

# Morocco Tour

Morocco, Atlas Mountains & Sahara Desert



Discover Morocco with our 18-night, 19-day trek/tour and experience everything this wide and diverse country has to offer. From the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, to the snow-capped summits of the Atlas Mountains to the majestic Sahara sand dunes, this hiking holiday is packed full of sightseeing wonders.

- ✓ Begin in the vibrant city of **Casablanca**
- ✓ Travel to the enchanting streets of **Marrakech**
- ✓ Embark on an **8-day trek** through the breathtaking **Atlas Mountains**
- ✓ Meet a **camel team** and spend a magical night in the **Sahara Desert**
- ✓ Continue to **Fes**, the ancient capital of Morocco
- ✓ Explore the captivating **Blue City of Chefchaouen**
- ✓ Visit the historic city of **Rabat**
- ✓ Return to **Casablanca** to reflect on the unforgettable adventure

# What's Included

## Departure and Return Location

Casablanca, Morocco

## Price includes

- ✓ 11 x nights' accommodation at hotels as mentioned on the itinerary or similar category in double or twin share
- ✓ 1 night at the Berber Camp in Merzouga, Camel trek
- ✓ 6 x nights at the camp during the trek in the Atlas Mountains
- ✓ Local English-speaking guide during the trek and tour
- ✓ 14 Dinners, 8 Lunches, 18 Breakfasts (referred to on the Itinerary as B, L, D)
- ✓ Arrival transfers from/to Casablanca Airport
- ✓ Modern A/C vehicle, professional driver, fuel and road taxes on tours and transfers
- ✓ Entry fees to monuments
- ✓ Guided tours of all cities and villages
- ✓ Cook during the trek
- ✓ Camping equipment: Tents, mattresses, plates, cutlery, cups, cooking equipment
- ✓ **FREE** Getaway Trekking walking shirt
- ✓ **FREE** Getaway Trekking certificate
- ✓ **FREE** Training walks in Victoria

## Price excludes

- ✗ International and Australian Domestic Airfares & Airport Departure Tax
- ✗ All costs associated with obtaining a Passport
- ✗ All costs associated with obtaining a VISA
- ✗ Travel Insurance (mandatory)
- ✗ Vaccinations and Anti-Malarial Medicines
- ✗ Drinks and meals not noted on Itinerary
- ✗ Tips and Personal expenses

# Itinerary

## Day 1 Arrival into Casablanca – Transfer to Marrakech

Following your arrival into Morocco, you will be met by our driver and guide and head to your hotel in the centre of **Marrakech**. In the evening, you will have a pre-departure meeting with your guide to brief you on the details of your itinerary. We then head to the Medina of Marrakech for our first taste of the city, followed by dinner at the hotel or a local restaurant. We will spend the night in a hotel in Marrakech.

After the briefing, make sure you head to bed (relatively!) early and enjoy your sleep in the cosy bed, as it would be fair to say the next few nights might be a little less comfortable!

- Overnight at Hotel
- Dinner Included
- Driving 3 hours

## Day 2 Marrakech

After breakfast, we will start our guided tour of this amazing city. Our local guide will take us to the ramparts of the **Koutoubia Mosque**, which dates back to the 12th century. Its minaret is the city's landmark. We will then walk through the historical **Kasbah** and **Mellah** (Jewish quarter) districts to get to the beautiful Bahia Palace, a great example of Moroccan architecture of the 19th century.

Our tour continues through the Souks of the Medina to get to the famous square **Jamaa El Fna**, one of the UNESCO Heritage sites of Morocco. For the rest of the afternoon, you will be free to explore the Medina at

your own pace before we meet for an optional dinner. We will spend the night in a hotel in Marrakech.

- Overnight at Hotel
- Incl. Breakfast & Dinner

## Day 3 Marrakech – Ourika Valley – Oukaimden – Tachddert

After breakfast, we'll embark on an unforgettable journey towards the majestic **High Atlas Mountains**. Passing through the breathtaking **Ourika Valley**, we will reach the charming riverside village of Setti Fatma. While there, we'll have the chance to savour some refreshing mint tea by the tranquil river.

Our adventure continues as we make our way back through the picturesque valley, heading to the **Oukaimden Ski Station** where we'll meet our expert trekking team, including muleteers, a skilled cook, and our mules. Our talented chef will treat us to a delicious lunch, providing a taste of the authentic flavours of the Atlas Mountains.

After lunch, we'll begin the trekking portion of our Moroccan escapade. From Oukaimden, our path leads us towards the awe-inspiring **Tizi N'Adi pass** (2928m), offering breathtaking views of **Mount Toubkal** and the enchanting **Tacheddert Valley**, where we'll spend the night, immersed in the beauty of the surroundings.

- Driving 2h 30min
- Walking 3 – 4 hours
- Ascent: 340m Descent: 640m
- Overnight in camp
- Incl. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

## Day 4 Tacheddert – Azib Likemt

We begin a long, slow ascent to the pass at **Tizi Likemt** (3,555m). The going is quite tough as a considerable amount of loose scree is on the ground. At the top, we enjoy our first fine view of the **Toubkal Massif** before a long downhill descent to the village of **Azib Likemt**, where we camp for the night.

- Walking 6 – 7 hours
- Overnight in camp
- Ascent: 1100m Descent: 930m
- Incl. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

## Day 5 Azib Likemt – Tizi M'ourai – Amsouzert

Day 5 takes us through a variety of contrasting landscapes. From **Tizi n'Ououraine** (3,120m) we enjoy further views of the Toubkal Massif, including the summit, the east face and the **Ifni Dome** (3,876m). The trail leads on through many villages before winding its way down to Amsouzert, one of the most striking villages in the region, where we spend the night in a simple village **Gite**.

- Walking 6 – 7 hours
- Ascent: 310m Descent: 1177m
- Overnight in Gite
- Incl. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

## Day 6 Amsouzert – Ifni Lake

West of Amsouzert are several small villages, which we explore as we make our way towards **Ifni Lake**, the only lake in the Massif. We wind our way on a new stone road, cutting some of the corners where possible! The little shop at the top of the climb is a welcome sight!



The view of the lake is amazing. Rocky mountains and large piles of rubble surround it.

We expect to arrive by lunchtime and spend the afternoon relaxing at the shore. We camp the night in this area.

- Walking 5 hours
- Ascent: 345m Descent: 250m
- Overnight in camp
- Incl. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

### Day 7 Ifni Lake – Nelter Hut

It is an early start this morning, as we have a big day ahead. By now we should be both fit and acclimatised and ready to tackle the hardest day of the trek.

We make our way along a steep path that leads up a seemingly endless scree slope. At length, we reach the pass at **Tizi n'Ouanoums** (3,664m), a narrow ledge between two shafts of rock. From here, it is a long zigzag descent to **Nelter Hut**, a mountain refuge where we spend the night (or alternatively camp outside).

- Walking 6 – 7 hours
- Ascent: 1370m Descent: 465m
- Overnight in camp
- Incl. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

### Day 8 Mt Toukbal Summit

Today is the day of the **Toukbal** trek.

We leave before dawn to avoid the heat of the day, with some rock scrambling, then follow a well-worn route to the summit. If the weather is good, it should take about 2 to 3 hours to reach the summit. There, we can enjoy wide views of the entire Atlas range and the plains of Marrakech beyond. We then return to base where we camp overnight.

- Walking 6 – 7 hours
- Ascent: 970m Descent: 970m
- Overnight in camp
- Incl. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

### Day 9 Nelter Hut – Imlil

After breakfast, we will descend fairly rapidly to the villages of Sidi Chamharouch and Aremd before

following the **Mizane River** to get to Aremd village and then Imlil. After lunch you will have a free afternoon to explore the village or just relax at the guest house.

You will also have enough time to pack your trekking gear, as there will be no need for it for the coming part of our adventure, it will be a tour using a minivan, and the walks will be easy. We will spend the night in a gite in the Imlil Village.

- Walking 4 – 5 hours
- Ascent: 150m Descent: 1400m
- Overnight in Gite
- Incl. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

### Day 10 Imlil – Ouarzazat

After breakfast we will say goodbye to our trekking team, then start the second part of our adventure using the minivan to explore other beautiful areas of Morocco. We will head to **Ouarzazate**, crossing the **High Atlas Mountains** through the Tichka Road.

We will stop for an optional lunch and a guided visit to **Ait Benhaddou**; this village was a major stop for the caravans in the old days. A UNESCO heritage site, it has been used as background for many international movies such as *Gladiators*, *Prince of Persia* and *Game of Thrones*. After the tour of the village, we will continue to Ouarzazate; where we will make another stop to visit the film studio of Ouarzazate. We will spend the night in a hotel in Ouarzazate.

- Walking 1 hour
- Driving 4 – 5 hours
- Overnight in hotel
- Incl. Breakfast and Dinner

### Day 11 Ouarzazat – Roses Valley – Toudra Valley

After breakfast, we head east, driving through the road of a thousand Kasbahs. We will stop at **Skoura Town** for a visit to **Amridil Kasbah**.

We will then continue to Toudra Valley. Upon arrival, we will check into our hotel and have an optional lunch. In the afternoon, we will walk through the **Toudra Oasis** and

discover the stunning **Toudra Gorge** with its 300m high cliffs towering above us. An optional activity of rock climbing is possible. We will spend the night in a hotel in the Toudra Valley.

- Walking 2 hours
- Driving 3 hours
- Overnight in hotel
- Incl. Breakfast and Dinner

### Day 12 Toudra Valley – Erfoud – Sahara Desert

After breakfast, we head east, driving. This morning, we leave **Toudra Valley**. Along the drive, we will stop for photos of the picturesque views of Toudra Oasis. In the little town of **Mlaab**, you can dress up as a local for the group photo and get your dress and/or scarf for the camel ride.

Our Adventure will continue to the **Sahara Desert**, where we will meet our camel team. En route, we will stop for lunch in one of the local restaurants.

Now, be ready for a unique adventure on the back of camels, crossing the sand dunes of **Erg Chebi**. While riding the camels, enjoy stunning views of the sand dunes, and watch how the colours change with the light.

One hour on the camels will get us near one of the big sand dunes (about 180m), and then it will be time to walk to the top of the dune to watch the sunset and enjoy the quietness of the desert. After sunset, we will ride our camels or walk to the camp. Enjoy an authentic Moroccan dinner washed down with some mint tea.

Around the campfire, admire an evening entertainment performed by the local nomads playing traditional Berber music. Our unforgettable journey ends with a sleep under the stars.

- Walking 1 hour
- Driving 3 hours
- Overnight in Berber Camp
- Incl. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

## Day 15 Fes – Chefchaouen

After breakfast, we drive towards **Chefchaouen (Blue City)**. This popular tourist attraction and welcoming town is situated in the **Rif Mountains** just south of the Mediterranean coastline in North Morocco.

This nice Blue City is known for its traditional buildings. Our guide will navigate you through the town's alleyways to explore the white and blue-washed walls of the medina and the markets that offer some unique native handicrafts. Chefchaouen is a fantastic destination for photography with its wonderful views of the Rif Mountains. We will have a dinner (own cost) in one of the local restaurants in the medina before returning back to our hotel.

- Walking 1 hour
- Driving 4 hours
- Overnight in hotel
- Incl. Breakfast

## Day 16 Chefchaouen Sightseeing

Today is a free day to explore the Blue City with its narrow alleyways. At the top of the city located the main source of water called **Ras-elma**.

This spring is the source of life for the whole city. If you are fit enough, you can go up the Mountain to have a panoramic view of the whole city. Chefchaouen medina has a Spanish-style square surrounded by many funky arts and crafts stores, roof-top restaurants, and cafes. We will stay overnight in a hotel in Chefchaouen.

- Free day to explore
- Overnight in hotel
- Incl. Breakfast

## Day 17 Chefchaouen – Rabat

On this morning, we will travel south to the official capital of Morocco, **Rabat**. On arrival, we will go on a guided tour of Rabat and explore its highlights. We will start with the royal palace of Rabat, which is the official palace for the king and the government, then **Hassan tower** and the Mausoleum of the Alaouite king Mohamed V and his son Hassan II. After that we will visit the Oudayah Kasbah, a fortified building, which used to be a place to defend the city from the invasion of the European countries. We will spend the night in a hotel in Rabat.

- Walking 1 hour
- Driving 5 hours
- Overnight in hotel
- Incl. Breakfast

## Day 18 Rabat – Casablanca

After breakfast, we will drive west. After the short journey of just one hour, we arrive at Casablanca, where we will visit the famous **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. We will also visit the famous Ricks Cafe! After that, we will check into our hotel; the rest of the day will be free before we meet for our farewell dinner in a local restaurant. We will spend the night in a hotel in Casablanca.

- Walking 1 hour
- Driving 1 – 2 hours
- Overnight in hotel
- Incl. Breakfast and Dinner

## Day 19 Departure

After breakfast in Casablanca, you will have your departure to the airport and that will be the end of your brilliant adventure in Morocco.

- Driving 1 hour
- Incl. Breakfast

Explore the Moroccan Coast with our **Morocco Southwest Trek** and swap the Atlas Mountains for long sandy beaches.

