

Casablanca & Coast

7 days | Starts/Ends: Casablanca



See the world's tallest minaret in Casablanca, browse the exuberant Djemaa el Fna marketplace and explore the rose-coloured medina in Marrakech, and relax by the coast in Essaouira on this easy-paced week long Moroccan holiday.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Essaouira - Spend three days in this charming seaside city on the Atlantic Coast
- Marrakech - Discover the UNESCO-listed medina, mosque, palaces and souks
- Casablanca - Explore Morocco's largest city and visit the famous Hassan II mosque

What's Included

- Breakfast daily
- 6 nights 3-4 star hotels
- Guided sightseeing - Casablanca and Marrakech
- Escorted by a licensed English speaking Moroccan tour guide
- Specialist guides in some cities
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 7

- All transportation and transfers in private air-conditioned tourism vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$20-30pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$30-50pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide and driver. We recommend you allow USD\$2-3 per day, per traveller for your guide and USD\$1-2 per day, per traveller for your driver. Tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Welcome to Casablanca
Friday. Upon arrival at the airport in Casablanca, you'll be met and transferred to our hotel in the city. The remainder of the day is free for you enjoy at your own leisure. Why not find a restaurant in town to try the local cuisine? **Overnight - Casablanca**

Day 2 : Hassan II Mosque & free time in Casablanca



Casablanca - Marrakech. Enjoy a free morning exploring the sights of Casablanca at your own pace. After lunch we visit the Hassan II Mosque, which has the tallest minaret and is the third largest mosque in the world - it can hold 25,000 worshippers at any one time. After our visit to the mosque we continue on to Marrakech for the night.

Journey time: Approx 3 hours
Overnight - Marrakech (B)

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Day 3 : Guided city tour of Marrakech & famous medina



Marrakech – Essaouira. First thing today we enjoy a guided city tour of Marrakech. Inside the rose coloured medina walls is a tangle of winding streets and alleys that open onto verdant gardens and bustling souks. At the heart of the medina is Djemaa El Fna, the city's exuberant market place and towering over it, is the famous Koutoubia Mosque. Later this afternoon we start our journey to Essaouira on Morocco's Atlantic Coast via private transfer, and upon arrival enjoy a free evening. Why not find a restaurant in the charming old town and try the local cuisine.

Journey time: Approx 3 hours
Overnight – Essaouira (B)

Days 4-6 : Free time in coastal Essaouira



Essaouira – Casablanca. Spend the next three days exploring the sights and delights of Essaouira at your own pace. Set on the rugged shores of the breezy Atlantic Coast, this charming seaside city offers a welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of Marrakech. While away the days here exploring its winding streets lined with whitewash houses, picking your way through the

shops in its ancient medina, or by sitting at an ocean-facing restaurant sipping on a cup of coffee. During the warmer months why not try some water sports too, as the windy shores here offer ideal conditions for wind and kite surfing. On the evening of day 6 a private transfer will take you back to Casablanca for the night.

Journey time: Approx 4.5 hours (day 6)
Overnight – Essaouira (2), Casablanca (1) (B:3)

Day 7 : Goodbye Morocco

Thursday. Our amazing tour of Morocco ends today after hotel check out. An included onward departure transfer to airport will be provided.(B)

ACCOMMODATION

Highlighted below are some of the accommodation/ hotels which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these stays to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel or start point and further arrival information.

Hotel Diwan

Located close to the city centre, Hotel Diwan is a contemporary hotel just a short walk from the main train station. The modern guest rooms are air conditioned with flat screen TVs and en suite facilities. The onsite restaurant offers a buffet breakfast every morning as well as an array of international cuisine in the evenings for dinner. The hotel also has an on site gym, spa and complimentary wi-fi is available.



Riad Zahri

This intimate Riad has just 9 rooms whilst also offering an array of spa features including Turkish steam bath,

massage treatments and Turkish baths as well as an indoor pool. If you are feeling a little more energetic you can enjoy hiking, horse-back riding and golf in the surrounding area. The accommodation is situated in the heart of Marrakesh, near Rahba Kedima Square. Attractions within an easy drive include Jardin Majorelle Garden, Koutoubia Mosque and Saadian Tombs and the riad is an easy 15 minutes' walk to the city centre.

Adam Park Hotel & Spa

Guests can expect a very comfortable stay at the Adam Park Hotel & Spa. Each of the elegant rooms feature a patio or balcony with views of the surrounding area. Guests are spoilt for choice when it comes to dining. Several restaurants offer a variety of options including Italian specialities, Moroccan favourites and international cuisine. There are also plenty of ways to unwind after a day exploring Marrakech, with an outdoor pool, fitness centre and a spa offering rejuvenating massage treatments.



Atlas Essaouira and Spa

The elegant Atlas Essaouira & Spa is set on Essaouira's beachfront, with its own private stretch of sand. The hotel is ideally located to enjoy the range of activities on offer in the area, such as horseback riding and canoeing, along with exploring the historic medina of Essaouira. Alternatively kick back and relax at the hotel which has two lovely swimming pools along with a poolside bar and delightful terrace. Or for a spot of pampering head to the hotel spa with its traditional hammam. There's also a fitness centre on site and the hotel has a choice of two restaurants. A traditional Moroccan and Mediterranean restaurant and a

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beachfront restaurant serving seafood and grilled dishes. While comfort is guaranteed in the air-conditioned guestrooms, which are bright, modern and spacious, with satellite TV, WiFi and a mini bar.



Riad Zahra

Located in the residential district, the Zahra offers calm, relaxation and a peaceful stay. Its comfortable guestrooms are decorated in traditional Moroccan style and are equipped with an en suite and satellite TV. The property has a restaurant serving Moroccan and international specialities. There is another restaurant that serves grilled dishes. Riad Zahra is an ideal starting point for nautical activities or to discover Essaouira and the surrounding area. For your entertainment, the hotel proposes numerous activities including desert trips in a 4x4, surfing and kite surfing lessons.



BEFORE YOU GO

Entrance fees

Entrance fees are not included in the price of your tour, although reasonably priced. We collect the entrance fees at the Welcome Meeting on day 1 (the amount is noted under exclusions on the first page of this document). A breakdown of the entrance fee total is provided upon arrival. Entrance fees and optional excursions that you may wish to undertake are payable in local

currency – Moroccan Dirhams. USD, Euro or GBP are accepted at the current exchange rate.

Tipping kitty

A tipping kitty (the amount is noted under 'what is not included' on page one of this document), will be collected by your guide at the Welcome Meeting on day 1. This is payable in Moroccan Dirhams. USD, Euro or GBP is also accepted at the current exchange rate. The tipping kitty is distributed throughout your tour to hotel porters, hotel waiters, local guides for city tours, airport transfer drivers, Berber camel herders and local restaurant tips.

The tipping kitty does not include a tip for your guide or driver. For a job well done, we suggest you budget approx USD\$2-3 per day, per traveller for your guide and USD\$1-2, per day, per traveller for your driver/s (payable in local currency). Tipping your guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Guides & groups

Some of our group tours are sectors of a larger tour. Some travellers on your tour may only travel with you for part of your tour. It also might be that you end your holiday part way through a longer tour and others in the group continue on. As such, you may have more than one guide during your holiday.

In order that we show the best of Morocco in a non-hurried fashion to you, it is imperative you are ready for departure each day. Please do not delay and inconvenience fellow travellers. It is your responsibility to be at the proposed meeting point for the group in time. We will depart at our specified times.

Please note: If there is only one passenger on the Imperial Morocco & The Blue City tour returning to Marrakech on day 7, then instead of driving, we will arrange a flight from Fes to Marrakech and airport

transfers to and from each airport, whilst passengers on the Magical Morocco tour will continue with their touring arrangements. For groups of 2+ passengers on the Imperial Morocco & The Blue City sector, we will return to Marrakech in an air-conditioned vehicle.

Optional activities

During your free time in Morocco you are welcome head out and independently explore, relax or take part in any of the following optional activities, time permitting. These activities are not operated by On The Go Tours and it is important that you make sure that Quad Biking and Hot Air Ballooning are covered by your travel insurance provider. Prices are indicative and bookings made locally.

Marrakech: Hammam – From MAD150

Marrakech: Hot air ballooning – MAD2000

Ouarzazate: Visit to Film Studio – MAD50

Ouarzazate: Quad biking – MAD450

Morocco Country Guide

Welcome to Morocco – Arrival transfer

We provide a complimentary airport arrival transfer on day 1 of your tour or if you arrive early and have booked pre tour accommodation with us. Please proceed to the arrivals hall and look for our representative holding an On The Go Tours sign. Pre and post tour accommodation can be arranged upon request, please contact us for rates.

If you are arriving earlier and you have booked your accommodation independently, you will need to make your own way to our start hotel, which will be centrally located. The hotel name and address can be found on your Tour Voucher.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall)

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or your flight to Morocco is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Morocco.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/Morocco/Visas

Shopping

Morocco is a shoppers' paradise. The souks of Fes, Marrakech and Meknes are full of pottery, carpets and kilims, leather goods, spices and cloth. Keep space in your backpack for your purchases! Best buys are: carpets – from the High Atlas mountains or a woven and embroidered Kilim; the burnoose, an elegant hooded cape; spices; or traditional pottery and leathers from Fes.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from

On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling. While tap water in Morocco is generally considered safe to drink in main cities, it is not advisable in smaller towns and remote areas. Drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants.

Packing List

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- Lightweight cotton garments in summer, warm clothing for winter (temperatures can get quite low at night)
- Comfortable walking shoes or hiking shoes
- Universal travel adaptor
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- First aid kit including Dioralyte
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume, torch and money belt
- Either a rucksack or suitcase is suitable. A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- A towel for swimming

- A torch for your night in the Sahara Desert
- If travelling on our Handpicked Morocco tours a sleeping bag is required for the Sahara Desert camp is required if travelling between Oct – Apr, a cotton sleep sheet will be adequate if travelling from May to September (Signature group tour travellers do not need this, as bedding is provided)

Drones are not permitted

It is forbidden to bring drones into Morocco (even small ones that might fit in hand luggage), a special permit has to be arranged with the appropriate department in Rabat and this can take months to arrange.

Note: If you are travelling on our **Mount Toubkal Trek** please refer to the Trekking Packing List.

Hotels

The hotels in Morocco are clean, comfortable and centrally located. We try to utilise local and traditional hotels with plenty of character wherever possible. In smaller towns, the choice of accommodation is often limited, but we will always book the best accommodation available for our travellers. Please be aware that hotels in Morocco are not of the same standard as Western hotels and facilities can be more basic.

It's not like home, what to expect & Ramadan

Travel to far-flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

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Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Morocco/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, etiquette, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare for your holiday.

RAMADAN

Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world and adherents of the Muslim faith fast during daylight hours and break their fast with lavish meals and lively celebrations in the evening. Ramadan culminates a month later in a 3 day celebration called Eid al - Fitr. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan. As such we will start our tour earlier during this period to make the best use of time and itineraries will be slightly altered to ensure we visit all attractions, leisure time will be offered in the late afternoon. Non-Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street. NOTE: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially toward the time of breaking the fast. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are as follows, (approximate) 22 Mar - 20 Apr 2023 & 10 Mar - 08 Apr 2024.

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