

Rock the Kasbah

10 Days | Starts/Ends: Marrakech



A Christmas of changing colours at Todra Gorge, impressive Kasbahs at Ait Benhaddou, camping under Saharan stars and ringing in the New Year in enchanting Marrakech, Guaranteed to be a festive season to remember!

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Marrakech - UNESCO-listed Place Djemaa el Fna, (medina, souks and market place)
- High Atlas Mountains and views of Mt Toubkal - North Africa's highest peak
- Dades Gorge - 'Valley of the Roses and Jebel Sarhro
- Erg Chebbi sand dunes - reaching some 150m high
- Merzouga - Berber village and start point for our camel trek into the great Sahara
- Ouarzazate - opt to visit the film studio
- Ait Benhaddou - UNESCO-listed fortified kasbah city

What's Included

- 9 Breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners including a traditional Berber meal at our Sahara camp

- 8 nights 3 - 4 star accommodation, 1 night Berber Camp in the Sahara Desert. (Hotel upgrade available)
- Arrival transfer from Marrakech airport on day 1
- All transportation and transfers in private air-conditioned tourism vehicles
- Camel trek into the great Sahara
- Guided sightseeing of Merzouga, Dades Gorge, Ait Benhaddou and Marrakech
- Escorted by a licensed English speaking Moroccan tour guide
- Specialist local guides at some sites
- All road taxes and tolls

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$30-40pp, paid in USD or local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$30-50pp, paid in USD or local currency
- International flights and visa
- 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
- Note: On some road journeys, the tour leader may not be in your particular vehicle

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Marrakech

23 December 2019. Seasons Greetings and welcome to Morocco. Arrival transfer from the airport to our hotel. This evening (at 19:00) our welcome meeting takes place where you will meet your tour leader and fellow travellers.

Overnight - Marrakech

Day 2 : Ait Benhaddou

Marrakech – Ait Benhaddou – Skoura. This morning we drive onwards to the legendary 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 onwards to Skoura where we have an evening at leisure.

Overnight - Skoura (B, L, D)

Day 3 : Xmas in Dades Gorge



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Skoura – Dades Gorge. Merry Christmas! We spend the morning visiting the kasbah Amherdhil before continuing to Gorge du Dades in the Dades valley. On arrival we take some time to explore the gorges, palmeries and kasbah ruins. We then have the evening to relax before enjoying a great Xmas dinner in the beautiful surroundings.

Overnight - Dades Gorge (B, L, D)

Day 4 : Camel trek & Sahara



Todra Gorge - Erg Chebbi. Crossing Jebel Sarhro, we enjoy lunch and a swim before travelling down to Erg Chebbi sand dunes, the start point of the mighty Sahara Desert. The Erg Chebbi dunes located near the remote frontier town of Merzouga are renowned for their incredible height and size. 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 take in the breath-taking scenery. Arriving at our simple Berber camp, we enjoy dinner, music and a night under the Saharan stars, before retiring to our tents for the evening. Wrap up warm!

If you would prefer the comfort of a hotel with en-suite facilities this evening, opt for our Sahara hotel alternative at no additional cost. Please do let us know your preferred option at the time of booking.

Overnight - Merzouga (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Erg Chebbi

Erg Chebbi – Agdz – Ouarzazate. Today we travel through Mercissi and Nkob in the Saghro Mountain region, passing the incredible rock formations and wells that have been dug over centuries by the nomads to get

access to water, along the way. Onwards to the small town of Agdz, with its Palmeries, ancient Kasbahs and incredible views of Jebel Kissane Mountain. Our final stop of the day is Ouarzazate – Morocco's film capital. This evening we enjoy a group meal together.

Overnight - Ouarzazate (B, L, D)

Day 6 : Ouarzazate



Ouarzazate – Marrakech. Famous for being a prime filming location for many Hollywood TV shows and Blockbusters, we have the opportunity to explore the World's largest film studio this morning. Be sure to explore the iconic Colosseum used in 'Gladiator' and the prop jet used in 'Jewel of the Nile'. Carrying on we continue to Kasbah Telouet. Built in 1860 this kasbah was once home to the very wealthy Thami El Glaoui until he conspired with French Colonialists to delay Morocco's fight for independence.

Descending into the city of Marrakech, Morocco's pink city. We have the rest of the day at leisure to explore the Medina and the delights of Djemaa el Fna, the exuberant market place, which is a hive of activity, sights and smells at both day and night. **Overnight - Marrakech** (B)

Day 7 : Djemaa el Fna



This morning enjoy a guided tour of Marrakech and the afternoon is free to

independently explore. The focal point of Marrakech is the central square - Djemaa el Fna, an extraordinary gathering and market place. Full of colour, spicy aromas and traders, Djemaa el Fna is best seen in the evening, illuminated against a backdrop of the snowcapped Atlas Mountains, when it's overflowing with food stalls, snake charmers, fortune tellers, musicians and henna artists. Towering over all this is the Koutoubia mosque, the tallest building in the city.

Overnight - Marrakech (B, D)

Days 8-9 : Free time in Marrakech



Two days of free time to explore Marrakech independently. Perhaps try a hammam and practice your bargaining skills in the souks. On New Years Eve there is the option to get together for dinner (and a few drinks) in a local restaurant to celebrate the coming of the New Year. **Overnight - Marrakech** (B:2)

Day 10 : Marrakech

01 January 2020. Our tour concludes after breakfast and hotel check out. Happy New Year! (B)

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.

Dellarosa Hotel Suites & Spa

Just a short walk from the medina, Dellarosa Hotel Suites & Spa tastefully blends modern architecture with Moroccan authenticity. Guest rooms are tastefully decorated with comfortable beds and excellent en suite facilities. The hotel also has a restaurant Organza serving up a delicious array of

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Moroccan and International dishes as well as a bar for a tasty beverage or two. Those looking for some pampering should head to the onsite spa and wellness centre.



Desert Camp

Set amongst the towering dunes of Erg Chebbi, the Berber camp is designed with a traditional Moroccan theme. The permanent tents include multiple beds and electricity (after night fall) Camping out in the desert is a wonderful experience, due to the lack of light pollution, the stars come out in abundance and really are a sight to behold.



Hotel Marrakech Le Semiramis

Set amongst lush gardens, the Hotel Marrakech Le Semiramis is a modern establishment just a short drive from the medina. Guest rooms are tastefully decorated and all come with a private balcony. The grounds of the hotel also include a large outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts and French bowls. Meals are served in a selection of restaurants including the Chellah and Oasis restaurants which specialise in Moroccan and Mediterranean cuisine.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. 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, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
23 Dec	USD 1,245	USD 1,605

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
23 Dec	USD 1,245	USD 1,605

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