

Marrakech to Sahara 9 days / 8 nights Description

Description:

Explore the Moroccan desert, the ancient Drâa Valley, and the colorful souks of Marrakech. Immerse yourself in local culture, get lost (but not too much!) in the Sahara dunes, and spend a night in a tent like a true Bedouin.

Day 1

1 night: Marrakech

Arrival: our adventure begins in Marrakech

Settle into your hotel in Marrakech, and it's time to start this trip in style, with gastronomy, of course! Let's taste the local specialties. Raise your glass and let yourself be carried away by the mix of flavors and aromas the city has to offer!

Day 2

First stop: Aït Ben-haddou

On the road to Aït-Ben-Haddou

The Morocco tour begins now! We pick up our cars and head to... Aït-Ben-Haddou! There we will meet our local guide who will reveal the secrets of this fascinating country. The highlight of the day is undoubtedly the drive: as soon as we leave the city, we are plunged into the heart of the Moroccan desert. To reach our final destination, we will cross a pass offering exceptional panoramas of the Atlas Mountains where, as incredible as it may seem, you might even spot snow!

You never forget your first kasbah

Here we are finally in Aït Benhaddou... the first kasbah of this trip! A kasbah is actually a fortified city, and this particular one is one of the nine Moroccan sites inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list. The view of the city is absolutely spectacular, with its high towers and buildings constructed from organic materials, notably the red earth that gives them their characteristic color. Aït Benhaddou seems to blend into the landscape... Let's take time to explore the city before enjoying a well-deserved dinner.

Day 3

The Todra Gorges and a night in the desert!

Roses and gorges

Our journey to discover the treasures of Morocco continues: today, we will cover many kilometers by car, so enjoy the scenery! Say goodbye to Aït Benhaddou and get ready to hit the road for Merzouga,

our final destination of the day. We will cross El Kelaa M'Gouna, also known as "the city of roses" – renowned for its enchanting perfumes – and the Todra and Dadès gorges, breathtaking sites where red rock walls rise as far as the eye can see, forming a true canyon.

Sahara, here we come!

On the way, we will see many kasbahs and ksour (castles) and we will certainly make a stop to appreciate the famous Moroccan hospitality. The journey continues until we arrive in Erfoud, where we leave our cars to board a 4x4 that will take us to the Sahara Desert! We reach Merzouga, surrounded by high sand dunes: we change our mode of transport again to meet... camels! They will take us to explore the Sahara at sunset – an unforgettable experience, followed by a night in a tent, under the stars.

Day 4

On the road in the Drâa Valley

A green valley

After a spectacular night, we wake up in the middle of the desert. Early risers can even set their alarms before dawn to admire the sand dunes blazing under the first rays of the sun. After a good breakfast, we hit the road again to reach Tazzarine, then we continue our exploration of the incredible Drâa Valley. Get ready to discover new landscapes! The valley is crossed, as you might expect, by the Drâa River, which gives it lush vegetation and abundant greenery, especially palm trees.

Relax in Agdz

On the way, we will undoubtedly discover magnificent kasbahs, which we can visit – Morocco is full of surprises! We will have lunch in one of them, then we will continue our journey to Agdz, a town nestled in the Drâa Valley, on the slopes of Jebel Kissane, in the Atlas Mountains. We will spend an afternoon relaxing there exploring the surroundings. In the evening, if we haven't already, we will enjoy a delicious tagine!

Day 5

The Moroccan coast: magnificent Agadir

Miniature Marrakech

Hello Morocco! It's a new day for us, the WeRoaders, discovering the hidden beauties of this country. This morning, we head to Taroudant, a city nestled in the fertile Souss Valley, surrounded by the High Atlas and Anti-Atlas mountains. It almost feels like a miniature Marrakech, so the visit won't take us long: we can stroll through its souks in the morning, the ideal opportunity to find artisanal souvenirs!

Next stop, Agadir

We then continue our journey towards Taliouine, considered the African center of saffron production: a stop is therefore essential for lunch and to taste some dishes based on the "king of spices." We then head west; it's time to say goodbye to the inland and finally reach the coast! The journey will take about three hours, so sit back and enjoy the magnificent scenery. In the late

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afternoon, we will arrive in Agadir and have time to discover the city – if only to find a small restaurant and have lunch!

Day 6

To Essaouira

The city of surfers

This morning, after a hearty breakfast, we will just have time to stroll along the promenade in Agadir. We will then head north along the coast. Get ready to admire a completely different landscape: today, we will enjoy the view of the Atlantic Ocean! We will make a short stop in Taghazout, which, it is said, has been the flagship destination for surfers and freedom lovers since the 70s. Time for a good mint tea, and we'll be off again. Next stop: Essaouira!

Walking in Essaouira

We arrive in Essaouira and enjoy a free afternoon to discover this coastal city. It is home to the famous medina on the sea, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and a remarkable example of 18th-century European military architecture in North Africa. We explore the medina and some neighborhoods near the center, then we prepare to taste typical dishes of local cuisine. On the menu tonight: the delicious harira soup, made with chickpeas and lentils!

Day 7

Essaouira and Marrakech

Fancy a beach day?

What better way to enjoy the last hours in Essaouira than a quad bike excursion? So, let's put on our helmets, get on a quad bike with our now faithful travel companion, and cross the immensity of the dunes of Essaouira beach. We will end this experience with a pleasant picnic facing the sea and relax before heading back to Marrakech.

Let's go back to Marrakech

In the afternoon, we take our seats in our cars for the last leg of our journey to discover Morocco. The return journey to Marrakech takes about three hours, so let's enjoy these last moments on the Moroccan roads. After so many days away from the city, returning to the hustle and bustle of Marrakech will be a bit abrupt, but that's also what makes Morocco charming: a multitude of facets to discover every day!

Day 8

Discovering Marrakech

Walking in Marrakech

We have a whole day to explore Marrakech: we start with Jemaa el-Fna square, in the heart of the city. This square is home to a large open-air market, the souk, where you can buy delicate fabrics, delicious dates, and fragrant spices. You can get a henna tattoo or consult a fortune teller to read

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your palm lines. We will then head to the Spice Square and the Bahia Palace, a true masterpiece of traditional Moroccan architecture.

Our last Moroccan night

Since it's our last evening here, let's treat ourselves to a refreshing mint tea on the terrace of a cafe around the main square, while admiring a magnificent sunset. The evening will continue with a farewell dinner, consisting of delicious Moroccan specialties, and a stroll through the lively streets of Marrakech.

Day 9

Goodbye Morocco