

CASABLANCA to MARRAKECH (8 days) Morocco on a Shoestring



COUNTRIES VISITED: MOROCCO

INCLUDES

- 24hr arrival airport transfer service
- Accommodation in 3-star hotels
- 1 night in an authentic Berber Desert Camp
- Transport by air conditioned 4x4 or minibus
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Guided tours of Marrakech, Ait Benhaddou, Fes & Volubilis
- English speaking tour guide, plus driver
- Sahara camel trek

EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Travel insurance (mandatory)

- Visas
- Tipping kitty - USD 50
- Departure Airport Transfer
- Tour guide tips
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks & personal expenses
- Optional activities

TRIP ITINERARY

DAYS 1 ARRIVE INTO CASABLANCA. AIRPORT TRANSFER IS INCLUDED

Welcome to Morocco! We will meet you on your arrival in Casablanca airport and transfer you to the hotel. Your time is then free to relax or explore Casablanca a little independently if you arrive early. We will then have a welcome meeting with the tour guide at 6.00pm where you will meet your fellow travellers. If you arrive late and miss this meeting then we will make the introductions again tomorrow morning.

Overnight: Moroccan House Hotel (or similar)

DAYS 2 EXPLORING CASABLANCA, MEKNES AND VOLUBILIS. HEAD TO FES

Our journey begins with the breathtaking Hassan II Mosque, an architectural masterpiece that rises dramatically beside the Atlantic. You'll have the option to step inside and marvel at its intricate details and sheer grandeur (optional visit, not included). Afterward, stroll along the vibrant La Corniche, soaking up the sun and the lively atmosphere of this seaside promenade.

Next, we venture to Meknes, where a delicious community village lunch awaits. Immerse yourself in the warm hospitality of local life as you savor traditional flavors.

Our afternoon takes us back in time to the ancient Roman ruins of Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Explore this sprawling complex with a knowledgeable guide, who will unveil the secrets of this once-thriving city.

As dusk approaches, we arrive in Fes, a captivating city that seems to have been plucked straight from the pages of a storybook. You'll explore the city tomorrow, but this evening you'll have the choice of a myriad of dining experiences for a memorable evening. Perhaps you'll savor a tagine under a canopy of stars or sip refreshing mint tea in a traditional teahouse.

(Breakfast, Lunch)

Overnight: Hotel Splendid (or similar)

DAYS 3 EXPLORING ANCIENT FES

Today, prepare to be transported back in time as we embark on a guided tour of Fes, the oldest imperial city in Morocco. Our expert guide will lead you through the labyrinthine alleyways of the medina, a UNESCO World Heritage site that teems with life. Imagine a place where the rhythm of daily life is dictated by the clip-clop of donkey hooves and the calls of street vendors, where the air is filled with the intoxicating aromas of spices, perfumes, and freshly baked bread. This is Fes el Bali, the heart of the city, home to over 400,000 people and a mesmerizing blend of sights, sounds, and experiences.

As you wander through the narrow streets, you'll encounter architectural wonders – ornate mosques with soaring minarets, ancient madrasas (Islamic schools), and opulent palaces. While only Muslims can enter the mosques, their beauty can be admired from the outside. Our guide will share fascinating insights into the history and culture of Fes, pointing out hidden gems and local secrets.

We'll delve into the bustling souks, where artisans practice time-honored crafts. Witness the vibrant colors

of the dyers' souk, where fabrics are transformed in ancient vats. Experience the pungent aromas of the tanneries, where leather is treated using traditional methods. Discover the fascinating world of herbal remedies in a traditional pharmacy, and admire the intricate designs of handcrafted pottery.

After a day of exploration, return to your hotel to relax and refresh. Tonight, we offer an optional traditional dinner, where you'll enjoy a delectable feast while being entertained by captivating live performances – traditional music, mesmerizing belly dancing, and skilled magicians will create an unforgettable ambiance. Alternatively you'll have the evening free to explore and dine at your own leisure.

(Breakfast)

Overnight: Hotel Splendid (or similar)

DAYS 4 THE SAHARA AWAITS! CAMEL TREK AND BERBER DESERT CAMP

Today, adventure awaits! We embark on a thrilling journey to the legendary Sahara Desert, a vast expanse of golden sand dunes that has captivated explorers and dreamers for centuries. Anticipation builds as we travel through ever-changing landscapes, with dramatic mountains giving way to the mesmerizing ochre hues of the desert.

Along the way, we'll make a stop for an optional lunch, allowing you to savor delicious Moroccan cuisine and recharge for the exciting experiences ahead. During the summer months, you might even have the opportunity to cool off with a refreshing swim in a crystal-clear oasis, a true desert paradise.

As the day progresses, we'll arrive at the awe-inspiring Erg Chebbi dunes in Merzouga, where a caravan of camels awaits. Prepare to embark on an unforgettable camel trek into the heart of the Sahara. Feel the gentle sway of these magnificent creatures as you traverse the undulating dunes, leaving the world behind with each step.

The highlight of our desert adventure is witnessing a breathtaking sunset over the Sahara. Imagine the sky ablaze with fiery oranges, reds, and purples as the sun dips below the horizon, casting long shadows across the endless sea of sand. Capture this magical moment with your camera or simply soak it all in, creating a memory that will last a lifetime.

As twilight descends, we'll reach our authentic Berber camp, nestled amidst the dunes. Experience the warm hospitality of the Berber people as you settle into your traditional tent, a cozy haven under the star-studded sky. A delicious dinner featuring local specialties will be served, followed by an evening of captivating entertainment. Gather around the campfire, listen to the rhythmic beats of Berber music, and gaze up at the Milky Way, a celestial spectacle that is simply breathtaking in the clear desert air.

Please note that to ensure the well being of camels used on this tour, we have the following policies in place:

- Our camels are only used for approximately 1 hour, once per day.
- Camels are free to roam throughout the day and have access to food and water.
- No camels younger than 4 years old are used for camel rides.
- We have a policy of only 1 rider per camel.
- All camels are regularly vet checked.

(Breakfast, Dinner)

Overnight: Berber desert camp

DAYS 5 VISIT THE TODRA GORGE WITH TIME FOR HIKING

Wake up to a beautiful sunrise over the Sahara and enjoy breakfast in the dunes. You'll then have some free time to explore or join a desert excursion.

Later, we'll drive to the Todra Gorge, one of Morocco's most spectacular natural wonders. This impressive canyon, carved by the Todra River, boasts towering limestone cliffs that reach heights of up to 1,000 feet. The gorge stretches for over 40 kilometers, but the most dramatic section is a narrow passage where the cliffs close in to just 33 feet wide at some points.

You can spend the afternoon hiking along the riverbed, admiring the sheer rock walls and the unique rock formations. Be sure to explore the Todra Palmeraie, a lush oasis with palm trees and a small river. It's a great place to relax, enjoy the shade, and watch local life. The gorge is also a popular spot for rock climbing, with hundreds of routes for climbers of all abilities.

As the sun moves across the sky, the colours of the gorge change dramatically, creating a stunning spectacle that's perfect for photography.

(Breakfast)

Overnight: Hotel Kasbah Amazir (or similar)

DAYS 6 OPTIONAL FILM STUDIOS VISIT AND TOUR OF AIT BENHADDOU

Today's journey takes us from the Todra Gorge to the historic village of Ait Benhaddou. We'll journey through the scenic landscapes, making a stop to purchase lunch. In Ouarzazate, film enthusiasts can choose to partake in an optional tour of the Atlas Film Studios, where blockbusters like *Gladiator*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, and *Game of Thrones* were filmed. You can explore movie sets and learn about the filmmaking process.

Our final destination, Ait Benhaddou, is a UNESCO World Heritage site and a masterpiece of Moroccan earthen architecture. This fortified village, with its towering kasbahs and maze-like alleyways, has been a backdrop for many films itself. This afternoon, you'll have a guided tour to explore this fascinating site and learn about its history as a trading post on the caravan route. You'll see how some of the kasbahs are still inhabited today, offering a glimpse into traditional Berber life. And for a truly immersive experience, consider joining our optional tagine cooking class where you'll learn to prepare this classic Moroccan dish.

(Breakfast)

Overnight: Hotel La Rose du Sable (or similar)

DAYS 7 CROSS THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS TO MARRAKECH AND JOIN A GUIDED TOUR OF THE CITY

Today, we embark on a breathtaking journey through the High Atlas Mountains, winding our way up to the dramatic Tizi n'Tichka pass. At an altitude of 2,260 meters (7,415 feet), this mountain pass offers awe-inspiring panoramic views. Be sure to have your camera ready to capture the rugged peaks, deep valleys, and traditional Berber villages that dot the landscape.

As we descend from the mountains, the vibrant city of Marrakech awaits. This imperial city, known as the "Red City" for its distinctive ochre-colored buildings, is a feast for the senses. Its iconic landmark, the Koutoubia Mosque, with its towering minaret, is a masterpiece of Almohad architecture. Interestingly, its design influenced other famous towers, including the Hassan Tower in Rabat and the Giralda in Seville.

No visit to Marrakech is complete without experiencing the UNESCO-listed medina, a labyrinth of narrow alleyways that teem with life. Here, you'll find a treasure trove of souks (markets) overflowing with colorful textiles, aromatic spices, handcrafted jewelry, and traditional crafts. Our guided tour will lead you through this vibrant maze, revealing hidden gems and local secrets.

We'll also visit the Bahia Palace, an opulent 19th-century palace that showcases the exquisite artistry and craftsmanship of Moroccan architecture. Marvel at its intricate mosaics, carved stucco, and tranquil courtyards. (Please note that the entrance fee to the Bahia Palace is excluded).

Our tour culminates in the Djemaa el-Fna, the heart of Marrakech and one of the most captivating public

squares in the world. This bustling marketplace comes alive with storytellers, musicians, snake charmers, and food stalls, creating a mesmerizing spectacle of sights, sounds, and aromas.

The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy at your leisure. Perhaps you'll relax by the pool, wander through the souks in search of souvenirs, or simply soak up the atmosphere of this magical city.

(Breakfast).

Overnight: Hotel Le Grand Imilchil (or similar)

DAYS 8 TOUR ENDS IN MARRAKECH

Your Moroccan tour with us ends after breakfast today and your time is free until you depart. Our guide or the hotel will help you arrange a taxi for the short drive to the airport, or you can add extra days to explore Marrakech further if you wish.

(Breakfast)

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TRIP

ARRIVAL & ACCOMMODATION

Trip Joining Point: Moroccan House Hotel - Casablanca

Start Time Day 1: You can arrive into Casablanca at any time on day 1 - hotel check-in is from 2pm.

Address: 4 Boulevard Mohamed Smiha, Casablanca 20000, Morocco

Website: <https://www.moroccanhousehotels.com/>

***Please note that the above hotel is subject to change, we will confirm the final tour starting point approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.**

All prices listed are approximate and subject to limited availability.

Room Type	Price	Description
Single	£99.00	Per Room, En-suite
Double/Twin	£140.00	Per Room, En-suite

The trip starts in Casablanca on day 1. Day 1 is set aside for arrivals and you can arrive at any time on day 1. The hotel check-in time is from 2pm onwards.

PRE-TRIP ACCOMMODATION:

You can pre-book accommodation and your included airport transfers through us. We will require your flight number, arrival time, and arrival date so please ensure this information is forwarded to us as soon as you have booked your flight. Please book this service as soon as you have booked your flight and no later than 3 weeks prior to departure. If you have booked through a travel agent, please contact them to request pre-trip accommodation and airport transfers.

Where extra nights are required, your airport transfer is only included on your pre/post-tour day if the

extra night is also booked with Oasis Overland.

Double, twin, and triple rooms will be provided subject to availability, where requested. However when not available we may need to book other rooming arrangements, and will fit these as closely as possible to your request. Those travelling solo will be put in shared rooms to reduce the costs to them if this option is available, where a same sex room share cannot be arranged, the single room supplement will be payable.

If you are arriving early in the morning and you would like to check in immediately, you may have to reserve your room for the previous night to ensure direct check in, otherwise you may have to wait until normal check in times (usually 2pm).

AIRPORT TRANSFERS:

Airport Arrival Transfers are included in the cost of your adventure (provided you request these via the UK office or your account 3 weeks before your departure).

You will be met on your arrival in the immigration area of the airport, before you get to passport control. Our representative will be holding a **OASIS OVERLAND** Travel signboard or have your names displayed. Please look out for them and introduce yourself. They will then assist you with passing through immigration, take you through passport control and to collect your luggage, and then transfer you to your hotel. Emergency assistance telephone numbers will be provided with your voucher, approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING

Day 1 of your trip is an arrivals day, there will be a pre-departure meeting in the starting hotel this evening, usually around 6:00pm. There will be a notice in reception advising the exact time and here your crew will explain how the day to day running of the trip works. Your Tour Leader will **collect your** Tipping Kitty, a photocopy of your **passport information page, insurance policy details** with policy number and confirmation that the duration will cover you for the entire trip and a **24-hour emergency assistance** telephone number. It is essential that you attend this meeting - please let the UK office or your tour leader know if you are unable to do so.

POST TRIP ACCOMMODATION AND AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Post-trip accommodation can be requested and booked by the Oasis Office before your trip commences, please email africa@oasisoverland.co.uk. Airport transfers can be arranged with your tour leader on Day 1 or directly with the hotel on arrival if your trip finishes at the same hotel.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Day 1 in your departure city, is an arrivals day. For your convenience we would advise that you arrive at the latest, on the afternoon of this day. You may wish to allow some extra time to explore your arrival and departure cities.

Departing flights: we recommend not to book a flight departing before midday on your last day of the trip.

There are many online flight search engines such as www.skyscanner.net or www.ebookers.co.uk flights can also be booked direct with airline websites or through travel agencies. Please inform us of your flight details through your online account, as airport transfers can be arranged for various trips.

One way ticket: If you intend to travel on a one way ticket to meet up with one of our trips, without possessing an onward flight ticket - we recommend that you have a copy of your payment confirmation/receipt (that you will be sent at time of your balance payment) available at immigration to assist easy entry.

PASSPORTS

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months AFTER your trip finishes. This is a general requirement for all of the countries we travel to on our trips.

If you have dual nationality you can only use one passport for the entire trip. It is your responsibility to ensure you have all the relevant visas you require.

Please bring 2 photocopies of your passport details to give to your tour leader.

VISAS

The information below is to be used only as a guide and may change without prior notice. It is advisable to contact the relevant embassy in plenty of time before the trip departs to check the current visa requirements. It is **your responsibility** to ensure you have all the relevant visas you require.

For more information on other nationalities & visas checkout www.projectvisa.com

Morocco

- **All trips:**

Passport Holders from UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and most EU countries will not require a visa to enter Morocco.

South African passport holders require a **visa in advance** to enter Morocco. This needs to be obtained through a Moroccan embassy or consulate in your home country, before beginning the trip. Please contact your nearest High Commission to find out more.

Passport Holders from other countries, will need to check the current visa requirements with the relevant consulate, and whether you need to obtain the visa in advance.

VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH

It is possible that you may require some vaccinations for your trip, depending on the areas that you are visiting. As we are not medically trained, we are unable to give detailed advice on vaccination requirements. We have worked closely with **Nomad Travel Clinics** for many years and they offer Oasis travellers a **10% discount** on vaccinations, anti-malarial drugs, first aid items, clothing and equipment, just enter discount code OASIS1000 at www.nomadtravel.co.uk. Alternatively you can check out the [fit for travel website](#) for more travel health information or consult a reputable travel clinic or your GP for information and advice. We suggest that you allow at least 8 weeks to get all your vaccinations.

Health - To join our trips you should be in good general health. Your medical insurance company must be told if you have any pre-existing medical condition / allergy or if you are on any regular medication, otherwise you may not be covered under your policies for these. Our crew will need to know of any medication or conditions you may have. For general health advice log onto www.nathnac.org/travel/

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a compulsory requirement that you have adequate travel insurance before you join any Oasis Trip & at the very least are insured for all necessary medical & repatriation costs incurred.

You will be asked to provide the following details in [My Oasis Account](#) if you have not already done so: travel insurance name, insurance policy number & insurance emergency telephone number. You will also be required to give a copy of your policy with this information to your Tour Leader on arrival with confirmation that the policy duration is sufficient to cover you for the entire duration of your trip. It is also wise to leave a copy of your insurance policy with a friend or relative for safe keeping.

We believe that your safety and holiday enjoyment are very important. It is a mistake to think that "it will

never happen to me". It is also very important that you are covered for all the activities that you may wish to undertake while on our trip. It is extremely important that you check the full extent of your cover related to 24 hour Medical Emergency Assistance. In the event of you needing medical treatment you want to know that you have the best cover available to you. Your policy should include adequate Medical Emergency and Repatriation cover as well as Cancellation, Baggage and Personal Liability cover. You need to be aware of EXACTLY what activities your policy covers you for. Please note that skiing is not usually covered in most insurance policies.

We offer tailor made Overland Adventure Travel Insurance that covers most of the adventure and sporting activities on our trips.

For further information on the insurance we offer, the activities covered and costs, check out the [Travel Insurance](#) section of our website. You can purchase our insurance by logging into [My Oasis Account](#) and click 'Buy Insurance' or through the following [link](#).

MONEY, BUDGETS AND LP

Spending Money

From past trips and travellers feedback £20 to £30 per day per person, should cover costs such as meals not included, soft drinks and beers, email & communications, souvenirs and other general spending. Personal spending habits & budgets differ greatly from person to person. Budget on optional activities separately (see optional excursions page). Please note that Moroccan Dirham's (MAD) cannot be obtained outside of Morocco. Please bring cash in Euros / GBP£ / US\$ to exchange once in Morocco or use the ATM's in the main cities.

Changing money

Change your money only at banks, hotels, airports or forex bureaus. It is illegal to change money on the street, as these people will normally be opportunistic thieves or undercover police. Your crew will advise you where & when you can change money & with what means. It is also a good idea to have a small CASH emergency fund, to allow for the unexpected.

Credit & Debit Cards

A combination of several types are suggested as not all types are accepted in all places. Visa & Maestro are best, MasterCard has limited access through parts of Morocco, but is generally accepted in ATMs. We recommend that you inform your bank that you will be using your card abroad to avoid it being blocked. Please see the optional excursions page for activities that can be paid for using a Credit or Debit Card. Commission rates vary between 2 to 5%.

Pre-Paid Travel Currency Cards

These cards are similar to normal Credit and Debit cards but they can be pre loaded with cash before you travel with a set amount allowing you to withdraw this cash using the card at normal ATMs. It is a more secure way to access cash on your trip and easier to use than travellers cheques, but again do not rely on these as your sole means of funds on a trip - (please refer to the ATM section). Several banks and companies now offer these cards, but be sure to look into the rates for withdrawing cash when making your decision.

ATMs

These are available in most major cities along our route and allow you to withdraw local currency only. We discourage you from relying on your ATM card as a primary source of funds in case it is lost/stolen/ swallowed, or the machine isn't working. Besides memorising your PIN, it is also important to be aware of your daily withdrawal limit and bank withdrawal costs.

Tipping

Is usually expected & is a way of life in the region. Sometimes referred to as 'baksheesh' it is often more

than a reward for services well done, but as wages are extremely low, it is an accepted means of supplementing an income. To avoid embarrassment and save you money, your guide will operate a tipping kitty and tip everyone from waiters, hotel staff (including cleaners), drivers and local guides on your behalf. **You will be asked for your tipping kitty contribution at the welcome meeting.** The tipping kitty amount for your trip can be found on the front page of your pre-departure information and the trip page on our website.

In the past we have been asked for guidance for the tipping of your Tour Leader (who is not covered by the tipping kitty). While this is always your own personal choice, previous travellers feedback has suggested an approximate amount of £1 to £2 per person per day for the trip. Please remember that tipping and the amount you tip is entirely up to you individually and is always your choice.

CLIMATE

Morocco makes for a good destination all year round. Daily sunshine ranges from 13 hours in the desert to 9 and 10 on the Atlantic coast. In the winter, you will see up to 6 hours in the North, increasing to 7 or 8 as you move south.

The north coast and the Rif mountains have a Mediterranean style climate: hot and generally continuous sunshine between May and September, interspersed with rainy periods for the rest of the year. The Atlantic coast sees most rain, with the heaviest falls in winter. The coast is very mild in winter, and avoids the snow that can be seen throughout the year on the peaks of the Atlas mountains. The night time temperatures up in the Atlas mountains are likely to be very cold. We would advise thermal layers at night-time and a good 4 season sleeping bag. We can experience rain on our Sept. and May departures- although it is more likely for Sept. [View Moroccan Climate Chart](#)

WHAT TO TAKE

Equipment

- Sleeping Bag
- recommended for trips departing Nov-April
- Sleep Sheet
- Small day-pack or small bag to carry daily items
- Soft rucksack, holdall or suitcase
- Water bottle - for personal use - we recommend Water-to-Go (see below Responsible Travel)

Toiletries - Most available to buy on trip

- Soap, shampoo, toothbrush/paste, antibacterial hand wash, lip balm & moisturiser
- Sun block 35 + after sun, hat & sun glasses
- Tampons (can buy in most places)
- Contraception

Clothes

Personal Effects

- One pair of trainers or
- Camera with protective case, spare batteries, film/memory card
- Torch and spare batteries (head torch is best)

- boots
- Sandals/flip flops/jandals/thongs
- Underwear/socks
- T shirts/shirts
- Shorts/swimwear
- Jeans/trousers/jog pants/leggings
- Skirt or dress
- Sweat shirt/jumper
- Jacket/fleece & waterproof jacket
- Travel adaptor plug/charger (for cameras and mobile phone batteries)
- Money belt
- Personal stereo - iPod/MP3 etc
- Towel and/or sarong

Recommended Medical Kit List

- Antiseptic ointment/Antihistamine cream & tablets
- Nurofen or equivalent pain-killer
- Eye-drops/bath
- Anti-diarrhoea treatment
- A couple of bandages (elasticated & triangular)
- Medication for personal allergies/asthma etc
- Insect repellent containing Deet
- Re-hydration sachets/vitamin tablets
- Assorted plasters
- Some suitable antibiotics as recommended by your doctor for infected cuts or to treat severe dysentery
- We advise you to bring a small personal medical kit for general everyday use, as well as any personal over-the-counter medicines that you may wish to keep with you. Our guides are familiar with the nearest pharmacies, doctors and hospitals throughout the trip if you need to seek medical attention. It will be your own responsibility to carry your medical kit on included excursions and optional activities as some local operators may not have medical kits to hand.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Cameras (incl. Digital & Video Cameras) - An easy to use 'point and press' will get you some good photos. For memorable shots, it may be worthwhile investing in an SLR camera, but be sure to get some practice in before the trip! Most towns and cities have internet cafes where you can download onto CD/ internet sites - but don't rely on it.

Photography - Be aware of your surroundings when taking photographs and filming. Some locations will be sensitive or have local laws banning photography. For example it is usually forbidden to use cameras at borders or around government buildings, military installations, bridges and airports or to take photos of local officials. If you do take photos or film where it is not permitted you may find yourself being questioned by irate officials who may decide to confiscate your camera or instruct you to delete all the images/footage on your device. If in doubt ask for permission, or if there is no-one to ask use some common sense.

Drones - As the use of drones becomes more common, countries throughout the world are gradually updating their laws and restrictions on usage. The specific regulations will vary from one country to another, so do check the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice for the latest information. As with cameras, use your common sense if you do use a drone and avoid operation in sensitive areas. If you plan to bring a drone on your trip with us please contact us first to ensure there will be a suitable place to store it while on your trip.

Electrical charging & power supply - It may be difficult to find a power source for charging at times, so a spare battery is a must. Log onto www.whatplug.net for information regarding the different electrical plugs and voltage used in each country.

CONTACTING HOME

The internet and WiFi are available in many towns / cities you will visit. Do bear in mind that the connections can be unreliable and will not always be as fast as you are used to at home. If a lot of people try to use the internet at the same time the speed will be slower still, especially if trying to make Skype calls or upload photos / videos. During periods of the trip where we are wild camping, internet will be less common.

Some travellers choose to take an unlocked mobile phone with them and buy local SIM cards in each country, allowing them to use mobile data. If you particularly want or need regular internet access this may be a good option. Telephone calls can be expensive usually £1 to £5 for a three minute call.

Online Diaries - A great variety of free "travel blogs" are now available online, they are a good way of keeping relatives and friend up to date with what you are doing and a good place to upload photos, collecting messages as well as keeping a record for yourself.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

Before you go

- Remove unnecessary packaging before you go - waste disposal facilities are often stretched or non-existent in the places we visit. To avoid unnecessary pollution of local water supplies take environmentally friendly toiletries with you.
- Why not invest in a wind-up or solar-powered torch or media player before you travel or at least rechargeable batteries.
- Learn some of the local language and read up on the local history/culture before you go. You'll get so much more out of your trip.
- Why not pack some pens/pencils exercise books in your rucksack and they can be donated to a local school or project while you're away. You can also purchase these items cheaply, locally which will help local businesses.
- Take a sturdy water bottle with you from home that you can re-use throughout your trip. We carry large quantities of purified water with us on our Expedition vehicles and it is much better for the environment if you drink this, rather than purchase bottled water along the way. (It also saves you money).
- **Water-to-Go:** Oasis Overland have partnered with Water-to-Go to help reduce the number of plastic water bottles consumed during a trip. Water-to-Go is a filtration system that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants including viruses, bacteria, chemicals and heavy metals from any non-salt water source. [Click here](#) and enter the code OASIS15 to purchase your Water-to-Go products at 15% discount. Water-to-Go will then donate a further 15% to Oasis Overland Charity projects.

While you're travelling

From experience gained in running trips, we have developed our own practical and manageable environmental policy which all of our crew practice on the trips we operate, and they will share this information with you at the start of your trip. We welcome your input on this, plus any new ideas you may have, to improve our existing procedures. As a guide here's a few tips to bear in mind.

- Don't waste water. It is a scarce resource in many of the places our trips visit. On all our Ultimate and Overland Expeditions we carry large quantities of purified water with us. We encourage you to refill your own water bottles from this supply, rather than purchase bottled water along the way-much more environmentally friendly and saves you money!
- Never buy endangered species or endangered habitat products. Apart from the fact of it being illegal it also encourages the trade to continue.
- Look after and preserve the areas we visit. Be careful about stepping on coral reefs or trekking on undesignated tracks.
- Buy locally made crafts and products helping to support the local economy.
- Don't feel when bargaining that you have to get the cheapest price possible just for the sake of it. Pay what the item is worth to you & don't worry about what someone else has paid.
- Try the local food and drinks - this will help to support local farmers and food sellers. Sitting in a local cafe is also a great way to meet local people.
- Dispose of litter appropriately on your trip. This includes cigarette butts. Not only does litter look unsightly it can be lethal to wildlife.
- Where any toilet facilities exist, however unsavoury they might seem to you, they should be used. Where they do not, always bury your waste and make sure it is never near, (at least 30m) a water source.
- When game viewing do not encourage your guides to get too close to the wildlife so that their natural behaviour is impeded.
- Respect local customs, traditions and beliefs of the people in the different regions that you travel through.
- Do not take photos of people, ritual events or special places unless you have asked first. Dress appropriately according to local codes and show respect around religious festivals.
- Recycling is almost non-existent in many of the areas and countries we visit - we do the best we can with limited resources & space on our vehicles.
- For books dedicated to travelling more responsibly & ethically see: www.tourismconcern.org.uk

Community Projects - As part of your booking a donation is made 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.

SECURITY

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) offer country-specific advice, regarding not only security but also entry regulations, local laws and customs and health. We strongly recommend all travellers visit the FCO website, or the equivalent in their home country, to familiarise themselves with local conditions and issues in the countries they plan to visit before committing to a trip with us. You can view their website [here](#).

If you have any questions at all about the safety or security of your trip, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to discuss your trip in more detail.

In cities - All major cities have their share of petty crime (just like our cities) and sensible precautions need to be taken. Wearing expensive looking jewellery or watches and carrying cameras will draw unnecessary attention to you. Leave valuables such as passports and excess money in your hotel safe (we recommend carrying a copy of your passport details page at all times). You may find a simple money belt is more discreet than a bag. Always be aware of your surroundings and when approached by people you do not know, use your common sense. At night in cities it's best to use a taxi, rather than walking around the streets, single women in particular need to be careful and we would suggest that it is safer to be in a group.

Oasis does not take responsibility for clients' personal items and we advise you to not take items of value that are not essential for the journey.

WHAT TO EXPECT

LIFE ON THE ROAD

You will be travelling within a group size ranging from 2-16 people, so come with an open mind and ready to make new friends! You will be accompanied on your adventure with an experienced Local English speaking guide. They are knowledgeable and passionate about the history and culture of Morocco.

Accommodation & Transport

Transport is by minivan, 4x4 Land Cruiser and Camel! Accommodation is in shared rooms (between 2 people of the same sex from your trip unless you are a couple). We use clean and comfortable 3 star hotels along with a night camping in a traditional Berber camp in the Desert. Some hotels even have swimming pools and sun-lounge areas. In some hotels you may be able to upgrade to a single room (at your own expense). Temperatures in Morocco are generally high, particularly during the summer months from May to September, so take sunscreen. However in winter temperatures can drop right down in the evenings, but as long as you bring some warm clothing and a sleeping bag for this night in the desert then you should be more than comfortable.

Vegetarians / Vegans / Coeliac / Gluten & Lactose intolerance

Our Tour Leaders will always do their best to cater for any dietary requirement or intolerance whenever possible. However we don't cater for fussy eaters. It must be remembered that the variety of dishes available may not be the same as available to meat eaters. If there is anything in particular you require in your diet or because of an allergy or would miss from home, it would be best to bring these with you. Remember that when eating out in local restaurants & hotels sometimes being vegetarian or food allergies / intolerances are still not widely known about or understood by many local people. i.e. Vegetarians or Vegans will often be offered fish or chicken in error. Most large towns and cities, or areas used to tourists, will often have more choice but please be aware that it will probably not be as varied as you are used to when eating out at home.

Ramadan

Ramadan is the holy Islamic month during which Muslims fast during the day and is based on Lunar months. No food or liquid is allowed to pass a person's lips during daylight hours. Tourists are not expected to fast during this time, but are expected to show respect, by not eating on the streets or in public view etc. Be aware some shops and historical sites may adjust opening times, but this should not significantly affect our itinerary. Hotels and western style pubs we use normally continue to sell alcohol during Ramadan, but general availability may be limited.

People in some regions are generally conservative, especially about matters concerning sex and women. Muslim countries simply are not the place to make a feminist statement. Attitudes range from fairly liberal to fairly conservative in some of the small towns we may pass through. If you are not prepared to fit in with the social code of the area you may be harassed.

Optional Excursions are paid for on the day and organised during your trip, so you can decide whilst travelling which activity you may want to do. Prices listed are only a guide and may be dependant on fluctuating exchange rates and minimum numbers. Please see below for more details.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

MOROCCO

Title	From Price
Hammam spa in Marrakech	US\$15
Hot Air Balloon ride over the High Atlas Mountains	US\$200
Dinner and an Evening's Entertainment in Fes	US\$30
Cooking class in Ait Benhaddou	US\$30
Visit to Film Studio in Ouarzazate	US\$8
Merzouga land cruiser desert excursion	US\$70
Bahia Palace entrance	US\$10
El Badi Palace	US\$8
Hassan II Mosque	US\$15

We feel that having optional excursions gives a greater degree of flexibility and independence to our group members; independence to decide how much your spending budget can afford; flexibility to decide when and what time of day or with whom to visit a particular site, rather than for example, with the whole group at a pre-ordained time. If you decide not to join a popular excursion, you will have free time to relax or wander off to a market, village or beach, depending on where we are.

You pay for the optional excursions to the local operator, ensuring the money stays with that operator in the local community and this ensures as well, that you are paying the true price for any optional excursions you want to do. This also applies to accommodation costs before and after the trip. Please note that the prices of optional excursions quoted are approximate as local prices can and do change. Please see the relevant trip page for the Optional excursions you can do on that trip and a list of prices.

Notes downloaded on: 11-05-2025

