

Marrakech & Ait Benhaddou

4 days | Starts/Ends: Marrakech



PRIVATE TOUR: Enjoy a city break with a difference in captivating Marrakech. Just a short hop from Europe, step into an outlandish world of snake charmers and soothsayers, vibrant souks and ancient kasbahs!

- An airport arrival transfer day 1 and a departure transfer day 4 (Marrakech Airport)
- All road taxes and tolls

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tipping - An entirely personal gesture

Spend the morning with your Marrakech town guide to get an overview of this wonderful city and its bustling souks. Stretching over the medieval part of Marrakech, the souks are winding streets of stalls and small businesses. Interspersed are palaces, madrasa (Qur'anic schools) and many cafes and restaurants.

The rest of the day is free for you to independently explore Marrakech at your own pace. Perhaps visit Bahia Palace and the Saadian Tombs or take a Caleche (horse drawn carriage) ride to the Jardins de Majorelle. This evening, consider visiting the Hivernage with its upmarket cafes.

Overnight - Marrakech (B)

Day 3 : Ait Benhaddou



This morning we depart, across the plain of Haouz and into the rugged High Atlas Mountains where you can admire the views enroute to the famous UNESCO World Heritage Listed Kasbah of Ait Benhaddou, which is situated in Souss-Massa-Draa on a

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Marrakech - UNESCO-listed Place Djemaa el Fna, medina and market place
- Bahia Palace and Koutoubia Mosque
- The rugged High Atlas Mountains
- Ait Benhaddou - UNESCO Listed kasbah

What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 1 lunch
- 3 nights SUPERIOR hotels and riads. STANDARD and DELUXE hotel options are also available upon request. Accommodation rating – See Trip Notes for details. Note: Deluxe hotels and riads are not available in Ait Bougamez
- Guided tour of Marrakech
- Entrance fees to all included sightseeing
- Services of a licensed English speaking tour guide at all included sites
- Driver, all transfers and transportation in a private modern air-conditioned tourism vehicle

COVID SAFE GUIDE

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Welcome to Morocco

Welcome to Morocco! Arrival Marrakech and transfer to your hotel close to the Medina. Spend the remainder of today at leisure. Opt to head out and see the famous Djemaa el Fna Square this evening. Snake charmer's orange juice sellers, food stalls and story tellers all inhabit the square, and provide entertainment for the evening. **Overnight - Marrakech**

Day 2 : Marrakech city tour



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hill along the Ouarzazate River. Films such as Lawrence of Arabia, Jesus of Nazareth and more recently, Gladiator were all filmed at Ait Benhaddou, which was once a significant stop for traders carrying gold, salt and slaves along the famous Southern Caravan Route moving through the Sahara. After exploring this incredibly well preserved site, we journey back to Marrakech. **Overnight - Marrakech** (B, L)

Day 4 : Marrakech

Our holiday comes to an end. After breakfast and hotel check out, there is an included transfer to the airport to meet your onward flight. (B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Riad Slitine

Riad Slitine is a tranquil oasis, built around 5 courtyards. The rooms are traditional in style, roomy and comfortable. The spa has a traditional Hammam as well. The riad is in the medina, only a few minutes walk from Djemaa el Fna, the main square.



Accommodation ratings

On our Private trips, you can often choose your style of accommodation. The price quoted on our website is reflective of the included accommodation, please see the "included" section on the first page of this document for details. Should you opt for an alternative hotel category, this will be confirmed in writing with the respective price on your invoice.

For further details about the indicative hotels, please see the "hotels" tab on our website. Here we rank hotel's in their respective country (REGIONAL CATEGORY) - but we also tell you how it ranks by Western standards (OUR CATEGORY).

STANDARD - Equates to a Western 3-star standard, always featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant.

SUPERIOR - Equates to a Western 4-star standard, featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant and often a swimming pool and/or a fitness centre.

DELUXE - Equates to a Western 5-star standard, usually featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, excellent service and customer care.

LUXURY - Equates to a Western 5-star plus standard - the creme de la creme. Featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, this accommodation is a cut above the rest. Sheer opulence!

Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for your tour guide: USD\$5-6 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing.

For your driver and On The Go Representative we'd recommend USD\$2-3 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Morocco Country Guide

Welcome to Morocco - Arrival transfer

We provide a complimentary airport arrival transfer on day 1 of your tour or if you arrive early and have booked pre tour accommodation with us. Please proceed to the arrivals hall and look for our representative holding an On The Go Tours sign. Pre and post tour accommodation can be arranged upon request, please contact us for rates.

If you are arriving earlier and you have booked your accommodation independently, you will need to make your own way to our start hotel, which will be centrally located. The hotel name and address can be found on your Tour Voucher.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight to Morocco is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Morocco.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/Morocco/Visas

Shopping

Morocco is a shoppers' paradise. The souks of Fes, Marrakech and Meknes are full of pottery, carpets and kilims, leather goods, spices and cloth. Keep space in your backpack for your purchases! Best buys are: carpets – from the High Atlas mountains or a woven and embroidered Kilim; the burnoose, an elegant hooded cape; spices; or traditional pottery and leathers from Fes.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

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All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling. While tap water in Morocco is generally considered safe to drink in main cities, it is not advisable in smaller towns and remote areas. Drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants.

Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- Lightweight cotton garments in summer, warm clothing for winter (temperatures can get quite low at night)
- Comfortable walking shoes or hiking shoes
- Universal travel adaptor
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- First aid kit including Dioralyte
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume, torch and money belt
- Either a rucksack or suitcase is suitable. A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- A towel for swimming
- A torch for your night in the Sahara Desert
- If travelling on our Essential (Budget) group tour range, a sleeping bag for the Sahara

Desert camp is required if travelling between Oct - Apr, a cotton sleep sheet will be adequate if travelling from May to September (Signature group tour travellers do not need this, as bedding is provided)

Drones are not permitted

It is forbidden to bring drones into Morocco (even small ones that might fit in hand luggage), a special permit has to be arranged with the appropriate department in Rabat and this can take months to arrange.

Hotels

The hotels in Morocco are simple, clean, comfortable and centrally located. We try to utilise local and traditional hotels with plenty of character wherever possible. In smaller towns, the choice of accommodation is often limited, but we will always book the best accommodation available for our travellers. Please be aware that hotels in Morocco are not of the same standard as Western hotels and facilities can be more basic.

It's not like home, what to expect & Ramadan

Travel to far-flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Morocco/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, etiquette, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare for your holiday.

RAMADAN

Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world and adherents of the Muslim faith fast during daylight hours and break their fast with lavish meals and lively celebrations in the evening. Ramadan culminates a month later in a 3 day celebration

called Eid al - Fitr. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan. As such we will start our tour earlier during this period to make the best use of time and itineraries will be slightly altered to ensure we visit all attractions, leisure time will be offered in the late afternoon. Non-Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street. NOTE: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially toward the time of breaking the fast. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are as follows, (approximate) 12 April – 11 May 2021

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