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Trip Notes

HIGHLIGHTS OF MOROCCO

Trip code: AMH
Country: Morocco
Amended: May 2010
Edition No: ACR 2 2010
Valid from: 13 May - 31 Dec 2010



HIGHLIGHTS

- Imperial cities of Rabat, Meknes, Fez and Marrakech
- Explore Volubilis - the largest and best-preserved Roman ruins in Morocco
- Spectacular journey into the real Sahara desert on a camel, spending the night under the stars Bedouin style
- Visit Todra Gorge, where the massive walls rise up from the riverbed
- Travel along the 'Route of a Thousand Kasbahs' visiting the famous kasbah of Ait Benhaddou and the fortress/palace of Telouet
- Take a walk in the magnificent High Atlas Mountains
- Relax in the charming fishing port of Essaouira for a walk on the beach and to sample fabulous seafood
- Solo departures available - see Practical Information section

SUMMARY



For sheer diversity, Morocco is the perfect destination, so close to Europe, yet so completely different. This trip is a varied and rewarding experience and is truly the ideal opportunity to visit everything this fascinating country has to offer - including magnificent scenery, rich history and culture, vibrant and colourful cities and an amazing mix of people. With a good year-round climate, weather is virtually guaranteed to be better than the UK for most of the year.

We start in **Casablanca** to see the third largest mosque in the world - the magnificent Hassan II mosque, before absorbing the incredible history and religion of the Imperial Cities and sites of the north. Our

journey takes us through contrasting mountain ranges to the south, where sand dunes and kasbahs are scattered among palm oases inhabited by friendly Berbers.

One of Morocco's most beautiful natural landscapes is the sand sea in **Merzouga**, where we can take a camel trek or walk amid the dunes - a genuine Saharan experience. Our journey continues to add more highlights as we visit awe-inspiring **Todra Gorge**, with its thousand-foot high vertical walls and, Ait Benhaddou, which arguably has the prettiest Kasbah in Morocco.

The **Atlas Mountains** are an integral part of any trip to Morocco; the three ranges (Middle, High and Anti Atlas) form a massive barrier through the centre of the country, and are the original home of the Berber, the indigenous Moroccans who are still the country's largest racial group. In fact only about 10% of the population is pure Arab, although the lines of distinction are getting very blurred. The highest peaks are in the High Atlas, and it is in this range that we will take a half-day walk from our simple but attractive mountain gîte.

Marrakech, with its colourful souks, palaces and mosques, comes alive at night with crowded bazaars conjuring up flavours of Arabian Nights. Nestled in the Atlas Mountains near the ruined fortress of Telouet, is the village of Tizha, where we spend the night and have chance to visit the school. The final leg of our trip takes us to **Essaouira**, a coastal town of quaint appeal with its old walled town and fantastic seafood.

IS THIS TRIP FOR YOU?

This trip provides a balanced view of the enormous variety that Morocco has to offer. It combines cities, history, architecture, desert and mountain scenery and there is a superb blend of the natural, human and exotic. We spend quality time in the places that matter, the pace is not rushed but a couple of the journeys are long. We are certainly not confined to our vehicle though, as there are plenty of photo stops and opportunities to stretch your legs. Although flight times are short, the return flight from Marrakech to London is not usually direct. Accommodation standards are below that of Europe and more comparable to Sub-Saharan Africa standards. The temperatures in the cities may also be hot in the summer months but we try to make the most of the coolest parts of the day.

JOINING THE TRIP IN LONDON

15 days, depart London Sunday, return Sunday.

Itinerary start

The group flight from London is a daytime flight departing on Day 1 of the itinerary.

PLEASE NOTE extra dates have been added since the brochure was published - 1st August, 28th August, 11th September & 31st October.

Flights from London

We normally use the scheduled services of **Royal Air Maroc** or **Atlas Blue** (depending on availability). As flight timings and schedules change regularly, we recommend you call one of our specialist sales staff or



Exodus Travels Ltd

Grange Mills, Weir Road, London SW12 0NE

Sales & Reservations: (44) 0845 330 6008 • Fax: (44) 020 8673 0779 • E-mail: sales@exodus.co.uk • www.exodus.co.uk



your agent to confirm up-to-date timings. Please note timings may change at a later date and cannot be confirmed until approximately two weeks before departure.

Please note that although we only book direct flights from London, Royal Air Maroc usually have a stopover in Casablanca. This may delay your journey and we are sorry that we cannot confirm when this occurs, as it depends on the airline.

Please note Atlas Blue does not provide an in-flight meal or snack.

UK Regional Flights

Exodus can arrange flights from the majority of the UK's regional airports that are more flexible and convenient than if booked separately. Please contact our sales team for details.

Please note that if booking your regional flights other than with Exodus, you must allow a minimum connecting time (in addition to the international check in time) of 1 hour at Gatwick, and 1.5 hours at Heathrow; this is longer than the official minimum connecting time, but baggage handling at Heathrow is known to be subject to delays.

Airport Transfers

Airport transfers are included for those on the group flights. Please note that transfers are not included for clients arriving on any other flight, even if Exodus has booked it. Those arriving from London on non-group flights should read the airport transfer section below for information on reaching the start point. Please check with the Exodus office if you are unsure whether or not a transfer is included.

JOINING THE TRIP IN CASABLANCA

15 days, start Casablanca, end Marrakech.

Itinerary start

Your trip normally starts at our hotel in Casablanca on the evening of Day 1 of the itinerary listed below. Details of how to reach the start point are given in the Final Joining Instructions. Hotel check-in times are normally from around 12 noon.

Please note that if you arrive late in the evening, the hotel will not normally be able to provide a meal or snack, and that if you leave very early at the end of your trip, breakfast may not be served prior to your departure.

Airport Transfers

If you require airport transfers, you may (by prior arrangement only) be able to join the group transfer. Transfers are arranged to coincide with the arrival time of the group flight.

Group flights can be rescheduled, so you must check the group flight details 2 weeks before departure. If you do not take this transfer, or miss it, you must make your own way to the joining point at your own expense. Joining the group transfer is free of charge.

We are unable to offer private transfers in Casablanca, however, it is very simple to take a taxi from the airport. Agree a price before you get in the taxi and expect to pay approximately £20 per car. At the end of your holiday, the cost of a petit taxi (maximum 3 passengers) from Marrakech to the airport is approximately 120MDH/£8 should you choose to make your way independently.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers will be sent to you as part of our Final Joining Instructions. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

LAND ONLY ITINERARY

The entries in **bold** at the end of each day indicate the type of accommodation normally used (see accommodation section for key to codes) and meals included (**B**=Breakfast, **L**=Lunch, **D**=Dinner)

Day 1 Start Casablanca Arrival at our hotel in the evening. **CH**

Day 2 Explore Casablanca & Rabat A modern, commercial seaport - a complete contrast to the Morocco we are about to explore. In the morning we visit the third largest mosque in the world - the Hassan II mosque - before lunching in the capital, Rabat. Rabat is the diplomatic and government capital, but second to Casablanca in importance and, although mostly modern, has an excellent old quarter. We take time to explore this before striking out over the northern fertile plain on our way to Meknes. We begin to see the scenery changing as the land becomes more cultivated, Meknes being one of the most fertile areas of Morocco. **CH (B)**

Day 3 Meknes & Volubilis Sultan Moulay Ismail's old capital of Meknes is our first example of one of the Imperial Cities. The morning is free to wander the narrow streets and explore the souk (market), and perhaps

have our first taste of bartering for souvenirs. In the afternoon we take a short drive to Volubilis, the largest and best-preserved Roman ruins in Morocco. After exploring this site we continue our journey to Fez, where we will spend two nights. **CH (B)**

Day 4 Fez This fascinating city is the intellectual and religious centre of Morocco. Founded over a thousand years ago, Fez has many mosques and medersas (theological colleges) including the 9th century Karouine University, whose architecture is very similar to that seen in Moorish Spain. The medina in Fez is one of the largest in the world. In its immense and confusing warren of souks are thousands of craftsmen with their tiny shops opening onto the narrow alleyways. Noisy and pungent, hot and claustrophobic, the medina of Fez is a totally absorbing and unique experience. Our city guide shall walk us through different sections of the souk - from the dyers souk to the brass and copper souks. And of course, no visit to Fez is complete without a visit to the tanneries. Outside the medina we shall visit the Jewish District (mellah), the exterior of the Royal Palace and drive to a panoramic viewpoint over the medina. We shall also visit the potteries where the famous mosaic tables are made from the grey clay of the Rif Mountains. **CH (B)**

Day 5 Journey to the Desert Today we have a long journey over the Middle Atlas, down through the picturesque Ziz Valley, to the Hamada (flat stony desert) gradually approaching the spectacular site of the golden sand dunes of Erg Chebbi. We stay in a small and welcoming auberge on the edge of the dunes where it is easy to climb their summits for the sunrise. **SH (B,D)**



Day 6 Saharan Camel Trek There is time today to explore the largest sand sea in Morocco or to relax in the shade of a palm tree by the dunes. The sand sea is famed

for its pink dunes that take on a spectacular rose colour at sunset. In the late afternoon we partake in a genuine Saharan experience - a two-hour camel trek through the dunes to an oasis, where we spend the night in a simple Bedouin camp. **BC (B,D)**

Day 7 Journey to Todra Gorge After sunrise, we leave our desert camp and travel, by camel, back to the auberge where we can have a shower before heading west towards the little town of Tinerhir, and onwards to Todra Gorge for the night. Our hotel is set against the backdrop of the impressive walls of the gorge itself and we can spend the evening watching the rocks change colour with the setting sun. **SH (B)**

Day 8 Todra Gorge We spend the day in the magnificent gorge of the Todra River. There is the opportunity to take a 5-hour guided walk, or to relax in the gorge, walking beneath vertical cliffs rising up to 400m. In the afternoon there is the option of a guided palmery tour. **SH (B)**

Day 9 Route of Thousand Kasbahs Leaving Todra Gorge, we rejoin the main road and drive west along the 'Route of the Thousand Kasbahs' via Ouarzazate and on to the well-preserved kasbah of Ait Benhaddou. This UNESCO site is one of the most spectacular sights of the Atlas, made famous as the location of several Hollywood films, including 'Gladiator'. After admiring the view, we may see something of the simple village houses. Continuing into the mountains we branch east along a reasonable road through a wide flat mountain valley, finally arriving at the road head at Anmiter. Here we leave our bus and take an hour's picturesque walk on a gentle uphill gradient to our well-equipped gîte, where we spend the next two nights. (Our bags will be transported to the gîte for us). **BH (B,D)**

Day 10 Walking in the Atlas Mountains We start our day with a 4-hour walk through the villages of the Tighza Valley, passing fields cultivated by the Berber women and heading up into the hills on mule tracks. The peaks of the High Atlas act as a fitting backdrop to our walk. The afternoon is free to relax with a book and enjoy the mountain views, to take a stroll through this beautiful landscape or to challenge the local



children to a game of football! **BH (B,D)**

Day 11 High Atlas to Essaouira Leaving the gîte, we walk back to our bus for a short drive to the palace of Telouet. This palace stands abandoned and crumbling but we can visit a small part of this labyrinthine, fairy-tale structure. We continue our scenic drive over the High Atlas Mountains to Marrakech, driving over the Tizi'n'Tichka, which at 2,260m, is the highest road pass in Morocco. The scenery is spectacular and there are some wonderful views of the mountains. The second half of the trip brings us to the flat arid plains of Marrakech and then onwards to Essaouira. **SH (B)**

Day 12 Essaouira A free day in Essaouira which is a charming old Portuguese fishing port by the Atlantic Coast. The settlement dates back to the fifteenth century, but the present town was constructed around 1760 by Sidi Mohammed ben Abdullah, who needed a base from which to suppress a revolt from Agadir. Today, the town is extremely relaxed and its whitewashed houses with painted shutters, artisan's workshops, boatyards and fishermen provide a marked contrast to the desert, kasbahs and cities we have visited on this trip. Our hotel is in the heart of the old walled city and there is time for some shopping or for a walk along the picturesque beach. There are also many pleasant cafes and some outstanding seafood restaurants for our evening meal. The town is perhaps at its best in the late afternoon and early morning when the day visitors have yet to arrive or have left. **SH (B)**

Day 13 To Marrakech After breakfast we head for the 'Pink City' of Marrakech and in the afternoon we enjoy a guided tour to help us find our feet and soak up the atmosphere of this amazing city. Our city guide will take us to the Bahia Palace, the Saadian tombs, which incredibly date to the 16th century, and the Dar Si Said Museum. We end in the Djemma el Fna, where the town becomes a maze of bustling bazaars, palaces and mosques. It is worth seeing this famous central point in the evening, as Marrakech revolves around the open-air central square. With the food stalls, snake charmers, water-sellers and acrobats, it is a place of night-time entertainment for both local people and tourists. **CH (B)**

Day 14 Free day in Marrakech Today is a free day in Marrakech and there is no shortage of things to do. You might like to visit largest Mosque in Marrakech, the Koutoubia and venture through the souks and old streets of the medina. After bartering for souvenirs in the labyrinthine souks, there will be time for a short visit to the Koranic School and Museum of Marrakech. After this unwind by taking a ½ hour Calèche ride (a bright green horse-drawn carriage) to the Jardin Majorelle. These tranquil gardens are decorated throughout in Indigo Blue and owned by Yves St. Laurent. A final treat would be to have a hammam, a traditional Moroccan steam bath. **CH (B)**

Day 15 Finish Marrakech after breakfast. **(B)**

For those on group flights, these depart in the morning and will arrive in the UK the same day.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation

We indicate in the itinerary what type of accommodation is provided on each day. The descriptions are guidelines only and are used to give an idea of the accommodation offered, rather than an exact description.

Morocco is opening up more and more to mainstream tourism due to increasing coverage from airlines. However, accommodation standards are more often comparable with those found in Sub-Saharan Africa rather than Europe and you should come prepared for this (for instance, some hotels are not heated so can feel very cold during the winter months). In cities such as Marrakech there has been a large increase in tourist numbers but there are still only a limited number of 3-star hotels. The joining hotel name and contact details for your trip will be provided in the Final Joining Instructions paperwork which is mailed out about 2 weeks prior to departure. If you would like Exodus to organise additional accommodation for you at the start and/or end of your trip, please contact the office at least 4 weeks prior to departure.

The gîte accommodation we use in Morocco is of a very simple standard and cleanliness and hot water cannot always be guaranteed. The rooms are dormitory style with mattresses placed directly on the floor, they are often mixed sex and it is likely you will be sharing with between 3-7 other people from your group. The term 'gîte' in Morocco denotes simple rural accommodation, rather like a refuge or hostel, as opposed to the more superior French definition. Nights in the desert are in large communal Bedouin tents.

Single Accommodation

You can request a single room on this trip subject to availability. The cost of the single supplement is £175, which only applies to hotel nights and therefore does not cover any nights spent in the gîte/desert or Bedouin camps.

Key To Accommodation

CH Comfortable Hotel, Lodge or Gite - twin rooms with en suite facilities, reliable electricity and water supply, good service and some added amenities (some have swimming pools).

SH Standard Hotel, Lodge or Gite - no-frills hotel, usually with twin rooms and en suite facilities. Service and amenities are generally adequate. All the hotels on this trip have swimming pools.

BH Basic Hotel, Lodge or Gite, Mountain Hut, Village House - can be communal, often consisting of just a bed and shared facilities. Bed linen not normally provided. Running water, toilets and electricity may be inconsistent or non-existent. Cleanliness is not always assured.

BC Bedouin Camping - large communal tents normally made of rough wool with mattresses placed on mats on the ground. These tents normally hold 5-8 people. The Bedouin camp on this trip does not have toilet or washing facilities.

FOOD AND TRANSPORT

Food

In the itinerary we state which meals are included on each day.

Moroccan food is, generally speaking, excellent though not particularly varied. Breakfasts usually consist of bread and jam with coffee or tea. Meals eaten out are reasonably priced - kebab and bread cost only about £4. In main towns it is possible to find very good French and Moroccan restaurants where a meal and French wine will cost anything from £20 upwards. Generally dinner is likely to cost between £5-10 depending on what you drink. Local beers, wines and soft drinks are reasonably priced, but you can pay UK prices or more for imported alcohol. Your leader will recommend restaurants for each evening.

Vegetarians can be catered for but there is a fairly limited choice of vegetarian cous cous and tajine or omelettes. This is particularly the case during the more rural or trekking sections of the trip.

Please note that if you have any special dietary requirements you should inform the Exodus Office prior to the trip. If you have a specific medical/dietary need (i.e. coeliac or vegan) you may find it helpful to bring some items of food with you from home.

Transport

For most of this trip we use a private bus, the size of which will depend on the group size, with a local driver.

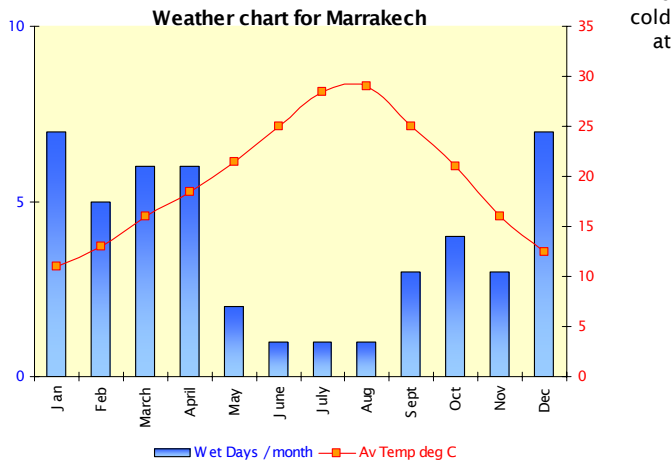
Travelling conditions

The roads in Morocco are reasonably good, and driving conditions in towns and on the plains are good. On mountain roads, the pace will be slower. Buses usually have air-conditioning and heating, but please note this is not up to European standards.

WEATHER

Please note this chart denotes the **average** temperatures in Marrakech. From April to June, and in September, Marrakech and the north are pleasantly hot, with temperatures averaging 26°C in the day and falling to 16°C at night. It is unusual for there to be much humidity so it is quite pleasant except at midday when the sun is very strong. Desert temperatures are similar to those in Marrakech, with the nights usually a little cooler and the days a little hotter. Mountain temperatures are cooler than in Marrakech.

In the winter months, the daytime temperatures in Marrakech are around 18 to 22°C with night temperatures falling to 4 to 7°C. The days should be clear and sunny, and a particularly attractive feature of the winter months is the clear views of the snow-covered Atlas. The temperatures in the south are generally a couple of degrees higher than those prevailing north of the mountains. There is a small chance of rain and it has been even known to snow very infrequently in January and sometimes February on the higher desert plateaux (in which case it



night and early in the morning on the southern side of the Atlas).

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Tourism can be a real help to local communities, providing income, positive cultural exchanges and a financial incentive to protect their natural environment.

Ours is a 'total approach' to responsible tourism, covering everything from the way we plan and operate our trips to the practices of Exodus as a company. Exodus trips are designed to allow a high degree of economic benefit to the local communities; we buy local produce, eat local food and use local services, thus ensuring that as much money as possible is retained within the local economies and the host communities. With our responsible tourism policy we are continually reassessing our holidays, trying at all times to ensure that they are socially, economically and environmentally sound.

Awards for our work on Responsible Tourism

2006. British Travel Awards: Environmentally Responsible Tourism Company.

2004. Responsible Travel Awards: Best Tour Operator.

2002. BA Tourism for Tomorrow Awards: Highly Commended.

For full details of our Responsible Tourism Policy please visit:

www.exodus.co.uk/responsible-travel

Whilst staying at the gite in the mountains there will be the opportunity to visit the local school, which has been adopted by Exodus as one of our Responsible Tourism projects. We have already supplied a water pipeline system to the village and a toilet block for the school and are keen to continue with much-needed improvements for the people of the village. You can help by donating money via Friends of Conservation (see our website link below) or by bringing with you some items (again please see our website for advice on what to bring). Please ensure that anything you bring is not passed directly to the children.

Exodus is also collecting leftover Dirhams from anyone travelling to Morocco, which are used directly on the project. If you would like to donate this way, please send your Dirhams to Amanda Ceraolo, Tjihza Village Project, Exodus, Grange Mills, Weir Road, London, SW12 ONE. Check our [website](#) for more details.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Passports and Visas

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information offered below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

Visa regulations can and do change without notice and if you are not a British passport holder please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required.

For information on how to obtain visas please call Travcours on 020 7223 5295 or visit their website: www.travcours.com

Vaccinations and Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

There are no mandatory vaccination requirements for this trip. However it is advised that you are vaccinated against Polio, Tetanus, Typhoid and Hepatitis A.

The above information can change at short notice, and as we are not qualified to answer all your questions in regards to travel health we strongly recommend you contact your GP or a Travel Health Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure for up-to-date information.

Nomad Travel Clinics are experts in preparing people for travel, providing expert advice on vaccinations, anti-malarial and staying healthy whilst overseas. We have arranged a special 10% discount for Exodus passengers on any vaccinations that you may require! Take along your Nomad discount card, sent with your confirmation pack, or call Exodus for your special discount code.

Visit www.nomadtravel.co.uk/exodus for further information.

For additional information please visit: www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk

Insurance - Are you adequately covered?

Please ask for details of the Exodus insurance policy that has been tailored to provide specific cover for our trips. It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you must be insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs and air ambulance or helicopter rescue services where appropriate). If taking an alternative policy you must be sure that you are covered for any activities that are part of this trip or optional activities that you intend to take part in. For further information please see the insurance section of the Exodus Travel Advice guide or visit www.exodus.co.uk/about-exodus/travel-insurance.

Local Time is the same as GMT.

Group, Staff and Support

The group will generally be between 6 and 16 people. There will be a local leader and a driver and local guides where needed.

Solo Departures

For those clients who wish to travel with a group of other solo travellers, on certain trips we have set aside departure dates that are recommended for clients booking individually. Solo departures are aimed at taking away that concern that you may be the only solo traveller when you arrive overseas.

Solo Departures for this trip are available on the following dates:

11th July & 3rd October 2010. For further details please visit: www.exodus.co.uk/solodepartures.

Please Note

As Morocco is a strict Muslim country, we ask that men, women & children wear suitable clothing, i.e. over the knee skirts/shorts/trousers and with shoulders covered. Additionally, women should avoid wearing close-fitting or revealing clothes. **Please note in 2010 Ramadan runs from 11/08 to 09/09.** During Ramadan, our local guides and drivers choose to work and so we continue to run trips in this period. However, it does need to be recognised that the energy levels of our local staff may be a bit lower and that some restaurants may be closed during the day. Having said this, Ramadan is a unique time to visit a Muslim country - each evening the streets empty for an hour while everyone breaks their fast, and there's a feeling of festivity in the air every night.



Language

Arabic is the official language of Morocco, and is spoken by virtually everyone in the plains and the larger cities. The business language is French, which is understood by almost all shopkeepers and many people in the mountains who have come into contact with foreigners. The Berbers have their own language which has several dialects and is used by almost all mountain people. English is understood by many of the shopkeepers in the main tourist towns, but seldom elsewhere.

Electricity

220 volts AC, 50 Hz. Not all village houses/camps have shaving points.

Join the Exodus Online Community:

Don't forget to visit the Community area on our website. You can view our range of Exodus videos and podcasts, read trip write-ups that have featured in the national media and take advantage of some special deals on travel gear and equipment.

In the Compass Café forum you'll find the Departure Lounge where you can discuss your trip with fellow travellers before you depart. When you get back from your holiday remember to upload your images to the relevant trip page on our website. This helps other people see what our holidays are really like and you'll be automatically entered into our monthly photo competition.

To make full use of the Compass Cafe you'll need to join My Exodus. It's free, registration is simple and easy... so what are you waiting for?

<http://www.exodus.co.uk/community>

MONEY MATTERS

Exodus and Local Payments

There is no local payment on this holiday. As of 1 January 2008, Exodus no longer uses local payments to cover part of the cost of the holiday. While some of the headline prices seem higher, we have not added any extra costs into the total price, apart from the local payment and any standard annual fluctuation in price.

If you are comparing prices with other operators, please check the total price paid, as we believe that Exodus offers the best balance between value for money and operational quality.

Currency Information

The national currency of Morocco is the Dirham (MDH), with an exchange rate of approximately 7.6 to the US\$ and 12 to the UK£.

Exchange rates are correct at the time of publication.

We suggest you take your personal spending money in good condition notes, either in £, Euros or US\$. Euro cheques are not accepted in Morocco. No Moroccan currency may be imported or exported. There is no limit on the amount of foreign currency that may be imported provided it is declared on arrival. When changing your money, ensure you keep hold of your exchange receipt as you may need to show it at the airport bank at the end of your holiday where it's possible to change any unspent Dirham notes back into Euros and sometimes Sterling.

ATM availability

It is easy to use Visa / MasterCard or Switch cards at the ATM machines by using your normal PIN number. Note that ATM machines are only available in larger towns and cities.

Extra Expenses and Spending Money

Although most are included, there may be some entrance fees to certain optional historic & religious sites: allow up to £5 per person if you intend to visit them all.

Please allow approximately £2-4 per person per day to cover postcards, small souvenirs, soft drinks etc. (see also Food).

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are normally accepted for more expensive souvenirs, such as carpets (but shops may charge a 5% supplement for this).

Tipping (leader and local staff)

Our local staff are paid well and fairly for their work with Exodus and tipping is entirely at your own discretion. However, as a guideline, we suggest you allow a few pounds for tips for the guides, cooks and chameliers - about £2 a day would seem reasonable.

WHAT TO TAKE

Essential Equipment and Clothing

This should be read in conjunction with our 'What to Pack' section in the Travel Advice booklet.

You will need the following:

3 season sleeping bag, waterbottle, sunhat, sun cream and sunglasses, daysack, lightweight walking boots with good ankle support and sole protection, torch (flashlight), towel, light jacket and waterproof jacket, wetwipes, soap, toilet paper/tissues and perhaps earplugs! **For November to March departures you will also need** a fleece jacket, warm trousers, gloves, hat and possibly a 4 season sleeping bag (*check the weather before departure as it may be warm enough for a 3 season*).

Some hotels may have swimming pools so we recommend you also take a swimming costume.

Much of the equipment mentioned above is available at very competitive prices at the Exodus online shop, '[Exodus Travel Essentials](#)' in partnership with Amazon. Please visit www.exodus.co.uk/community for more information.

Baggage and Baggage Allowance

One moderately-sized soft holdall (such as an Exodus kitbag, measuring approximately 100cm long x 30cm square) should be ample for your baggage. Exodus kitbags are available for purchase at £25, which includes postage, packing and VAT. Please note that they are available within the UK only.

At time of publication - the standard weight limit for hold baggage on the recommended international carrier for this trip is 20kg. As advice about luggage allowances for both hand and hold luggage is subject to change, we suggest you check www.baa.com and/or the airline's website for the latest information prior to your departure.

READING LIST

If you are interested in any of these books then please visit our very own Exodus shop, '[Exodus Travel Essentials](#)' in partnership with Amazon. Please visit www.exodus.co.uk/community for more information.

The Rough Guide to Morocco *M. Ellingham and S. McVeigh (2004)*

Very practical, down to earth and informative.

Cadogan Guide to Morocco *Rogerson (Cadogan 2004)*

A readable and up-to-date guide. Excellent historical information.

Lords of the Atlas *G. Maxwell (Century Travellers, 1966)*

Very readable history of modern Morocco.

Morocco *N. Barbour (Thames & Hudson, 1965)*

Very interesting history and a good account of contemporary Morocco.

A Year in Marrakech *P. Mayne (Eland, 1953)*

Interesting book about life in the most fascinating city of Morocco.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL CLIENTS

Please note that Exodus operate a 24 hour duty office for emergencies, which can be contacted on 0044 (0) 1582 644 100.

Anytime that you travel abroad you should take the time to read the warnings in the essential information in the brochure or at www.exodus.co.uk/about-exodus/essential-information?

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers, and details of how to reach the start point, will be sent to you approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior to departure. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

Occasionally, as stated in our brochure, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned. This may be for a variety of reasons – climatic, political, physical or other. In these circumstances we will make the best alternative arrangements possible that maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith, and covers the average range of conditions likely to be found on this trip. Where differences exist in the information between these Trip Notes and our

current brochure, the Trip Notes are the correct version and supersede the brochure. Abnormal conditions or other events beyond our control can prevail at any time, particularly in remote or off the beaten track destinations, therefore all holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; in order to enjoy them you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary.

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HOW TO BOOK YOUR TRIP

1. Check availability Go online to check availability, or contact us by phone or email.

2. Secure your place You can provisionally hold a place on this trip, usually for between three and seven days.

3. Complete your booking and payment When you're ready to book, go to www.exodus.co.uk for online booking, book over the phone or you can complete a booking form (available online or on request by calling us). We accept all major credit and debit cards, or you can pay by cheque.

Book with confidence Exodus is fully licensed and bonded as a tour operator. We hold Air Traffic Organisers Licence (ATOL) number 2582 issued and bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). We are also bonded to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and we are members of the Federation of Tour Operators (FTO) and ABTA - The Travel Association. This means you can book your Exodus holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected.

