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Bespoke adventure travel & events since 2000

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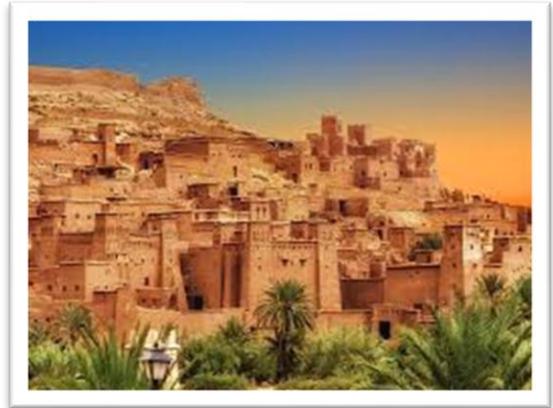
MOROCCO

The Quintessential Discovery Tour!

11 Nights / 12 Days of Exploration

ABOUT THIS TOUR

Embark on our panoramic tour of **Morocco** and immerse yourself in a land where ancient culture intertwines with breathtaking landscapes. Discover the vibrant heritage of its cities, where centuries-old monuments stand as testaments to a rich history. Delight in the culinary tapestry, savoring dishes that blend aromatic spices and traditional flavors. Wander through the golden expanses of the **Sahara Desert**, feel the grandeur of the **Atlas Mountains**, and find adventure on hiking trails that reveal stunning vistas. Morocco promises an unforgettable journey, offering a diverse mosaic of experiences for every traveler. **We welcome you to join us on our Morocco North to South adventure!**



IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

This trip is active in the sense that we'll be on our feet daily and regularly enjoying easy hikes and cultural walks. Add village explorations and community tours with local guides, exploring nature reserves, world heritage sites, and be exposed to a wide variety of regional food. Stay in unique hotels with inspiring backdrops – including a special night under the stars in the Sahara Desert! If you're up for a tour offering easy day hikes and a panoramic private bus journey through a wide variation of terrains, this is a perfect tour for you!



UNIQUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Journey in comfort from **Tangier** in the north to the **Sahara** and **Marrakech** in the south
- Interact with the warm-hearted **Berber** (Amizagh) culture, Morocco's charming local hosts
- Be dazzled by the most awe-inspiring landscapes packed into one incredible journey!
- Get lost in the labyrinth of lanes in some of the most enchanting medinas and souks
- Hike over desert and mountain landscapes in a beautifully balanced autumn climate
- Taste the culinary delights that makes Moroccan food some of Africa's best
- Sleep under the Saharan sky in a desert dunes camp (after a camel trek to your camp)!
- Contribute as a visitor to improving Morocco's economy and openness to the world through travel!

Day 1: TANGIER - ARRIVAL DAY

Welcome to Morocco and to Tangier, the most *Afro-Euro* city and a true melting pot of cultures and languages tucked into a calm bay overlooking Europe itself in the distance. From your arrival at Tangier's IBN Batouta Airport (TNG), we'll transfer your group to our hotel near the medina of Tangier. No activities planned today, offering a chance to acclimate from travel. This afternoon, a meet up with our guiding team and a welcome dinner will be on hand.





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Accommodation: Hotel Kenzi Solazur 4 Stars <https://www.kenzi-hotels.com/en/kenzi-solazur> **Meals:** Welcome Dinner with your guiding team provided. **Activity Profile:** No organized activity program today but it's safe to explore the beautiful promenade of Tangier or dip your toe in the Mediterranean.

Day 2: TANGIER to CHEFCHOUEN This morning we'll explore Tangier's enigmatic medina and souk (markets), and walk within the walls of the Kasbah (fortress), enjoying views of Spain in the distance and witnessing firsthand the hustle and bustle of medina life! After lunch, a panoramic tour to see features such as Cape Spartel & the Cave of Hercules is carried out before we drive 2.5 hours to Chefchouen, deep in the heart of the Rif Mountains.

Accommodation: Riad Casa Hassan <https://casahassan.com/>

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner included. **Activity Profile:** Mostly flat, city walking tour of 2-3 hours during the morning & panoramic bus drive in afternoon.



Day 3: CHEFCHOUEN – The Blue City of the Amazigh Berbers

Famously named the Blue City, Chefchouen is the spiritual home and administrative centre for the **Rif Berber** (Amazigh) culture. Today our local guide will escort us through the labyrinth of lanes and alleys, staircases and passageways of this fascinating medieval village. After lunch, we'll do an easy nature walk through pastures and forests – reaching the Spanish mosque and a picturesque viewpoint of the entire valley. Later today you can stroll the medina and bargain for wonderful crafts and souvenirs or experience an optional *Hamam* treatment in the traditional Moroccan way!

Accommodation: Same as previous night. **Meals:** Breakfast and

Dinner included. **Activity Profile:** We combine village explorations on foot followed by a nature walk through forest and farmlands that climbs gently 3-400 feet in total. The nature walk is approximately 2.5 miles in total and rated easy however closed shoes are recommended.



Day 4: CHEFCHOUEN to (Volubilis & Moulay Idris Zerhoun)

FEZ This morning we set off by coach through more of the Rif Mountain's rugged landscapes, penetrating deeper south in Morocco's hinterland. At *Volubilis*, lose yourself in the ancient remnants of a Roman city, marvelling at intricate mosaics and grand architectural remains. Following this, take a moment to absorb the serene atmosphere of *Moulay Idris Zerhoun*, a town steeped in spiritual significance and a visit to *Meknes* and its historic *Mausoleum*. As the day draws to a close, arrive in Fez - Morocco's spiritual capital, ready to unwind and indulge in the city's rich cultural offerings! **Accommodation:** Hotel 5 stars Los Merinides

https://www.lesmerinides.com/en/?utm_source=gmb#home **Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner included. **Activity Profile:** Largely a travel day by coach with frequent breaks for explorations and tours on foot of historic sites.





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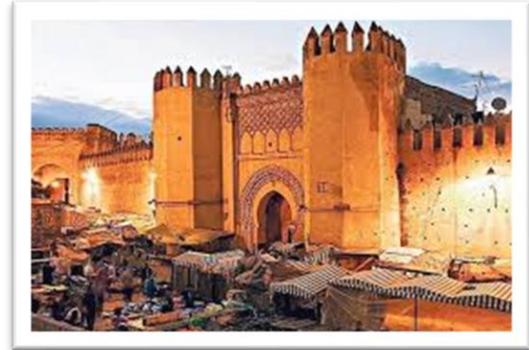
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Day 5: FEZ – The Regal City

Today, experience a full day immersed in the rich tapestry of Fez's vibrant culture and history with our comprehensive tour of the **Fez Medina**. Begin by admiring the ornate Royal Palace gate, a testament to Morocco's regal heritage, before delving into the fascinating narratives of the city's Jewish headquarters and the historic **Mellah**. Wander through the labyrinth alleys of the Majestic Medina, where every corner reveals a new facet of local life, from bustling souks brimming with treasures to hidden gems waiting to be discovered. Explore the renowned tanneries of Fez, where ancient techniques continue to produce exquisite leather goods, and delve into the intellectual legacy of the city at the esteemed Qarouiyine University. Marvel at the architectural splendour of the *Bonania Madrasa*, a symbol of Islamic learning and craftsmanship. **Accommodation:** Same as previous night. **Meals:** Breakfast & a family-prepared dinner included (TBC). **Activity Profile:** A full day on foot exploring this magnificent historic quarter. Mostly flat – comfortable shoes recommended.



Day 6: ERFLOUD – The Gateway to the Sahara

This morning we Embark on an exhilarating coach journey south from Fez, traversing the breathtaking landscapes of the Middle Atlas Mountains and *Ifrane National Park*. Pause for a revitalizing break in *Ifrane*, often dubbed Morocco's Switzerland, before continuing your adventure. Prepare to encounter the charismatic **Barbary Ape monkeys** amidst the enchanting cedar forests near *Azrou*, an experience sure to leave a lasting impression. We'll continue driving through the rugged terrain, crossing the majestic *Tizi N Talghamt Pass* and soaking in panoramic vistas of the *Ziz Gorge* and valleys beyond towards the Sahara. Our final destination today, *Erfoud*, offers glimpses into Morocco's rich cultural tapestry. **Accommodation:** 4 star Hotel L'Hotel (*Chateau de Sable*) <https://www.lhotel.ma/> **Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner included. **Activity Profile:** Today is our longest vehicle transfer and we'll break up the journey with short, scenic walks in both nature and rural village / town settings.



Day 7: ERG CHEBBI DUNES EXPERIENCE – A night under the stars!

Today we enter the breathtaking landscapes and awe-inspiring vastness of the **Sahara Desert**. A gentle start after yesterday's epic road journey, we may visit gem dealers and tourist markets for more bargaining action before driving further south to *Merzouga*, the gateway to the *Erg Chebbi* sand dunes of the Sahara! By mid-afternoon, the adventure continues with a captivating camel ride to a special desert camp nestled amidst the towering Erg Chebbi Dunes. This evening, surrender to the magic of the Saharan night as you relish in the tranquillity of the desert and marvel at the splendour of the star-studded sky above. Prepare for a restful overnight stay, enveloped in the serenity of the desert





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landscape with our Saharan Berber hosts offering unprecedented hospitality. **Accommodation:** *DWO Golden Camp* <https://www.dwohotels.com/nuestros-hoteles/dwo-golden-camp-merzouga> Comfortable desert camp amongst the dunes with private bathroom / shower unit and comfortable beds tucked into Saharan style traditional tents under the stars **Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner included. **Activity Profile:** Morning explorations on foot of **Erfoud** and markets. Afternoon desert camel journey (2 hours approximately), evening desert dunes walking and sunset experience. *Optional quad riding experience may be arranged today.

Day 8: TODRA GORGE, DADES VALLEY & BOUTAGHARE (local Berber family hotel experience)

Immerse yourself in the enchanting allure of the Sahara Desert with a breathtaking sunrise spectacle, followed by a fulfilling breakfast at the camp. After our camel trek back to *Merzouga*, we bid farewell to the dunes and venture towards the majestic **Todra Gorge** and Atlas Mountain range, where towering cliffs and tranquil rivers await your discovery. After a visit to the *Oasis Sahara Museum* near **Khirbat Village**, continue your journey to the picturesque **Dades Valley** and **Boutaghare Village**, where verdant oasis and rugged canyons create a striking backdrop that is just unimaginable. A hike is scheduled for today at our destination (or the following morning pending travel times). **Accommodation:** A special Berber family-run simple guest house in **Boutaghare**. *Kasbah Chems* <https://kasbah-chems.com/> **Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner included. **Activity Profile:** Camel return journey followed by a coach transfer to **Todra Gorge** where we stroll within the canyon walls and later explore oasis-like pastures and date plantations (2 hours / gentle), closed hiking shoes necessary.



Day 9: OUARZAZATE & AIT BENHADOU KASBAH

This morning we embark on a scenic journey from the **Dades Valley**, traversing the captivating landscape of the **Valley of a Thousand Kasbahs**. On route, we can explore on foot the *Skoura* date palmeries (visiting the *Amaridit Kasbah*), becoming lost in the labyrinth of ancient date palmeries before stepping into the cinematic history of **Ouarzazate** with a visit to the Film Studios! As the day unfolds, venture to the iconic village of **Ksar Ait Ben Haddou**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its striking architecture and storied past. On foot we'll explore the labyrinth alleys and ancient structures of this desert fortress before settling in for the night to dine and reflect on the immensity of the day's adventures!

Accommodation: Kasbah Riad Dar Chamaa 3 Star https://www.darchamaa.com/en/en_inicio.html **Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner included. **Activity Profile:** We'll break today's coach journey with short, scenic walks (30 min to 1 hour at a time), through the desert palmeries and some historic Kasbah communities.





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Day 10: MARRAKECH & The Tichka Pass of the Atlas

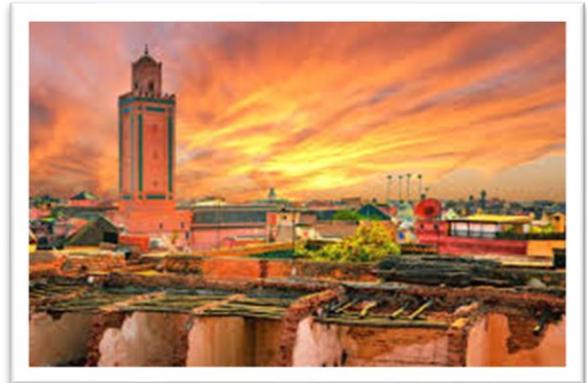
Mountains This morning after breakfast we say goodbye to the Saharan landscapes and travel north to **Marrakech**, the charismatic outpost of the historic camel / spice trading route to **Timbuktu**. Today considered an international adventure destination that never fails to disappoint, Marrakech is alluring in every respect! Our journey traverses the breathtaking **Telouet Valley** before ascending the **Tizi N Tichka Pass** over the Atlas Mountains. Unbeatable views throughout the morning, we'll stop on route to hike and explore beautiful landscapes before reaching Marrakech by late afternoon. **Accommodation:** Hotel Kennedy Hospitality Resort 4 stars



<https://www.kennedyhospitalityresort.com/en> **Meals:** Breakfast only included – leaving you free for a night in Marrakech to consider many dining options! **Activity Profile:** Again we'll break up our coach journey with selected short walks / hikes in spectacular landscapes – integrating with local communities on route.

Day 11: MARRAKECH

Embark on a sightseeing morning in Marrakech, starting with a visit to the historic *medina*, marvelling at the intricate architecture and souks. We'll delve into the spiritual ambiance of the *Koutoubia Mosque*, an iconic landmark of the city. Wander through the opulent halls and serene courtyards of the *Bahia Palace*, soaking in its rich history and stunning design.



Lose yourself in the vibrant hustle and bustle of the *Souks*, where you can haggle for exotic treasures and unique souvenirs. Cap off your day at the lively *Jemaa el Fna Square*, where snake charmers, storytellers, and food vendors create a sensory feast! After lunch, you are free to explore more of Marrakech - perhaps the enchanting *Majorelle Garden* (Yves Saint Laurent Garden), a serene oasis of exotic flora and tranquil pathways and time permitting a scenic drive through the modern marvels of the modern city, soaking in the contrast between ancient and contemporary Marrakech! **Accommodation:** Same as previous night. **Meals:** Breakfast & Farewell Dinner included. **Activity Profile:** Today expect to be on your feet exploring the historic medina of Marrakech for the morning, leaving you free to self-explore the afternoon.



Day 12: DEPARTURE (from Marrakech)

This morning after breakfast you are free to depart from Marrakech, or perhaps extend your stay in Morocco and visit the stunning Atlantic coastal town of *Essaouira* or the cities, *Casablanca & Rabat*. Another option is to take a sunrise hot air balloon experience over Marrakech: <https://www.hotairballoonmarrakech.com/>. No activities planned today and a group shuttle is provided to escort you to the airport at a denominated time.

Meals: Breakfast only included.

Activity Profile: No activities provided today



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WHAT'S INCLUDED ON THE TOUR

- Arrival and departure airport group transfers (Tangier arrival / Marrakech departure)
- 11 nights' accommodation (Single and double / twin room options) *Includes a night in desert camp & rural hotel
- All meals as per itinerary - all dinners except 1 (in Marrakech) & all breakfasts are included
- All land transport on tour in private A.C. tour bus with driver
- Full time Guiding and Tour management services from Matt Butler of Adventurebug
- Full time Guiding services from our local Moroccan Guide
- Entrance Fees and / or guided visits / experiences as per itinerary
- Tips (in the form of a group kitty), to cover included meals, local experts, baggage handlers & housekeeping
- Daily refillable water supply on tour bus (please bring a bottle to fill from our larger supplied bottles)
- Taxes and Adventurebug administration fees (prices are Net with no hidden fees)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights (International to and from Morocco)
- Private insurance (emergency, evacuation, *trip cancellation, etc.) *we strongly recommend cancellation insurance
- Medical expenses and / or services required on tour
- Additional services such as telephone, laundry, and additional activities where not provided
- Additional entrances not in itinerary (museums, galleries, historic sites, etc)
- No lunches (and 1 dinner / Marrakech), not included on tour
- Beverages at meals
- Tips for local Moroccan guide & group driver

ABOUT YOUR TOUR - A FEW FACTS



Lodgings – We provide 11 tour nights' in excellent Tourist Class hotels located in specially selected regions. Rooms are based on double bed or twin bed scenarios with limited single supplements available. Nearly all hotels have WIFI connections and some have swimming pools. One night of course is in a desert dune camp where all bedding is supplied and bathroom / shower facilities exist but are more basic than hotels.

Meals – Meals are generally taken within your hotel (and in village cafes for lunch stops). We supply all breakfasts & dinners on tour and you look after your own lunches daily. Moroccan food is very healthy and cooked well with plenty of flavour. Delhi Belly is not common in Morocco when food is prepared in venues used by tour groups. Wine or beer, etc. is not always available around the country.

Morocco is a tolerant Muslim country and they produce their own wine and beer, however drinking licenses are not common for public restaurants. Vegetarian needs can be met however specialist's diets such as gluten free, vegan, etc. may be difficult to manage. Beverages are not provided at the included meals though mineral water is supplied for topping up water bottles each day.





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Transport – During the tour days, we have a private airconditioned coach for our use.

Personal Money - Outside of the meals not included in your tour price, you may wish to have some *Dirhams* for other purposes such as purchasing essentials like beverages, local souvenirs and for guide / driver tips at the end of tour (see below).

Exchanging money between your currency and the Moroccan Dirham is easy. Some options are:

- *Bring Dollars (or your currency) from home for exchange (we are accredited with reliable money changers)*
- *Use your bankcard here in Moroccan ATM bank machines (good rates of exchange and low fees – pending your bank card arrangements from home)*
- *Pay with your credit card (limited in Morocco except for higher end purchases and better hotels/restaurants) (Important note – traveller's cheques are practically obsolete in Morocco)*

TELEPHONE AND INTERNET SERVICES IN MOROCCO

Credit Cards may be used for International calls or a Moroccan SIM Card can be purchased for a certain value. INTERNET WIFI is available in most hotels - including cafes throughout the region. Please note, hotel wifi connection always in the common areas but not always guaranteed in rooms and power outages may impact connectivity – you are in Africa after all!

INSURANCE

Please ensure, as a condition of travelling with Adventure Bug Travel LTD. that you have taken out **personal travel insurance** which covers you for *accident, injury, evacuation and general health insurance* for Morocco travel. In this day and age, we strongly recommend *cancellation insurance* for any delays or disruptions you may encounter. Please note, high quality private medical facilities can be found in the regions of travel on this trip – particularly around the larger population centres.

TIPPING

Tipping in the developing world is important for the local people. To save you hassle, tipping for the included meals, baggage handling and housekeeping are included. If you wish to leave a little more, you can do so personally and this won't be problematic. Tips for our local Moroccan guide and the driver are not included and we can offer guidelines pre-tour. Note that the local guide and driver tip is offered at the end of the tour.



YOUR GUIDING TEAM

Your trip is led by a team of Adventurebug Travel specialist guides! Including one of our local-based Moroccan specialist guides. Holding an official Government guiding certification, our local guide speaks English, French, Arabic and of course the mother tongue Berber! The guide will ensure you gain the most memorable experiences with both the local people, the culture and wonderful landscapes. Our driver is also an integral part of the team and will ensure your safety and quality of experience every step (or km!), of the way!

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT MOROCCAN TRAVEL

Morocco has few annoyances or serious health problems. Society is non-violent and the Arab Spring of 2011 was little more than public demonstration in a few large cities. The King of Morocco has had a recent constitutional change accepted by the people via a national referendum – June 2011. Harassment to buy items in the marketplace is minimal these days – especially with guides present. Americans are welcome in Morocco despite on-going conflicts in the middle east and elsewhere. Moroccans are very considerate and patient with our 'western' ways and global viewpoints (*that are represented and/or misrepresented via the media and politicians*). The subject of Israel & Palestine between locals and travellers leads more towards open discussion and/or curiosity opposed to debate and hardline views.

Travel in Morocco is Africa however and poverty is the norm – despite the enormous distribution of wealth that you'll also witness. Like everywhere, common sense with money, personal handbags, cameras, etc. is advised and interactions with locals is common and often encouraged.



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For



up to date **health**

information about Morocco, consult the website

<http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/africa/morocco.aspx> and also speak to a medical specialist that deals with travel to this region.

Malaria nor any serious tropical diseases are not a problem in this region. There are no cases of Ebola reported to this date in Morocco and the recent Covid pandemic has been handled with great care (at the EU level), throughout.

We recommend you carry all your prescriptions from home and don't always expect to find the same items in a local pharmacy. Also include an extra pair of glasses.

HERE ARE A FEW MORE TIPS:

- *Visas (at time of print) are not required for US, Canadian, Australian (all Commonwealth nations), British or European nationals. It is procedure to receive a 3-month tourist visa upon entry with a passport containing a minimum of **6 months validity**.*
- *Transport on this tour will be in the form of a private coach. Our driving pace is careful so that we can enjoy the views and not feel anxious on the roads.*
- *Refrain from drinking local water and use bottled water as it is widely sold. We will provide refillable bottled water each morning. Otherwise water costs about 75 cents to 1 dollar max per 1.5 litre bottle.*
- *Restaurant prepared food in our experience is tasty, clean and well cooked. Delhi belly is never a problem if precautions are taken.*
- *Please respect dress code of locals - shorts / t-shirts (for ladies) are fine in the mountains and in the desert but not usually around mosques or holy centers / town centers and urban market places.*
- *You can feel safe walking the streets day or night in Morocco – particularly in the areas of this trip. They are accustomed to many foreign visitors and in fact, many live and own property in Morocco.*
- *Our hotels are very clean, modern and designed for international cliental but they may not be similar to your standards at home. Please be open-minded (and reminded), that you are travelling on the African continent.*
- *Remember to practice good personal hygiene and wash hands throughout the day.*
- *Be prepared to carry tissue / toilet paper (and small change) for bathroom stops (hotels have toilet paper)*
- *Morocco toilets range from traditional 'hole in the floor' to sit down models. Our hotels have modern toilets.*
- *Being 'stared at' is common in the developing world. Don't take offense, it's very normal.*
- *Tipping is not common but in restaurants, cafes and for special services it's always welcome.*
- *Moroccan markets always require a little haggling, it's normal. Just ask yourself what your truly ready to pay first!*