

go guide

don't leave home without it



tour spotlight

what you see

- Marrakech - UNESCO-listed Place Djemaa el Fna, (medina and marketplace).
- Bahia Palace - 19th century residence of the grand vizier
- Ait Benhaddou - UNESCO-listed fortified kasbah city
- Dades Gorge and Jebel Sarhro
- Erg Chebbi sand dunes - beginning of the Sahara
- Merzouga - camel trek and Berber style camp
- Todra Gorge - towering 300m high canyon
- High Atlas Mountains and views of Mt Toubkal - North Africa's highest peak
- Essaouira (the Moroccan coast) - beach & sun!

what you get

- 10 Breakfasts, 7 lunches and 6 dinners including Berber camp dinner
- 1 night camping, 9 nights 2 - 3 star hotels
- Arrival transfer from Marrakech airport on day 1
- Transportation in a private 4x4/mini van. Supratours public bus to/from Essaouira.
- Escorted by an English speaking tour leader
- Specialist local guides at some sites
- Todra gorge walk
- Sahara camel trek
- Guided tour of Marrakech
- 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

- **ENTRANCE FEES**
Entrance fees are included in your tour.
- **TIPPING**
A small tipping kitty will be collected from all tour participants to cover tips en route. (Payable in local currency)

USD35-45	Your guide (suggested amount)	USD15-25
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- Mineral water (local brand, 500ml or 1L) MAD15
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, local restaurant) MAD100
- Beer (local brew Efes - 330-500ml approx) MAD20
- Chocolate bar (local brand) MAD5-10

things to bring

- A sleeping bag for the Saharan Berber camp
- Lightweight cotton garments in summer, warm clothing for winter (temperatures can get quite low at night)
- Comfortable walking shoes or hiking shoes
- DEET based mosquito repellent & antihistamine cream
- 2 spare passport photos & a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume, torch, money belt

top experiences

- Visit the spectacular Djemma el Fna square
- Lose yourself in the Sahara on camel back
- Revel in laziness in beachside essaouira
- Experience the craziness of the winding maze like alleys of Marrakech's souks (markets)
- Explore the ancient city of Fes
- Enjoy a Christmas/New Year's with a difference in amazing Morocco





marrakech sahara & surf: itinerary

day 1 - marrakech

Saturday. Welcome to Morocco! Upon arrival at Marrakech airport there will be representative from **on the go/Nomadic Expeditions** to meet and transfer you to your hotel. Be sure to arrive in time for your pre-departure meeting at 6:00pm. Dinner and overnight - Marrakech.

day 2 - dades gorge

Marrakech - Dades Gorge - breakfast. Driving through the striking Dades Valley, which extends from the High Atlas to the Jebel Sarhro range in the south, we reach the Dades Gorge - an area with beautiful towering red cliffs, winding streams and ancient kasbahs. Berbers built many kasbahs in the vicinity of gorges for defence purposes. These many kasbahs combined with the stunning natural surroundings make this a beautiful region through which to travel. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Dades Gorge.

day 3 - todra gorge

Marrakech - Todra Gorge - breakfast. The morning is spent at Dades Gorge where you can choose to go on a trek or relax. Next head to the spectacular Todra Gorge. This dusty red canyon is just 10m wide at its narrowest point, with its cliff walls towering above at 300m high and a small glacier stream flowing through it. Witness it's changing colours as the sun slowly moves from east to west. For those feeling adventurous there is the option to rock climb or if in summer you can choose to horse ride - book/pay locally. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Todra Gorge

day 4 - berber camp

Todra Gorge - Berber Camp - breakfast. Crossing the Jebel Sarhro, we head down to Erg Chebbi sand dunes, which signify the start of the mighty Sahara Desert. On camel-back, we trek into the vast and silent Sahara, to a Berber camp. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Berber meal and sleep under the Saharan stars! Lunch, dinner and overnight - berber camp.

day 5 - ouarzazate

Berber Camp - Ouarzazate - breakfast. Leaving the desert, we travel through the verdant Draa valley, along the route of 1000 Kasbahs, a beautiful landscape. We continue on to Ouarzazate, which was once a popular resting place for African traders on their long journeys up to Europe. Ouarzazate has a very large film studio where many great movies have been made, including Alexander the Great, Gladiator, The Last Temptation of Christ and The Living Daylights. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Ouarzazate.

day 6 - ait benhaddou

Ouarzazate - Ait Benhaddou - Marrakech - breakfast. This morning there is the option to visit the film studio or go quad biking (both payable locally). Then we head to Ait Benhaddou, a 'fortified city', situated along the former caravan route between the Sahara and Marrakech. It is situated on a hill along the Ouarzazate River and boasts some beautiful examples of kasbahs, some of which remain inhabited. Granted UNESCO World Heritage listing, it dates back to the 16th Century. Late afternoon we head back to Marrakech. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Marrakech

Please note: Although blankets are provided at the campsite we strongly recommend that you bring your own sleeping bags for hygiene and also for warmth. A sleeping bag is

essential between the months of November and April when temperatures at night plummet.

day 7 - djemaa el fna

Marrakech - breakfast. Glowing red, like a welcoming campfire, against the snowcapped High Atlas Mountains, the very name Marrakech conjures up images of an exotic, distant city, of magic carpets and snake charmers and of frankincense and myrrh brought in by camel trains.

Set within the rose-coloured walls of the medina lies a reality that is not that far removed from an exotic film set - a tangle of winding streets that open onto verdant gardens and dark alleyways that 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 all this is the Koutoubia mosque, the tallest building in the city, and a reminder of the importance of Islam, to the lives of the city's residents.

Enjoy a guided tour of Marrakech in the morning with free time after lunch. Perhaps test your bartering skills, buying souvenirs in the souks! Overnight - Marrakech.

day 8 - essaouira

Marrakech - Essaouira - breakfast. This morning we take the Supratours public bus to Essaouira. With a laid-back feel Essaouira is Morocco's hippest coastal town. The windswept fishing port, broad beaches and ancient walled medina with ramparts built into the cliff have long been a favourite refuge for artists, sculptors, food lovers, surfers and backpackers. The medina surrounded by a fortress with 5 main gates you can navigate by, has retained its traditional styles and is laden with quirky shops, coffee houses, antiques, art studios, calligraphers, t-shirt designers and souvenir curios.

There's a relaxed feel to the place and shopping here is a real delight. Locals and visitors alike enjoy strolling along the ramparts as the sun sets. The port is a hive of activity with fishing boats hauling in their daily catch.

Opt for a swim in the Atlantic, though the water is a little cold this time of year, a game of football on the beach with the locals, an afternoon at the hammam, surfing, wind surfing or kite surfing (very cool to watch, even if you'd rather not participate yourself). The beach is also great for a stroll and since it runs for about 6 miles (10km) there's plenty of it. By nightfall sit back and relax at any one of the many al fresco cafes, pubs or bars serving cold beer and the freshest seafood. Free time to explore Marrakech, try a hammam and practice your bargaining skills in the souks Lunch and overnight - Essaouira

day 9 - explore your way

Essaouira - breakfast. Enjoy a free day relaxing on the beach, topping up your tan, shopping in the quaint village souk or choose from a number of exciting optional activities such as quad biking, horse riding, surfing or wind surfing available about town. Overnight - Essaouira

day 10 - marrakech

Essaouira - Marrakech - breakfast. This morning is free for you to spend at leisure or the final opportunity to try one of the

optional activities. We have lunch in Essaouira before heading back to the hustle and bustle of Marrakech on the Supratours public bus. This evening we all go out for a group meal and celebrate the end of a successful tour! Lunch, dinner and overnight - Marrakech

day 11 - marrakech

Tuesday - breakfast. Our tour concludes upon hotel check out at 12 noon.

Please Note - Travellers who have booked prior to 05 January 2011 are required to pay a local payment of 295 Euro. The tip kitty as featured on page 1 will not be collected as the amount is included in your local payment.

Please note: This tour is run in conjunction with Nomadic Expeditions.

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 policy must also provide adequate cover for hospital treatment, repatriation flights home, in the event of you being too ill to continue the trip, personal accident, personal baggage and associated valuables. You must bring the policy with you as it is obligatory for joining any expedition.

cash up

How much you spend depends largely on individual tastes and how much you eat, drink or shop. We currently recommend an average of USD \$20 - \$30 per day on top of optional excursions.

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

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.

optional activities

We make sure that you have free time whilst touring, in order to relax and enjoy the sights independently. If you prefer to stay active, here are some optional activities, that are available to book locally (prices can vary).

Marrakech - Hammam (starting from)	MAD150
Marrakech - Hot Air Ballooning	MAD2000
Ourika Valley - Tubing/Canyoning/Rafting (seasonal)	MAD660
Ouarzazate - Visit to film studio	MAD50
Ouarzazate - Quad biking	MAD450
Todra Gorge - Rock climbing (summer 1 hr)	MAD250
Essaouira - Quad biking	MAD450
Essaouira - Horse trekking (1 hour)	MAD250
Essaouira - Windsurfing	Ask your guide
Essaouira - Surfing	Ask your guide

*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.



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