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Grand tour of Morocco

MOROCCO - TRIP CODE MGT

DISCOVERY

Why book this trip?

Explore a wonderful world of mountains, markets and medinas on this grand tour of Morocco. Here, Andalusian-influenced architecture and French protectorate history meets the masters of the Atlas Mountains; the Berbers and traditional tastes of tagines.

- **Sahara Desert** - Sleep under the stars against a backdrop of towering sand dunes
- **Imperial cities** - Discover the ancient cities of Fes, Rabat and Marrakesh
- **Coastal towns** - Relax by the rugged beach of Mirleft and soak up the bohemian atmosphere of Essaouira



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 19
Dinner: 3



TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



TRANSPORT
Bus
4WD



ACCOMMODATION
2 nights simple
camping
2 nights
comfortable
guesthouse
12 nights
comfortable hotel
3 nights
comfortable riad



TRIP PACE:
Moderate



GROUP SIZE:
10 - 15

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join Trip in Marrakech

Arrive in the 'red city' of Marrakech. This atmospheric city encompasses the very essence of Morocco; opportunities to get lost in the narrow, winding lanes of the medina and the chance to people watch with a mint tea in Djemma el-Fnaa.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Marrakech at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Marrakech Menara Airport (RAK), which is around 20 minutes from the hotel depending on traffic. For those arriving on time our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 8pm for the welcome meeting and for those that wish, there is the chance to go out for dinner. Should you miss the meeting, your Leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, you may wish to visit the gardens of Jardin Majorelle just a short distance from our hotel.



ACCOMMODATION:
Moroccan House (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Spend the morning discovering Marrakech's souks, squares and sites on foot, followed by a free afternoon

This morning we'll explore the iconic city of Marrakech in depth.

Like many North African towns, Marrakech is divided into two distinct parts, the Gueliz (the modern French-built city) and the Medina (the Old City), a place where trade and barter amongst the colourful souks still renders its ancient heart a glittering cacophony of noise and colour. We'll begin by wandering the narrow lanes of the souks, leading us eventually to the city's beating heart; spectacular Djemma el-Fnaa. This buzzing town square is a site not to be missed and a scene straight out of the pages of the Arabian Nights. We'll continue to Koutoubia 'booksellers' Mosque and then on to Saadian tombs. Built during the Saadian dynasty in the 1600s, the tombs were bricked up just a few decades later by Alawite Sultan Moulay Ismail who wanted to cover any memory of the prior royals, and were not rediscovered until the early 1900s.

The afternoon is free to continue exploring at our own pace. Marrakech is a city like no other; with a staggering array of spectacular architecture and wonderful facades; other sites not to be missed are Ben Youssef Madrasa, the Dar Si Said Palace (now the Museum of Moroccan Art) and the Menara gardens. This evening there is also an opportunity to visit a traditional hammam.



ACCOMMODATION:
Moroccan House (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Visit Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca and travel to the country's capital city, Rabat

We'll have a leisurely morning, departing around 10am for Casablanca where we'll stop for lunch before an afternoon guided visit to the great mosque of Hassan II.

The Hassan II Mosque is the largest on the African continent and this spectacular structure can hold up to 105,000 worshippers. Built in honour of the King's 60th birthday, the mosque is a feat of engineering as well as a controversial use of public money. We'll have a tour of the mosque's interior which is intentionally perched above the water of the Atlantic to honour the Quran which states "the throne of Allah was over the water".

Later this afternoon we'll continue to Rabat. Rabat was established as the capital of their protectorate by the French in 1912 and since Morocco's independence has remained as the capital of a modern Morocco. Rabat's history stretches back as far as 8bc when settlers first arrived. Upon arrival the evening will be free and you may choose to head down to the waterfront to watch the sunset over the estuary.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Le Mihad (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - Explore the mountainous town of Chefchaouen

After breakfast we'll begin the day with a guided walk around the capital. We'll head into the city's historic centre, to the Hassan Tower and spend time inside the marble interiors of the Mausoleum of Mohammed V. We'll also wander through cobbled streets of Kasbah des Oudaias, the fortified area of the city that is infused with a distinctly Andalusian flavour.

When we've finished our guided tour we'll have a break for lunch before continuing our grand tour through the mountains to Chefchaouen. The drive will take a majority of the afternoon before we arrive into this historical town that is known for its Andalusian-influenced medina. We'll be arriving in the early evening and there will be time to look around one of Morocco's most picture-perfect towns.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Parador (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Guided walk through the medina and kasbah before a free afternoon

This morning begins with a guided walk through the 'blue town'. Chefchaouen's atmosphere is far more relaxed than that of bustling Fes or Marrakech and it's a prime example of how strong Andalusian influences once were over Morocco. Small white and blue houses stacked upon one another along winding lanes make this town a highlight of northern Morocco.

We'll walk through the car-free lanes of the medina taking in the colours and sounds from the shops and restaurants that we pass.

This afternoon will be free; a chance to continue immersing yourself in the laid-back way of life. People-watch with a mint tea in the town's charming square, Uta Lahmam or find a quiet terrace.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Parador (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 6 - Cross the Rif Mountains, visit ancient Volubilis and arrive into the imperial city of Fes

Crossing the Rif Mountains our first stop is the ancient, Roman site of Volubilis. The ruins have intact, detailed mosaics and show the layout of a former provincial Roman capital.

From Volubilis, we'll continue on a short drive to Meknes and take a guided walk around the beloved city. Smaller than its counterparts, Meknes was the great love of tyrant Sultan Moulay Ismail. We will visit the old granary of Heri es-Souni where food was stored for the sultan's 12,000 royal horses before continuing on to his Mausoleum and the marble city gate of Bab Mansour.

At the end of the afternoon we'll drive for an hour to Fes where we will stay for two nights.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Zahrat al Jabal (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 7 - Discover the highlights of Fes with a local guide

We'll have a full day today to take in the artisan capital of Morocco with a local guide. After breakfast we begin sightseeing in Fes el Jadid, known as 'new Fes' despite dating back to the 13th century. The area's predominate feature is the Royal Palace, and although it's not open to visitors, we'll visit from the outside to see the intricately designed gates. We'll later drive out to North Borj viewpoint for some great views back across the city before taking a well deserved lunch break.

After lunch our exploration of the city takes us into Fes el Bali (Old Fes). Within the bustling souks of the Fes el Bali, the craftwork is considered to be the finest in Morocco. We'll wander through its artisan districts, where small doorways and narrow pathways reveal weavers and brass workshops, coppersmiths and tanners, all producing beautiful pieces as they have for many generations. We'll also take in the opulent majesty of the 14th century Attarin Medersa, whose Moroccan decoration and elegant design makes it one of the city's most captivating medieval colleges. As we walk through the market lanes the smells of freshly cooked baghrir, or Berber pancakes will tempt and there may be a chance to try Harira soup, a tasty broth made from chickpeas, tomatoes and Moroccan spices.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Zahrat al Jabal (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Drive over the Berber lands of the Middle Atlas to Erfoud

Today we have a full day driving as we climb steadily into the dramatic landscapes of the Middle Atlas, passing near the small mountain village of Azrou, which in the Berber tongue translates as 'the rock'. This is the land of the fiercely independent Berbers, the Lords of the Atlas, whose traditions and ways still hold sway up here in their mountain strongholds far away from the cities below. The Berbers present us with a special view of a way of life lost to the rest of North Africa, where music and dance, even language and religion, are far removed from their Arab neighbours. Continuing into Berber sheep raising country we traverse a broad plateau past Meski Oasis, the so-called 'blue spring' bordering the arid desert plains, from where our journey brings us at last on to the desert settlement of Erfoud, our base for the night.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Le Riad (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 9 - Explore fortified villages and take a camel ride through the Erg Chebbi sand dunes

Our day starts by following the meandering Ziz River towards Rissani, the last sizeable community and the end of the vegetation belt before the dunes of the sand sea begin. The settlement is the homeland of the Alaouite dynasty, which reigned in this region for 300 years, and this morning we'll have an opportunity to visit the founder's mausoleum and explore something of the local ksour (fortified villages). After lunch, we then drive on to the settlement of Merzouga, which lies on the edge of Erg Chebbi, an area of high dunes that are amongst some of Morocco's most spectacular natural landscapes.

From here we'll meet our traditional mode of transport - camels. We'll be taking a camel ride into the desert to explore the sandy landscape on the way to our Berber camp, home for the night. On arrival there may be the chance to climb the dunes and watch the sun go down over the Sahara. The crew will prepare us a traditional tagine dinner and there will be the opportunity to relax in the peaceful setting around a campfire. The tents accommodate up to four people each and mattresses, blankets and pillows are provided. There are simple shower facilities available, however due to the nature of the accommodation, hot water and water pressure cannot be guaranteed.





ACCOMMODATION:

Nomad Camp - Chebbi Dunes (or similar)



Grade: Simple Camping



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

DAY 10 - See the sun rise over the dunes before travelling to the picturesque Todra Valley

We recommend getting up early this morning to make your way to the top of the nearest dune to witness the sunrise; there is nothing like seeing the light of the sun spread over the vastness of the desert. Watching as the sand turns from a dark greyish colour to brilliant gold as the sun's rays touch down.

After breakfast we make our way back to Merzouga (either by camel or 4WD), board our bus and travel along the southern slopes of the High Atlas on our way to the Todra Gorge. The landscapes continues to change as sand dunes give way to hills which then start to turn green with a more tropical feel as we approach the town of Tinghir. We will stop here for a chance to have a walk around the huge date palm forest that skirts the town, after spending the night in the desert it is quite surreal to walk amongst lush palms trees a few hours later. We continue to our hotel in the upper Todra Valley where we will spend two nights.



ACCOMMODATION:

Dar Ayour Guesthouse (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Guesthouse



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 11 - Discover the colourful Todra Gorge and walk to a panoramic viewpoint

Today we will explore the Todra Gorge where dramatic ochre-coloured cliffs rise vertically to leave just a

narrow pass through which our track and the river struggle for right of way. In the morning Berber women drive their goats through the narrow gorge to the better grazing land higher up and we have an opportunity to follow their daily ritual and take in the stunning views, as we spend the morning exploring these deep, narrow mountain chasms on foot.

You may choose to join your Leader on an optional walk to Abdelali viewpoint for some excellent panoramas across to the Jebel Sahro and down into the gorge. The walk generally takes around 5 hours in total and is considered a moderate graded trek, but be aware that in high temperatures it can be more demanding (walking boots with ankle support are essential). Alternatively you may opt to explore the valley floor following the path of the river and take in the local scenery from one of the nearby cafés.



ACCOMMODATION:

Dar Ayour Guesthouse (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Guesthouse



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 12 - Enter the Valley of a Thousand Kasbahs and explore UNESCO Ait Ben Haddou

This morning we drive west, where we make a short stop in El Kelaa des M'Gouna positioned at the foot of a rocky outcrop that separates the Dades and Mgoun Valleys. Famed for its roses, the town lies blanketed under a landscape of scented blooms each spring, which are then harvested in May during the famous Festival of the Roses and processed into rosewater to be sold throughout the Islamic world. Driving on through the Dades Valley with its fertile oases, we enter the Valley of a Thousand Kasbahs, where each of the oasis towns can boast their own distinctive character, the mud and straw structures becoming more plentiful and more ornate as we progress along the valley.

Later this afternoon we make our way towards the small, fortified Berber settlement of Ait Ben Haddou, which has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is considered by many to be one of Morocco's most picturesque settings. Studded with crenelated towers and richly decorated, the town's kasbah is quite spectacular and provided an ideal location for filming scenes from Jesus of Nazareth and Lawrence of Arabia. After exploring the kasbah it is a short drive to the desert outpost of Ouarzazate where we stay the night.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Les Jardins de Ouarzazate (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 13 - Visit a 15th century library and take a 4WD to our camp in the Sahara Desert

Today we head back into the desert and drive through the beautiful and fertile Draa Valley. Our route is lined with palm groves, with many kasbahs and ksours (villages) punctuating the impressive landscape on the way for a quick stop at a pottery cooperative in Tamgroute, a historical town featuring a 15th century library which contains books spanning back over 700 years. We will visit the library and then continue to Mhamid and board 4WD jeeps on our way to the towering Erg Chegaga sand dunes of the Sahara Desert.

After arriving into camp our leader will take us on a walk up the dunes for panoramic views and to learn a bit more about the flora and fauna found in the desert. Our camp tonight is a traditional nomad camp with large tents sleeping 3-5 people each, the camp will also have a restaurant tent where we will eat dinner and breakfast, prepared by our camp crew. All bedding is provided at camp.



ACCOMMODATION:
Nomad Camp (or similar)

Grade: Simple Camping



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

DAY 14 - Travel in 4WD through the wilderness of the Sahara Desert

We leave camp after breakfast, get in the 4WD and take a wilderness drive across the desert to the oasis town of Foug Zguid. This is a 90km drive but will take between three to four hours as we are off road and on desert tracks. Though the going is at times bumpy, this drive is a real adventure and we will barely see any human activity, even the camels here are wild.

At Fom Zguid we will get back in the bus and make our way to Tata, stopping on the way at Tissinnt, where there is a large gorge filled by a lake which ends in a waterfall. The falls may not have a wow factor but there are often nomads in the area collecting water and we may have a chance to meet them. Our destination tonight is Tata, and depending on our arrival time there should be an opportunity to explore the town's pink buildings and laid back character.



ACCOMMODATION:
Le Relais des Sables (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

DAY 15 - Cross the desolate Anti-Atlas and drive to Mirleft on the Atlantic coast

This morning we drive through the Anti-Atlas, a wild and barren world of rocky outcrops and remote, desolate landscapes. We pass primitive villages, consisting of a few small homes surround by palm trees, life in this area is tough as water is scarce and farming difficult. The main town in this region is Goulemin, known as the gateway of the Sahara; we will stop in the town for lunch and for a short walk through the Taghjijt Valley, a rare oasis of green lush date palms. Taghjijt is known for its high quality dates and there will be an opportunity to buy some from a local farmer.

Our drive continues towards the Atlantic Ocean and as we get closer to the coast we notice the scenery becoming greener and brighter, our destination is Mirleft, a small town set just off the coast where we will spend two nights. Our accommodation is set in a rural area with coastal views just a short drive away from the town. Upon arrival there will be free time to take a ten minute stroll down to the beach or relax by the pool, before having dinner.



ACCOMMODATION:
Aftass Trip (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel





SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 16 - Visit Sous-Massa National Park and try traditionally cooked meats in Taroudant

We drive north today through the fertile Sous Valley, passing forests and plantations; this area of Morocco has a more relaxed feel and we will find local people particularly welcoming and happy to see visitors. Our first stop is the Sous-Massa National Park, which is a large reserve situated between the estuary of the Sous-Massa River and the Atlantic Ocean, where we will enjoy a couple hours of walking. The park has seven traditional Berber villages but the main attraction is the bird life, and it's in this area that we may be lucky enough to see the Bald Ibis. We will also see flamingos and there are some old fisherman caves which can be also explored.

We'll then make our way to Taroudant, the former capital of the south of Morocco and on arrival our Leader will take us on an orientation tour of the town. Taroudant is enclosed by a huge rectangle of golden fortified walls, dotted with towers which are still in good repair and are an impressive sight. We will explore the market, where there are lots of small food stalls selling cooked meats and flat breads, filling the air with smoky barbecue aromas.



ACCOMMODATION:
Riad Hida (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Riad



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 17 - Travel along the Atlantic coastal to the charming port town of Essaouira

We'll drive for around four hours this morning into the early afternoon to our the historic seaport of Essaouira. This small town on the Atlantic coast is home for the next two nights. We'll arrive in time to have lunch, and there is ample choice including small, traditional Moroccan restaurants or for a quick bite head to the port to eat at one of the stalls serving fresh seafood grilled over charcoal.

After lunch our Leader will take us on a walking tour, ensuring we have our bearings for a free day tomorrow. The town is encircled by 18th century battlements and we will explore the old walled medina, passing through the narrow, highly decorated arched entrance to find a host of merchants selling local handicrafts and women carrying out their daily routines, veiled in their traditional dress.

While in Essaouira we will be staying in a traditional riad. A riad is a Moroccan house that is built in a rectangular or square shape around a central garden or courtyard. Normally standing at least two stories tall, the focal point of a riad is the central courtyard which will often have a water feature of some kind and many also have roof top terraces perfect for a morning coffee. Riads have a small number of rooms and are very popular among visitors wanting an authentic experience, so for this reason we may change riads with little or no notice but we'll do our best to ensure the style and standard is equal to our listed property.



ACCOMMODATION:
Riad Al Madina (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Riad



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 18 - Day at leisure in Essaouira, relax on the beach or wander through the souk

Today is free to spend at leisure in Essaouira. Just south of the town there is a long sandy beach which is slightly sheltered from sea-wind and depending on the time of the year the water is great for swimming (it might be a bit cold in the winter).

Alternatively, explore the harbour, area with its famous line-up of blue boats, explore the Jewish quarter and take in the sights and smells of the market.



ACCOMMODATION:
Riad Al Madina (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Riad



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 19 - Return to the 'red city' of Marrakech

After breakfast we will say goodbye to the coast and begin the three hour drive inland to Marrakech. We'll arrive into the city around lunchtime and the afternoon is free for any final sightseeing or shopping you may wish to do.

This evening, we can choose one of the many Moroccan restaurants in the city centre to enjoy a final group meal and toast the end of this Moroccan adventure.

To make the most of our final night on this epic Moroccan tour, we will stay in a Marrakech riad. A riad is a Moroccan house that is built in a rectangular or square shape around a central garden or courtyard. Normally standing at least two stories tall, the focal point of a riad is the central courtyard which will often have a water feature of some kind and many also have roof top terraces perfect for a morning coffee. Riads have a small number of rooms and are in very high demand particularly in Marrakech, therefore, we may change riads with little or no notice but we'll do our best to ensure the style and standard is equal to our listed property.



ACCOMMODATION:
Riad Hamdane (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 20 - Trip ends in Marrakech

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Marrakech.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Marrakech at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to depart from Marrakech Menara Airport (RAK), which is a 20 minute drive from the hotel depending on traffic.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Morocco

Climate

The climate is both Mediterranean and Atlantic. The dry, hot season is from May to October when summer temperatures can reach 38°C and above (if sight seeing is included we will do our best to avoid the heat of the day during this period). Temperatures may drop significantly at times during the night as the day's heat rapidly diminishes. From December to January snow can be expected on mountain passes and it can be wet. In winter, day temperatures will probably be around 18-25°C, dropping to perhaps 0-5°C.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
0	2 Pin Round	Islam	Arabic, Berber, French.

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Merzouga - 4WD excursion £20 per person; Sunrise Walk with your Tour Leader (no fee)

Todra Gorge - Palmeraie of Tinghir walk (no fee)

Ouarzazate - Entry to Atlas Film Studios £4 per person

Mirleft - Half Day Fishing £16 per person (dependent on the season and local regulations; Surfing Lesson (2hrs) £17 per person (dependent on weather conditions)

Marrakech - Cookery demonstration £25 per person; Hamman £20 per person

Clothing

Summer: Clothing should be lightweight. However, a warm sweater is also advisable, as the desert can sometimes get cold at nights, even in the summer.

Winter: Usually warm during the day but thicker clothing is essential for cold nights (Nov-Mar). It is advisable to take warm clothing (eg. track suit or thermal underwear) to sleep in, as the quality of heating in Moroccan hotel rooms can be variable. A waterproof jacket, trousers and fleece are recommended in the winter months.

Morocco is a Muslim country and it is important to dress with respect for local customs. People may be offended by shorts or revealing dresses, which can attract unwelcome attention. We advise that in general both men and women should cover shoulders, upper arms and knees. Transparent, plunging necklines and tightfitting clothes should be avoided. Women should also cover their heads when entering a sanctuary, though in general, mosques are forbidden to non-Muslims. For those clients on a cycling holiday please bear this information in mind for times that you are not on the bikes. While cycling it is no problem for both men and women to wear your regular cycling gear, tight fitting or not.

Footwear

We recommend sandals and walking boots with good ankle support if planning to do the Abdelali walk in the Todra Gorge.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

A head torch, water bottle, sunhat and high factor sunscreen are all essential, whilst we recommend swimming costumes and towels.

Tipping

Explore leader

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order

to make things easier for you, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly, you should allow £45.00 per person for group tipping.

Morocco

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£6.00 - 8.00	£8.00 - 12.00	£2.5	£0.6

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Moroccan Dirham (MAD).

Recommended Currency For Exchange

US Dollars, Sterling and Euros are readily exchangeable. We recommend you take a mixture of cash and credit cards. Scottish bank notes and Australian dollar travellers cheques and cash are NOT normally accepted in Morocco.

Where To Exchange

Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you.

ATM Availability

ATMs are available in main towns/cities, though can be unreliable.

Credit Card Acceptance

Not all places.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers cheques are difficult to exchange and are not recommended.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, 4WD

Accommodation notes

Morocco is a developing country and as such, the accommodation standards are not equivalent to those in Europe and can be more simple.

We choose our properties because of their location, cleanliness, traditional style or for their welcoming

atmosphere, as we endeavour to provide an authentic Moroccan experience. However, some of the properties might have some outdated or simple furniture and the level of service may vary depending on the location. Hot water is variable or limited in certain locations, and many of the older buildings have been built to protect from the summer heat, however, this can result in rooms being cold during the winter. Hotels will always provide more blankets but not all offer heating facilities so please bear this in mind when packing if travelling through the winter months.

Breakfasts are generally plentiful and in a continental style but can have a limited selection. A swimming pool is often available, especially in the cities.

During this trip we stay in the desert in a simple camp with communal tents. Mattresses, blankets and pillows are all provided. In the winter months, the nights and early mornings can be cold in the desert but please pack warm clothes to wear. Simple washing facilities are available, including showers and flushing toilets, however, hot water and strong water pressure cannot be guaranteed.

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Morocco: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

UK passport holders are requested to have at least 3 months validity from the date of entry into Morocco. All other nationalities please check with your nearest embassy for requirements of passport validity.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa

through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full

amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Morocco

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, typhoid, infectious hepatitis and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Additional Information



Ramadan

In 2020, Ramadan runs from 24 April - 23 May. Read more about travelling during Ramadan.

The following 2020 departures will coincide with Ramadan.

9 May 2020

Why book this trip

This three week adventure is perfect for travellers with more time to spare and who want to really get under the skin of Morocco. It is the most explorative trip of Morocco in the market, whilst still seeing all the historical highlights in this beautiful and tranquil country.

Reviews



**AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT
TRANSFERS**