



Morocco Destination Guide and FAQs

First time in Morocco?

You're in for a treat. We keep hearing from our travellers that Morocco is one of their favourite countries or that their trip holds some of the best memories for them.

"Morocco is a land of beauty and wonder and our stay was all too brief. There is so much history, so much culture, so many landscapes, and so much amazing food that every day was a new adventure." – Peg

Where else can you stay the night in a Berber tent in the Sahara Desert under more stars than you have ever seen before and then the next day sleep in a luxurious boutique hotel (called a riad)?

Where else can you walk through an ancient city and see a way of life that has been around for centuries combined with modern comforts?

This isn't a "beach vacation" destination (though there are some great beaches available). It's not a European city with fancy cafes and cathedrals. It is truly unique. You get a combination of Berber and Arab culture with a European flavour. There's delicious food, truly memorable sights, and the people are warm and hospitable.

If you have been lucky enough to visit Morocco, you're already in love, but do read on because a few things may have changed.

"We have traveled the world by way of backpacking to luxurious cruises and we can both honestly say that Morocco will forever be one of our favourite destinations." – Laura and Natalie

First off, is Morocco safe for travellers?

Your perception of safety is important, and we urge you to visit your country's travel advisory consular site. These days, only a few countries do not carry an advisory. Morocco is considered to be a politically stable country in North Africa. It is a constitutional monarchy, and promotes religious peace between Muslims, Christians and Jews. As with any destination, travellers should exercise caution in being out in the dark and carrying valuables. A bonus of group travel is you can always be with a travel companion. Additionally, our local office in Canada is on hand to address any concerns. Even during the Arab Spring Morocco was one of the only countries in North Africa that remained secure.

Do I need a Visa for Morocco?

Most visitors do NOT need a visa to Morocco. Check this guide for more info.

<https://www.consulat.ma/en/ordinary-visas> (If link does not work, copy and paste in your browser's search function)

Canadian and U.S. nationals do not need a visa. In order to gain entry, you will need a passport valid for 6 months.

If you do need a visa, bear in mind that processing can take 4 to 5 weeks. Please understand that it is your sole responsibility to possess a valid passport and visa prior to embarking on this tour.

What is the Time Zone in Morocco?

Morocco is on Western Europe Summer time, +1hr GMT until Oct 28. It's 5 hrs ahead of EST.

What is the weather like in November?

Fall in Morocco is mild, and you'll enjoy temperatures of 23-25C/70F. You'll experience

lots of sunshine and cooler nights. You won't get much rain. Great time to visit Morocco!



How strenuous is this tour?

A good level of fitness is essential. Unless you enjoy unimpaired mobility, are reliably sure-footed, and can cope with everyday walking and stair-climbing without difficulty, this tour may not be for you.

You must be able to walk comfortably and without assistance at a moderate pace for one hour stretches. A moderate pace is defined as 100 steps per minute. Visits to historical monuments and even some modern ones include stairs, as do some hotels. The ground may be uneven in older cities. There are some steep walks. Unruly traffic and the busy streets of larger cities require some vigilance. This tour involves private bus transfers on crowded urban roads. The longest transfer on this tour is 5hrs with 2-3 breaks.

Most sites have some shade, but the sun can be strong, even in the cooler seasons.

Secondly, our tours are group events. The presence of even one person who is not fit enough to cope can spoil the experience for everyone else, in addition to placing stress on group leaders and guides.

There is also an optional camel ride and a jeep transfer. Additionally, if you like to hike, we can arrange a guide to accompany you. Please enquire.

Please assess your fitness level as objectively as possible. Should you decide to join the tour and later develop immobility, please let us know immediately. We will work with you to minimise cancellation penalties.

I hear only 5* hotels are good enough for travel in Morocco. Correct?

Incorrect. One of the best ways to experience Morocco is to stay in atmospheric riads (heritage houses) for architecture, cultural relevance, comfort, safety, and personal service. In all cases, we selected the best available in desirable locations. All riads are clean, comfortable, and have private bathrooms and western-style toilets. But please be aware that for part of the trip we go into an untrampled part of Morocco in search of unique experiences, and accommodations may be different to what you are used to.



Will Ramadan affect my travels?

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar that follows a lunar year, so every year the exact dates change. It will not affect our tour.

What about clothes and valuables?

A comprehensive packing list will be supplied. Consider layering clothes. Pack a light windbreaker and fleece hoodie, as well as warm socks, toque, and mitts. Comfortable closed-toed walking shoes are recommended. Morocco is an Islamic country, and while there is no requirement for *burkha*, women travellers might feel more comfortable with dresses below the knees, and trousers, tops/dresses with some sleeve. Wear a longer shirt if wearing pants. For men, Moroccans are stylish and favour polo shirts over t-shirts. Longish shorts and cargo pants are fine.

It's best to leave expensive jewelry and valuables at home.

What is the voltage in Morocco?

Power sockets are of type C and E as in Europe. The standard voltage is 220 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. Your adaptor will need to fit into these sockets.



Where to fly in and out of? What are the best international flight options?

Our tour starts in Tangiers and ends in Marrakech, or Essaouira if you have opted for the add-on. For North American travellers, Casablanca (CMN) provides the most international options, with a direct flight from JFK and YUL.

We can arrange a first-class train with escort the following morning to Tangier. Or you may transit through Paris and arrive Tangier direct. Please see Arrivals and Departures info on P. 5-

6 below.

Do give yourself ample time to settle in after your long flight.

Can I get a local SIM card?

Morocco uses 4G, 3G and GSM frequency bands 900/1800. If your phone is an unlocked GSM with multi band, it will usually work with a local SIM card (Make sure to check the frequency band your phone uses for compatibility in Morocco). The main networks are the leader, Maroc Telecom (a.k.a. Itissalat Al-Maghrib, IAM), followed by Orange (rebranded from Méditel), and Inwi. 4G is open to prepaid, where available. SIM cards can be purchased in the agencies of the network operators and their sales outlets. Be prepared to show your passport.

My big fear is getting sick in Morocco.

The main reasons why travelers get sick in Morocco eating unwisely. Safe bottled water is readily available all over Morocco. The food in Morocco is delicious and generally well prepared. **Only eat foods that have been cooked, and are piping hot upon serving, and eat fruit that can be peeled**. Don't use ice cubes in drinks. Brush teeth with bottled water.

Note: If you fall ill, E.Y.H.O. Tours will not cover the cost of any curtailment to the tour, transport arrangements, additional accommodation, treatment expenses, or other costs incurred by the traveller/s. Travellers MUST ensure that they have travel insurance to cover these costs.

E.Y.H.O. Tours does not assume responsibility for dealing with traveller's insurance company.

Will drinking water be provided while

travelling?

We provide bottled drinking water while on the road. In interests of reducing plastic waste, please consider bringing your own refillable water bottle. Hotels will supply bottled water.

Do I need any vaccinations? *

Shots for hepatitis A/B and typhoid are recommended for any travel to developing countries, in addition to normal ones such as Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Polio. Please follow the recommendations of your travel health clinic.

What about the currency?

The Moroccan Dirham (MAD) is the currency of Morocco. The most popular Morocco Dirham exchange rate is the EUR to MAD rate, but USD is widely accepted and changed. Current rate is around 10 MAD to one USD. Banknotes frequently used: 20, 50, 100, 200. Bring new, untorn, unfolded notes for better exchange rates.

ATMs are readily available in major urban areas. Carry smaller denomination bills to use at trip-end so you don't have to change more than you need. Also carry the equivalent of \$50 in MAD for the first couple of days when you may not access an ATM. Credit cards are widely accepted in urban areas.

How much spending money should I bring?

The prices of meals on your own will range from \$5 - \$20, without alcohol. Shopping in the medinas can range from inexpensive trinkets to \$\$\$ for rugs and artifacts. Artisans do not always accept credit cards. USD is not always accepted by artisans.

The other expense is hammams from \$60.

What about tipping?

Porters and hotel staff tipping is included. We run a \$150 tipping kitty for drivers and guides. You may supplement if you wish. Any unused amounts will be democratically disposed of.

A tip of 10% for meals on your own is appreciated.

And shopping . . .?

Morocco is a shopper's paradise. From clothes to jewelry in gold and silver; artifacts, carpets, rugs, embroidery...the list goes on. Quality and the price vary widely. Be sure to check the quality of what you buy. Bargaining is expected unless shopping at nonprofit co-ops or directly from artisans.

More questions? Write shila@eyhotours.com