



## Trip Details

# Morocco | South Morocco Adventure

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## What's Included

- Round trip airport transfers
- 3 nights in Marrakech at Le Kech Hotel or similar
- 1 night in Dades at Xaluca Hotel or similar
- 1 night in Merzuuga at Riad Madu Hotel or similar
- 1 night in Zagora at Riad Lamane Hotel or similar
- 1 night in Quarzazate at Dar Chamaa Hotel or similar
- Half board (breakfast and dinner, including dinner in a local restaurant in Marrakech)
- Modern transportation with an English-speaking driver (bottle of water available in the car)
- English-speaking national guide (for 5 pax and more)
- 4x4 round trip transfers to the desert camp
- Sunset or sunrise Camel ride
- Full-day guided city tour of Marrakech
- Visit Skoura and Dades
- Visit Tinghir and Merzouuga

- City Tour of Zagora
- Visit Quarzazate
- Visit Ait Ben Haddou
- Monuments and historical sites entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Porterage at the hotels
- All taxes

## Not Included

- Optional tours
- Expenditures of a personal nature, such as drinks, souvenirs, laundry, etc.
- Other meals which are not specified in the itinerary
- Tipping for guide/driver

## Day by Day

### DAY 1

Upon arrival in Marrakech, please proceed through customs and immigration formalities. Collect your baggage and proceed outside where you are met by our representative then drive to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Hotels:** Overnight at the hotel

**Meals:** Dinner

### DAY 2

Unearth the secrets of Marrakech, beginning in the Medina, the old walled section of town and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This thousand-year-old city was long a political, economic, and cultural center. Marvel at its architectural jewels, including the soaring Koutoubia minaret. Continue to the Bahia Palace, an example of privileged life in the 19th century. Your next stop is the Dar el Bacha Museum of Confluences. This palace was built by Pasha Thami el Glaoui in 1910. Walk in its lovely gardens, admire the zellige mosaic tilework of this opulent palace, and enjoy exhibitions focused on Moroccan culture. Then visit Djemaa el-Fna, Marrakech's main square, which is filled with orange juice



stalls and vendors, along with fire-eaters, mime artists, snake-charmers, magicians, and street musicians performing at every turn. You may also take the opportunity to explore the city's fabled, labyrinthine souks, their bustling alleyways brimming with all manner of wares. Following your visit, return to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure, a perfect opportunity to freshen up and get ready for Dinner in a local restaurant. Return to your hotel and overnight

**Hotels:** Overnight at the hotel

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 3**

As you leave Marrakech, the distant haze begins to resolve itself into a jagged mountain range, the High Atlas Mountains, jutting abruptly from the plain. Our route follows the same route that caravans used centuries ago, to bring into Marrakech gold and precious wood from the other side of the Sahara. Beautiful scenery and small villages built in tiers succeed among oak trees, walnut groves, and snow patches before arriving at the Tizi n Tichka pass, 2,260 meters high. Once over the pass a totally different scenery is unveiled: the lunar landscape of the Anti-Atlas. Later, skirt past Ouarzazate and stop for a lunch (own expenses). Past Ouarzazate, our trip tour reaches another lush area, nestled between the deserted crest and the desolate plateaus: Skoura palm grove. Then, we reach Kelaa des Mgouna, famous for the nearby Valley of Roses and its Rose Festival, where at the end of a 3-day celebration usually held in May, a local girl is crowned Rose Queen. The most looked after product is Eau-de-rose and two factories in the area distill and export the product. The process uses approximately three thousand kilograms of rose petals to extract a liter of rose oil. Further on, Boulmane Dades follows the starting point to explore the spectacular Dades Gorges, a luxuriant carpet set against the massive rocks and quite popular among those who like trekking. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**Hotels:** Overnight at the hotel

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 4**

Back on the road, our first stop is Tinghir, with its extensive palm grove, ksour (fortified village) built into the rocky hills above, and its mysterious decaying Jewish quarter. Tinghir has been for generations a stop for nomadic Berber tribes traveling from the northern mountains towards the desert. A rather inconspicuous hidden gem is the 19th-century adobe mosque nested within the old crumbling ksour, a heaven for photography enthusiasts. The Gorgeous of Todra, lies only 15km from Tinghir, presenting a capturing scene with its crystal clear river emerging from it, its huge walls changing color walls, a magical effect as the day unfolds. Its 300 meters high walls are home to more than 150 bolted routes and at any time of day, you can catch a glimpse of someone rock climbing his way up the gigantic walls. Before reaching Merzouga where the tarmac ends, we pass Erfoud and Rissani. In Erfoud, we may stop for a visit to Musée des Oasis if time allows. Rissani used to serve as



the last stop on the great caravan southern route. Gold and slave auctions were taking place there in the 1800s. Before 1800, the caravan trade and the most important city in Morocco were Sijilmasa, the ruins of which lie opposite Rissani. From its gates, Ibn Battuta and Leo Africanus left Morocco to embark on their illustrious journeys across the Sahara into African countries. Soon after we reach Merzouga and in the distance you glimpse the first leviathans of sand forming the Sahara: the dunes of Erg Chebbi. Serf the sandy sea on a powerful 4 WD Land Rover to the desert camp. Dinner and overnight under Berber tent.

**Hotels:** Overnight at the hotel

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## **DAY 5**

Enjoy a sunrise camel ride along the golden dunes in Merzouga. Return to your Riad for breakfast before transferring to Zagora via the Amazigh (Berber) villages of Alnif and Tazarine. The road to Tazarine sees almost no traffic, providing a scenic link between Tafilalet and Draa Valley. Aside from the landscape, fossils and prehistoric rock carvings are this region's main attraction. The scenery grows wilder as you approach Tazarine, set in a grassy oasis surrounded by bare mountains. Continue to Zagora. Famous for its palms valley which is the largest in Morocco. Dinner and overnight in your hotel.

**Hotels:** Overnight at the hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## **DAY 6**

After breakfast, enjoy the tour of Zagora including the oldest villages of Morocco. Stop by Tamegroute to visit the village's famous library, which houses ancient Koranic scripts dating back to the 12th century. Visit the pottery quarter of Tamgroute then transfer to Ouarzazate along the Draa valley.

**Hotels:** Overnight at the hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## **DAY 7**

Begin the day by exploring Ouarzazate, a city originally built as a French garrison in the 1920s. Today, the city is a regional trade center, known for its pottery and carpets. Visit the Taourirt Kasbah, which now consists of simple clay houses and crenelated towers that are beautifully decorated with geometric motifs. On the way, optional visit to the Film Studios. Continue to elaborate on ksar Ait Ben Haddou, listed as UNESCO World Heritage, and home of the region's most exotic Kasbahs, where all structures that defy the laws of gravity as they perch upon a steep slope. Some of these buildings have been featured in films, including Lawrence of Arabia and Gladiator. Your journey over the High



Atlas Mountains, observing everyday life in remote rural towns, to the fascinating city of Marrakech.  
Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**Hotels:** Overnight at the hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## **DAY 8**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel.

At the appropriate time, you will be transferred to the Marrakesh Menara Airport for your departing flight.

**Hotels:** NA

**Meals:** Breakfast