

# Morocco Adventure For Teenagers

## 8 days | Starts/Ends: Marrakech



From colourful Marrakech, ride camels into the Sahara Desert, explore the fortified kasbah of Ait Benhaddou, visit towering Todra Gorge and opt to visit the famous film studios at Ouarzazate on this 8-day tour for families with teens aged 12 years and over.

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Marrakech - Delve into the medina and Djemaa el Fna independently or join an optional guided tour of Morocco's most famous city
- Sahara Desert - Climb aboard a camel for a ride into the desert, past the huge dunes of erg Chebbi to our Berber campsite
- Ait Benhaddou - Explore the historic UNESCO-listed fortified kasbah which starred in <i>Game of Thrones</i>
- Todra Gorge - Take in this towering landmark, which is more than 1,000-feet high in places - the Moroccan Grand Canyon
- Ouarzazate - Visit the 'Hollywood of Morocco' and join an optional tour of the film studios here, responsible for blockbusters including <i>Gladiator</i>

- High Atlas Mountains - Admire the stunning scenery as you cross the dramatic mountain range on your way to Marrakech

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 6 dinners inclusive of a Berber camp dinner
- 6 nights 3 star hotels and 1 night camping at a Berber desert camp in the Sahara
- Camel trek into the Sahara Desert
- Sightseeing and entrance fees to all included sites
- Escorted by an English speaking tour leader
- Specialist local guides at some sites
- Arrival transfer from Marrakech Airport on day 1
- All transportation and transfers in private 4x4 or mini van/touring vehicle

#### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$50pp, paid in USD or local currency
- International flights and visa
- Gratuity for your tour leader. We recommend USD\$25 - 35 per adult for the entire tour. Tipping your tour guide is an entirely personal gesture

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### Day 1 : Welcome to Marrakech



Welcome to Morocco! Upon arrival at Marrakech International Airport you will be met and transferred to our hotel. Why not relax by the pool before the pre-departure meeting at 18.00 where you will meet your fellow travellers.

#### Overnight - Marrakech (D)

#### Day 2 : Optional tour to the film studios

After breakfast we head south to the film capital of North Africa - Ouarzazate. After an optional local lunch we have the chance to take an optional tour of the film studios - famous for many blockbusters including *Gladiators*, *The Last Temptation of Christ* and *James Bond's - The Living Daylights!* We can also opt to go quad biking and further explore the town.

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**Journey Time:** Approx 4 hours  
**Overnight - Ouarzazate** (B, D)

## Day 3 : Sahara Desert camel trek



This morning we take a stunning drive towards Erg Chebbi. Afterwards we head to Merzouga to enjoy some free time for swimming (summer months only), and a spot of lunch before transferring to our camels for a trek into the Sahara. We spend the night at our traditional Berber Camp. We enjoy local food, music and an amazing night out under the Saharan stars.

**Journey Time:** Approx 5 hours  
**Overnight - Erg Chebbi** (B, L, D)

## Day 4 : Todra Gorge



After a tasty breakfast in the Sahara we climb back on board our trusty camels and head out of the Sahara. Once out of the sand we get back on the road, stopping to explore ancient irrigation wells run which have been created from an intricate network of underground canals, dating back to the 14th century they run for more than 300km all the way from the Atlas mountains to the Sahara. We arrive into Todra Gorge this afternoon, where we will enjoy lunch at our hotel. This 1000ft gorge is hemmed in on all sides

by vertical limestone cliffs and is also called Morocco's Grand Canyon.

Later this afternoon we'll have the opportunity to explore the the gorge or even take part in some optional Rock Climbing. We'll then continue to Tizgui, this beautiful old village is home to a local carpet cooperative, where you'll be able to see how traditional Berber rugs are made.

**Journey Time:** Approx 3 hours  
**Overnight - Todra Gorge** (B, L, D)

## Day 5 : UNESCO-listed Ait Benhaddou



Enjoy a leisurely morning before we depart Todra for Ait Benhaddou. Making our way through the stunning landscape along the route that is often labeled 'the road of a thousand Kasbahs' we will first stop at Kasbah Amridil. This is one the best preserved Kasbahs in Morocco and at one time featured on the 50 Dirham note.

Arriving at the UNESCO world heritage site of Ait Benhaddou this afternoon we enjoy lunch before taking a guided tour of the Ksar. This traditional pre saharan habitat is a a maze of tightly packed houses offering defence from the outside with adding reinforcement coming from the 4 large corner towers. This evening we will enjoy dinner together, soaking in the atmosphere and enchantment of this incredible place.

**Journey Time:** Approx 2.5 hours  
**Overnight - Ait Benhaddou** (B, L, D)

## Day 6 : Crossing the High Atlas Mountains

This morning we traverse the towering High Atlas Mountains en route to Marrakech. Arriving into Marrakech this afternoon you can enjoy an optional guided tour of Marrakech with a local payment of 100 Dirhams per person, alternatively you can explore the city yourself or relax by the pool. Marrakech has some amazing places to explore, the winding streets and bustling souks, visiting Bahia Palace, the Jewish Quarter and the beautiful Koutoubia Mosque - the landmark of Marrakech, which towers over the ancient Medina. This evening is free for you to explore the lively hustle and bustle of Djemaa El Fna square or simply relax at the hotel.

**Journey Time:** Approx 3.5 hours  
**Overnight - Marrakech** (B)

## Day 7 : Optional awe-inspiring hot air balloon ride



Early this morning there is the option to start the day with an awe-inspiring hot air balloon ride. Alternatively you can have a relaxing morning before enjoying some free time to further explore Marrakech.

This evening we come together as a group for a sumptuous group meal in the exciting and exotic Djemaa El Fna square. **Overnight - Marrakech** (B, D)

## Day 8 : Farewell, until your next adventure....

Our tour ends after breakfast with check out at the hotel. (B)

## ACCOMMODATION

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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.**

## El Andalous Hotel & Spa

Just 10 minutes from the airport, the El Andalous Hotel and Spa offers a welcome respite from the hubub of the city. Evoking the golden age of Arab-Andalusian culture; exotic and romantically rich. Guest rooms are well furnished with excellent en suite facilities as well as private balconies. The hotel pool is great place to relax by and enjoy a tasty beverage or two. The medina is just a 20 minute walk from here or a cab can get you there in a few minutes!



## Les Jardins

A fairly new hotel in Ouarzazate, the Hotel les Jardins is in the traditional style of a Moroccan kasbah, with spacious rooms. The hotel is set in exquisitely manicured gardens, which provide guests with a much needed breath of fresh air. The experience is complete with a pool and restaurant, where visitors can while away the hours in the warm, starry evenings. The hotel is on the outskirts of Ouarzazate and has numerous restaurants and shops nearby.



## Desert Camp

Camping out in the Sahara Desert is an incredible experience, enabling you to sit on top of a dune to watch the setting sun, sit around a camp fire for dinner and lie back and see the stars. No alcohol.



## BEFORE YOU GO

### Our partners in Morocco

**This tour is operated in conjunction with our trusted partner and you will join travellers who booked through different operators, not solely On The Go.**

### Travelling with Teens

Our tours with Teens are perfect for parents travelling with teens or pre-teens aged 10 years and above. The day to day arrangements offer a combination of exciting and adventurous experiences in far flung places, and are perfectly timed to coincide with school holidays. When travelling on our dedicated Teens tours, there may be the chance for teens to socialise with people their own age and make new friends, whilst also enjoying precious time with the entire family.

### Tipping kitty and departure transfer

At the start of your tour we will collect a Tip Kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions on page one of this document) from all tour participants to cover tips throughout your holiday. This saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip. It will be collected by your tour leader at the Welcome Meeting on day 1 and 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.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour leader. For a job well done, we suggest USD\$2-3 per day, per traveller for your tour leader. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Departure transfers are not included. A taxi to the airport will cost approx MAD100 and can be booked locally.

### Optional activities

During free time you can head out and independently explore, relax or take part in one or more optional activities. The optional activities are booked locally and are subject to availability, prices are indicative.

If your tour includes the optional ballooning. The half day hot air ballooning excursion from Marrakech includes: Land rover transportation, a traditional breakfast, a 1 hour hot air balloon flight in front of the High Atlas Mountains, a visit to a local Berber house and a camel ride in the palmerie of Marrakech.

The rock climbing at Todra Gorge is weather dependant and not offered if it is raining or very windy. Please also note that rock climbing is not suitable for travellers under the age of 16.

## 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.

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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) 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](http://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](http://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

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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.

Please visit [www.onthegotours.com/Morocco/Travel-tips-and-useful-info](http://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.

Ouarzazate Quad Biking 16+ From 590DH

Todra Gorge - rock climbing 1 hr 250DH

Todra Gorge - rock climbing 2 hrs 390DH

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Morocco

Marrakech - hammam 150DH

Marrakech - hot air ballooning (half day excursion) 2000DH

Marrakech Guided City Tour 200DH

Ouarzazate film studio 80DH

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