



## **Solo-ish Morocco**

10 days, Casablanca to Marrakech

Trip code DCCS

### **What's included**

- Your G for Good Moment: AFER Association Community Lunch, Meknès
- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group

- Dinner Party: Casablanca Narrative Cooking Class, Casablanca
- We Day: Wine & History of Northern Morocco, Casablanca
- G Day: Full Immersion in the Fès Medina, Fès
- Me Day: Marrakech Me Day, Marrakech
- Complimentary arrival transfer
- Camel ride in the desert
- Todra Gorge visit and walk through local villages
- Aït Ben Haddou kasbah tour
- Marrakech medina guided walk including Saadian Tombs, Bahia Palace, souks and Jemaa el-Fnaa square
- Free time for optional activities in Merzouga and Marrakech
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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**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 26th, 2024 and onwards

# Itinerary



## Itinerary Notes

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.

**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

## Dinner Party: Casablanca

Please ensure your flight lands by 3pm and enjoy an included arrival transfer to the start hotel in Casablanca. After a brief welcome meeting, discover the secrets of Moroccan cuisine during a hands-on, private cooking demonstration in a traditional restaurant. With an experienced chef by your side this sensory immersion into the region's culture will not only provide you with ancestral techniques to assemble these local ingredients, but each dish also tells a story. From pastillas to tagine, discover Berber origin tales and anecdotes about royal festivals, as you witness first-hand how food has the power to bond strangers from across the globe.

Make sure to arrive by 3:00 pm so that you have time to get settled in and join your CEO and fellow travellers for a welcome briefing and tonight's Dinner Party.



### Meals included

Dinner



### Accommodation

Kyriad Residence Casablanca Centre Ville (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Arrival Transfer

Casablanca - Mohammed V Airport - Casablanca

27m-1h

36km

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel to start your adventure.

#### 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

Food is a universal language, and there's no better way to get to know a new friend, or a new community, than by breaking bread together and digging in to a delicious meal. Join your fellow Solo-ish travellers in an immersive cooking class with an expert local chef at a renowned traditional restaurant in the city.

Using your senses, step inside the culture of this region through the aromas and flavours of each dish and its combination of ingredients. Listen as your chef regales you with stories and historical lore surrounding the dishes you are making. Learn about the Berber origin of tagine and listen to tales of royal festivals while you try your hand at making pastilla, a North African dish featuring shredded chicken, toasted almonds, and lots of fragrant spices nestled together and baked in a buttery, flaky, dough crust. It's the perfect way to step out of your comfort zones and mingle with fellow travellers over the delicious food of Morocco.

## We Day: Casablanca to Meknes

Today is all about the history and regional flavours of Morocco. Travel first to the archaeological site of Volubilis for a guided tour of the most well-preserved Roman ruins in the entire country, where you'll learn all about how far their empire stretched. In the early afternoon head to a G for Good project that supports a local women's community initiative where the group will enjoy a traditional lunch bursting with colours and flavours. Then, travel to the imperial city of Meknes featuring architectural remnants from its storied past and feel part of the very fabric of this fascinating land. The day ends with a visit and tour through the facilities of a family-run vineyard outside the city. Specializing in Syrah and Cabernet grapes grown in the largest wine region of Morocco, this vineyard offers a remarkable spot to enjoy an outdoor tasting paired with other locally sourced foods like olive oils, dried fruits, and fresh goat cheeses.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### Accommodation

Hotel Swani (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Casablanca - Meknès

4h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the comfort of your private vehicle between Casablanca and Meknes. There will be stops along the way to break up the journey and enjoy some unique experiences.

ACTIVITY

With your incredible CEO at the helm, get to know the local community and your Solo-ish travel mates on a day packed full of interesting and engaging adventures. Begin alongside a certified local guide in the well-preserved Roman ruins of Volubilis. This UNESCO World Heritage site offers a glimpse into what life might have been like here. Wander into old bathhouses, walk between towering marble pillars, and admire the intricate mosaic floors still visible, while you listen to historical recounts of this impressive site. Continue to Meknes for a wine tasting on the outdoor terrace of a family-run vineyard outside this imperial city. Sip a variety of tasty blends, learn about the different grapes grown here and the cultivation process in this region, and snack on local delicacies while overlooking the rows of trees in the distant landscape.

#### ACTIVITY

Enjoy a delicious traditional lunch at a G Adventures-supported community project operated entirely by local females, who work hard to bring the benefits of this social enterprise to rural Moroccan women and their children. Sit down together for this warm, home-cooked meal and hear from women who are part of the program about how it has changed their lives. The proceeds from this lunch program help support vocational training for rural women, allowing them to support their families and children, while gaining their own independence.

Prepare to experience what G Adventures does best and enjoy an immersion into the northeastern city of Fés—often referred to as Morocco’s cultural capital—with a surprise G twist occurring somewhere along the way. See the vibrant colours, hear the cacophony of noise, and smell the richness of spices as you explore the labyrinth of streets within the famous Fés medina alongside a local guide. Enter in through one of the gates and experience the lively chaos first-hand as you walk past artisans’ quarters, carpenters, bakers, butchers, and spice sellers. You’ll even watch from above as men of the famous local tannery work hard to treat and dye different hides. End the walk with a special lunch at a traditional riad before taking some time to yourself. Just don’t wander far because who knows where you might end up to cap off this epic G Day.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### Accommodation

Hotel Mounia Fes (or similar)

Hotel



### Today’s Activities

Private Vehicle

Meknès - Fès

1h30m

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

#### ACTIVITY

With your Solo-ish travel mates and CEO, explore some of the world's coolest activities alongside new friends. It's not just an epic day of fun, its chock full of incredible experiences and a surprise G element along the way to take your day to an 11. Follow a local guide through the Fès medina, one of the world’s largest medinas with more than 9000 winding streets. See buildings in the medina that date back to the 9th century and pass by one of the 350 mosques that are still in use today. You'll gain a true sense of the liveliest trading atmosphere in the country. Afterwards, sit down for a delectable meal within the cozy confines of a charming Riad located in the ancient walls of the medina itself. Be on the lookout for a fun surprise along the way.

Travel southeast into the vast Sahara desert to the small Moroccan town of Merzouga near the Algerian border surrounded by red sand and vast open spaces. The town is also known as the gateway to the large expanse of dunes north called, Erg Chebbi and this is where you're headed. Arrive in the late afternoon and enjoy a camel ride over the dunes to your remote camp. The group will be welcomed here as is custom with a cup of tea and some nuts. Then, everyone will climb the nearest dune together in time to catch the remaining golden light over the sea of sand. Walk back down into camp and get settled in your traditional attire for this evening's desert campfire meal accompanied by melodies played by local Berber musicians. Fall asleep under a sky of endless stars.



## Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



## Accommodation

Sandstar Palace Merzouga (or similar)

Campground



## Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Fez - Merzouga

6h-7h

336km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle between Fés and Merzouga. The journey will take between 9 and 10 hours with stops for meals and bathroom.

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.

Sunset Dune Climb

Erg Chebbi

After getting settled at camp the group will meet back up and climb to the top of the nearest dune to watch an amazing sunset over the rolling hills of sand.

Merzouga Traditional Dinner Experience

Merzouga

After arriving to your accommodation for the night, slip into the traditional attire laying on your bed and indulge in a desert-infused dinner at the camp's restaurant by the warm glow of a fire. Local Amazigh musicians will play enchanting melodies for you beneath the sprawling desert sky.

Awake as the sun rises over the mesmerizing starkness of this landscape and have some breakfast at camp amid your quiet, tranquil surroundings. Next, speed the adventure up with a 4x4 ride through the undulating sand dunes of Erg Chebbi. As you venture deeper into the region, the group will encounter the welcoming Amazigh nomads that live peacefully here and will allow you a chance to see their fascinating way of life. Savour fresh mint tea in your host's traditional dwelling and walk with them through the village of Khamlia, where you'll be treated to a cultural performance showcasing the rich history of Gnaoua music. Cap off this desert wandering with a Medfouna cooking class, and discover the cherished secrets of this traditional dish that is like a stuffed pizza without cheese. Enjoy a free afternoon for some of the optional activities in the area like sandboarding amid the dunes. Dinner this evening will be around another bonfire.



## Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



## Accommodation

Sandstar Palace Merzouga (or similar)

Hotel



## Today's Activities

Erg Chebbi Dune Excursion & Desert Immersion

Erg Chebbi

8h

Embark on a delightful journey as you step aboard a Land Cruiser, ready to be enchanted by the breathtaking panorama of Erg Chebbi's mesmerizing sand dunes. Marvel at the ever-shifting tapestry of colors that gracefully unfurl across the landscape, and keep an eye out for the enigmatic khol mine, where you'll have the opportunity to uncover the secrets of khol. Then, encounter the welcoming Amazigh nomads and share in the warmth of their hospitality as you savor some refreshing mint tea in the heart of their traditional dwellings. Walk with them to the charming village of Khamlia, where you'll immerse yourself in the rich history of Gnaoua music, which holds a special place in the Sahara's cultural tapestry.

Later, indulge in the culinary delights of the Moroccan Sahara during a Medfouna cooking class. Discover the cherished secrets of this traditional dish, 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 a few free hours trying some of the optional activities in the area.

Day 6

## Merzouga/Todra Gorge

Perhaps you will rise early for some solo time as the sun peaks above the horizon and the shadows transform this stark but beautiful landscape. Have breakfast with the group before transferring to the massive cliff walls of Todra Gorge and its green oasis of palm trees in the eastern part of the High Atlas Mountains. Stop along the way to have lunch on your own in the town of Tinjdad, just outside the gorge. Once there, walk through the fields where locals grow produce like alfalfa, pomegranate, and other regional vegetables. Hike deeper through the tall rising cliffs before continuing to the hotel where dinner will be at your leisure this evening.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Atlas Auberge Camping (or similar)

Hostel



### Today's Activities

Todra Gorge Visit and Walk Through Palm Groves

Todra Gorge

30m-1h

Enjoy a walk through the beautiful Todra Gorge canyon. Wander through a palm grove to see how farmers live from the land and simply soak in the beauty of this unique landscape.

Private Vehicle

Merzouga - Todra Gorge

3h30m

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

Day 7

## Todra Gorge/Aït Ben Haddou

Drive from Todra Gorge to Aït Ben Haddou and enjoy some time on your own to sit down for a delicious lunch before taking a guided tour of this collection of dwellings that are a striking example of southern Moroccan architecture. Wander through the narrow alleyways and walls next to massive clay buildings and visit a traditional home, climb the granaries where they stored food and goods on higher ground, and head to the central park of the kasbah where you can see the mosque and public square. Stop for a tea experience lead by a local family and then climb to the highest point of this walled fortress and stare out at the vast views of the surrounding desert and Ounila River. Make sure you snap a few photos of the golden light before it disappears completely. Spend free time this evening exploring the area and finding a local spot for dinner on your own or with your favorite travel mates.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

La Rose du Sable Ait Benhaddou (BB) (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Todra Gorge - Aït Ben Haddou

4h

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*.

Day 8

## Me Day: Marrakech

It's time for a day that belongs entirely to you! Travel to Marrakech in the morning passing by the breathtaking views throughout the High Atlas Mountains along the mighty Tizi n'Tichka Pass (2260m). Then, chose to take on the exploration by yourself or join your CEO for a guided walk within the modern district of Gueliz, as well as the city center of Marrakech. As you go, you will learn more about the city, its history, and end your walk at Menara Gardens. The choice really is all yours. You can decide to be as solo or social as you wish offering the best of both worlds. Dinner in the evening will be at your leisure. We think finding a hip foodie spot with your travel mates sounds like a fabulous idea.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Moroccan House Marrakech (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Ait Ben Haddou - Marrakech

4h30m

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

#### ACTIVITY

Traveling solo alongside your new Solo-ish travel mates means there's always something fun to do and new friends to explore with. But the joy of travel can also be about taking time to yourself to recharge, refresh and reflect on the journey. Today, choose to join your CEO for an incredible activity, or take the time to yourself to enjoy your own company in one of the most incredible places on our planet.



### Optional Activities - Day 8

EI Badi Palace

Marrakech

70MAD

Visit the ruins of what was once the most ornate palace of the 16th-century. Its sunken gardens and pools give a glimpse into its former glory.

Musée de Marrakech

Marrakech

50MAD

Wander around the salons of the ornate Mnebhi Palace displaying various collections of Moroccan art forms.

Jardins Majorelle

Marrakech

200MAD

1h-2h

Visit this enchanting garden in the heart of the city designed by French painter Jacques Majorelle (1886-1962). Follow the pathways through trees, exotic plants, streams, and pools while watching the numerous birds who call this peaceful paradise home. (Please note that the entrance fee to Musée Yves Saint Laurent is an additional 30 MAD.)

Day 9

## Marrakech

After breakfast the group will embark on an immersive guided visit to the medina. Begin from Koutoubiya mosque and visit its gardens followed by the Saadian tombs, Jardin Secret, and Bahia Palace. Along the way the group will stop to try different Moroccan foods like olives, msemmen, sfenj, cookies, briwate, and to smell different mints. After this, spend a free evening in Marrakech before an optional group farewell dinner in the evening at a local food stall, where you can try some local delicacies if you're feeling adventurous enough.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### Accommodation

Moroccan House Marrakech (or similar)

Hotel



### Today's Activities

Free Time

Marrakech

Indulge in a final free evening in Marrakech to soak up the unforgettable atmosphere of this special place. Choose to join your travel buds on an optional dinner visit to a market stall specializing in Moroccan delicacies.

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 Bahia Palace and 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 this 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.



## Optional Activities - Day 9

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 10

## Marrakech

You arrived a solo traveller and are leaving with many new friends. Say goodbye to your fellow Solo-ish travellers and depart at any time.

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.



### 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 10

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 G for Good Moment: AFER Association Community Lunch, Meknès
- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group

- Dinner Party: Casablanca Narrative Cooking Class, Casablanca
- We Day: Wine & History of Northern Morocco, Casablanca
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- Free time for optional activities in Merzouga and Marrakech
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Enjoy a narrative-focused cooking class at a local restaurant in Casablanca, Explore Roman ruins and natural gorges, Sleep under the stars and surrounded by dunes at a desert camp in Merzouga, Wander the winding streets of ancient medinas in Fès and Marrakech

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

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**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.

## **Are there Itinerary notes?**

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

## ACCOMMODATION NOTE:

Please be aware that properties we stay in with only two stories may not have elevators installed and climbing the stairs with your luggage will be necessary.

## ITINERARY PACE

This is a very fast paced itinerary which covers lots of ground. While this is great as it allows us to see a huge amount in the available time, it also means some early starts, some long drives in the mini van and less free time than many other G Adventures. 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 group leader like?

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders, otherwise known as a Chief Experience Officer (CEO). As the group coordinator and manager, the aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. You can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of Morocco, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. They will also offer suggestions for things to do and to see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends.

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 14, avg 10.

## What meals are included in this trip?

9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners

## What are the meals like on this trip?

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

### Breakfasts

Moroccan breakfasts tend to be different from your usual cereal and toast morning fare – most will be very simple - a croissant or sweet roll with jam and instant coffee and some hotels will have buffets where you will have more variety. While you are experiencing what a Moroccan family would eat, some travellers do find the provided breakfasts a bit “bread heavy” and enjoy buying fruit the day before to supplement their breakfast.

### Lunches and Dinners

Moroccan cuisine is world famous and your CEO will be taking the chance to show you the best of it. Staples include cous cous, a type of grain topped with stew, tagine which is actually the name of the pot this tasty dish is cooked in, and brochette, bbq skewers of meat. These meals will generally cost between 10-15 USD per meal depending on the type of restaurant and which part of the country you are in. Other tastes not to be missed include pastilla, a sweet pasty with a savoury filling which is traditionally pigeon and harira, a delicious soup based on chick peas and filling enough when teamed with fresh bread to be a whole lunch. If you are heading to the coast the fresh seafood cooked at one of the local markets is a must eat!

### Snacks

Morocco's fresh orange juice is highly recommended and you should not leave without trying a glass. The brave can try the tiny snails which are perhaps the local's favourite snack but you might prefer a cone of piping hot bite-size fried cake donuts.

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

Private air-conditioned van, walking, camels.

## What transportation will we take on this trip?

Please note that there is a lot of fast paced travel on this itinerary 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.

Please note that, owing to both space constraints in the minibus and weight constraints when transporting baggage by mule to Aremd mountain gite, we can carry no more than one check-in size bag and one day pack per person.

## 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?

Hotels (7 nts), Traditional riad (1 nt), Desert camp (1 nt) on a twinshare basis. If you are interested in purchasing your own room, please see below for the My Own Room option.

## Will I get my own room?

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

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

On Solo-ish Adventures, it's all about making new friends. Accommodation for Solo-ish Adventures is in twin-share rooms. No booking or rooming requests will be taken, and matrimonial bedding is not offered on Solo-ish Adventures.

## 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.

An arrival transfer is included when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through G Adventures in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous. Please arrive no later than 3pm on Day 1.

Our driver will be waiting for you with a G Adventures sign, and they will be waiting for you outside the luggage hall. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

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 do not expect any complications and nor should you but the following information is supplied in case of extraordinary circumstances.

### PRE-BOOKED AIRPORT TO HOTEL TRANSFERS

If you have pre-arranged an arrival transfer, please look for the driver holding a G Adventures sign outside of the terminal hall. Please approach them, and ask them who they are supposed to be picking up (do not tell them your name, they should have this information already). Once they give you the correct name, have your passport ready to show them and you will be on your way!

If you are unable to locate your G Adventures airport representative, please call our local staff at +212 528 824898 (during office hours Mon-Fri) or +212 661 429700 (after office hours or at any time if you are unable to get through to the office) They will assist you in getting to the joining hotel.

If you have arrived at Casablanca airport, before calling please double-check with the airport staff which terminal you have arrived at. (This may not be the terminal stated on your airline ticket, as Casablanca flight arrivals often experience a change in arrival terminal). Please make your way to the Airport Information Desk in Terminal 1 (this is a short walk from the other terminals)

If you are not travelling with a telephone, please head to the airport Information booth who will be able to assist you in the purchase of a phone card and direct you to a telephone.

If for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, or your flight is delayed, please call the above numbers to inform our staff so we can re-book your transfer.

## 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 either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or 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.

### AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Regional Office Emergency Contact Number: +212 662 312 072

Arrival or Departure Transfer Emergency Phone Number: +212 661 861 950

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, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

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

## 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?

You will be on the move a lot, so our advice is to pack as lightly as possible. We highly recommend using a backpack or light sports bag, whichever you find easiest to carry, plus a small daypack. Luggage space on transport is limited. You must be prepared to carry your own bags and be comfortable carrying them between transport and hotels (max. 15-20 mins walking), hopping on and off trains and public buses and up and down stairs.

Hard-shell suitcases, as well as being too heavy and difficult for you to carry, place an unreasonable burden on the mules we use to carry baggage to Aremd in the Atlas Mountains. Please bring a soft wheeled case, backpack or light sports bag. We are able to transport a maximum of one check-in size bag and one daypack per person.

# What should be on my packing list?

## Cold weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Scarf
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers

## 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)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- 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
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear Note: The weather conditions and temperature in Morocco can vary greatly from region to region, especially during the winter months (Nov-March). During these months, we recommend packing layers for insulation, as well as a waterproof layer.

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

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels 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.

## 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.

Please be aware that visa requirements vary by nationality; citizens of certain countries, such as South Africa, may be subject to additional documentation requests. Since these official requirements are determined on a case-by-case basis and can be unpredictable, we strongly recommend applying for your visa well in advance. Should the embassy or consulate request further supporting documents, please contact us immediately for assistance.

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

## Where can I read detailed notes about this trip?

### Climate:

The climate in Morocco is Mediterranean along the coast, becoming more extreme towards the interior of the country. The winter months are from October to March and are characterized by cold nights and pleasant days. Summer is from April to September and starts off very pleasantly with moderate temperatures until mid-June when temperatures get extremely hot, to return to more moderate heat in late September. Inland, the climate is very dry and high temperatures predominate during the day for most of the year, except in the higher mountain areas. It rains generally only in short bursts in the period from the beginning of November until March.

### Electricity:

Morocco uses 220V, 50Hz and plugs are two prong rounded (as for Europe).

### Languages:

Arabic is the official language of Morocco, spoken in the distinctive Moroccan dialect. Approximately 40% of the population (mainly in rural areas) speak Amazigh in one of its three different dialects (Tarafit, Tashelhiyt and Tamazight). French is Morocco's unofficial second language and is taught universally, serving as the country's primary language in economics and commerce, as well as being widely used in education and government. Many Moroccans in the north of the country speak Spanish and English is widely spoken in tourist areas.

### Capital city: Rabat

Principal ethnic groups: 30% Arab, 60% Amazigh

Religion: Islam is the official state religion with almost the entire population being Sunni Muslim. 1% are Christian and about 0.2% are Jewish.

## 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 Morocco is the Moroccan Dirham (MAD).

ATMs are very common in Morocco with Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work - it is important you check with your bank before departure and advisable to travel with more than one type of card.

Visa cards are the most widely accepted credit cards, but are generally only useful for larger/expensive purchases. You should be aware when purchasing products or services on a credit card, that a fee usually applies.

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 (Euro/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!

## **Do I need to pay a departure tax?**

Usually included in your ticket, check with your air travel agent.

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

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?

### Marrakech

- El Badi Palace (70MAD per person)
- Jardins Majorelle (200MAD per person)
- Hot Air Balloon Marrakech
- Musée de Marrakech (50MAD per person)
- Djemaa el Fna Market Square Visit (Free)

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

**DRINKING WATER:** It is advisable to drink bottled water in Morocco.

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.

There are no specific health requirements for this trip. However, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, infectious hepatitis and polio. You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit, hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities for some time during this trip, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc.

Please note that your adventure travels to high altitude. This is medically defined as anything over 8,000ft (2,440m). Most people can travel to 8,000ft with minimal effects. However, everyone reacts to altitude differently and altitude sickness can on set with some people irrespective of fitness and age. For details on how to best prepare and what to do in the unlikely event you are affected on your adventure, please consult your physician.

# 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 CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your 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 or 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 judgment 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.

**Protests and Demonstrations-** Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

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.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

[www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/](http://www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/)

## What are the trip specific safety considerations?

Like anywhere in the world, major cities have areas safer than others, use common sense, be aware of your surroundings and mind your personal belongings.

## 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?

While visiting mosques and other religious monuments 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.

## 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.