

camels souks & kasbahs - 15 days

highlights

inclusions

TOUR MAP

- Meknes - Amazing Imperial City
- Chefchaouen – Overlooked by the Goat Horns Mountains
- Rif Mountains
- Volubilis – UNESCO-listed Roman ruins
- Fes – the world's oldest medieval city
- Todra Gorge - Morocco's Grand Canyon
- Erg Chebbi/Merzouga sand dunes - the Sahara
- Marrakech – Djemaa el Fna, Koutoubia Mosque & souks
- Atlas Mountains - Valley's and waterfalls
- Essaouira – UNESCO-listed medina, great beaches & surf
- Casablanca and King Hassan II mosque
- Rabat - Morocco's lively Capital

- 14 Breakfasts, 3 lunches and 5 dinners
- 13 nights 3★ hotels
- 1 night camping (Sahara Berber camp), Guided tour of Chefchaouen, Fes and Volubilis
- Sahara Camel trek and Berber camp
- Arrival transfer from Marrakech airport on day 1
- All transport and transfers
- Services of 2 person crew (tour leader and driver)
- Entrance fees to included sights
- All road taxes and tolls



go guide

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 cooler - so take a jacket, long-sleeved tops and trousers. In the High Atlas, it can become very cold in winter and some peaks can remain snow capped from November to July.

time

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

voltage

220 Volts. Sockets are of the European, 2 pronged variety. Check www.kropla.com/electric2 for more info.

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 info.

money

GBP 1 = MAD13 USD 1 = MAD8 EUR 1 = MAD 11 AUD 1 = MAD8
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.

tipping

A small tipping kitty will be collected from all tour participants to cover tips en route.

Your guide (suggested amount) USD50-60

USD25-40

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 the optional activities that are available to book locally (prices are approximate).

- Marrakech - hammam MAD75
- Ouarzazate - visit to film studio MAD50
- Todra Gorge - rock climbing (summer 2 hrs) MAD150
- Essaouira - quad biking (1 person, 1 bike) MAD500
- quad biking (2 people 1 bike) MAD600
- horse trekking (half day) MAD200-500
- Fes - Evening of dinner & entertainment MAD200

bits & bobs

- Mineral water (local brand, 500ml or 1L) MAD15
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, a beer) MAD50-100
- Beer (local brew Efes - 500ml approx) MAD20

good advice

bright ideas:

- Bring a sleeping bag and torch for camping.
- Bring spare camera batteries/film/memory card
- If you fancy a tittle, take advantage of Duty Free buys.
- Buy a phrasebook and practice your Arabic.
- Bring a small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- Keep a supply of small notes for local transactions.
- Keep a photocopy of your passport data pages.

final checklist:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visa (if needed) | Passport | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ticket/expedition voucher | Jabs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Insurance | Cash/Credit Card | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flight reconfirmation | Sunscreen, bathers | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5 things to do/see:

- Trek by camel into the Sahara
- Explore the Souks of Fes, a labyrinth of alleyways
- Play it again Sam in Casablanca
- Experience the sights, sounds and smells of stunning Marrakech
- Relax on the unspoilt beaches of Artistic Asilah and Essaouira

5 things to buy:

- Carpet – High Atlas Carpet or a woven & embroidered Kilim
- The burnoose, an elegant hooded cape
- Spices – the variety is enormous
- Art from Asilah or Essaouira
- Traditional pottery & leather in Fes

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FREESTYLE ADVENTURE

go guide

camels souks & kasbahs: itinerary

day 1: marrakech

Saturday. Welcome to Morocco! Be sure to arrive in time for your pre-departure meeting at 18:00, an arrival transfer from Marrakech airport. Your first night will be spent at our pre-expedition hotel. Tonight we enjoy a traditional dinner in the famous Djamma El Fna square. Dinner and overnight - Marrakech.

day 2: rif mountains

Marrakech - Casablanca - Rabat - breakfast. En-route this morning we travel up to Casablanca. Made famous by Humphrey Bogart in the film "Casablanca". We will visit the stunning Hassan II mosque, which has the tallest minaret and the third largest mosque in the world, it can hold 25,000 worshippers at any one time. We then head straight to Rabat to enjoy the evening atmosphere of Morocco's capital city. Overnight - Rabat.

day 3: meknes

Rabat - Meknes - breakfast. We will spend the morning in Morocco's capital city Rabat to visit Oudaia Kasbah, Hassan tower, the Royal Palace and Chellah. After lunch we will move on to the third of our Imperial cities Meknes to enjoy some free time. Overnight - Meknes.

day 4: rif mountains

Meknes - Chefchaouen - breakfast. Chefchaouen, a haven of peace and tranquillity. High up in the Rif mountains, Chefchaouen is a beautiful blue door and white-walled medina that was originally a Berber post. The main square is the heart of Chefchaouen, with the Kasbah (built back in the 18th century), central mosque and cafes with authentic menus. The busy market is a mix of traditional Moroccan and tourist fare. Overnight - Chefchaouen

days 5 - 6: volubilis & fes

Chefchaouen - Volubilis - Fes - breakfast. En route for the imperial city of Fes, we take a tour of the Roman ruins at Volubilis, the largest ancient site of Morocco. UNESCO-listed, the site dates back to AD40 and once ruled the entire Roman province of Mauritania. On to bustling Fes this afternoon, the oldest and largest medieval city in the world. Its medina is a heady mix of aromas, sounds and sights. To navigate, follow one of the five, themed tourist circuits. There are plenty of palaces to visit and many mosques you can take a peep at from the door.

On day 6 we enjoy a guided tour including exploring the dye-pits and tanneries. The after noon offers free time for you to further explore. Tonight you can opt to join us for a night of Moroccan entertainment and food at a down town restaurant. Lunch and overnight - Fes.

day 7: midelt

Fes - Midelt - breakfast. This morning we journey over the Moyen Atlas to stop at Midelt. This is a beautiful alpine area. Surrounded by huge pine trees and a tranquil mountain setting, this is a great spot to cool down and relax after the hustle and bustle of Fes. We will enjoy a small hike in the afternoon. We spend the night in this mountain location. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Midelt

day 8: saharan bereber camp

Midelt - Sahara Berber Camp - breakfast. Today we enjoy a stunning drive rewarded by a top Moroccan lunch and an afternoon relaxing and swimming. After we head out to towards the the Erg Chebbi dunes located near

the remote frontier town of Merzouga. The dunes are renowned for their incredible height and size. In parts the vast sand pile reaches skyward to heights of 150 metres! Transferring to our camels we trek into the Sahara for a night at our Berber Camp. Tonight enjoy a local meal, music and an amazing night out under the Saharan stars. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Sahara Desert Camp

day 9: todra gorge

Erg Chebbi - Todra Gorge - breakfast. Leaving the desert, we move on to Todra Gorge. This 1000ft gorge is hemmed in on all sides by vertical limestone cliffs and is also called Morocco's Grand Canyon. There's time to explore the gorge, from its plunging depths to dizzying heights. The charm of Todra lies in its changing colours as the sun slowly moves from east to west. If you're feeling adventurous, there is the option to rock climb. Dinner and overnight - Todra.

day 10: ait behaddou

Todra - Dades Valley - Ait Behaddou - breakfast. Leaving the impressive Todra Gorge we make the short journey to Gorge du Dades in the Dades valley, a green and fertile valley by the Dades River that flows through it giving life to a huge variety of colourful fruit and nut trees and extraordinary red rock formations. After lunch we tour the famous Ait Behaddou Kasbah, where Lawrence of Arabia was once filmed. Dinner and overnight - Ait Behaddou

days 11 & 12: essaouira

Ait Behaddou - Essaouira - breakfast. Today's drive offers panoramic views as we traverse the high Atlas Mountains on our way to Essaouira. A colourful old city and fishing village is located within 15th century Portuguese fortifications. Just outside the town great beaches and an Atlantic surf beckon.

Relax on the beach or alternatively explore the UNESCO-listed medina with its various souks and woodcarving workshops. Any city gate leads to the Medina, so you're unlikely to get lost. The beach is in front of the Medina and there are plenty of cafés with terraces, both ideal for relaxing for a few hours. Blue doors and window frames abound as do the artists shops - buy a carpet or Thuya wood carving or sit on the beach sipping a mint tea as the sun sets, an antidote to the bustle of the Imperial cities. You will have the option to take part in horse trekking or quad biking. Overnight - Essaouira

days 13 & 14: marrakech

Essaouira - Marrakech - breakfast. We take the new highway back to Marrakech, the final one of Morocco's four Imperial cities we visit on this tour. Marrakech set against the snow-capped Atlas Mountains. Its great pride and landmark is the Koutoubia Tower, sister to the Tower of Hassan in Rabat and the Giralda Tower in Seville. It is said that after the third of these was completed, the sultan had the eyes of his architect put out, lest he should build another more beautiful tower elsewhere. A visit to the city would not be complete without a tour of the UNESCO-listed Djemaa el Fna - an extraordinary gathering and market place. Overnight - Marrakech

day 15: marrakech

Marrakech - breakfast. Spend the morning relaxing or picking up a few last minute souvenirs. 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 250Euro. The tip kitty as featured on page 1 will not be collected as the amount is included in your local payment.

This expedition is run in conjunction with the go tours and Nomadic Expeditions.

Useful info for your expedition:

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. We are happy to arrange your travel insurance for you, just contact our reservations team for details. If you choose to purchase insurance independently, it must also provide adequate cover for hospital treatment, repatriation flights home, in the event of you being too ill to continue the expedition or safari, trip cancellation for personal reasons, 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 cards to use in the ATM's - most accept Visa, Mastercard, Electron, Cirrus and Maestro. The importation or exportation of Moroccan currency is prohibited but any amount of foreign currency can be bought into the currency and be exchanged at most banks.

what to pack & bring

Don't over do it! Luggage is limited to 20 KILOGRAMMES. Pack sensibly and consider garments that are easily washable, comfortable and cool. Morocco is warm to very hot, though after the sun sets the temperature can plummet so it's suggested you pack accordingly.

- Rucksack
- 1 sleeping bag (2/3 season)
- Day pack rucksack
- Money belt
- 1 inner sheet
- Laundry bag for soiled clothes
- 1 pair sandals
- 2 pair shorts
- 3 or more tee shirts
- 2 long sleeved tops
- Hat and sunglasses
- Camera
- Small sewing kit
- Binoculars
- Wash bag including toiletries.
- Personal water bottle
- Personal medical kit
- HF sunscreen
- Pocket knife
- 1 pair sturdy walking boots
- Socks and underwear
- 1 pair long pants/jeans
- warm sweater/fleece
- Towel and swimwear
- Waterproof anorak
- Plenty of film & spare batteries
- Writing material or travel diary
- Torch & batteries

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 GOBUS 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 GOBUS

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