

Christmas in Morocco 8 days



Make your way to magical Morocco this Christmas, a short hop from Europe but worlds apart. An exotic land of spices, ancient Kasbahs, rolling Saharan sands, verdant valleys and bustling souks.

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Marrakech / Ends in: Marrakech
- Departs: 23 December 2015
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 7, Lunch: 4, Dinner: 5
- Hotel Rating: 3 star
- Tour Guide: Yes, escorted by a tour guide

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - [click here](#)
- To book this trip - [click here](#)
- To enquire about this trip - [click here](#)

TOUR MAP:



QUICK WEB LINKS

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Day 1:

23rd Dec 2015. Welcome to Morocco! Arrival transfer from Marrakech airport to our hotel. This evening (at 19:00) our welcome meeting takes place, where you'll meet your tour leader and fellow travellers. Overnight - [Marrakech](#)

Day 2:

Marrakech - Dades Gorge. Leaving Marrakech, we drive through the Dades Gorge, an awesome valley which extends from the High Atlas to the Jebel Sarhro range in the south. Berbers built many kasbahs in the vicinity of gorges for defense purposes. These many kasbahs, combined with their stunning setting, make this a beautiful region through which to travel. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Overnight - [Dades Gorge](#)

Day 3:

Dades Gorge - Todra Gorge. Merry Christmas! The morning is spent at Dades Gorge where you can choose to trek or relax. After lunch we visit to a traditional Berber home where the semi nomadic family have set up a co-operative for the trade of carpets, kilims and handicrafts for all the rural communities across the Atlas. The remainder of the afternoon is spent taking in the remarkable and sheer brilliance of Todra Gorge, opt to go rock climbing (subject to weather conditions, book and pay locally) or just relax and enjoy the day with a great Xmas dinner in the beautiful surroundings. Overnight - [Todra Gorge](#)



Day 4:

Todra Gorge - Erg Chebbi sand dunes. Crossing the Jebel Sarhro, we head down to Erg Chebbi sand dunes, which signify the start of the mighty Sahara Desert. In parts the vast sand pile reaches skyward to heights of 150 metres!

The desert winds ensure this astonishing landscape is forever changing and no two days offer the same panorama. Mounting our camels, we trek across the vast rolling dunes of the Sahara and soak up the breathtaking scenery. Arriving at our simple Berber camp, we enjoy dinner and a night under the Saharan stars. Wrap

up warm and remember your winter weight sleeping bag.

Overnight - Berber Camp



Day 5:

Erg Chebbi - Ouarzazate. After a stunning sunrise and our camel ride back to the frontier post (camel HQ) there is time to freshen up before driving to the verdant Draa valley, along the route of 1000 Kasbahs.

Besides the natural, historical and architectural wonders that the Draa Valley offers, there are also small villages along the valley where time appears to have stood still. We continue on to Ouarzazate, where African traders once stopped on their journeys up to Europe. Overnight - [Ouarzazate](#)

Day 6:

Ouarzazate - Ait Benhaddou - Marrakech. In the morning either visit the Ouarzazate film studio that produced Lawrence of Arabia or opt to go Quad Biking (book and pay locally) before driving onward to the legendary Ait Benhaddou.

Ait Benhaddou - a 'fortified city' situated along the former caravan route between the Sahara and Marrakech, boasts some beautiful examples of ancient kasbahs. Only a handful of which remain inhabited. Granted UNESCO World Heritage listing, this incredible site had been the setting for many films including Gladiator. After exploring Ait Benhaddou we travel back to Marrakech. Overnight - [Marrakech](#)

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Day 7:

This morning we tour magical Marrakech, an exotic pink city of snake charmers, steamy hammams, bustling souks and hidden palaces. The focal point and highlight of the city is the Koutoubia mosque and Djemaa el Fna - the central square, which is an extraordinary market place full of colour, music, spicy aromas and traders. Best seen in the evening when the square is overflowing with food stalls, dancers, acrobats, fortune tellers, musicians and henna artists.

This afternoon and evening is free for you to explore independently, soak up the incredible atmosphere and test your bartering skills in the souks. Perhaps pamper yourself with a steamy hammam! Overnight - [Marrakech](#)



Day 8:

30th December 2015. Our Moroccan adventure concludes after breakfast. Happy travels! If you would like to extend your trip and spend New Year's Eve in Marrakech or by the coast in Essaouira, take a look at our Rock the Kasbah or Surf the New Year tour.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour.

Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Marrakech - UNESCO-listed Place Djemaa el Fna (ancient medina, souks and market place)
- Bahia Palace - 19th Century palatial residence of the grand vizier Sidi Moussa & Koutoubia Mosque.
- High Atlas Mountains and views of Mt Toubkal - North Africa's highest peak
- Dades Gorge - valley of the roses
- Todra Gorge - towering red canyon
- Merzouga - Berber village and start point for our camel trek into the great Sahara
- Erg Chebbi sand dunes - beginning of the Sahara
- Ouarzazate - home to Morocco's film industry. Opt for a visit.
- Ait Benhaddou - UNESCO-listed fortified kasbah city

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners including a traditional Berber meal in the Sahara
- 6 nights 3 star hotel accommodation and 1 night camping - Berber desert camp in the Sahara
- Arrival transfer from Marrakech airport on day 1
- Camel trek into the great Sahara
- Guided tour of Marrakech
- Escorted by an English speaking tour leader
- Specialist local guides at some sites
- All transportation and transfers in private mini van/touring vehicle
- All road taxes and tolls

What's Not Included

- Gratuity for your tour guide & driver. Budget approx USD\$2 - 3 per person per day. Tipping your tour guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture.
- International flights and visa
- Note: On some road journeys, the tour leader may not be in your particular vehicle
- Entrance Fees: \$20-30 USD
- Tipping Kitty: \$50 USD

PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$1,389

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, (if another solo traveller of the same sex is already booked upon the tour), thus

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avoiding the single person supplement. All our scheduled tour departures are guaranteed subject to a minimum of 2 travellers.

2015

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
23 DEC - 30 DEC	USD \$1,389	USD \$429

HOTELS:

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

El Andalous Hotel & Spa - Marrakech

The hotel El Andalous is with a Moorish decor and sumptuous gardens and it evokes the golden age of Arab-Andalusian culture; exotic and romantically rich. This distinguished hotel opens onto a landscaped garden which is a haven of scents and colors.



Hotel Tomboctou - Todra Gorge

Formerly the residence of Sheikh Bassou Ou Ali, the Hotel Tomboctou is an authentic Kasbah of soil that was fully refurbished in 1994. The 14 charming rooms are blessed with typical warming Moroccan themes, are fully air conditioned and equipped with excellent en suite facilities. The refreshing outdoor pool is perfect for relaxing by and meals are served in either the tent or earthen hall. Why not try local delicacies like traditional tagine or Berber omelette? Well located close to Tinehir and popular Todra Gorge.



Les Jardins - Ouarzazate

A fairly new hotel in Ouarzazate, the Hotel les Jardins is in the traditional style of Kasbah, with spacious rooms. The hotel is set in manicured gardens.



POSTCARDS:

Here's what some of our past travellers have written in to us and said about their experiences on this trip.

Hi Charlie, Just wanted to say a massive thank you for organising such a fantastic holiday. It was definitely the best trip I have ever been on and I've made some lifelong friends. Everything was planned perfectly and it was great to sit back and go with the flow. I'll definitely be booking Egypt through On The Go later this year! Have a great New Year.

Tom Winch, Dec 2012

The tour was excellent. Aziz, our guide, was marvellous - very helpful, mature, adaptable, knowledgeable and really a pleasure to talk to. Omar - the driver was great and demonstrated good knowledge of the roads. We enjoyed the whole tour.

Naama Gelber, Jan 2012

Fantastic warm guide - Aziz. Good info imparted at good intervals along the trip. Laid back attitude and friendly to everyone. Aziz really knows how to lead a group as well as letting the group members explore independently at some points. Thank you and Happy New Year!

Frances Edwards, Jan 2012

Amazing, friendly team always there to help! Good response, they really did a superb job. FANTASTICO!

Rolando Cardenas, Feb 2010

Fantastic hospitality and really enjoyed travelling with the group and fantastic tour guides, esp Brahmin. The sand dunes and the staff were

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my favourite things. Thank you very much!

[Tsuyoshi Kihara, Jan 2010](#)

The tour guides were very good! Friendly and helpful. I would recommend this trip. Thanks for a great holiday!

[Astrid Dugue, Jan 2010](#)

Great tour, trekking into the Sahara was an unforgettable experience. The guides were great, really made us feel looked after and nothing was too much trouble. A fantastic Xmas experience!

[Hatem Keshk, Jan 2010](#)

I very much enjoyed the berber camp - spending the night in the open air. The camp was well set up, clean and relaxing. Wathing sunrise from the top od the big dune next to the berber camp was definitely the highlight. Aziz was a great guide with good sense of humour.

[Andres Brady, Jan 2010](#)
