



Ait Benhaddou, Morocco

PRIVATE GUIDED WALKING & HIKING

Morocco: Imperial Cities & Sahara

Private cultural walks, Atlantic towns and a supported desert caravan

YOUR JOURNEY

14 days / 13 nights

OUR RECOMMENDED TIME

October

Your own party. Your own experienced guide.

THE EXPERIENCE

From imperial cities to a private desert caravan.

See Morocco in depth, from Marrakech's palaces to the Atlantic port of Essaouira, the imperial cities and the dunes of the Sahara. Four desert days give this journey its special character: travel with a private guide and camel team, enjoy meals prepared along the way and sleep in supported camps beneath an open sky.

The journey balances active discovery with warm hospitality. Comfortable city stays, characterful riads and carefully organised transfers surround the more adventurous desert section. Your guides accompany every scheduled walk and share the cultural detail that makes each region distinctive.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 01 | Discover Marrakech's gardens, palaces and artisan quarters. | 02 | Walk Essaouira's ramparts and visit the Atlantic coast. |
| 03 | Explore Rabat, Meknes, Volubilis and the medina of Fes. | 04 | Travel through the Atlas landscapes to the Sahara. |
| 05 | Enjoy four days of guided camel-supported desert exploration. | 06 | Visit the Dades Valley, Skoura and UNESCO-listed Ait Benhaddou. |

Fully accompanied, from the first welcome to the final farewell.

All scheduled walks, hikes and cultural visits are led by experienced private guides.

ROUTE, SEASON & WALKING LEVEL

Your journey at a glance.

Marrakech, Morocco → Marrakech, Morocco

OVERNIGHT BASE

NIGHTS

Marrakech	2
Essaouira	1
Rabat	1
Fes	2
Erfoud	1
Erg Chebbi camp	1
Erg Znigui camp	2
Boumalne Dades	1
Ait Benhaddou	1
Marrakech	1

THOUGHTFUL CONNECTIONS

The caravan is privately guided and supported by a camp crew, with camel riding available alongside the planned walking. Exact desert distances depend on camp positions and sand conditions. Luggage and camp equipment are transported by the support team.

Daily distances and elevations are approximate planning figures, not a GPS track. They include the scheduled cultural walking as well as trail sections. Walking times exclude meals, visits and vehicle travel unless stated. Your private guide confirms the day's route and pace.

BEST TIME TO TRAVEL

October

Also recommended: March, April and November.

October offers a particularly attractive balance for the imperial cities and Sahara, with warm daytime conditions and comfortable evenings. Spring is another excellent season for this route.

WALKING LEVEL

Moderate

City days involve 2–4 hours of walking. Desert days combine camel riding with approximately 5–9 km on foot across soft sand and stony ground. Walking time is stated separately from the longer camel-supported outing.

DAY BY DAY / DAYS 01 / 02

DAY 01

Marrakech, with a personal welcome

Your private host meets you at Marrakech airport and takes you to your hotel. After time to settle in, enjoy a gentle guided visit to the Jardin Majorelle if your flight arrives early enough; it can otherwise be fitted into tomorrow's city programme. Your welcome dinner introduces Moroccan flavours, followed by an accompanied first look at the evening atmosphere around Jemaa el-Fna.

WALKING (APPROX.)

2–3 km

WALKING TIME

1–1.5 hours

DAILY EFFORT

Easy

Terrain / elevation: Mostly level garden paths

Overnight Marrakech

Connections Private airport transfer, about 30 minutes

Meals Dinner

DAY 02

Palaces, gardens and the medina

Spend the day with your private cultural guide in Marrakech. Visit the Bahia Palace and Ben Youssef Madrasa, allowing time to appreciate their courtyards and decorative detail. A relaxed lunch breaks up the walking before you continue through selected craft lanes and souks. Your guide helps you understand the workshops and local traditions without rushing from shop to shop. Return to your hotel before an included dinner.

WALKING (APPROX.)

5–6 km

WALKING TIME

3–4 hours within a full cultural day

DAILY EFFORT

Easy

Terrain / elevation: Paved lanes and occasional steps

Overnight Marrakech

Connections Short private city transfers as needed

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY BY DAY / DAY 03



The Atlantic ramparts of Essaouira | Day 3

DAY 03

Essaouira on the Atlantic

Travel west to Essaouira and enjoy lunch near the coast. Your guide leads a walk through the compact medina, along the sea-facing fortifications and around the working harbour area. The Atlantic setting and the town’s craft traditions offer a different perspective after Marrakech. Check into your coastal hotel and enjoy time to refresh before a hosted dinner featuring the region’s cooking.

WALKING (APPROX.)	WALKING TIME	DAILY EFFORT
4–5 km	2–3 hours	Easy

Terrain / elevation: Cobbles and rampart steps

Overnight Essaouira

Connections Private road travel, about 3 hours

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY BY DAY / DAYS 04 / 05

DAY 04

The coast, Oualidia and Rabat

Follow the Atlantic coast north with regular comfort stops. Pause around Safi and continue to Oualidia for a leisurely lunch overlooking the lagoon. On reaching Rabat, take a guided visit to the Hassan Tower precinct and nearby monuments, with the timing adapted to the road journey. Your small city property provides a comfortable overnight base and dinner after this scenic transfer day.

WALKING (APPROX.)

3–4 km

WALKING TIME

1.5–2 hours

DAILY EFFORT

Easy

Terrain / elevation: Short paved walks and steps

Overnight Rabat

Connections Private coastal road travel, about 6.5–7 hours

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY 05

Meknes, Volubilis and Fes

Travel to Meknes for a guided introduction to its imperial history and monumental gateways. After lunch, continue to Volubilis, where mosaics and surviving streets help your guide describe life in this Roman settlement. The day ends in Fes, with time to settle into your riad or hotel before dinner. These visits are paced around the road journey so the cultural stops remain enjoyable.

WALKING (APPROX.)

4–5 km

WALKING TIME

2–3 hours

DAILY EFFORT

Easy to moderate

Terrain / elevation: City cobbles and uneven archaeological ground

Overnight Fes

Connections Private road touring, about 4.5–5 hours

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY BY DAY / DAYS 06 / 07

DAY 06

A private exploration of Fes

Discover Fes with a specialist guide who brings context to its historic quarters and living craft traditions. Visit the royal-palace gates and the old Jewish quarter before entering the medina. Watch artisans at work, view the tanneries from a terrace and pause at architectural landmarks accessible to visitors. Lunch is arranged in a comfortable restaurant before the afternoon visits. Enjoy dinner and a restful second night in Fes.

WALKING (APPROX.)	WALKING TIME	DAILY EFFORT
5–6 km	3–4 hours within a full cultural day	Easy to moderate

Terrain / elevation: Narrow lanes and steps

Overnight Fes

Connections Private local transfers between districts

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY 07

Across the Atlas to Erfoud

Leave early for a varied journey through the Atlas landscapes. Stop in the Ifrane area and the cedar country, then continue towards Midelt for lunch. The scenery becomes drier as the route approaches the Ziz Valley and Erfoud. Your guide includes short accompanied stretches to enjoy the views and break up the driving. Settle into a comfortable hotel, where dinner and a desert briefing prepare you for the next stage.

WALKING (APPROX.)	WALKING TIME	DAILY EFFORT
1–2 km	Up to 1 hour	Easy

Terrain / elevation: Short roadside and village walks

Overnight Erfoud

Connections Private scenic drive, about 7–8 hours

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY BY DAY / DAY 08



DAY 08

Camels resting beside the Erg Chebbi dunes

Camels resting beside the Erg Chebbi dunes | Day 8

DAY 08

Into the dunes of Erg Chebbi

Visit a local village before meeting your private desert guide and camel team. Travel into the Erg Chebbi landscape, alternating planned walking sections with camel riding and generous rest stops. Lunch is prepared along the route. In the later afternoon, walk onto the dunes for the changing light before returning to your supported camp. Proper beds, a welcoming meal and attentive camp staff make the first desert night memorable.

WALKING (APPROX.)	WALKING TIME	DAILY EFFORT
5–6 km on foot	2–3 hours walking; 4–5 hours mixed outing	Moderate

Terrain / elevation: Soft sand; optional dune climb about 120 m

Overnight Erg Chebbi camp

Connections Private road transfer, about 1 hour; camel-supported route

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY BY DAY / DAY 09



Camel-caravan shadows across the Sahara dunes | Day 9

DAY 09

A caravan journey towards Erg Znigui

Continue south with your guide and camel team, moving between dune fields and darker open desert ground. The day is deliberately unhurried, with a prepared picnic and shade stops. Walk selected sections to enjoy the scale and texture of the landscape, then ride when you prefer within the planned programme. Arrive at your next supported camp near Erg Znigui, where refreshments and dinner are ready after the day’s journey.

WALKING (APPROX.)	WALKING TIME	DAILY EFFORT
7–9 km on foot	3–4 hours walking; about 5 hours mixed outing	Moderate

Terrain / elevation: Rolling dunes and stony desert ground

Overnight Erg Znigui camp

Connections Camel caravan; camp equipment travels separately

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY BY DAY / DAYS 10 / 11

DAY 10

Desert tracks and local hospitality

Explore a different desert circuit with your private guide, travelling towards the Beigga rock formations and nearby dune landscapes. A visit with local hosts is arranged where welcomed, with time for tea and conversation through your guide. Enjoy a picnic in a shaded setting and return to camp in the afternoon. The final full desert evening is relaxed, with a freshly prepared dinner and time to enjoy the sky.

WALKING (APPROX.)	WALKING TIME	DAILY EFFORT
6–8 km on foot	2.5–3.5 hours walking; 4–5 hours mixed outing	Moderate

Terrain / elevation: Sand, low dunes and stony tracks

Overnight Erg Znigui camp

Connections Privately guided camel-supported circuit

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY 11

From the desert to the Dades Valley

Leave camp after breakfast for the final short camel-supported stretch back to the road. Your private vehicle takes you towards the Dades region, with a lunch stop at the fortified village of Khorbat and a guided introduction to its local heritage. Continue through changing oasis and mountain scenery to Boumalne Dades. A comfortable room, a warm welcome and dinner mark the return to hotel-based travel.

WALKING (APPROX.)	WALKING TIME	DAILY EFFORT
2–3 km on foot	1–1.5 hours	Easy to moderate

Terrain / elevation: Sand and village lanes

Overnight Boumalne Dades

Connections Final camel section; private road travel about 5.5–6 hours

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY BY DAY / DAY 12



Traditional buildings and mountain scenery in the Dades Valley | Day 12

DAY 12

Dades paths, Skoura and Ait Benhaddou

Begin with a guided walk on selected valley paths around Dades, passing cultivated land and traditional buildings. After lunch, continue to the Skoura palm oasis and visit the Kasbah Amridil. Travel onwards to Ait Benhaddou, where your guide leads an introductory walk through the remarkable earthen settlement. Your riad-style hotel provides an atmospheric overnight stop close to this historic caravan-route landscape.

WALKING (APPROX.)	WALKING TIME	DAILY EFFORT
5–6 km	2–3 hours	Easy to moderate

Terrain / elevation: Village slopes and uneven wadi paths

Overnight Ait Benhaddou

Connections Private road touring, about 3.5–4 hours

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY BY DAY / DAYS 13 / 14

DAY 13

Over Tizi n'Tichka to Marrakech

Enjoy an early guided walk at Ait Benhaddou before the journey across the High Atlas. Stop at suitable viewpoints along the Tizi n'Tichka route and enjoy lunch en route. Back in Marrakech, settle into your upscale hotel and take time to enjoy its facilities. An included farewell dinner provides a fitting finish to the journey from imperial cities and Atlantic towns to the Sahara.

WALKING (APPROX.)

2–3 km

WALKING TIME

1–1.5 hours

DAILY EFFORT

Easy to moderate

Terrain / elevation: Ait Benhaddou lanes and steps

Overnight Marrakech

Connections Private mountain road travel, about 4–5 hours

Meals Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY 14

A personal farewell in Marrakech

Enjoy breakfast before your private transfer to Marrakech airport. Your host coordinates the timing with your departure and helps make the final arrangements straightforward. If you would like a longer hotel stay or a privately guided extension, the Midasia Routes team can organise it around your preferences. The fourteen-day journey concludes today.

WALKING (APPROX.)

0 km scheduled

WALKING TIME

No scheduled walk

DAILY EFFORT

Rest / travel

Terrain / elevation: None

Overnight Departure

Connections Private airport transfer, about 30 minutes

Meals Breakfast

THE MIDASIA ROUTES DIFFERENCE

Your private journey, cared for.

Every scheduled walk, hike and cultural visit is accompanied. Your guide handles the route and timing, with specialist mountain or local site guides where needed. Private means your own travelling party, with the arrangements shaped around your interests and walking ability.

YOUR STAYS

Upscale city hotels, atmospheric riads and comfortable regional guesthouses. Three desert nights use a fully supported private mobile camp with proper beds, fresh bedding, dining arrangements and a wash area; mobile-camp bathrooms are simpler than hotel facilities.

YOUR ARRANGEMENT INCLUDES

Private guides and personal arrival assistance; the stated accommodation and meals; private road transfers; listed regional flights, trains, ferries and cable cars; scheduled visits, entrance fees and activities; luggage handling and trail refreshments.

ARRANGED SEPARATELY

International flights to the starting city and home from the finishing city; travel and medical insurance; passport-dependent visa fees unless specified in your proposal; personal shopping, laundry, alcoholic drinks and discretionary gratuities.

We confirm the named hotels, room arrangements and operating details in your personal proposal. Park visits, scheduled transport and public heritage sites may be shared with other visitors; your party remains accompanied by its private guide.

PLAN YOUR PRIVATE JOURNEY

A remarkable journey, arranged around you.

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