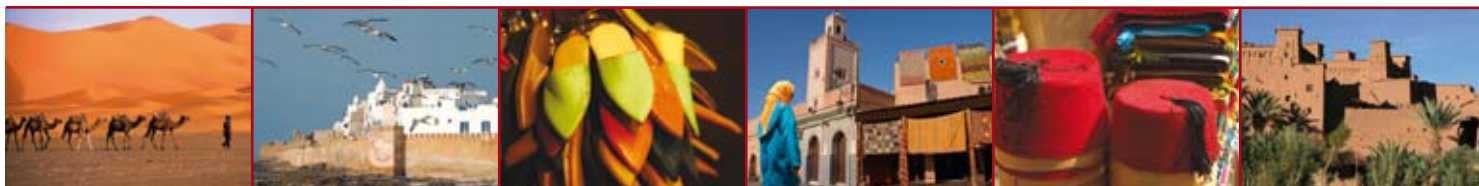


go guide

don't leave home without it



a world of discovery



tour spotlight

what you see

- Marrakech - Koutoubia Mosque, UNESCO-listed Place Djemâa el-Fna and souks
- High Atlas Mountains
- Gorge du Dades "Valley of Roses"
- Todra Gorge
- Erg Chebbi sand dunes - beginning of the Sahara
- Merzouga - camel trek, Berber style camp
- Ouarzazate
- Ait Benhaddou - UNESCO-listed ancient fortified kasbah city

Local payment: 220 Euros

what you get

- Arrival transfer from Marrakech airport on day 1
- 7 Breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners including a Berber camp dinner
- 1 night camping, 6 nights 2-3 ★ hotel
- Transport in fully equipped expedition truck/mini van
- Services of 1 or 2 person crew (leader and/or driver)
- Gorge Du Dades trek
- Sahara camel trek
- Guided tour of Marrakech
- 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

In winter (October to April), temperatures in Morocco usually remain pleasant in the cities and on the coast. In Marrakech the temperature in December averages between 18 - 20 °c. However is very cold at nights, in the desert and in the Atlas mountains, where temperatures have been known to drop below freezing. So take plenty of warm clothes including jacket, long-sleeved tops, jumpers/fleece, hat & gloves and trousers.

time

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

money

GBP£1.00 = MAD12 USD\$1.00 = MAD9 EUR1.00 = MAD11
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?

- **Local Payment** - This will be collected by your tour leader at the welcome meeting on day 1. It is payable in Euros Cash. **285 Euros**
- Mineral water (local brand, 500ml or 1L) **MAD15**
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, a beer, local restaurant) **MAD50-100**
- Beer (local brew Efes - 330-500ml approx) **MAD20**
- Chocolate bar (local brand) **MAD5-10**

final checklist

- Visa (if needed) Passport
- Tour voucher Vaccinations
- Sleeping bag Travel Insurance
- Flight ticket/reconfirmation Cash/Credit Card

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 are approximate).

- Marrakech - hammam **MAD75**
- Ouarzazate -
 - quad biking (1 person 1 bike) **MAD500**
 - quad biking (2 people 1 bike) **MAD600**
 - visit to film studio **MAD50**
- Todra Gorge - rock climbing **MAD150**

things to bring

- Rucksack and a day pack/bag for day to day items
- A winter weight sleeping bag for night in the desert
- Towel - most hotels do not provide them
- Torch and batteries
- Camera and spare memory card/film
- Mosquito repellent
- Water bottle
- Personal first aid kit
- Swimming costume/shorts if you want a Hammam
- Comfortable pair of trainers/walking shoes
- Two spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport





moroccan xmas capers: itinerary

day 1: 23rd Dec - marrakech

Welcome to Morocco! Upon arrival at the airport, you will be met by a **on the go**/Nomadic Expeditions representative and transferred to your hotel, in the centre of town. Be sure to arrive in time for your pre-departure meeting at 6:00pm. Dinner and overnight - Marrakech.

day 2: gorges du dades

Marrakech - Gorge Du Dades - breakfast. Leaving Marrakech, we drive through the Gorges du Dades, an awesome valley which extends from the High Atlas to the Jebel Saghrou range in the south. Berbers built many kasbahs in the vicinity of gorges for defence purposes. These many kasbahs combined with the stunning natural setting makes this a beautiful region through which to travel. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Gorge du Dades.

day 3: todra gorge

Gorge Du Dades - Todra Gorge - breakfast. Merry Christmas! This morning enjoy a guided walk at Gorge du Dades before our drive to Todra Gorge this afternoon. Spend what remains of the day exploring the spectacular Todra Gorge, from its plunging depths to its awesome heights. Witness it's changing colours as the sun slowly moves from east to west. For those feeling very active, there is the option to rock climb (payable locally). Lunch, dinner and overnight - Todra Gorge

day 4: erg chebbi

Todra - Berber Camp - breakfast. Crossing the Jebel Saghrou, we head down to Erg Chebbi sand dunes where we trek into the desert to a berber camp, for a local Berber meal and a night under the Saharan stars. Lunch, dinner and overnight - berber camp.

day 5 : route of 1000 kasbahs

Berber Camp - Ouarzazate - breakfast. Leaving the desert, we travel along the route of 1000 Kasbahs, through the Draa Valley. We continue on to Ouarzazate, which is home to a large film studio where many famous films have been produced, such as The Living Daylight and The Last Temptation of Christ. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Ouarzazate.

day 6: aït benhaddou

Ouarzazate - Ait Benhaddou - Marrakech - breakfast. This morning there is the option to visit the film studio or go quad biking (payable locally). This afternoon we head to Aït Benhaddou, a 'fortified city', situated along the former caravan route

between the Sahara and Marrakech. It is located on a hill along the Ouarzazate River and boasts some beautiful examples of ancient kasbahs, some of which remain inhabited. Granted UNESCO World Heritage listing, the site had been the setting for many films including Lawrence of Arabia and Gladiator. Late this afternoon we travel back to Marrakech. Lunch, dinner and overnight - Marrakech.

day 7: djemâa-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. The focal point is the central square, the Djemâa-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. And towering over all this is the Koutoubia mosque, the tallest building in the city. Enjoy a guided tour in the morning and spend the afternoon at leisure. Perhaps test out your bartering skills, purchasing some last minute souvenirs! Lunch, dinner and overnight - Marrakech.

day 8: marrakech

Marrakech - breakfast. The trip ends after breakfast.

PLEASE NOTE: This expedition is run in conjunction with Nomadic Expeditions.

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 trip, personal accident, personal baggage and associated valuables. You must bring the policy with you as it is obligatory for joining any expedition.

cached up

How much you spend depends largely on individual tastes and often how much you eat, drink or shop. We currently recommend an average of USD

\$20 - \$30 per day on top of optional excursions. We can't specify every sundry cost however you need to allow for expenses such as drinks, snacks, postage and the odd souvenir.

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 at 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 an entirely personal gesture and we do not collect a tipping kitty, but do recommend that you tip your guide/driver for a job well done. We suggest you budget approximately USD \$15 - \$25 for tipping.

luggage

We recommend that 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 camera, water bottle and money in.

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 winter weight sleeping bag for your night in the desert

Clothing: Despite being a winter sun destination Morocco can be cold in the winter (November to March), especially at nights, in the desert and in the Atlas Mountains. You will need plenty of warm clothing including hat, gloves, scarf and a coat.

Check the five day weather forecast online before packing to gain an accurate idea of the temperature at each of the destinations you will be visiting.

hotels

Please note: In smaller towns, the choice of accommodation is limited but we will always book the best accommodation available for our groups. Moroccan hotels do not always have heating, especially in remote locations such as Todra Gorge and Gorge du Dades. Todra Gorge does not have a mains electricity supply, therefore all hotels in the area use generators, which are turned off through the night so it's back to basics and candlelight!

*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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