



## **Iconic Spain, Portugal and Morocco: Tasty Tapas & Ancient Medinas**

22 days, Barcelona to Marrakech

Trip code **ESBD**

## What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Discover Moment: Barcelona
- Your First Night Out Moment: Connect With New Friends
- Your Big Night Out Moment: Lisbon
- Tapas bar crawl (Granada)
- Orientation walks in Barcelona, Madrid, Granada, Seville, and Lisbon
- Enjoy free time in Rabat
- Explore the blue city of Chefchaouen
- Visit the medina and souks of Fès
- Discover the bustling city of Marrakech
- Dades Gorge walk
- Camel ride in the desert
- Traditional dinner and drums under the stars
- Sand boarding in the desert dunes
- Aït Ben Haddou kasbah tour
- Guided medina visit in Marrakech
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing August 8th, 2024 and onwards

# Itinerary



**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## Barcelona

Arrive at any time.

Because first impressions matter, begin your journey the right way - by heading out with your CEO and group for drinks. Explore and unwind in Barcelona's most renowned neighbourhoods for nightlife - El Raval, El Born, or The Gothic Quarter.

We highly recommend arriving a day early to experience all that this incredible city has to offer.

Please note: if popular sights like La Sagrada Familia or Parc Güell are on your must-see list in Barcelona, we highly recommend purchasing tickets online several months prior to your trip to guarantee admission.



### Accommodation

Generator Barcelona (or similar)

Hostel



### Today's Activities

#### ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

#### ACTIVITY

Connect with new friends on your first night out in a new destination. Only available on 18-to-Thirtysomethings tours.



### Optional Activities - Day 1

La Sagrada Familia Visit

Barcelona

17-37EUR

1h-2h

Visit Gaudí's most famous life work, the cathedral of La Sagrada Familia, an inspiring, yet, bizarre testament to the artist's unique vision.

Gothic Quarter Visit

Barcelona

Free

2h-3h

Uncover a different side of Barcelona. Visit the old Gothic Quarter with its maze of dark streets, historic cathedral, medieval buildings, bars, and cafés.

Parque Güell Visit

Barcelona

10EUR

2h-2h30m

Get away from it all with a visit to the imaginative Parque Guell. The fantastical works of Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926) are scattered throughout Barcelona, a grouping of these including Parque Guell, Casa Mila, and the Crypt of La Sagrada Familia were established as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. Stroll the tree-lined paths and admire Gaudí's creative genius at play.

La Barceloneta Visit

Barcelona

Free

30m-1h

Take a stroll on the boardwalk in the neighbourhood of La Barceloneta, an area known for its beaches and waterfront walkway. Visit local restaurants and nightclubs or check out the monuments while there.

Las Ramblas Visit

Barcelona

See and be seen on Las Ramblas, a large tree-lined pedestrian boulevard perfect for people watching and window shopping that ends at the harbourfront facing the Mediterranean Sea.

Day 2

## Barcelona/Madrid

Enjoy an orientation walk along Las Ramblas. Take some time to visit the Gaudí buildings, or explore the Gothic Quarter before boarding an afternoon train to Madrid.



### Accommodation

Cats Hostel Madrid Sol (or similar)

Hostel



### Today's Activities

Orientation Walk

Barcelona

15m-45m

Enjoy an orientation walk along Las Ramblas and stop at the famous Boqueria market.

Train

Barcelona - Madrid

2h-3h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.



### Optional Activities - Day 2

Gothic Quarter Visit

Barcelona

Free

2h-3h

Uncover a different side of Barcelona. Visit the old Gothic Quarter with its maze of dark streets, historic cathedral, medieval buildings, bars, and cafés.

La Sagrada Família Visit

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Day 3

## Madrid

Enjoy Spain's beautiful capital on an orientation walk. Free time to visit its many sites, from art museums to sprawling squares. Enjoy a night out with the group. Madrid's nightlife is world renowned!



### Accommodation

Cats Hostel Madrid Sol (or similar)

Hostel



### Today's Activities

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time

Madrid

Head out and start exploring the city. Visit historical landmarks, tour a museum or head to a park for a picnic.



### Optional Activities - Day 3

Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum

Madrid

13EUR

1h-2h

The Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum displays an overview of art from the 13th century to the late 20th century.

Gran Vía Visit

Madrid

Free

1h-2h

Shop, stroll, and people watch on the capital's most exciting street, Gran Vía. Go early or late, the street stays awake all hours.

Plaza Mayor Visit

Madrid

Free

15m-30m

Enjoy some spectacular people watching with a visit to the Plaza Mayor, the true heart of the city. Enjoy a coffee in one of the plaza's many cafes and watch the world go by.

### Royal Palace (Palacio Real) Visit

Madrid

12EUR

1h-2h

See how kings and queens live, with a visit to the Palacio Real, the official (and uninhabited) palace of the King of Spain. Wander the rooms to take in some of the most elaborately decorated and furnished rooms you'll ever see.

### Reina Sofia Museum

Madrid

12EUR

2h-3h

The Reina Sofia is Spain's national museum of 20th-century art, and currently boasts an art collection of over 21,000 works.

### Museo Nacional Del Prado Visit

Madrid

15EUR

30m-1h

Take in some culture with a trip to the Museo del Prado, one of the greatest art galleries in the world, and a definite highlight of any Madrid trip. Be inspired by its collections and exhibitions: the museum's main emphasis is 15th to 19th century Spanish, Flemish, and Italian art, but there is plenty of Goya and a wealth of paintings by Diego Velázquez.

Day 4

## Madrid/Granada

Transfer to Granada in the morning, then dive into the city's vibrant life with an afternoon orientation walk.

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### Accommodation

Nest Style Granada (or similar)

Hostel

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### Today's Activities

Local Bus

Madrid - Granada

4h12m

420km

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Orientation Walk Granada

Granada

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Day 5

## Granada

Enjoy a free day in Granada. Opt to relax in one of the many hammam baths around town. In the evening, join your group for a tapas bar crawl. First drink's on us!

A trip to Granada wouldn't be the same without a night on the town; the city is filled with trendy tapas bars and has a lively music scene.

Please note that if you wish to visit the Alhambra, you must pre-book your tickets at least 3 months in advance through this website: <https://www.alhambra.degranada.org>

Tickets always sell out in advance, so be sure to pre-book a ticket to ensure access. This is a purely optional activity.



### Accommodation

Nest Style Granada (or similar)

Hostel



### Today's Activities

Free Time

Granada

Set out and see the sights.

Tapas Bar Crawl

Granada

1h-3h

Head out on the town to experience all culinary Granada has to offer. Enjoy a tapas bar crawl with the group in the evening. With each drink, a new plate of snacks arrives. With enough drinks, you won't have to buy dinner!



### Optional Activities - Day 5

Granada Cathedral (Cathedral of the Incarnation) Visit

Granada

5EUR

30m-1h

Be taken by the beauty of one of the largest cathedrals in Spain on this visit to the Cathedral of Granada. Tour its beautiful facades and interiors that house a grand altar and numerous chapels. Built by Queen Isabella, it is a masterpiece of Spanish-Renaissance style.

Albaicín (El Albayzín) Visit

Granada

Free

1h-2h

Wander through the historic quarter of the Albaicin. Try to head there for sunset. With its narrow lanes and fantastic views back to the Alhambra, visitors are rewarded with a spectacular colour-washed skyline when the sun goes down.

Day 6

## Granada/Seville

Journey to Seville and take an orientation walk with your CEO before some free time to explore. Opt to visit the Real Alcázar, a Moorish palace, or take in an evening flamenco show.



### Accommodation

Joy Plaza De Armas Hostel (or similar)

Hostel



### Today's Activities

Local Bus

Granada - Seville

4h-5h

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time

Seville

Explore the winding alleyways and attractions of Seville.



### Optional Activities - Day 6

The Golden Tower (Torre del Oro)

Seville

3EUR

30m-45m

Dating to 1220, the Golden Tower is the last major building constructed by Seville's historic Muslim population.

Flamenco Show

18-30EUR

2h-3h

Enjoy a flamenco performance in the city known for the energetic dance. Be swept away by the flamenco's passion, fire, and grit!

### Ronda Day trip

Seville

100-150EUR

6h-8h

Described by Ernest Hemingway as the most romantic town in Spain, Ronda is a quaint city 2 hours outside of Seville. Take a day trip to tour highlights such as a traditional Spanish bullfighting ring, incredible views of the El Tajo River gorge, and the wine museum.

### Casa de Pilatos

Seville

10-12EUR

1h30m-2h

Take a visit to marvel at one of the grandest mansions in Seville. The home is still inhabited by the Medinaceli family, but remains open to visitor tours during operating hours.

### Santa Paula Convent

Seville

2EUR

1h30m-2h

Take a visit to this beautiful historic convent. Established in 1475, this convent is still home to the Jerónimas nuns. Infrequent tours in Spanish are run here, but visitors are welcome to the modest museum displaying 16th-18th century ecclesiastical art and sculpture.

### Santa Cruz Quarter Visit

Seville

Free

15m-45m

Visit the true heart of Seville, the Santa Cruz quarter. A charming area with winding alleys, picturesque lime-washed houses, flowery patios, and small squares, you can wander, shop, or just soak in the neighbourhood's quaint atmosphere while enjoying a refreshing drink (sangria, perhaps) at one of the local restaurants.

### Alcázar Palace Visit

Seville

13.50EUR

2h-3h

Explore the wonderful interiors and gardens of the Alcázar, a royal palace that was originally a Moorish fort. Arrive during the evening in the summer months (until mid-September) and enjoy a series of concerts in the beautiful setting of the Reales Alcázares.

### La Giralda Visit

Seville

9EUR

1h-2h

Climb the tower known as La Giralda, adjacent to the world's largest Gothic cathedral, for spectacular views and a walk among historic walls. The 76m (249 ft) Giralda was constructed by the Moors as a mosque between 1184 and 1197. In 1568, after the reconquest, Christians fit the minaret with its bell tower.

Day 7

## Seville/Lagos

Cross into Portugal, and enjoy the Algarve Coast.

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### Accommodation

Tag Hostel (or similar)

Hostel

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### Today's Activities

Free Time

Lagos

Spend the day enjoying the beautiful Algarve coast.

Local Bus

Seville - Lagos

2h45m-3h

275km

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

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### Optional Activities - Day 7

Coastal Hike in Algarve

Lagos

Free

5km

Enjoy a hike along the famous golden cliffs and sandy coves of the Algarve. Pack water, sunscreen, and a camera, and you're good to go!

Benagil Sea Caves

Faro

30m-1h

Explore these amazing caves lining the beaches of the Algarve.

Swimming

Grab your bathing suit and go for a refreshing swim.

Day 8

## Lagos

Spend the day on the Algarve with free time for hiking, water activities, or chilling out oceanside.

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### Accommodation

Tag Hostel (or similar)

Hostel

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### Today's Activities

Free Time

Lagos

Spend free time today exploring the landscape on a hike or splashing in the waves.

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### Optional Activities - Day 8

Swimming

Lagos

Head to one of the five spectacular beaches around Lagos to spend some time floating in the waves. Dona Ana Beach is a golden sand oasis nestled between enormous rock formations boasts the best view, while Meia Praia and Batata Beach are near the town centre.

Coastal Hike in Algarve

Lagos

Free

5km

Enjoy a hike along the famous golden cliffs and sandy coves of the Algarve. Pack water, sunscreen, and a camera, and you're good to go!

Day 9

## Lagos/Lisbon

Journey up the coast to Portugal's vibrant capital, and enjoy an orientation walk. Free time to visit Cristo Rei for sweeping views of the area, check out the monuments of the Belem neighbourhood, or relax in a café. Indulge in the town's great nightlife on your Big Night Out.



### Accommodation

Sant Jordi Hostel Lisbon (or similar)

Hostel



### Today's Activities

Local Bus

Lagos - Lisbon

4h

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time

Lisbon

Enjoy a free afternoon to explore.

#### ACTIVITY

Whether it's a pub crawl, drink specials or entry to a club, celebrate late into the night with your new best friends.



### Optional Activities - Day 9

Belém District Visit

Lisbon

Free-10EUR

1h-2h30m

Discover Belém, a western suburb that's linked to Portugal's Golden Age of Discoveries - it was the site where famous navigators once set sail to discover the world. While there, take some time to tour nearby must-see attractions: the Jerónimos Monastery, Belém Tower, the Tropical Botanical Garden,

and the Berardo Museum of contemporary art. Please note: most attractions in Belém are closed on Mondays.

Alfama District Visit

Lisbon

Free

1h-2h

Explore Lisbon's past in Alfama, one of the city's oldest quarters. Wander along narrow medieval streets lined with typical tile-covered façades and take a step back in time; the area largely survived the great earthquake of 1755, and still retains much of its original layout. Listen for Portugal's traditional music, fado, gracing the streets at night.

Praça da Figueira Market

Lisbon

Free

30m-1h

Take a wander through this traditional open-air market, established in 1755.

Sao Jorge Castle

Lisbon

15EUR

Climb up to this Moorish castle for a wander around the impressive grounds on a guided tour, and a great view over Lisbon and Tagus River.

Rossio Square

Lisbon

Free

Stop in this lively square to get a taste of the local hustle and bustle.

Santa Justa Lift

Lisbon

6EUR

Take a ride up 147ft from the lowest to highest points of Portugal. Sit back and enjoy the views.

Belém Tower

Lisbon

8EUR

Take a trip to the coastline to see this charming fort, built to protect Lisbon from raiders invading from the sea. Climb up the tower for great views of the ocean and surrounding city.

Day 10

## Lisbon/Casablanca

Fly to Casablanca and enjoy free time in Morocco's largest city.

Today, new travellers may join you for the rest of your adventure. You are welcome to join them at a group meeting this evening.



### Accommodation

Hotel Campanile Casablanca (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Plane

Lisbon - Casablanca

1h30m

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Free Time

Casablanca

Today provides the perfect opportunity for sightseeing in Casablanca. Opt to visit the largest mosque in Africa, Hassan II Mosque Visit, or wander through the old medina.



### Optional Activities - Day 10

Hassan II Mosque

Casablanca

130MAD

1h-2h

See Africa's largest mosque and the world's tallest minaret (210 m, 689ft) with a visit to Hassan II Mosque. Admire this massive work of art completed in 1993, and strikingly located on land jutting into the Atlantic. If you wish to experience the mosque from inside, it must be done via the guided tours that run several times a day.

Day 11

## Casablanca/Chefchaouen

With a good night's sleep behind you, set out from Casablanca. With the bright blue waters of the Atlantic to your left and the sun drenched wonders of Morocco to your right, travel up the coast to Morocco's capital city, Rabat. Stretch your legs as you wander the ramparts and colourful alleys of the city's old quarter. Take in breathtaking views from Kasbah des Oudaias, then indulge in lunch. After you've eaten the hangry away, continue toward Chefchaouen. Here, beneath the soaring Rif mountains, feeling the blues takes on a different meaning. Take an orientation walk through the blue-washed streets of Chefchaouen before settling in for the night.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Madrid Chefchaouen (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Casablanca - Rabat

1h45m

86km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Rabat

Stretch your legs and explore Morocco's capital.

Private Vehicle

Rabat - Chefchaouen

3h45m

250km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Chefchaouen Orientation Walk

Chefchaouen

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Day 12

## Chefchaouen

Hoping for free time to explore all Chefchaouen has to offer? Wish granted! Spend your day taking in the splendor of the city and its surrounding geography. If the (Rif) Mountains are calling, you should definitely answer. Opt to pre-book the Rif Valley Mountains Hike. Or, later opt to visit the Spanish Mosque for breathtaking sunset views of the city.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Madrid Chefchaouen (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Free Time

Chefchaouen

Nature or culture – why choose? Explore everything on your must-experience list during free time.



### Optional Activities - Day 12

Rif Valley Mountains Hike

Er Rif

3h-4h

Lace-up your hiking boots, and trek through the scenic Rif Mountains – the perfect natural playground for adventure seekers. Hike along lush mountains, passing small waterfalls and streams en route to the Spanish Mosque for spectacular panoramic views of Chefchaouen. Continue on through the mountains, passing plantations and stopping for a traditional lunch at a local gîte. Once you reach the piste, jump in a jeep and head back to the main road to meet your driver.

Day 13

## Chefchaouen/Fès

Fès awaits! Upon arrival, put your free time to good use by visiting an Amazigh (or Berber) pharmacy (a far cry from the kind of pharmacy you may be used to at home). Wander the many mazes of Fès's colourful, ancient tanneries.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Accommodation

Hotel Mounia Fes (or similar)

Hotel

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### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Chefchaouen - Fès

5h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Fès

Get out and explore Fès, one of Morocco's most interesting cities.

Day 14

## Fès

With so much to see, another free day in Fès is always a good idea. Breathe in decadent spices (oxygen is for the weak anyway, right?) as you sample treats from the many food carts scattered throughout the medina. Explore the artisan quarters as you take in the city that is often referred to as the cultural heart of Morocco.

Only certified local guides are allowed to act as guides in the medina, so your CEO cannot go with you to the medina during free time.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Mounia Fes (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Free Time

Fès

Wander in the medina or explore the new city. The choice is yours.



### Optional Activities - Day 14

Shop Fès Medina

Fès

Free

1h-2h

Spend some time in the medina checking out carpet shops, sampling local delicacies at the food stalls or shopping for leather goods. Prepare to bargain, just don't get lost wandering the passage ways!

Fez Medina Guided Tour

Fez

250MAD

Follow a local guide through the Fez medina, one of the world's largest medinas with more than 9000 winding streets lying within 365 hectares. See buildings in the medina that date back to the 9th century; there are 350 mosques in the medina that are still in use today. Enter through one of the great gates into the chaos. Explore the artisans' quarters as well as the many carpenters, bakers, butchers, and spice sellers. Visit the mausoleum and the Al Qarawiyn University. A highlight of the tour is the view of the famous Fez tannery from the balcony of a leather shop, where you can observe the men hard at work treating and dyeing the different hides. Take some time to shop for leather goods before returning to your hotel.

Day 15

## Fès/Marrakech

After getting back on the road and watching the scenery roll by, arrive in vibrant, bustling Marrakech. Spend the evening exploring the gardens, souks, and other wonders of Marrakech.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Gomassine Marrakech (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Fez - Marrakech

6h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.



### Optional Activities - Day 15

Djemaa el Fna Market Square Visit

Marrakech

Free

1h-3h

Wander past fresh orange juice stalls and water sellers in colourful costumes reminiscent of an era past. See storytellers, magicians, and peddlers of traditional medicines as the day progresses. When the sun sets, the square fills with dozens of food stalls, and is packed with locals, entertaining chefs, and waiters. Grab a spot on a bench with other diners and try the “tanjia” (slow cooked lamb), harira soup, grilled seafood, famous Moroccan couscous, tajine, snails, or even sheep’s head (for the truly adventurous). Wash it all down with some spiced tea.

Day 16

## Marrakech

Enjoy a full free day to explore Marrakech on your own. Your CEO can help with recommendations for activities in the area.

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### Accommodation

Hotel Gomassine Marrakech (or similar)

Hotel

Day 17

## Marrakech/Skoura

Depart Marrakech in the morning and transfer to Skoura, one of Morocco's beautiful oases. While Ouarzazate, further west is now the region's commercial centre, Skoura's historic mud-brick castles remain a testament to the past. Explore the area on a guided visit, soak up the atmosphere of this green haven, and listen to the wind catching in the palm trees lining the streets. During your visit you will see different Kasbahs in the area, and learn about their historical and cultural significance. Later, spend free time at the hotel and enjoy a swim in the pool before an included dinner this evening.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### Accommodation

Skoura Lodge (or similar)

Lodge



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Marrakech - Skoura

4h45m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle. There will be free time for lunch upon arrival to Skoura.

Valley of One Thousand Kasbahs Guided Visit

Skoura

1h

Skoura is a fertile oasis lined with large palm groves and this is where the group will set off on a guided city tour of the Valley of One Thousand Kasbahs. Enjoy the views of the snowcapped Atlas Mountains in the distance alongside a desert landscape. Along the way your guide will offer commentary on Skoura's significance, and provide an overview of the landscape and its defining features. There will be stops along the way at key interest points so that photos can be taken. The walk will start and end at the hotel.

Leave Skoura behind and journey into the vast, golden reaches of the desert. Along the way stop to spend some time walking in Dades Gorge before continuing on to Tinghir for a lunch stop on your own. Later, saddle up and travel by camel to the perfect perch atop the dunes to view the sunset as it paints the sky hues of red, blue, and yellow. Under a canopy of stars, enjoy dinner and an evening of entertainment by the campfire. Let your imagination run wild as you listen to traditional music on the drums alongside stories about the region. We dare you to top this campfire experience!



## Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



## Accommodation

Camp- Auberge Dunes D'Or Camp (or similar)

Campground



## Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Skoura - Merzouga

4h30m-5h

Sit back and enjoy the scenery from your private vehicle, there will be a stop en route to explore the Dades Gorge and a stop for lunch before arriving at the desert camp.

Dades Gorge Visit

Gorges du Dadès

1h

Explore the winding Dades Gorge. Take in the dramatic landscape, the rising mountains in the distance, and spend time here stretching your legs on a walk through the gorge. Max elevation 1400m (4593ft) above sea level.

Camel Ride

Merzouga

Hold on and enjoy a ride on this even-toed ungulate, also known as the desert horse. Bring your camera for some fantastic photos of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Local guides will teach you how to mount and dismount and other handy camel-related safety tips.

Day 19

## Merzouga

Have breakfast at camp before returning to civilization. Then, opt to spend time further exploring the undulating golden sand of the dunes, and discovering the surrounding communities on a land cruiser desert excursion, or simply relax at the hotel. Later, attend a cooking class to learn about local cuisine and taste your creations. Cap off the day with a sunset sand boarding experience from the highest dunes with the sun turning everything a shining gold!

You can pre-book this optional 4x4 desert excursion when booking your tour on the check-out page.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### Accommodation

Auberge Dunes D'Or (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Sunset Sand Boarding

Merzouga

Enjoy an epic sand boarding experience in the dunes during sunset. As the light turns the undulating hills a deep gold, you will be boarding down the slopes and laughing with your friends!

Cooking Class - Merzouga

Merzouga

3h

Attend a cooking class and learn how to make the locally loved dish of Medfouna, and hear stories about traditional dishes and Moroccan cuisine. Medfouna is a regional delicacy in eastern Morocco which is best described as a stuffed pizza sans cheese. Stuff the flatbread with various meats and spices before baking it in a fire pit.

Free Time

Merzouga

Spend free time enjoying the dunes on a 4x4 excursion or sit by the pool and cool off in the desert heat.



### Optional Activities - Day 19

## Merzouga 4x4 Desert Excursion

Merzouga

View the golden dunes of the Sahara desert on a land cruiser excursion. You'll be driven around the sand dunes of Erg Chebbi in land cruiser cars, taking in the views of the seemingly endless sea of sand. Pass a kohl mine en route to the village of Khamlia. Witness the delightful sounds of the African music of Gnawa - played by members of the community - as you enjoy a cup of mint tea with the locals.

Day 20

## Merzouga/Aït Ben Haddou

Leave right after breakfast and travel along the Route of 1000 Kasbahs to Ait Ben Haddou, one of the most iconic and beautiful kasbahs and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walk through the narrow alleys and admire the uniqueness of this place both in traditional architecture and historical significance. At the end of the visit, climb to the highest point of the kasbah and witness the views of the surrounding desert and the Ounila River around golden hour and sunset. In the evening, you can choose to join an optional cooking class to make tajine. Otherwise, dinner will be on your own.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Auberge La Baraka (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Merzouga - Aït Ben Haddou

6h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Aït Ben Haddou Kasbah Tour

Aït Ben Haddou

2h-3h

Explore the UNESCO World Heritage site and kasbah of Aït Ben Haddou, the most famous ksar in the Ounila Valley, located in the foothills of the southern slopes of the High Atlas Mountains. Of all the remaining kasbahs in Morocco, the walls and interior of this area are the most intact. It's a collective grouping of dwellings inside defensive walls and was once one of the many trading posts on the route linking Sudan to Marrakech. The kasbah still houses a few families, but many now live in the adjacent village. Like many of the earthen built fortresses in Ouarzazate, Aït Ben Haddou has been used in many film and television productions like *Gladiator*, *Babel*, and *Game of Thrones*.



### Optional Activities - Day 20

Tajine Cooking Demonstration

Aït Ben Haddou

120MAD

Learn all about the quintessential Moroccan dish – tagine. Learn about the tagine itself (a clay pot) and different ingredients and spices. Enjoy the fruits of your labour for dinner.

Day 21

## Aït Ben Haddou/Marrakech

Journey to the "Red City," Marrakech. Unlock the many secrets this ancient city has to offer in its maze-like alleys, ornate palaces, and lush gardens. Enjoy a guided visit of the medina and see the Ben Youssef Madrasa, Bahia Palace, and Jamaa el Fna square. End the day with an optional group dinner in the famous food stalls of Jemaa el-Fna.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Hotel Gomassine Marrakech (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Aït Ben Haddou - Marrakech

4h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Marrakech Medina Guided Tour

Marrakech

Head into the maze of tiny streets and alleyways of the ancient medina to really get a taste of everyday life in Marrakech. Shop to your heart's content in the souk and search out spices, traditional jalabas and slippers, or the famous Moroccan lanterns. Visit the Ben Youssef Madrasa, an Islamic college in Marrakech built in the 14th-century and reconstructed in the 16th-century. Rebuilt by the Saadian Sultan Abdallah al-Ghalib in 1564, it housed up to 800 students across 130 small dormitory cells. Explore the fine example of Moroccan craftsmanship, featuring a central marble courtyard with a reflective pool, elaborate Zellij tilework, and intricate carvings in cedar wood and stucco.

It's not goodbye, it's see you later. After all, after a trip like this, who wouldn't be itching to return?

Opt to get up early and catch the sunrise over Marrakech by pre-booking the Hot Air Balloon excursion. Please ensure you allow enough time to return from the activity when planning your onward journey.

Please note that should you opt to pre-book and participate in the optional Hot Air Balloon Marrakech activity you will finish the experience between 9am and 10am, please book ongoing travel after 1pm.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Today's Activities

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.



### Optional Activities - Day 22

Hot Air Balloon Marrakech

Marrakech

Get an early start and watch the sunrise over the red dust, palm groves, and majestic open landscapes of Marrakech from a hot air balloon. After soaking up the sights, refuel with an authentic Amazigh breakfast in a Moroccan tent.

\*Please note if you purchase the Marrakech Hot Air Balloon ride on the final day of your tour you will not finish until 10am. We recommend booking your departing flight no earlier than 1pm to ensure you have enough time to make it to the airport.

## What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Discover Moment: Barcelona
- Your First Night Out Moment: Connect With New Friends
- Your Big Night Out Moment: Lisbon
- Tapas bar crawl (Granada)
- Orientation walks in Barcelona, Madrid, Granada, Seville, and Lisbon
- Enjoy free time in Rabat
- Explore the blue city of Chefchaouen
- Visit the medina and souks of Fès
- Discover the bustling city of Marrakech
- Dades Gorge walk
- Camel ride in the desert
- Traditional dinner and drums under the stars
- Sand boarding in the desert dunes
- Ait Ben Haddou kasbah tour
- Guided medina visit in Marrakech
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Explore Moorish palaces and great Iberian cities, Chill out on the Algarve Coast, Marvel at history in ancient medinas, Stand in the shadows of Dades Gorge, Take in the dramatic view at Ait Ben Haddou

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## **Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?**

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you view a final copy of your Trip Details a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## **Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?**

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

# What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

1. It is important to note that in Europe, all guiding is based around local guides all of whom are licensed to work only in a particular city. As such, our leaders are able to provide orientation walks which will show you the layout of each town and city as well as the location of local services such as post offices and laundromats, but are unable to legally share historical facts and figures in public places.

2. In Europe it is very rare to find elevators in train stations, hotels or other public places. We use public transport on this trip, which means you will need to carry your luggage from platform to platform, in and out of trains and buses etc. and also possibly up several flights of stairs. You will also need to be able to stow your luggage safely on trains and buses. It is therefore essential that you pack light and bring luggage which is compact and lightweight, and which you can easily transport. The carrying of your luggage remains your responsibility at all times.

3. This trip has a fast-paced itinerary with some long transport days - please check the itinerary carefully before deciding if this trip suits your needs.

4. Please note that this tour combines with other G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and some travel companions on your tour may have previously been traveling together with G Adventures, prior to Day 1 of your tour. Likewise, some staff and travel companions may be continuing together on another G Adventures tour, after your trip concludes.

## 5. OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES NOTE:

During high season in Europe (May-October) we highly recommend booking reservations for any popular optional activities/museum tickets etc. in advance to avoid encountering sold-out activities on the ground while on tour.

## 6. TRANSPORT

The legroom in the minivan is possibly smaller than you may be used to and taller passengers may find space a little cramped. It is important to be aware that as it is not a legal requirement in buses in Morocco, your vehicle may not be equipped with seat belts.

## 7. CAMEL RIDE

It is not possible to reach the middle of the dunes, where we watch the sunset, by 4WD or any other vehicle. There is the option to walk (can be very hot and tiring) for those who cannot/prefer not to ride a camel.

## 8. WEATHER

Please note that the climate in Morocco can be both very hot during the day in summer months (up to 50°C) and cold at night in the mountains in autumn, early spring and winter (down to -6°C). Summer months, from April to September are very hot throughout Morocco. Winter months November to March can be cool to cold, especially in the Atlas Mountains, with high probability of snowfall. Most Moroccan buildings are not equipped with heating, so without proper layers you will be cold at night. Please bring appropriate clothing for the months in which you are travelling and check temperatures before you leave. Bedding is provided in the desert camp and the gîte, but in winter months if you feel the cold you may wish to bring a sleeping bag too.

## 9. RAMADAN

According to the lunar cycle, Ramadan will fall between Feb 28th - Mar 29th 2025, and Feb 17th - Mar 19th 2026. Please note that Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world, during which time the followers of Islam should not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. There may be some limitations to services and disruptions to schedules during Ramadan, but generally our tours still operate effectively during this period and food is available to non-Muslims throughout the day. It is very important to display increased cultural sensitivity during Ramadan. Please wear loose fitting clothes, that cover knees and shoulders, and try to avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public out of respect for those who can't at that time.

## 10. COMBO TRIP

Please note that this tour combines with other G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and some travel companions on your tour may have previously been traveling together with G Adventures, prior to Day 1 of your tour. Likewise, some staff and travel companions may be continuing together on another G Adventures tour, after your trip concludes.

## 11. AID AL-ADHA

During your visit to this country, we would like to inform you about an important celebration called Aid Al-Adha. This holiday may impact your travel experience, as most shops and restaurants are closed during the celebration. Some of the historical places we visit might also be closed during this time. There will be a shorter number of staff at the hotels and less crowded streets on the day of the celebration. Aid Al-Adha will fall between Jun. 16th-17th 2024, and Jun. 6th-7th 2025.

## **What is the role of the group leader during this trip?**

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our CEOs (Chief Experience Officer). The aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects.

It is important to note that in Europe, all guiding is based around local guides all of whom are licensed to work only in a particular city. As such, our leaders are able to provide orientation walks which will show you the layout of each town and city as well as the location of local services such as post offices and laundromats, but are unable to legally share historical facts and figures in public places. If you wish to take a guided city tour in any location our CEO will do their best to help you arrange this and pay locally.

In Morocco, in addition to a CEO we also use certified local city guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

## **How large will the group be?**

Max 16, avg 14.

## **What meals are included in this trip?**

11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners

## What are the meals like on this trip?

Eating is a big part of traveling. G Adventures understands the importance of breakfast to start your day, we strive to include a basic breakfast wherever possible. A typical breakfast may include toast, coffee and tea, however this may vary depending on the city. Should breakfast not be included, your CEO can suggest some local options.

Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. While trekking in remote regions etc. food is included, plentiful and made of fresh local ingredients.

For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

## What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Train, public bus, air-conditioned private vehicle, walking, camel.

## What transportation will we take on this trip?

During the Europe portion of the trip we will use local buses and trains for intercity transport and a mix of metro (subway), local bus, taxis and walking for transport between hotels and bus/train stations. Please be prepared to carry your own bags short distances (20-30 mins max) between hotels and transport, as well as to lift your bags on and off buses and trains. Please note that there is often limited luggage storage space on public transport.

18-to-Thirtysomethings TRIP TRANSPORT:

As we rely heavily on public transportation during this trip, we ask you to be flexible for possible changes in the modes of transport and schedules, which may necessitate small itinerary changes.

Please note that the accommodation on overnight buses and trains varies in Europe. Overnight buses typically have airline-style reclining seats. On some overnight trains, tickets are for airline-style seats whereas other overnight journeys are in multi-share sleeper compartments. Please see day-to-day itinerary for specific information about accommodation type for overnight journeys.

In Morocco there is a lot of fast paced travel which necessitates some long travel days in our mini van. We feel that if you enter this trip with this knowledge and expectation, you will appreciate even more the variety of locations we are able to include in this itinerary.

We use a 16-seater minivan and with a full group every seat will be used. The legroom in the minivan is possibly smaller than you may be used to and taller passengers may find space a little cramped. The minivans have air conditioning, however please note that summer temperatures in Morocco can easily reach 50 celsius. When the outside temperature is so hot, a minibus air conditioning system will not be able to cool the bus to the temperatures you are used to enjoying at home. Please bear in mind that travelling in Morocco in summer will inevitably involve very hot temperatures and some discomfort may be experienced when travelling.

## **Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?**

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

## **Where will we stay during the trip?**

Hostels (9 nts, multi-share with 4-6 people), Simple Hotels (11 nts, twin-share), desert camp (1 nt, multi-share).

## **Do any exceptions apply to Rooming or “My Own Room” on my tour?**

Night 20

## **What kind of accommodation can I expect on this trip?**

The variety and local flavour of our accommodation is a favourite part of our 18-to-Thirtysomethings trips. Although the properties we use are simply furnished and with few facilities, we base our choices on location, character and cleanliness. We will stay in a mixture of hotels, hostels, and private rooms in local households.

Some of the accommodation on this tour will be multi-share. This may involve 4-6 group members sharing and even (on rare occasions) dormitory-style rooms for the whole group. The majority of accommodation will have shared bathroom facilities.

Where we use multi-share hostels, rooming requests of any kind cannot be taken.

Note that most accommodation in Europe does not have air conditioning units in rooms. Air conditioning is not routinely installed in European homes and workplaces. However, nearly all hotels will provide a standing or desk fan for your room on hot nights. If you do not already have one in your room, please ask your CEO to organize one for you with reception.

During the Morocco portion of this trip you can expect to stay in local hotels or pensions (with the exception of the start and finish hotels, which are often larger city hotels), which will vary a bit in facilities: some may not have elevators, air-conditioning or English-speaking staff, but most importantly all are locally-run, with some traditional character, and in excellent central locations to give you maximum time for exploring the sights.

Please note that Morocco is a developing country and as such the infrastructure is not as reliable as you would expect at home. Expect quirky plumbing and the odd cold shower!

For private accommodation please see tours in our Classic Travel Style.

## What are the joining instructions?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

From Barcelona airport (BCN), you can reach the city centre in a few ways. You can take the AeroBus, which departs from both Terminals 1 and 2, to Catalunya Square. From there, please take the metro to your Joining Hotel. Alternatively, you can take the L9 metro line to the city centre.

To arrange an arrival or departure transfer, we recommend you book through our preferred transfer provider - [Welcome Pickups](#)

We advise that you book both your arrival and departure transfers in advance. Please make sure you have the following details before booking:

- Flight number
- Flight Arrival Time and Date
- Flight Departure Time and Date
- Passenger's Name
- Number of Passengers
- Email
- Valid Mobile Telephone Number
- Drop off and/or Pick Up Address

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your CEO. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your CEO and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

## What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Office - London, United Kingdom

During office hours (Weekdays, 9am-5:30pm Local Time)

+44 20 7243 9870

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, from calls within North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from within UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from within Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from within Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from within New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

For absolute emergencies after office hours please contact: +441858378000

If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

## What information should I be aware of as the itinerary draws to a close?

If you would like to book an airport Departure transfer for your tour, please contact our Sales Team or your Travel Agent in advance of travel.

## Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. You will be responsible for carrying your own luggage. You must be prepared to carry your luggage up and down stairs, on and off transportation, and to hotels (max 15-20 mins.)

# What should be on my packing list?

## Conservative Dress:

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

## Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

**Health & Safety:**

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

**Warm Weather:**

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

## When can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our accommodation for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap. Your CEO can also show you where the you can get your laundry done.

## What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

For other nationalities, travelling in Europe has been simplified with the introduction of the Schengen visa. As a visitor to the Schengen area (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal, Finland, Italy, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland) you will enjoy the many advantages of this unified visa system. Generally speaking with a Schengen visa, you may enter one Schengen country and travel freely throughout the Schengen region during the validity of your visa. There are limited border controls at Schengen borders, if any at all.

Please note that the UK and Ireland are NOT part of the Schengen agreement.

A Schengen visa is applied for at the Embassy or Consulate of the Schengen country in which you will be spending the most nights on your trip to the Schengen space. If you are only visiting one country on your trip then you apply for your visa at the Consulate of this Schengen country.

As of 2025, various European countries are introducing ETIAS travel authorisation as an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals.

We highly recommend you checking in advance how your nationality and country/s you are visiting may be affected. Further details can be found [here](#)

Last updated: January 27th 2025

## What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## **What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?**

The local currency in Spain & Portugal is the Euro (EUR). The local currency in Morocco is the Moroccan Dirham (MAD).

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Visa cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work - check with your bank. You should be aware when purchasing products or services on a credit card, that a fee usually applies.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of Euros and cards is best.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

The foreign currency most commonly accepted in Morocco is the Euro. You will be able to exchange Euros, as well as GBP and USD at money exchange offices in major cities. Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of cash (EUR, GBP or USD) and cards is best.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates:  
[www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

## **How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?**

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

While conventions can vary from country to country, tipping is customary in Europe. A general rule is 10% of the bill for wait staff, and a smaller amount (€1 or €2) for other service providers.

Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program, and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping local guides would range from €6-8 per day, depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

At the end of each trip, if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is expected and appreciated. The precise amount is a personal preference, however €42-€56 per person, per week can be used as a guideline.

Tipping is a way of life in Morocco. Locals themselves will usually tip anyone who provides them with services. In many cases, people depend on the tips they receive to supplement the low salary and wages of Morocco.

While on tour in Morocco, it is customary and even expected to tip small service providers such as restaurant and bar waiters, hotel staff, reception, cleaning personnel, bell boys, taxis and van drivers. Tips are regarded as an essential means of supplementing income for those working in the tourism industry.

To make things as easy as possible and avoid embarrassing situations, G Adventures has developed a tipping kitty system where your CEO will collect a contribution from everybody at the start of your tour and use this kitty to tip anybody who has provided services to the group as a whole. On Day 1 of your tour, your CEO will be able to advise on the amount required from everybody to form the tipping kitty for your trip. (this does not include your G Adventures CEO). You can pay in USD or the equivalent local currency (preferably local currency MAD). The CEO will be able to advise you on the exchange rate and the total required in either currency.

If at any time you feel that any service provider failed in maintaining or delivering good service, please bring it immediately to the attention of your CEO so a deduction of tips can take place.

At the end of your trip if you felt that your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is also expected and appreciated. The precise amount is entirely a personal preference, however \$8-11 USD per person per day can be used as a general guideline.

# What activities are optional on this trip?

## Barcelona

- La Sagrada Família Visit (17-37EUR per person)
- Gothic Quarter Visit (Free)
- Parque Güell Visit (10EUR per person)
- La Barceloneta Visit (Free)
- Las Ramblas Visit

## Madrid

- Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum (13EUR per person)
- Gran Vía Visit (Free)
- Plaza Mayor Visit (Free)
- Royal Palace (Palacio Real) Visit (12EUR per person)
- Reina Sofia Museum (12EUR per person)
- Museo Nacional Del Prado Visit (15EUR per person)

## Granada

- Granada Cathedral (Cathedral of the Incarnation) Visit (5EUR per person)
- Albaicín (El Albayzín) Visit (Free)
- Flamenco Show (18-30EUR per person)

## Seville

- The Golden Tower (Torre del Oro) (3EUR per person)
- Ronda Day trip (100-150EUR per person)
- Casa de Pilatos (10-12EUR per person)
- Santa Paula Convent (2EUR per person)
- Santa Cruz Quarter Visit (Free)
- Alcázar Palace Visit (13.50EUR per person)
- La Giralda Visit (9EUR per person)
- Swimming

## Lagos

- Coastal Hike in Algarve (Free)
- Swimming

## Faro

- Benagil Sea Caves

## **Lisbon**

- Belém District Visit (Free-10EUR per person)
- Alfama District Visit (Free)
- Praça da Figueira Market (Free)
- Sao Jorge Castle (15EUR per person)
- Rossio Square (Free)
- Santa Justa Lift (6EUR per person)
- Belém Tower (8EUR per person)

## **Casablanca**

- Hassan II Mosque (130MAD per person)

## **Er Rif**

- Rif Valley Mountains Hike

## **Fès**

- Shop Fès Medina (Free)

## **Fez**

- Fez Medina Guided Tour (250MAD per person)

## **Marrakech**

- Djemaa el Fna Market Square Visit (Free)
- Hot Air Balloon Marrakech

## **Merzouga**

- Merzouga 4x4 Desert Excursion

## **Aït Ben Haddou**

- Tagine Cooking Demonstration (120MAD per person)

## Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings in this dossier for trip specific information.

## What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## How should I dress to respect local customs during the tour?

In Italy, shoulders should be covered while visiting churches and cathedrals. Ask your CEO for more specific advice.

While visiting mosques and other religious monuments in Morocco you should dress modestly, cover your shoulders and you shouldn't wear short shorts or skirts. Outside of capital cities and the more touristic centres, local dress is often more conservative and as a matter of respect we ask that both men and women are aware of this and recommend loose-fitting clothes with your shoulders covered. Ask your CEO for more specific advice.

Please note that if you are travelling to Morocco between November and February, your tour will have a level of flexibility based off of winter weather conditions on roads in the mountains. Heavy snow is not uncommon, so plan on packing warmer clothing to suit conditions.

## How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)\*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

## Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at [www.gadventures.com/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

## Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

# What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

## Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.