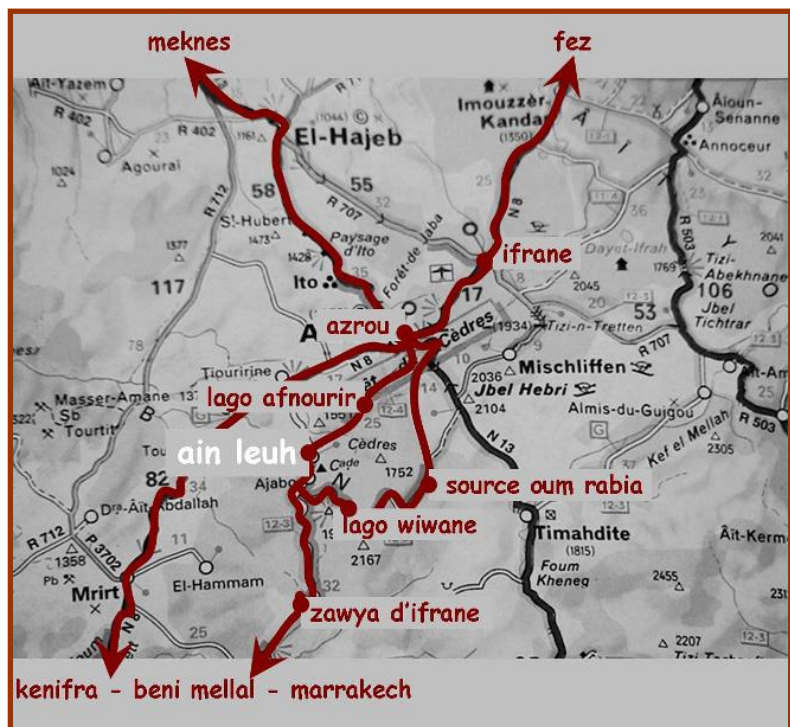
orientteering, consultancy
 advices about project development
 material support
 moral support
 free hosting and free school equipment
 free photo equipment

HOW TO REACH AIN LEUH



By bus:

Azrou is the town nearest to Ain Leuh reached by buses (on the route Marrakech-Beni Mellal: ticket from Marrakech to Azrou is 90DH); from Azrou, you can get to Ain Leuh by shared taxi (10DH)





By train:

Meknes is the town nearest to Aïn Leuh reached by train (on the route Marrakech-Fez-Oujda: ticket from Marrakech to Meknes is 157.5DH); from Meknes to Azrou by shared taxi (25DH), and from there to Aïn Leuh by shared taxi (10DH)

By car:

coming from Marrakech, you go along the road, in fearly good condition almost everywhere, going towards Beni Mellal, then Kenifra and finally to Azrou (there is a cross with the indication to Aïn Leuh just few km before getting to Azrou).

CONTACTS



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