

12 Days Imperial & Morocco Desert Tour





Karen Murray

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Rabat - Fes - Erg Chebbi Desert - Ouarzazate - Marrakesh - Essaouira - Casablanca

12 Days / 11 Nights

2 Persons

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19 April 2023 - 30 April 2023



[Click here to view your Digital Itinerary](#)

Introduction

Accommodation	Destination	Start	End	Basis	Room Type	Duration
The View Hotel Rabat	Rabat	19 Apr	20 Apr	B&B	1x Double Room	1 Night
Hotel Palais Medina & SPA Fes	Fes	20 Apr	22 Apr	B&B	1x Double Room	2 Nights
Golden Camp	Erg Chebbi Desert	22 Apr	23 Apr	HB	1x Double Room	1 Night
Sultana Royal Golf Hotel	Ouarzazate	23 Apr	24 Apr	HB	1x Double Room	1 Night
Kenzi Menara Palace	Marrakesh	24 Apr	26 Apr	B&B	1x Double Room	2 Nights
Sofitel Essaouira	Essaouira	26 Apr	28 Apr	B&B	1x Double Room	2 Nights
Kenzi Tower Hotel	Casablanca	28 Apr	30 Apr	B&B	1x Double Room	2 Nights

Key

HB: Half Board - Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

Price

Price from **USD 2789** per person (Sharing Double Room)

Included

- Accommodation with daily breakfast
- Dinners in the desert on HB basis
- Dinner at Rick's Café
- A/C minivan with English speaking driver for transportation
- Local English speaking guides in Fez and Marrakech
- Hassan II mosque inside visit
- Camel ride in the desert
- 4X4 transfers to the desert
- Monuments admission fees
- Bottled mineral water onboard
- Services charges and local taxes

Excluded

- International flights
- Entry visa to Morocco
- Meal or drinks not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal spending, tipping and optional activities
- Tipping

Day 1: The View Hotel Rabat, Rabat (Wed, 19 April)

Rabat

Rabat and its twin city, Sale, overlook the Atlantic Ocean from their location at the mouth of the Bouregreg River. This enchanting city serves as Morocco's capital and features fascinating Islamic and French-colonial architecture. With a rich historical and cultural heritage, a long coastline with beautiful rocky and sandy beaches, an ecologically diverse countryside, wonderful hiking trails and a vibrant city centre with lush, green parks, the city is a popular destination for travellers. Explore the city on foot, relax on the unspoilt beaches and visit the captivating 12th-century seaside kasbah of Udayas.

Day Itinerary

Arrival to Casablanca - Transfer to Rabat

Once you land in Casablanca, the beauty on the Ocean, our local driver-guide will meet and greet you at the exit of the airport, then you will be escorted to the hotel in Rabat. Upon arrival check-in and free time to rest.

Note: We arrange an English-speaking driver for the entire trip. Whilst for the included guided city tours, **PURE MOROCCO** will arrange private English-speaking guides on sites, and your driver will be in charge of driving you from site to site and city to city, of course, your driver is also able to give you general information on Morocco. At your request, we are also able to arrange a private tour guide throughout the entire Morocco trip with supplement.

Overnight: The View Hotel Rabat

The View Hotel Rabat is located in the heart of the city with an exceptional site, overlooking Rabat. Accommodation option includes the upper room, deluxe suite, legend panoramic room, diamond loft suites, legend luxury suite and royal rooftop suite. Each room is equipped with air conditioning, internet access, a private bathroom and coffee/tea maker. Other amenities include a swimming pool, a spa as well as multiple dining options.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

- Transfer from Casablanca airport to your Hotel in Rabat
-

Day 2: Hotel Palais Medina & SPA Fes, Fes (Thu, 20 April)

Fes

Morocco's second-largest city and the country's former capital, Fes (Fez) is an exotic mix of Arabic architecture, ancient alleyways calls to prayer and colourful markets; all mixed in with a good dose of modern culture. Home to the venerated Karaouine Mosque, which dates back to 859 AD and incorporates an Islamic university, and to the country's most hallowed shrine, the Zaouia Moulay Idriss II; Fes is regarded as the spiritual seat of Morocco. Music lovers should try to synchronise their trips with the annual Festival of Sacred Music, one of the highlights of the city's cultural calendar showcasing diverse performances of spiritual and religious music; while those with a penchant for shopping can browse the mesmerizing colourful markets selling an exquisite array of silver, leather and other handicrafts up for grabs.

Day Itinerary

Rabat - Fes

After breakfast in the hotel, join your driver for a panoramic tour of Rabat before driving to Fes. During the route, enjoy some brief touring stops including a visit to Meknes, the famed Ismailia capital known for its 40 km long walls and numerous gates. Next, visit the Bab Mansour, the Royal stables, the amazing markets, and also the popular Jewish quarter. Before arriving in Fes, you will also explore the ruins of the ancient city of Volubilis and the holy city of Moulay Idriss. Upon arrival at Fes, a hotel drop-off is provided.

Overnight: Hotel Palais Medina & SPA Fes

Located in Fes, Morocco, Palais Médina Fès preserves the architectural heritage of the city in all its details. The hotel is an ideal base from which guests can explore the surrounding area with nearby attractions including Fes el Bali and Nejjarine Fondouk.

The hotel offers a selection of 146 spacious and well-lit rooms and suites, all of which are air-conditioned and equipped with amenities such as free Wi-Fi and TVs. Guests are spoilt for choice with a selection of on-site restaurants and bars showcasing a wide range of cuisines. Those looking to relax and unwind can make use of the hotel spa. Other hotel facilities include three meeting rooms, a gym, and a heated swimming pool.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

- Panoramic Visit of Rabat
- Stop by Meknes City
- Visit of Bab Mansour, the Royal Stables, Jewish quarter
- Visit Voulubilis

Day 3: Hotel Palais Medina & SPA Fes, Fes (Fri, 21 April)

Day Itinerary**Fes Exploration Day**

Wake up today in one of the most ancient cities in Morocco. Founded in AD 808 by Sultan Moulay Idris II, the city's history and position are well ingrained in the upcoming Moroccan identity and traditions. It was once the Mecca of Science and Knowledge for it had the first University in the world, Al Karaouine, and it wielded many scholars and intellectuals. It had fertilized the minds and the souls of many over the ages, and surely more to come. Its solid and well-established position over centuries as a cultural melting pot had provided it with a unique spirit of multiculturalism, tolerance, and peace. Therefore, open up to the city and enjoy what it has to offer.

Along with your guided tour, touch on the cities' marking features and uniqueness which you cannot find anywhere else. As you walk into Fes El Bali (the ancient town) you are faced with a fork in the road, the right one is "talaa kebira" and the left one is "talaa sghira" and unlike Robert Frost, we will travel the road most taken as we follow the footsteps of great women and men who have been here. The "Talaa Kbbira" will lead us straight to Bou Inania Madrasa at the end of the market. This Madrasa served as a theological college and was built in 1351 with a Merenid style.

Right in front of Bou Inania lies one of Fes's mysteries, the Hydraulic clock. It was mainly made to announce prayer times. Continue after it towards the Henna Souk passing by Fon Douk Smen. After souk Hanna, you will reach Zawiyat Moulay Driss II (the sultan's shrine) and across it is Madrasa el Attarine and a few meters is the Kairouan mosque university.

While wandering around your mind would not help but wonder about the lost stories, the legends, hopes, and the love stories that once lightened those brick walls, it's the magic of Fes.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

- Fez Guided City Tour
- Entrance to El-Attarine Medersa, Bou Inania Medersa

Day 4: Golden Camp, Erg Chebbi Desert (Sat, 22 April)

Erg Chebbi Desert

Situated in the vast desert region of Saharan Morocco, dividing Morocco and Algeria, Erg Chebbi is one of two Moroccan 'ergs', which are a sea of dunes. What it lacks in size - compared to the deserts of Algeria, Libya and Namibia - it makes up for in its extraordinarily scenic golden landscape, which changes colours dramatically at sunset. The dunes of Erg Chebbi span over 30 kilometres and rise up to 160 metres. From Merzouga, the tourist centre, take a camel trip into the wild; enjoy quad biking; or stay overnight in a desert oasis called a Moroccan bivouac.

Day Itinerary

Fes - Erfoud - Erg Chebbi

After Breakfast, depart Fes after breakfast and start heading to the famous South of Morocco. Visit the forested hillside city of Ifrane built in the 1930s to resemble a Swiss village, today a popular ski resort area. Then continue to Azrou, a famous town for woodwork. Near Azrou you will also encounter in the cedar forests many colonies of Barbary apes that will keep you amused. Then continue towards Midelt, traveling through the spectacular Ziz Valley passing palm groves and green valleys. Then further South the scenery will change into the dry, desert looking.

Erfoud will be our gateway to the majestic Moroccan Sahara. it is well known among archeologists due to fossils dating back hundreds of years. Upon arrival, you will head off for a once-in-a-lifetime Adventure drive in 4-wheel vehicles across the barren and sand dunes, before an exciting camel ride (*duration: 30 minutes*) and nomad dinner. Once the sun has said its goodbyes, lift your gaze to admire the clearest show of stars on Earth. As the evening goes on, you will enjoy some drum music of the nomads by the campfire.

Notes: 1. In case of snowing during November and February in High Atlas Mountains, we would drive slower than usual to ensure safety. In this case, you may reach Erfoud later than expected. If snow blocks the road, we will stay in Midelt for overnight, and head further south the following day.

2. Though mostly clear days, winds are unpredictable in desert area. And even luxurious tents are not totally sand proof in windy days. If you would like to return to Erfoud hotel for overnight, we could arrange it upon availabilities of hotel rooms.

Overnight: Golden Camp

Golden Camp is situated in the middle of the Moroccan desert, a few kilometres away from the town of Mezguida, a historical collection of mud-houses. Golden Camp is comprised of a few permanent luxury tents. Each tent comes with complimentary Wi-Fi as well as a comfortable western-style bed.

Golden Camp has a few amenities such as cooking classes, local area tours, evening entertainment each night and live performances.



Basis

Half Board - Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Included

- 4x4 drive to camp inside the Dunes of Erg Chebbi

- Camel Ride for SunSet or SunRise over the dunes
- Dinner Camp under the stars

Day 5: Sultana Royal Golf Hotel, Ouarzazate (Sun, 23 April)

Ouarzazate

At the intersection of the Dades and Draa Valley lies the relaxed Moroccan town of Ouarzazate. Surrounded by some unbelievably picturesque terrain, the town is characterised by the red-glowing kasbah at Ait Ben Haddou, the snowcapped High Atlas Mountains, and the spectacular Sahara Desert with its rolling dunes, vast canyons and deep gorges. These exotic backdrops have served as the location for a slew of Hollywood movies which have turned this once sleepy town into Morocco's version of Hollywood. The town is a popular stopover point for tourists on their way to the Sahara. Its palm-fringed boulevards are lined with grand palaces, bustling souks, old adobe buildings and film studios. It's an ideal location for hanging out at one of the many charming cafés, sampling some delicious local Moroccan cuisine and perhaps even spotting one of the many celebrities who frequent this fascinating North African city.

Day Itinerary

Erg Chebbi - Ouarzazate

After breakfast, join your driver to drive to Ouarzazate via Rissani, Erfoud, Tinjdad with a detour at Tinghir famed for its beautiful palm grove, and Jewish quarter. Visit Todgha Gorge, the highest oasis valley gorge in Morocco with 300m sheer cliffs and a mouth just 20m wide.

Dinner and overnight in a beautiful your beautiful Hotel.

Overnight: Sultana Royal Golf Hotel

Nestled on a one and a half hectare estate of palm and olive trees, Sultana Royal Golf Hotel is an oasis of tranquillity overlooking Lake Quarzazate. Ideal for those wanting to explore, the hotel lies nearby flower-covered valleys, kasbahs and architectural jewels.

This well-appointed hotel is home to an array of rooms, all boasting unique decor and modern amenities including air-conditioning, a minibar and private bathroom. Guests can indulge in tasty Moroccan, French and Italian cuisine at the hotel's restaurant overlooking the Atlas Mountains and Lake El Mansour. Additional facilities include a swimming pool and sunbathing area while amenities include a buffet breakfast and Wi-Fi.



Basis

Half Board - Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

Day 6: Kenzi Menara Palace, Marrakesh (Mon, 24 April)**Marrakesh**

Situated to the north of the foothills of the snow-capped Atlas Mountains and fringing the famed Sahara, the bustling UNESCO-listed city of Marrakesh is an enchanting travel destination. Marrakesh is also home to the largest traditional Berber market in Morocco and one of the busiest squares in the world, known as Djemaa el Fna. Don't miss the opportunity to visit this square in the evening as it transforms into an enormous, open-air restaurant, and browse through exquisite carpets, spices and a myriad of other items. Art, design and architecture enthusiasts flock to the city to see its incredible artisan achievements, so beautifully expressed at the glorious Bahia Palace, Dar Si Said and Saadian Tombs, as well as at several museums. The other-worldly Jardin Majorelle is also unmissable.

Day Itinerary**Ouarzazate - Ait Benhaddou - Marrakech**

After breakfast in the hotel, you will take on an exploratory journey to discover some truly unique locations today. Enjoy a visit to Ait Ben Haddou – the UNESCO World Heritage Centre where movies such as Gladiator and Jesus of Nazareth were filmed. Then departure to Taroudant via Taznakhet and Taliouine. Taliouine is famous for its production of saffron and is one of the main exporters of this spice worldwide. The town celebrates Anmugar Amadal N Zafran (The international festival of Saffron) every year in winter (usually November), the season in which the saffron flower germinates. the value of Talaouine saffron is recognized worldwide.

Overnight: Kenzi Menara Palace

The Kenzi Menara Palace is a priceless jewel set in the crown of the privileged and World Class location : the ochre, legendary resort of Marrakesh, located right opposite the original ramparts, ancient walls which surrounded this unique, timeless oasis, whilst facing the splendid, manicured lawns, greenery and citrus groves of the Agdal Royal Gardens. Facing the invigorating Atlas Mountains, each of the resorts 236 rooms and suites offer a spacious minimum of 55 square meters in size with private veranda. All rooms and suites are fully equipped with: air conditioning with individual climate control; desk; flat screen TV with 100 TV channels, 50 radio channels and a choice of 100 films; broadband high-speed internet connection; electronic safe; mini-bar; coffee percolator/machine; direct dial telephone; bathroom with separate bath and shower.

**Basis**

Bed and Breakfast

Included

- Ait Behaddou Panoramic Visit
- Atlas Studio Visit

Day 7: Kenzi Menara Palace, Marrakesh (Tue, 25 April)**Day Itinerary****Marrakech Exploration day**

Today you will get the chance to wake up and live Marrakech, a dream of many, so be sure to make the best of it. After your breakfast, our local guide and the driver guide will be waiting for you to start a guided city tour of the "Ochre City". We will visit first in the morning the Majorelle Garden which was named after the French painter, Jacques Majorelle who dedicated a lot of effort and passion to this art piece. After Majorelle let's continue after it to Menara and though the name in Arabic translates to "lighthouse", it is actually a pavilion with a basin and a garden of orchards and olive groves. We will be heading afterward to the Koutoubia Mosque and through the Jewish quarter called Mallah, visit the Bahia Palace, before finishing your visit with at Jamaa El Fnaa.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

- Marrakech Guided City Tour
- Entrances to Bahia Palace, Saadian Tombs & Majorelle Garden

Day 8: Sofitel Essaouira, Essaouira (Wed, 26 April)**Essaouira**

Favourably situated on a vast sweeping bay on the southwest coast of Morocco, featuring long stretches of glorious, golden-sand beaches, the historical town of Essaouira is one of the country's premier tourist attractions. The town is set against a picturesque backdrop of lush, wooded hills and a patchwork of small fields, spread with a kaleidoscope of colourful wildflowers in springtime. Known for its bustling fishing harbour, quaint white and blue houses, and its lovely, souk-filled medina, there is plenty to keep you blissfully engaged in this popular seaside town. The strong Atlantic wind provides perfect conditions for kitesurfing and windsurfing. Despite its popularity, the town has managed to retain its old-world charm and is an ideal place to embrace the laid-back lifestyle of the locals and escape the hustle and bustle of city life.

Day Itinerary**Marrakech - Essaouira**

After Breakfast, join your driver and drive to Essaouira, Once arrived, you will start your trip to explore this original Phoenician trading post. Visit the fortifications that ring the city was built by the Portuguese and are inherent to the charm of Essaouira. You will have time to see the other attractions including the port, where a daily supply of fresh fish can be found, and the tremendous beach that stretches away to the south.

Overnight: Sofitel Essaouira

Nestled in the lush surroundings of a wild beach lined with eucalyptus and mimosa, Sofitel Essaouira evokes peace and calm in an oasis of French hospitality. The sleek Essaouira hotel in the heart of the Mogador resort overlooks the Atlantic ocean and Mogador golf course designed by Gary Player. A haven of luxury and relaxation, each elegantly appointed room and suite has been thoughtfully furnished and equipped with the modern amenities needed to ensure a memorable stay. When it comes to dining, guests can the choice between three remarkable restaurants, as well as the Pool Bar and the Tiko So Lounge. Leisure facilities include a heated swimming pool, a fitness centre and a delightful spa with a hammam and Jacuzzi.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 9: Sofitel Essaouira, Essaouira (Thu, 27 April)

Day Itinerary

Essaouira

Spend this free day by discovering the old city of Essaouira by yourself.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 10: Kenzi Tower Hotel, Casablanca (Fri, 28 April)

Casablanca

Casablanca lies on the Atlantic coast, in central-western Morocco. Fondly known by locals simply as 'Casa', the capital is the industrial, economic and cultural heart of this remarkable country, as well as its most cosmopolitan, liberal, and progressive city. While most visitors overlook Casablanca in favour of Morocco's more popular and exotic tourist areas, this sprawling metropolis has plenty to offer the discerning traveller and has many hidden historical and cultural gems just waiting to be discovered. The city is famous for its spectacular Art Deco and Moorish Revival architecture, constructed during the Colonial Period. Explore the Old Medina, a tiny, ancient, walled village; visit the impressive King Hassan II Mosque; discover the ornate rooms, masterfully tiled floors, and intricately carved wooden ceilings of the Hispanic-Moorish Mahkama du Pacha; or simply watch the world go by at one of the many ocean-view cafes along the waterfront boulevard.

Day Itinerary

Essaouira - Casablanca

After breakfast, departure to Casablanca through the coastal route. On the road enjoy the natural views which symbolize the diversity of the natural richness in Morocco. Once Arrive in Casablanca, transfer to your hotel for Check-in. The rest of the afternoon will be at leisure.

Overnight: Kenzi Tower Hotel

The hotel is ideally located in the trendiest and most vibrant downtown setting of Casablanca, Morocco's economic capital. It offers the ultimate experience in convenience to its valued guests, situated only just half an hour away from the Mohamed V International airport. The Kenzi Tower Hotel, asserts its stunning position, the 28 storey B tower of the Twin Center, as the ideal venue, whether for business or pleasure. The hotel evokes a contemporary statement by its concept design combining ultra-modern facilities with just that dash of traditional Moroccan art de vivre. The hotel is distinguished by its world-class amenities, service by multi-lingual, highly-trained staff and, without hesitation, its breath-taking, panoramic city view over Casablanca as well as the harbor and the outstanding Hassan II Mosque set on the sea.

A successful amalgam was built: 237 rooms and suites, 2 high class restaurants on the 2nd floor and the other on the 27th floor, a SPA, a Sky lounge and one of the biggest conferences centers in the region.

The rooms and suites of The Kenzi Tower Hotel combine customized elegance with modern interior design and unrivalled comfort, in a warm and well-cared for atmosphere. Ranging from 38 square meters to 225 square meters in size, all guest rooms and suites are equipped with high technology facilities as well as large walk in bathrooms, the all conceived to create a unique, private area for relaxation. All rooms offer a work space, with a desk, high-speed in-room internet and personalized service to meet the most demanding activity.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 11: Kenzi Tower Hotel, Casablanca (Sat, 29 April)

Day Itinerary

Casablanca - Exploration day

Breakfast at your hotel, and join your tour guide for a guided city tour of Casablanca, including the interior visit to the Hassan II Mosque, then you will explore the city in the road to la Cathédrale Sacré Coeur, Habous Quarter, Museum of Moroccan Judaism (optional), La Corniche.

In the Evening, transfer to the famous Rick's Café for dinner around 07H00 PM.

Activities

Dinner	Rick's Cafe Casablanca
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Rick's Cafe Casablanca

Rick's Cafe Casablanca is set in an old courtyard-style mansion built against the walls of the Old Medina of Casablanca, Morocco. The restaurant and piano bar is filled with architectural and decorative details reminiscent details that provide an elegant atmosphere. The restaurant's international menu specialises in Casablanca's fish and fresh produce.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

- Entrance visit of Hassan II Mosque
- Dinner at the Rick's Café

Day 12: End of Itinerary (Sun, 30 April)

Day Itinerary

Casablanca - Exit

Enjoy a free morning before heading to the airport for home bound flight.

End of our services

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Included

Transfer to Casablanca Airport

Transport

Transfers

Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle
19 Apr		Mohammed V International Airport [CMN]	The View Hotel Rabat		Transfer
20 Apr		The View Hotel Rabat	Hotel Palais Medina & SPA Fes		Transfer
22 Apr		Hotel Palais Medina & SPA Fes	Golden Camp		Transfer
23 Apr		Golden Camp	Sultana Royal Golf Hotel		Transfer
24 Apr		Sultana Royal Golf Hotel	Kenzi Menara Palace		Transfer
26 Apr		Kenzi Menara Palace	Sofitel Essaouira		Transfer
28 Apr		Sofitel Essaouira	Kenzi Tower Hotel		Transfer
30 Apr		Kenzi Tower Hotel	Mohammed V International Airport [CMN]		Transfer

Travel Information

Morocco Entry Visa:

A valid passport at least 6 months beyond your scheduled return date to enter Morocco is needed. Entry visas to Morocco can be obtained from Morocco Consulate before departure.

If you are a citizen of one of the listed countries, here below, you don't need a visa to enter Morocco for the purpose of tourism for up to 3 months: United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, Denmark, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland...and others. For more info and details on entry visa to Morocco please check with the Moroccan consulate or embassy at your country.

Tipping:

Tips to drivers and guides are not mandatory but expected. There is no standard amount for tipping in Morocco, and like in many countries, you have to go on your gut feeling based on the service you get.

Arrival/Departure (Meet & Assistance)

In Morocco, a driver-guide or anyone who does not hold a valid flight ticket is not allowed to send you off inside of the airport according to Morocco's policy.

Drive & Guide

We arrange an English-speaking driver for the entire trip. Whilst you tour Fes and Marrakech, we will arrange private English-speaking guides on sites, and your driver will be in charge of driving you from site to site and city to city, and of course, your driver is also able to give you general information on Morocco. On your request, we are also able to arrange a private tour guide throughout the entire Morocco trip with supplement.



An exotic fusion of Southern Mediterranean, Arabic and African influences, Morocco is an enticing combination of ancient cities and Roman ruins, sweeping deserts and centuries-old medinas, mosques and minarets, winding alleyways and vibrant markets, gorgeous beaches and rugged mountains. The Imperial Cities of Fes, Marrakech, Meknes and Rabat have all had a stint as the national capital and are liberally studded with attractions, including a plethora of ancient architecture, museums and souks (markets). The coastal city of Casablanca boasts one of the largest mosques in the world, while Tangier, on the Mediterranean coast, features some beautiful bays and sandy coves. Visitors can look forward to sampling exotic Berber cuisine, sipping on a fresh cup of coffee or a mint tea at a streetside cafe, hike Toubkal - North Africa's highest peak or enjoy camel trekking in the desert.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Moroccan Dirham (MAD; symbol Dh) = 100 centimes. Notes are in denominations of Dh200, 100, 50, 20 and 10. Coins are in denominations of Dh10, 5 and 1, and 50, 20, 10 and 5 centimes.

Banking

Mon-Thurs 0830-1230 and 1500-1830, Fri 0830-1200 and 1500-1830.

Most major credit cards are accepted in larger restaurants, hotels, guest houses and the occasional shop in the souks, with Visa and MasterCard being accepted most widely.

Cash can be withdrawn from ATMs in larger towns, although service in smaller towns can be erratic. Most major hotels now have more reliable ATMs.

Traveller's cheques are accepted in some areas but are not advised, as the exchange can be problematic and it can be difficult to find a bank able to cash them, although some of the main tourist hotels offer this facility.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

The high-speed toll roads connecting Tangier, Rabat, Casablanca, Meknes, Fes, Marrakech and El Jadida are of excellent quality. Coastal communities and most large towns are also well served by good roads. In the interior, south of the High Atlas Mountains, road travel becomes much more difficult, especially across the Atlas Mountains in winter.

International and local car hire companies have offices in major towns, cities and airports. Car hire is generally expensive, and prices vary with the season. The minimum age for driving a hired car is 18, although many hire companies will require drivers to be 21 or over.

Metered petit taxis are available in major towns. Taxi drivers are not usually tipped, although it is common to round fares up at least to the next dirham on short trips. Larger, grand taxis are usually Mercedes cars, used for travel outside medinas and to areas outside towns. These can be shared, but fares should be agreed before departure as they don't have meters.

Bike hire is available in most major towns - although attempting to cycle through city traffic is inadvisable. For those travelling longer distances, bikes can be transported on trains and buses.

Making use of the extensive bus network is the cheapest and most popular way to get around Morocco. Buses serve most communities, and private operators compete for custom on the more popular routes. The major bus companies are Compagnie de Transports Marocains (www.ctm.ma), Trans Ghazala (0536 685 387), and ONCF (www.oncf.ma). There are extensive bus services in Casablanca and other main towns. Pre-purchase tickets are sold.

Traffic drives on the right in Morocco and the wearing of seatbelts is compulsory. The speed limit is 40kph (25mph) in cities and built up areas, rising to 80km (50mph) on more major roads, up to 120km (75mph) on motorways. No alcohol at all is allowed in the bloodstream when driving.

Foreign driving licences are accepted, as well as International Driving Permits. Third Party insurance is required. Insurance documentation and a licence must be carried with you at all times. Insurance can be arranged locally.

The Moroccan rail system, run by Office National des Chemins de Fer (ONCF) (www.oncf.ma) provides regular services. The network runs from Oujda in the northeast to Casablanca on the west coast, Tangier on the north coast and Fes and Marrakech in the interior. However, only a small part of the country is served, and even large centres such as Agadir and Essaouira are not covered.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Water sources outside main cities and towns may be contaminated and sterilisation is advisable. Bottled water is the best bet and is available everywhere. Milk is unpasteurised, so boil before drinking. Meat and fish should be freshly cooked and served hot. Vegetables are typically served cooked. If eating fruit, try to stick to fruit that can be peeled before eating. Most produce is grown organically, without chemical pesticides or fertilisers but it's highly likely to have been washed in unsterilized water.

Fusion isn't a new trend in Morocco, where the cuisine is a blend of Mediterranean, Arabic, Jewish, Persian, West African and Berber influences. Meals range from the *diffa*, an elaborate multicourse feast featuring couscous and grilled meats, to quick brochettes (kebab) from a roadside stall. Produce is seasonal, grown locally and typically without chemical pesticides or fertilisers.

Tagines, the fragrant stews of meat, vegetables or fish, named after the distinctive conical earthenware vessel they're cooked in are the Moroccans main staple. Flavours revolve around a subtle array of spices, and traditionally every spice shop would have its own secret *ras el hanout* spice blend recipe.

Restaurants range from buffet diners to high-end establishment serving gourmet fare. Many now offer *à la carte* menus and a three-course fixed-price menu is still common at dinner. Restaurants in cities and large resorts are cosmopolitan, offering a good selection of cuisines, including typical Moroccan fare, plus French, Italian, Spanish and fusion dishes.

The best way to experience the true flavour of Moroccan cuisine, however, is to sample the street food. Djemaa el Fna square in the centre of Marrakech sees an explosion of pop-up food stalls after dark, and most other cities have their own foodie quarters. Scrumptious local specialities such as almonds, olives and a rainbow array of spices can be found in souks across the country.

Laws on alcohol are fairly liberal (for non-Muslim visitors) and bars in most tourist areas stay open late. Wines, beers and spirits are available to tourists. Muslims are forbidden to drink alcohol. By law, no-one is allowed to drink alcohol in view of a mosque or during Ramadan, although tourist establishments sometimes flout this rule. Locally produced wines, beers and mineral waters are reasonably priced, but imported drinks tend to be expensive.

Tipping waiting staff is expected (if service is satisfactory), usually up to 5 dirams on small bills, and around 10% for larger bills.

Climate and Weather

Morocco's climate is very diverse, varying with the season and region. In general the country has a tropical climate, with temperatures reaching as high as 35°C (95°F) and as low as 5°C (41°F) in the Sahara. The coast has a warm, Mediterranean climate tempered on the eastern coast by southwest trade winds whilst inland areas have a hotter, drier, continental climate. In the south of the country, the weather is very hot and dry throughout most of the year, though temperatures can drop dramatically at night, especially in the months of December and January.

Rain falls from November to March in coastal areas, and the country is mostly dry with high temperatures in summer and a cooler climate in the mountains. Marrakech and Agadir enjoy an average temperature of 21°C (70°F) during the winter.

Owing to the relatively high winter temperatures, and summers that are dry rather than unbearably humid, Morocco is an all-year round destination. If you really want to avoid the heat, the best time to visit is during the shoulder seasons of April to May, and September to November.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Lightweight cottons and linens are best worn during summer, with warm medium weight wear for the evenings, during the winter, and in the mountains. Waterproofing is advisable in the wet season, particularly on the coast and in the mountains. Both men and women should be careful to wear clothing that is cognisant of cultural sensitivities – long sleeves and low hems will be looked on favourably. Sunscreen, a sunhat and sunglasses are essential especially in summer.

Internet Availability

Access is unrestricted and is widely available in business centres, hotels and in internet cafés. A one month prepaid unlimited internet access card for laptops, iPhones and smartphones is available from Maroc Telecom (who also have the best national coverage).

Electricity and Plug Standards

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Morocco are one of the two European standard electrical socket types: The "Type C" Europlug and the "Type E" and "Type F" Schuko. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into. If it's crucial to be able to plug in no matter what, bring an adapter for all three types.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in the Kingdom of Morocco usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

But travel plug adapters do not change the voltage, so the electricity coming through the adapter will still be the same 220-240 volts the socket is supplying. North American sockets supply electricity at between 110 and 120 volts, far lower than in most of the rest of the world. Consequently, North American appliances are generally built for 110-120 volts.

Terms and Conditions

PURE MOROCCO Terms and Conditions

Tour Rates :

All published rates are quoted in USD, per person per booking, and are valid all year round, except during Christmas and New Year breaks.

The minimum and max price depend on the number of travelers for each tour booking.

Children Policy:

00-01.99: Free of charge

02-11.99: Until 50% discount, depending on the tour

12+: is considered as an adult

Payment Policy:

Bookings should be done as early as possible to reserve your desired visit to Morocco; all the included services will be booked and secured upon receiving a deposit of at least of 25% (*depending on each tour*), this deposit constitutes a part of your final payment. The remaining balance should be paid according to the conditions of each booking.

Deposits can be made according to the following conditions:

1. Minimum of 25% upon booking
2. Remaining payment 14 days before arrival

During the Christmas and New Year holidays, the required deposit is 100%.

Tour Voucher:

Once your tour is confirmed, you will receive our final confirmation and voucher to print and bring with you. This voucher will include all the necessary details such as Pure Morocco representative contact and emergency phone number.

Cancellation and Refund Policy:

We will do everything possible to meet your needs. We recommend all our customers buy travel insurance in case of interruption, accidents, illness, or anything that may happen.

If a booking must be canceled, a cancellation fee may apply as per the below outlined conditions:

- No cancellation fee when cancellation is made 30 days in - the advance of the travel date
- Between 21 and 14 days in advance of your travel date: 25% cancellation fee.
- Between 14 and 7 days in advance of your travel date: 50% cancellation fee.
- From 7 days to your travel date: 100% cancellation fee.
- No refunds are possible in the case of a no-show and/or after the tours start.