

# Christmas in Morocco

8 days | Starts/Ends: Marrakech



*Christmas Tour: 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.*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Marrakech - UNESCO-listed Place Djemaa el Fna (ancient medina, souks and market place)
- High Atlas Mountains and views of Mt Toubkal - North Africa's highest peak
- Dades Gorge - Valley of the roses
- 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

- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 5 dinners inclusive of a traditional Berber meal in the Sahara

- 6 nights 3 star hotels and 1 night camping at a Berber desert camp in the Sahara (hotel upgrade available)
- Guided sightseeing - Merzouga, Dades Gorge, Ait Benhaddou and Marrakech
- Camel trek into the picturesque Sahara Desert
- Escorted by a licensed English speaking Moroccan tour guide
- Specialist local guides at some sites
- Marrakech Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 8
- All transportation and transfers in private air-conditioned tourism vehicles
- 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
- Note: On some road journeys, the tour leader may not be in your particular vehicle
- 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

### Day 1 : Marrakech

23 December 2020. 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 : 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)**

## ITINERARY

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 AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com  
 NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038  
 USA 1 866 606 2960 SA 0800 990 311

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## Day 3 : Xmas Dinner at Dades Gorge



Skoura – Dades Gorge. Merry Christmas! We spend the morning visiting the kasbah Amridil 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 into the Sahara



Dades 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.

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 - Erg Chebbi** (B, L, D)

## Day 5 : The picturesque Draa Valley

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, where we lay our heads for the evening. 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 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 (B, D)

## Day 8 : Marrakech

30 December 2020. 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.(B)

## HOTELS

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

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

## Adam Park Hotel & Spa

Guests can expect a very comfortable stay at the Adam Park Hotel & Spa. Each of the

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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.



## Kasbah Tizzaouirine

Overlooking Oued Dades, Kasbah Tizzarouine offers rustic Moroccan accommodation. Guest rooms vary from the quirky cave rooms to the more palatial Berber suites. The hotel also includes an outdoor pool and seating on a beautiful terrace giving great panoramic views of the surrounding hills and valley. Staff at the Kasbah are very helpful and the restaurant comes with great recommendations. Those who are in to local music can enjoy and join in with drumming sessions that take place each night.



## 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.



## Ksar Ben Youssef

### Hotel La Perle Du Sud

A comfortable hotel emanating authenticity from its show of modern art to traditional features and furniture. La Perle Du Sud is located in the heart of the city, close to a number of local restaurants and bars. Bright guest rooms offer air-conditioning and free WiFi access throughout. A swimming pool allows guests to relax and bask in the Moroccan sunshine.



#### 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 when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same gender, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

#### PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
23 Dec	ZAR 13,900	ZAR 18,800

#### PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
23 Dec	ZAR 13,900	ZAR 18,800

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