



Sahara Bolt On - 4 Days

Tour dossier

No tour of Morocco is complete without a visit to the incredible Sahara Desert. Embark on a camel trek through this beautiful landscape to a traditional Berber camp, where you'll camp under the Saharan stars before returning to the majestic city of Marrakech.



Tour Overview

Tour operates:	March - December
Tour style:	Hotel
Vehicle type:	Mini-van/ 4x4 Land cruiser
Crew :	2 crew
Tour rating:	Easy
Accommodation:	Hotel / Berber camp
Tour start-finish:	Marrakech - Marrakech
Min – max group:	2 - 16

Tour Planning

This tour can be bolted on to the following tours:

- Morocco Surf & Ski (8 day tour)
- Marrakech & Toubkal Valley (8 day tour)
- Nomadic Berber Migration (11 day tour)
- Marrakech & Toubkal Summit (8 day tour)

Price

2011

£199.00

What you get

- Breakfast x 3, 1 Berber camp dinner in the Sahara desert
- 1 night in a traditional Berber camp
- 2 nights in a 3* hotel in Marrakech
- Transport in 4x4 Land Cruiser or Mini Van
- Guided tour of Marrakech
- Services of 1 or 2 person crew (leader and driver)
- Berber camp
- Sahara camel trek
- All road taxes and tolls



Excluded

- Flights
- Travel insurance
- Tipping kitty (£15)
- Optional activities
- Drinks
- Lunch x 3, dinner x 2
- Spending money



Optionals

Where?	Activity	How Much? MAD / £STG
Marrakech	Hamman	From MAD150 / £12

(Prices vary depending on the package and treatments you choose.)

Itinerary

Saturday (Day 1)

Leaving Marrakech after breakfast, we begin our journey to the mighty Sahara desert! Stopping at Ouarzazate for lunch, we'll then continue to Zagora, where we'll transfer from mini van to camel. You'll then embark on the camel trek through the desert until we reach the traditional Berber camp in the heart of the desert. Spend the evening camping under the Saharan stars and experience the true beauty of Morocco. (Dinner and overnight at the Desert camp).



Sunday (Day 2)

After breakfast in the camp, ride the camels back through the des-

ert to join the transport. Back in the mini van, we'll drive through the verdant Draa valley, along the route of 1000 Kasbahs. Travelling through this beautiful landscape, we'll stop off for lunch and a visit to Ait Benhaddou, the famous 'fortified city'. Situated on a hill along the Ouarzazate River, Ait Benhaddou boasts some beautiful examples of kasbahs, some of which remain inhabited. Granted UNESCO World Heritage listing, the site had been the setting for many films including Lawrence of Arabia and Gladiator. After this visit, we will continue our journey over the High Atlas mountains until we reach Marrakech for dinner and an overnight stay. (Breakfast and overnight in Marrakech).

Monday (Day 3)

Enjoy a city tour of Marrakech this morning, taking you through the winding streets, bustling souks, and the focal point of the city - the great Djemâa-el-Fna.

Explore this mystical city at your leisure this afternoon - why not experience the renowned food stalls in the square, along with the dancers, acrobats, fortune tellers, snake charmers, musicians and henna artists? Or there is the option to try a traditional hamman - a steam bath followed by an exfoliating massage - the ideal end to the day. (Breakfast and overnight - Marrakech)



Tuesday (Day 4)

The tour ends after breakfast. Spend the morning buying souvenirs before check out at midday. (Breakfast)

Dates

Month	Start Marrakech	Finish Marrakech	Month	Start Marrakech	Finish Marrakech	Month	Start Marrakech	Finish Marrakech
March	05.03.2011	08.03.2011		25.06.2011	28.06.2011		24.09.2011	27.09.2011
	12.03.2011	15.03.2011	July	09.07.2011	12.07.2011		01.10.2011	04.10.2011
April	09.04.2011	12.04.2011		23.07.2011	26.07.2011	October	08.10.2011	11.10.2011
	16.04.2011	19.04.2011	August	06.08.2011	09.08.2011		22.10.2011	25.10.2011
	23.04.2011	26.04.2011		13.08.2011	16.08.2011	November	05.11.2011	08.11.2011
May	14.05.2011	17.05.2011		20.08.2011	23.08.2011			
	28.05.2011	31.05.2011		27.08.2011	30.08.2011			
June	04.06.2011	07.06.2011	September	03.09.2011	06.09.2011			
	11.06.2011	14.06.2011		10.09.2011	13.09.2011			



Useful Information

Before you go

Visas & permits

Visas are not required for British, Australian, New Zealand, Canadian, US and other EU nationals for a stay of up to 3 months. Please ensure your passport is valid for six months after your return date and that you get your passport stamped upon entry into Morocco. All other nationalities should contact the Moroccan embassy for details. Visas are your responsibility. Don't forget to check!

Vaccinations

It is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in the last ten years. Food and water-borne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for typhoid (valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). Morocco is not a high risk malaria area but if in any doubt please consult a physician or travel clinic for further information.

Travel insurance

All our passengers must be fully insured for travel in Morocco. It is essential that you get the correct level of cover and it is advised that you speak to your travel insurance provider for advice. Please ensure that the policy provides adequate cover for hospital treatment, repatriation flights home in the event of you being too ill to continue the tour, personal accident, personal baggage and associated valuables. Please note that some optional activities may require additional cover. You must bring the policy with you as it is obligatory for joining any tour.

Packing

Luggage

Pack all your gear in a rucksack/holdall for this type of trip. Also bring a daypack, to keep personal items such as your wallet, camera and water bottle. Your rucksack/holdall must not have an exterior frame. Only the soft, flexible variety is permitted. Leave your suitcase at home, they're simply not practical.

Don't overdo it! Luggage is limited to 20kgs. Pack sensibly and take garments that are comfortable and cool. Morocco can be very hot in summer but after the sun sets and at high altitudes, the temperatures can drop, so pack accordingly.

Sleeping bag – although we provide blankets, on tours from Nov –April we do recommend a 3 / 4 season sleeping bag for the night spend in the desert.

What to bring (Full checklist provided)

- Towel
- Torch and batteries
- Camera and spare memory card/film
- Mosquito repellent
- Water bottle
- Personal first aid kit, antiseptic gel and wipes
- Waterproof/wind proof jacket
- A photo-copy of your passport

In Morocco

Currency

GBP£1.00 = MAD13
USD\$1.00 = MAD9
EUR1.00 = MAD11

MAD = Moroccan Dirham, rates are subject to fluctuation. Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes in major towns and most banks have ATMs.

How much spending money is needed, depends largely on the individual. We currently recommend an average of USD \$20 - \$30 per day. We can't specify every sundry cost however and you'll need to allow for expenses such as drinks, snacks and the odd souvenir. Travellers Cheques can be difficult to change en route so we recommend you have cash for convenience and bring a card to use in the ATM's—most accept Visa, MasterCard, Electron, Cirrus and Maestro. There are ATM's at Marrakech airport, which you can use upon arrival.

Local prices

Mineral water (local brand, 500ml or 1L)
MAD15
Meal for 2 (entree, main, a beer, local restaurant)
MAD50-100
Beer (local brew Efes - 330-500ml approx)
MAD20
Chocolate bar (local brand) MAD5-10

Climate

Temperatures in Morocco are generally high, particularly during the summer months from May to September, so take sunscreen.

Altitude

This tour does not exceed any altitude that would cause ill effects.

Responsible travel

Cultural awareness

We cannot emphasise enough that we are travellers and therefore guests. So it is our duty to respect and adjust where possible to the people of the region, their customs and views. Your Tour Leader can let you know more as well as brief you on environmental matters.

Religious Awareness

Morocco is predominantly Muslim and, as such, we would ask all of our customers to respect and adhere to (when appropriate) the dress codes of the Islamic faith. This entails covering of shoulders and knees.

Responsible travel

Nomadic Expeditions donates to the Ait Ouham Association for Development, a local organisation set up by our own Moroccan Guide in his home valley in the Atlas Mountains. It seeks to improve lives through education, setting up co-operatives and providing basic facilities such as tap water to homes in the area.



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Pre departure checklist - Marrakech & Sahara (8 day)

Essentials

- ø PASSPORT
- ø VISA (double check visa stamp dates if appropriate)
- ø AIR TICKET
- ø INSURANCE POLICY

PHOTOCOPY ALL OF THE ABOVE IN CASE OF LOSS

- ø BOOKING VOUCHER (this will act as a receipt for the tour. Please bring it!)

Money

- ø Tipping kitty (£25)
- ø **SPENDING MONEY** (Please note: Moroccan Dirhams (MAD) cannot be obtained outside of Morocco. Please bring cash (in Euros/ GBP/ US dollars), to exchange once in Morocco, or use ATM machines in the main cities.)
- ø Money belt

Personal

- ø Insect repellent (DEET based)
- ø Personal medical kit
- ø Anti-bacterial hand gel or wipes
- ø Sun cream
- ø Personal water bottle
- ø Sleeping bag (**optional**—blankets provided for desert camp)
- ø Torch plus batteries
- ø Pen knife (do NOT take as hand luggage on flight)
- ø Toiletries including: roll of toilet paper / sanitary towels
- ø If you wear glasses or contact lenses, bring spare glasses.
- ø Towel

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL WINTER TRIPS NOV - APRIL

- ø 3—4 season sleeping bag for the night in desert which can be cold. (we do provide blankets as well)
- ø Bring extra warm clothing including hat / scarf & gloves

Add your own

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Miscellaneous

- ø Personal mp3 / ipod
- ø Electrical chargers 12v or 240v for camera's / ipod's etc
- ø UK to EU (2 pin) adaptor
- ø Camera with spare memory disk and batteries

Clothing

- ø Comfortable and practical clothes including:
 - Comfortable shoes & sandals
 - long sleeved shirt
 - warm sweater
 - shorts
 - one set of smarter clothes
 - t shirts
 - swim wear
 - light weight rainwear
 - socks and underwear

Clothes should be easy to wash and dry (ex-military clothes should not be brought).

Morocco is a Muslim country, so please be respectful of the culture and dress accordingly.

Remember...

- ø Luggage should NOT exceed 20 kg
- ø Please use a rucksack or holdall and for your day to day needs a small day bag. (Excess luggage should be left at joining hotel for pick up on return).
- ø Flight details should be sent to us, if applicable.

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