

imperial cities, saharan sands - premium tour

go guide

don't leave home without it



a world of discovery



tour spotlight

what you see

- Marrakech - UNESCO-listed Place Djemaa el-Fna, Bahia Palace, souks, the Jewish Quarter Koutoubia mosque
- Ait Benhaddou - UNESCO Listed ancient kasbah
- High and Middle Atlas Mountain ranges - amazing panoramic views
- Todra Gorge - towering red canyon
- The Sahara Desert - Erg Chebbi sand dunes
- Fes - the oldest medieval city in the world
- Volubilis Roman ruins

No local payment

what you get

- 7 Breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners
- 6 nights 4 star Moroccan riads and hotels and 1 night at an auberge in the desert
- Arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 8
- Sahara camel trek
- Transport in 4 x 4 or mini van/touring vehicles
- Escorted by an English speaking tour leader
- Specialist local guides at some sites
- Guided tour of Marrakech, Ait Benhaddou, Fes and Volubilis
- All entrance fees to included sights
- All road taxes and tolls



on location

Your guide to on the ground...

visa requirements

Visas are not required for British, Australian, Canadian, US and other EU nationals for a stay of up to 3 months. Please ensure your passport is valid for six months after your return date and that you get your passport stamped upon entry into Morocco. All other nationalities should contact the Moroccan embassy for details. Visas are your responsibility. Don't forget to check!

climate

Temperatures in Morocco are generally high, particularly during the summer months from May to September, when the sun can be fierce and temperatures are at industrial levels, so take sunscreen. In winter (October to February), it is colder, especially in the Atlas Mountains where it can drop to below freezing - so take plenty of warm clothes including jacket, long-sleeved tops, jumper, gloves and trousers.

time

Morocco is 0 hours ahead of GMT (daylight saving time +1 ahead of GMT)

money

GBP £1 = MAD13 USD \$1 = MAD8 EUR 1 = MAD11 AUD = 7.4 MAD = Moroccan Dirham, rates are subject to fluctuation. Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes in major towns and most banks have ATMs.

health requirements

It is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in the last ten years. Food and waterborne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for typhoid (valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). Please consult a physician or travel clinic for further information.

how much

- Mineral water (local brand, 500ml or 1L) MAD15
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, local restaurant) MAD100-180
- Beer (local brew Efes - 330-500ml approx) MAD20
- Chocolate bar (local brand) MAD5-10
- Dinner for 2 Chocolate bar (local brand) MAD5-10

medieval fes

Fes Medina is a must - a heady mix of aromas, sounds and sights with an old world feel. Some 200,00 people that live in the Medina. A guided tour is included as it is very easy to get lost! There are 5 circuits, each with a different colour, and a different theme, such as palaces and gardens, traditional crafts etc.

The Medina is divided up into two - Fes el Bali (Old Fes) and Fes el Djedid (new Fes). Fes el Bali is the most intriguing to visit, little alleyways threading their way through the lively souks and a variety of local people going about their everyday business. It is the heart of Fes and as well as the souks, houses many mosques and monuments.

top experiences

- Visit a Hammam (a public steam bath) for some pampering Moroccan style
- Test out your bargaining skills in one of the many souks whilst enjoying mint tea!
- Listen to the drumming in Djemaa el Fna, watch the snake charmers, and try out some unusual food if you are feeling brave!
- Take some time out in the shady and serene Jardin Majorelle, a small garden full of palms, cacti and pools





imperial cities, saharan sands: itinerary

day 1 - marrakech

Saturday. Upon arrival at Marrakech airport you'll be met and transferred to your riad in the centre of town. This evening there will be a welcome meeting at 18.00hrs, after which you're free to explore the delights of Djemaa el Fna, the exuberant market place, which literally comes alive at night. You'll be amazed at the cacophony of sights, sounds and colour. Overnight - Marrakech.

day 2 - djemaa el fna

Marrakech - breakfast. This morning we take a guided city tour and see the sights of magical Marrakech. Set within the rose-coloured walls of the medina and a tangle of winding streets lead to bustling souks, the focal point is the central square, the Djemaa el Fna, an extraordinary gathering and market place. Full of colour, spicy aromas and traders it is best seen in the evening when overflowing with food stalls, dancers, acrobats, fortune tellers, musicians and henna artists. Towering over this is the famous Koutoubia mosque, the tallest building in the city. The afternoon is free to spend at leisure, perhaps visit the peaceful Jardins de Majorelle. Overnight - Marrakech.

day 3 - ait benhaddou

Marrakech - Todra Gorge - breakfast. It's an early start this morning as we set off towards the desert after breakfast. From the flat plain of Haouz, the route climbs southwards and rises up to the passes of the High Atlas mountains. Along twisty roads with marvellous views before descending to the rocky red foothills where we visit the UNESCO listed Ait Benhaddou, an incredible ancient kasbah that has featured in many a blockbuster movie, including Gladiator and Lawrence of Arabia. Enjoy a guided tour of the site before carrying on along the valley of the Roses, to the dramatic Todra Gorge, a narrow mountain cleft with towering 300 metre high walls. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Todra Gorge

day 4 - the sahara

Todra gorge - Erg Chebbi/Sahara - breakfast. This morning we travel to Merzouga at the foot of the Erg Chebbi sand dune in the great Sahara Desert. Here we stay in the comfort of a charming auberge. In the afternoon (or the morning of day 5 if travelling in summer) we pick up our camels and take an incredible ride across the vast and rolling sand dunes. Back at the auberge this evening, watch a magnificent sun set and star gaze on the terrace. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Desert Auberge

days 5 & 6 - fes

Erg Chebbi - Fes - breakfast. After breakfast, we begin our long but very drive (approx 7 hrs), north

from the desert, up into the High Atlas past the Ziz Gorge and into the Middle Atlas before we finally we descend and reach Fes late afternoon.

The oldest and largest medieval city in the world, Fes is a bustling hive of activity and the medina provides a heady mix of aromas, sights and sounds from the overloaded donkeys, tanneries, spice tubs, carpets and leather goods. On day 6 we take a step back in time as we enjoy a guided tour of the medieval medina in the morning. Spend the afternoon at leisure, exploring or perhaps just relaxing. Lunch (day 5) and overnight (2) - Fes

day 7 - volubilis

Fes - Volubilis - Casablanca - breakfast. Today we leave Fes to see the ruins of the Roman city of Volubilis - stretched out over 40 hectares, these are the most well preserved ruins in Morocco. We take a guided tour of the site, seeing the triumphal arch of Emperor Caracala, the basilica, ornate Corinthian pillars, the intricate mosaics and much more. Leaving Volubilis we journey back to Marrakech to spend a final night in the captivating red city. Overnight - Marrakech

day 8 - marrakech

Saturday - breakfast. Our Moroccan adventure ends today. Hotel check out and onward transfer to the airport.

Useful information

travel insurance

All our passengers must be fully insured for travel in Morocco. Be aware that travel insurance will not usually cover you as standard, for the optional activities such as rock climbing and quad biking. If you are planning to do any of these adventure sports please ensure you obtain the correct level of cover. Your insurance must provide adequate cover for hospital treatment, repatriation flights home, in the event of you being too ill to continue the expedition, trip cancellation for personal reasons, personal accident, personal baggage and associated valuables. You will need to bring the policy with you, as it is obligatory for joining any expedition.

Travellers Cheques can be difficult to change en route, so we recommend you have cash for convenience and bring a credit/debit card to use in the ATM's - most accept Visa, Mastercard, Electron, Cirrus and Maestro. There are ATM's in Marrakech airport, which you can use upon arrival.

The importation or exportation of Moroccan currency is prohibited but any amount of foreign currency can be bought into the country and exchanged at most banks.

tipping

Tipping is customary in Morocco and many rely on it to subsidise their wages. To save you the hassle of tipping we collect a tipping kitty of approx USD \$20. This does not include a tip for your guide. Tipping your guide is a personal gesture and up to you but we do recommend that you tip your guide/driver for a job well done. Suggested amount USD \$20 - 30

what to pack

We recommend you pack all your gear in a rucksack/backpack for this type of trip. Also bring a daypack, to keep personal items such as your wallet, camera, water bottle and valuables to hand.

Sleeping bag - You will need a sleeping bag for your night in the Berber camp

Daypack: Bring also a daypack, to keep personal items such as your wallet, camera, water bottle and valuables to hand.

Clothing: Morocco is very hot in the summer months (June to August), but can become much colder in the winter (November to March), in the desert and throughout the year up in the Atlas Mountains.

In the winter you will need plenty of warm clothing including hat, gloves, scarf and a warm jacket. In the summer lightweight clothing will be fine but we recommend you bring a jacket/sweater and trousers for the evenings and for the night in the desert.

You should check the five day weather forecast online before packing to get an accurate idea of the temperature at each of the destinations you will be visiting.

*The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.

