

What to Do in Morocco? Our Itinerary Ideas and Road Trips

Morocco is a superb country with a great diversity of landscapes, from the Atlantic coast to the Sahara Desert, by way of the High Atlas. With its many kasbahs, traditional villages and imperial cities, the opportunities for cultural discovery are incredibly rich. It's hard to make choices when planning your road trip in Morocco! That's why in this article you'll find 5 Morocco itinerary ideas (road trip or hub-and-spoke) based on our own experience.

Essential practical information for a road trip in Morocco



? **Best time to go**: May-June and September-October

? **Ideal length** : 10 – 15 days

? **Average budget**: €80 / person / day

?? **Getting there**: Marrakech or Rabat airport or Tangier

? **Rent a car at the best price in Morocco** (airports)

? **Find accommodation in Morocco**

? **The best site for booking activities in Morocco**

???? Travel insurance Heymondo or Chapka at 5% off

Shortcut to the detailed practical information

What to do in Morocco? Our 5 itinerary ideas

Morocco is a big country with countless interesting places to discover, whether for culture or nature. It's not easy to choose your itinerary!
Your interests, but also the length of your stay, can help you make that choice. Here, for each itinerary in Morocco presented here, are the ideal durations and the type of traveler it suits:

Itinerary	Minimum length	Transport	Travel style
Around Marrakech	5 days	No car needed	Urban and cultural trip, easy to organize.
The Moroccan Triangle	10 days	Road trip	Perfect for a first introduction to Morocco. Suitable for families, with a variety of natural landscapes.
At the Gates of the Desert	10 days	Road trip	Ideal if you want to go to the desert. More complicated with children (long distances and frequent changes of accommodation).
The Imperial Cities	10 days	Road trip or bus	For fans of city trips and cultural visits.
Northern Morocco	15 days	Road trip or bus	Cultural trip from city to city.

Itinerary #1: around Marrakech – 5 days

Marrakech is Morocco's most popular destination and often the first stop on a trip to the country. This city, rich in heritage, cultural sites and souks, has enough to keep you busy for several days. On top of that, it's very easy to discover beautiful sites in the surrounding area by making a day trip each day. This first itinerary is therefore "star"-shaped. You can do it by renting a car or, more simply, by using day-excursion providers.

Open the map in Google Maps and import all the points into your app

Arrival in Marrakech
Day 1: Marrakech
Day 2: Marrakech
Day 3: Marrakech / Agafay Desert
Day 4: Ourika Valley
Day 5: Ouzoud Waterfalls or more of Marrakech
Return to Marrakech

Marrakech – 3 days

Marrakech is a vibrant gateway to Morocco, where tradition and modernity blend. Between the lively alleys of the medina, the colorful souks and the historic palaces, the city offers a sensory immersion at every moment. Marrakech can be the one and only stop on a trip to Morocco or the starting point for some wonderful itineraries.

What to see and do in Marrakech?

- Discover the Medina, the Ben Youssef Madrasa and the secret garden
- Visit the Kasbah and Mellah district (Bahia Palace, El Badi Palace, Saadian Tombs)
- Discover Moroccan cuisine
- Explore the different souks

Our favorite riads and hotels in Marrakech

Riad Al Amal

Riad Arrahma

Riad Lalla Jihane

Les jardins de la Koutoubia

Our complete guide to knowing where to stay in Marrakech: which neighborhood and the best accommodations

Read our complete guide: what to do in Marrakech

Agafay Desert – 1/2 or 1 day

About 30 kilometers from Marrakech lies the Agafay Desert, which offers the chance to experience a desert adventure while staying close to the city. With its arid hills, Agafay shows another side of the desert, different from and complementary to the dunes of the Sahara. You can explore it on foot, by camel or by quad bike.

During the day, its landscapes and the views of the mountains are dazzling. In the evening, during dinner, the starry sky appears and sparkles with a thousand lights. The Agafay Desert can be visited in a day from Marrakech, but spending a night there is worthwhile to extend the experience.

What to see and do in the Agafay Desert?

- Explore the Agafay Desert (with quad biking, a camel ride and a dinner show)
- Spend a night in the Agafay Desert (with a dinner show)
- Take a trip to nearby Lake Lalla Takerkoust

Where to stay in the Agafay Desert?

Le palais d'escapade

Agafay Desert Hotel

Book a dome at Orion Dôme

Our complete guide to the Agafay Desert

Ourika Valley – 1 day

The Ourika Valley, nestled at the foot of the Atlas Mountains, is a refreshing break near Marrakech. Crossed by a river and lined with Berber villages, it invites you to relax and discover lush green landscapes. From Setti Fatma, it is also an excellent starting point for hikes to the surrounding waterfalls.

What to see and do in the Ourika Valley?

- Discover the Anima Garden
- Visit the villages of the Ourika Valley
- Book a day trip to discover the Ourika Valley and the Setti Fatma waterfalls

Where to stay in the Ourika Valley?

Riad Clé de Sol & SPA

La Perle de l'Ourika

Guest House Tigminou

Our article on the Ourika Valley

Ouzoud Waterfalls – 1 day

The Ouzoud waterfalls are among the most beautiful natural wonders in Morocco. With their impressive falls dropping more than 100 meters, they put on a striking show in the heart of lush nature. Between walks, watching the monkeys and a break on a terrace facing the falls, the experience is both relaxing and a real change of scenery. Even though the waterfalls are more than 2 hours by road from Marrakech, they are often visited as a day trip from the city. Otherwise, they can be added to your itinerary if you happen to be passing nearby.

What to see and do at the Ouzoud waterfalls?

- Book an excursion to the Ouzoud waterfalls from Marrakech

Itinerary 2: a 10-day road trip in Morocco between Marrakech, Agadir and Essaouira

If you are discovering Morocco for the first time or are traveling as a family, and you want to see several facets of the country without spending too much time on the road, I suggest this road trip itinerary that combines visits to pretty towns with the exploration of different landscapes (mountains, desert, Atlantic coast).

This is a very easy itinerary to follow in Morocco. I have set the durations to fit a 10-day itinerary. But if you have extra days, you can enjoy the coastline more and also explore the surroundings of Essaouira.
With 15 days, you can also add a stop in Taroudant before heading to Agadir.

Open the map in Google Maps and import all the points into your app

Arrival in Marrakech
Marrakech – 2/3 days
Ourika Valley – 1 day
Agafay Desert and Lalla Takerkoust – 1 day
Agadir and its surroundings (Souss Massa Park, Paradise Valley, Timlaline coast…) – 3/4 days
Essaouira – 2 days
Return to Marrakech

Marrakech and its surroundings – 2-3 days

The itinerary starts in Marrakech with the discovery of the Medina and the other neighborhoods. You'll get a good overview in 2 days, but I recommend staying 3 days, especially if you want to do cultural visits (palaces, museums, etc.) that take time. I loved getting lost in the souks, chatting with the craftspeople and tasting plenty of Moroccan specialties. Even though I had already visited the city once, I never got bored; every detail in Marrakech is an enchantment.

What to see and do in Marrakech?

- Discover the Medina, the Ben Youssef Madrasa and the secret garden
- Visit the Kasbah and Mellah district (Bahia Palace, El Badii Palace, Saadian Tombs)
- Discover Moroccan cuisine
- Explore the different souks

Where to stay in Marrakech?

Riad Al Amal

Riad Arrahma

Riad Lalla Jihane

Les jardins de la Koutoubia

Read our full article on Marrakech

From the Ourika Valley to Lalla Takerkoust – 1 day

After visiting Marrakech, we picked up the rental car and headed straight for the Ourika Valley.
Before reaching Setti Fatma, there are several places worth visiting, such as gardens (Anima, the saffron garden…), argan cooperatives, villages and museums. In Setti Fatma, make the most of the setting by hiking to the waterfalls before having lunch by the river. To get to the next stop, the Agafay Desert, I recommend taking a short detour via the Kik Plateau and spending the night by Lake Lalla Takerkoust (20-30 minutes from Agafay). The view of the lake with the snow-capped mountains in the background is superb. If you want to spend more time in the Ourika Valley, you can also stay overnight in Setti Fatma or in one of the villages in the valley.

What to see and do in the Ourika Valley and Lalla Takerkoust?

- Discover the Anima garden and the other gardens along the road (saffron…)
- Visit the villages of the Ourika Valley
- Have lunch by the water at one of the many restaurants
- Book a day trip to discover the Ourika Valley and the Setti Fatma waterfalls
- Drive the pretty road that goes through the Kik Plateau
- Admire the sunset over Lake Lalla Takerkoust

Where to stay in the Ourika Valley?

Riad Clé de Sol & SPA

La Perle de l'Ourika

Where to stay in Lalla Takerkoust?

Relai Esmeralda

Agafay Desert – 1 day

If you stayed in Lalla Takerkoust, it's only a 30-minute drive to the Agafay Desert. With your own vehicle, you can explore the desert, as several paved roads run through it.

Along the way, you'll see operators offering quad bike or camel rides, as well as restaurants (often at the top of the small hills). It's therefore very easy to discover the desert on your own.

To complete the experience, rather than sleeping in Lalla Takerkoust again, take the opportunity to sleep in the desert in one of the many accommodations on offer (tent, hotel, dome…) depending on your wishes and

your budget. Either way, a starry sky will keep you company once night falls.

What to see and do in the Agafay Desert?

- Explore the Agafay Desert by car
- Go on a quad bike ride or a camel tour
- Enjoy a dinner under the stars in the desert
- Look for the most beautiful viewpoints

Where to stay in the Agafay Desert?

Le palais d'escapade

Agafay Desert Hotel

Book a dome at Orion Dôme

Our article on the Agafay Desert

Agadir and Its Surroundings – 4 Days

The next day, hit the road again towards Agadir. To keep the drive from being too long, I suggest taking the motorway, which will take you about 3 hours. We wanted to make a detour via Taroudant that day, but in the end we didn't feel like driving that much. However, if you have a few extra days, it can be nice to spend 2 days in Taroudant and then head to Agadir.

Agadir is a modern city that was entirely rebuilt in the 1960s after a terrible earthquake. Its layout is therefore very different from Marrakech. It is firmly oriented towards the ocean with its immense beach, and the atmosphere is very pleasant. The city itself offers the chance to visit numerous museums and cultural sites.

If you like big cities, you'll find plenty of hotels in Agadir. If you're looking for a quieter destination, there are many options in the various towns and seaside resorts north of Agadir (Aourir, Taghazout…). From there, you can venture out to discover various natural sites such as Souss Massa National Park, the Timlaline dunes or Paradise Valley.

What to see and do in Agadir?

- Stroll along the corniche to the Marina
- Visit the Kasbah Oufella
- Discover the city's various museums
- Go shopping at El Had souk
- Wander around the Medina

What to see and do around Agadir?

- Discover Paradise Valley
- Explore the Timlaline dunes

- Observe the wildlife of Souss Massa National Park
- 1 hour 25 minutes from Agadir, there is also the very pretty town of Taroudant to see

Where to stay in Agadir and on the coast?

Amadil Ocean Club

Agadir Gardens center Hotel

Where to stay near Agadir (Taghazout, Aourir)?

Dar Surf

Eden Blue Apartment

What to do in Agadir and its surroundings?

Essaouira – 2 Days

Essaouira is a superb seaside city known for its walled medina and its fishing port. At sunset, when the fish market is in full swing, thousands of birds wheel through the air and feast on the scraps left by the fishermen.

In the heart of the medina, it's a pleasure to get lost in the little alleyways. They open onto souks, artisans' workshops and historic sites. Essaouira is a city with a fascinating history.

Beyond the ramparts, the modern city spreads out, along with the huge beach, where there is no shortage of activities. Getting to Essaouira from Agadir takes about 3 hours by road. But I recommend making a few stops along the way to discover some interesting places on the coast.

What to see and do in Essaouira?

- Get lost in the medina and visit the various cultural sites and museums
- Hunt down beautiful handicrafts at the souk
- Take a guided tour of Essaouira (sqala, medina, ramparts and fish market)
- Go horseback riding on the beach or ride a dromedary
- Take a surf lesson

Where to stay in Essaouira?

Riad le Khan Mogador

Hotel Emeraude

Visiting Essaouira: what to do?

Morocco Road Trip #3: The Kasbah and Desert Route in 10 Days

The classic itinerary in Morocco consists of exploring the Road of the Kasbahs and venturing to the gates of the desert at Merzouga.
Excursions from Marrakech offer this route in a very rushed 3-4 day version, but I recommend devoting 10 days to it.

That way, you'll really have time to stop at each stage, enjoy the landscapes and also discover the culture. This is part of the itinerary we did on our first trip to Morocco. If you have less time, still be careful about the driving times between stops. Sometimes it's better to go less far than to feel like you're spending your whole trip in the car.

Open the map in Google Maps and import all the points into your app

Arrival in Marrakech
Marrakech – 2 days
Road from Marrakech to Ait Benhaddou – 1 day
Ouarzazate – 1 day
Rose Valley – 1 day
Dades Gorges – 1 day
Todra Gorges / Tinghir – 1 day
Desert (Merzouga or Erg Chegaga) – 2 or 3 days (including transport)
Return to Marrakech (different route depending on your choice of desert)

To give you an idea of driving times, here is a summary table covering some of the stops.

	Marrakech	Ouarzazate	Boulmane du Dades	Tinghir	Merzouga
Marrakech	0	3h40	5h20	6h	9h
Ouarzazate	3h40	0	2h	2h40	5h40
Boulmane du Dades	5h20	2h	0	50 min	4h
Tinghir	6h	2h40	50 min	0	3h
Merzouga	9h	5h40	4h	3h	0

Marrakech – 2 days

The starting point of this itinerary is Marrakech. If you've never visited the city before, spend at least 2 days there before hitting the road. For more information about Marrakech, you can read our dedicated article.

What to see and do in Marrakech?

- Discover the Medina, the Ben Youssef Madrasa and the Secret Garden
- Visit the Kasbah and Mellah districts (Bahia Palace, El Badii Palace, Saadian Tombs)
- Discover Moroccan cuisine
- Explore the different souks

Where to stay in Marrakech?

Riad Al Amal

Riad Arrahma

Riad Lalla Jihane

Les jardins de la Koutoubia

Read our full article on Marrakech

From Marrakech to Ait Benhaddou – 1 day

The first stage of this road trip in Morocco links Marrakech to Ait Benhaddou. The road winds through the beautiful mountain landscapes of the High Atlas, the highlight of which is the Tizi N'Tichka pass at 2,260 m above sea level.

Along the way, there are plenty of opportunities to stop for a photo or tea break. Then take the road toward the Ounila Valley, stopping in Telouet to visit the Glaoui Kasbah. In this region, you'll have many opportunities to discover these rammed-earth fortresses that housed families (kasbahs) as well as fortified villages (ksars).

The one at Ait Benhaddou is particularly spectacular, and the site is even listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is also well known because it has served as a backdrop for many films. Having a drink at sunset while admiring the view is a particularly pleasant moment. That's why I suggest spending the night there before continuing your itinerary.

What to see on the road to Ait Benhaddou?

- Admire the High Atlas landscapes and the Tizi N'Tichka pass
- Visit the Glaoui Kasbah in Telouet (check that it is open, as it was damaged in the last earthquake)
- Discover the ksar of Ait Benhaddou at sunset

Where to stay in Ait Benhaddou?

La Kasbah du jardin

From Ouarzazate to the Valley of the Roses – 1 day

Ouarzazate is close to Ait Benhaddou and there are several places to discover there. However, if you're short on time, you can spend less time there and head straight to the Valley of the Roses. On the way, you can discover the town of Skoura, its kasbahs and its vast palm grove. Then get back on the road to reach the entrance of the Valley of the Roses near Kelaat M'Gouna. I recommend finding accommodation nearby, so you can explore the Valley of the Roses the following day.

What to see and do on the road from Ouarzazate to Kelaat M'Gouna?

- Visit "Atlas Studios", the Ouarzazate film studios with their huge sets, and the cinema museum
- Get some fresh air at the Fint oasis: several villages in a lush green setting. Accessible depending on your type of vehicle.
- Discover Skoura and its palm grove

Where to stay near the Valley of the Roses?

Bab El Atlas

Kasbah Ben Ali

Rose Valley – 1 day

The Rose Valley lies between Kelaat M Gouna and Bou Tharar. As its name suggests, it is known for its rose fields, which bloom between April and mid-May. In a single day, you can discover its superb landscapes and villages along a 30 km road. Visiting a rose distillery or a cooperative lets you learn about the products made from this local flower. Beyond Bou Tharar, the road becomes more difficult, so it's better to turn back to Kelaat M Gouna to head toward the Dadès Valley.

What to see and do in the Rose Valley?

- Visit rose fields, a distillery and/or a cooperative
- Stroll through the villages of the Rose Valley
- Hike in the Rose Valley
- Attend the Rose Festival (dates vary between mid-May and early June)

At the end of this stage, I recommend sleeping in the Dadès Valley, around Boulmane Dadès or Tamellalt (see addresses in the next section).

Dades Gorges – 1/2 days

The Dades Valley is a superb region with spectacular gorges, impressive winding roads and strange rock formations. There are different ways to explore it, whether by road trip, on foot, or by trying various activities. A road runs alongside the gorges for 25 km and offers magnificent viewpoints.

What to see and do in the Dades Gorges?

- Hike in the "monkey fingers" canyon in Tamellalt
- Admire the winding road at Timzzilite

Where to stay in the Dadès Gorges?

Hiking Nomads

Kasbah Flilou

Tinghir/Todra Gorges – 1 day

Tinghir, with its vast palm grove, is a gateway to the Todra Gorges (Toghda). It's a pleasure to stroll through this green setting, whose coolness contrasts with the arid landscapes around it. Then, by car, it is very easy to explore the Todra Gorges. This spectacular canyon was carved by a river. It's hard to believe that this thin trickle of water could have cut so deep that some walls reach more than 300 meters high.

Whether by car or on foot, you feel very small. The road really runs inside the canyon, which is quite disorienting. For a more "natural" experience, don't hesitate to hike or climb in the Todra Gorges. The experience will be very different.

What to see and do in Tinghir and the Todra Gorges?

- Drive back and forth through the Todra Gorges
- Hike or climb in the Todra Gorges
- Visit the Tinghir palm grove

Where to stay in Tinghir?

Auberge le festival

Hotel Tombouctou

Kasbah Petit nomade

Merzouga and the Desert – 1 Day

When I think of Morocco, I can't help picturing endless stretches of sand. The desert is fascinating, and when you set foot in it for the first time, that fascination only grows.

The easiest way to reach the desert in Morocco is undoubtedly Merzouga. Over the years, tourism has grown considerably and accommodation options have multiplied, whether on the edge of the desert or deep inside it. Depending on the experience you want (nature immersion, luxury stay…), do your research on the options so you won't be disappointed.

A few years ago, we took a lovely camel ride before sleeping in a basic camp in the heart of the dunes. This allowed us to enjoy the golden glow of the sunset and the dawn. Moments suspended in time.

What to See and Do in Merzouga?

- Walk in the desert
- Go on a camel ride
- Sleep in the heart of the desert

Where to Stay in Merzouga?

Sunrise sahara camp

Kasbah Mohayut

Magic luxury camp

If you already know Merzouga or want to discover another (less touristy) part of the Moroccan desert, you can head to Erg Chegaga instead of Merzouga. To do this, from Tinghir, you'll need to drive to M'Hamid El Ghizlane, which takes about 4.5 hours. From that town, you'll need to hire a provider to take you into the desert by 4×4. You'll then be able to discover the dunes and other natural areas of Erg Chegaga, and sleep in the heart of the desert.

Morocco Itinerary #4: The Imperial Cities in 10 Days

If you only want to visit the major cities, this Morocco itinerary can be done by train. There are lines connecting Marrakech, Meknes, Fez and Rabat. It's a loop, so you can start from Marrakech or Rabat, depending on where you arrive.

If you have more time, you can add Casablanca to your itinerary.

Open the map in Google Maps and import all the points into your app

Arrival in Rabat
Rabat – 2 days
Meknes and Volubilis – 2-3 days
Fez – 2 days
Marrakech – 2-3 days
Return from Marrakech or Rabat

Driving times between the different stages of the itinerary:

	Rabat	Meknes	Fez	Marrakech
Rabat	0	2h	2h25	3h35
Meknes	2h	0	1h10	5h
Fez	2h25	1h10	0	5h40
Marrakech	3h35	5h	5h40	0

Rabat – 2 Days

Rabat is Morocco's political capital. It's also a city steeped in history, where various eras blend together. We loved strolling through the bluish alleyways of the Kasbah of the Udayas and the fortified medina dating from the 17th century.

Although the city is large, we found a gentle atmosphere there that charmed us. Its historic sites, such as the Hassan Tower, the Mausoleum of Mohammed V and the Chellah necropolis, wonderfully complete an already very interesting program.

Across the mouth of the Bouregreg River lies Salé, Rabat's twin city. If you cross by flouka (a traditional boat), the panorama unfolds before you in all its splendor.

What to See and Do in Rabat?

- Wander through the souk and medina of Rabat and the Kasbah of the Udayas
- Discover the architecture of the new town
- Explore the Chellah necropolis
- Visit the Hassan Tower and the Mohammed V Mausoleum
- Cross the river by flouka to reach Salé
- Take a guided tour of Rabat

Where to stay in Rabat?

La tour Hassan Palace

BR?AT Hôtel

Meknes and Volubilis – 2/3 days

Meknes is one of the four imperial cities of Morocco. As we wandered through its UNESCO World Heritage medina, we discovered all the magic and craftsmanship of Moroccan artisans. The carved gates dotting the ramparts are impressive, and the most spectacular of them all is Bab Mansour.

Meknes has a very rich royal heritage. Mausoleums, madrasas, palaces: you won't know what to visit first. One thing is certain: the architecture and its decoration will amaze you. We particularly loved the Moulay Ismail Mausoleum, the Bou Inania Madrasa, and the old royal stables and granaries.

The city is close to Volubilis, whose Roman ruins are very well preserved. If you don't have a car, you can easily get there by taxi or take a day excursion. We recommend visiting the site with a guide so you can learn about its history and all its subtleties. A guide will point out details you would otherwise miss and share a few juicy anecdotes.

What to see and do in Meknes?

- Stroll around El Hedim Square and admire the majestic Bab Mansour, one of the most beautiful gates in Morocco.
- Wander through the medina and its souks to discover local crafts
- Visit the Bou Inania Madrasa, a Hispano?Moorish masterpiece with refined zellige tilework and woodwork.
- Explore the Heri es-Souani royal stables
- Discover the mausoleum of Moulay Ismail, the last sovereign of Meknes
- Enjoy an excursion to the Roman ruins of Volubilis

Where to stay in Meknes?

Riad El ma

Riad Menthe et citron

Fez – 2 days

Right next to Meknes, don't miss the city of Fez either, the oldest of Morocco's imperial cities, whose heritage is UNESCO-listed. Our walk begins in the Fes el Bali medina, where we loved getting lost. The work of Moroccan artisans is so remarkable that it's hard not to give in and buy something. Along the way, we come across tanneries, madrasas and countless mosques. Fez is a Hispano-Moorish architectural gem.

What to see and do in Fez?

- Get lost in the medina of Fez el?Bali and its souks, a huge maze listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Don't miss the superb gates (Bab)
- Visit the Bou Inania Madrasa (which shares its name with the one in Meknes) or the Attarine Madrasa, masterpieces of Hispano-Moorish art with zellige tilework and finely decorated woodwork.
- Walk toward the Karaouine Mosque and its surroundings, the religious and university heart of the city, with its shopping alleys and traditional cafés.
- Find out what a fondouk is at the Fondouk Nejjarine Museum of Arts and Crafts
- Admire the city's various palaces and historic buildings

Where to stay in Fez?

Palais de Fès Suites & Spa

Dar d'or

If you then continue on to Marrakech by car, you can take the faster road via Rabat and Casablanca (allow 5.5 hours), or plan a few extra days to stop in Azrou and/or at the Ouzoud Falls by taking the roads on the east side. Personally, we really loved Azrou and Ifrane National Park, with its gigantic cedars and its monkeys.

Marrakech – 2/3 days

This itinerary ends in Marrakech, which I've already mentioned several times in this article. Allow at least two days to visit the city, a little more if you want to take the opportunity to go to the Agafay Desert or spend a day in the Ourika Valley.

If you have more time for this itinerary, you can add a visit to Casablanca.

Itinerary #5: 15-day Morocco road trip – 100% North

I haven't yet had the chance to visit northern Morocco (Tangier, Chefchaouen…), but for a future trip, this is the itinerary I would choose. As it's a loop, you can start it from Tangier, but also from Rabat, and do it in either direction.

To avoid the drive between Rabat and Tangier to complete the loop, you can also arrive by ferry or plane in Tangier and leave from Rabat (or vice versa).

Open the map in Google Maps and import all the points into your app

Arrival in Tangier
D1 and D2: Tangier
D3 and D4: Tetouan
D5-D7: Chefchaouen
D8-D10: Fez and Volubilis
D11-12 – Meknes
D13-14 – Rabat
Return to Tangier

Practical guide: visiting Morocco

How to get to Morocco?

By plane

Morocco is served from France by various direct flights to the airports of Marrakech, but also Agadir, Essaouira, Fez, Rabat… You can depart from Paris, Lyon, Nantes or Marseille depending on your exact destination in Morocco.

Find and book a flight to Marrakech

By train + ferry

If you don't want to fly, it's possible to reach Morocco another way (train + ferry). First, you need to get to one of the cities in France (Sète, Marseille) or Spain (Barcelona, Algeciras, Tarifa) that then connect to Morocco by ferry.

To get to Algeciras in Spain by train, here are the different possible rail routes depending on where you are leaving from in France:

- Paris ? Barcelona (TGV, 6h45), then Barcelona ? Madrid (AVE, 2h45) ? Madrid ? Algeciras (5h30). The TGV line between Paris and Barcelona also stops at several stations in France where you can board, for example Valence TGV, Perpignan, Montpellier, etc.
- Paris ? Perpignan (Ouigo, 4h) ? Madrid ? Algeciras.
- Lyon Part Dieu ? Barcelona (AVE), then Barcelona ? Madrid (AVE, 2h45) ? Madrid ? Algeciras (5h30). From Lyon, a few Spanish trains run all the way to Barcelona. These AVE trains also stop at several stations in the south, such as Valence TGV, Perpignan, Montpellier, etc.
- Marseille ? Barcelona, then Barcelona ? Madrid (AVE, 2h45) ? Madrid ? Algeciras (5h30).

Here are the different ferry routes you can take to reach Morocco:

- Sète (France) – Nador (Morocco) – 40h with the company GNV – around €115 one way.
- Marseille – 40h by ferry to Morocco
- Barcelona (Spain) – Tangier (Morocco) – 32h with the company GNV – around €100 one way.
- Tarifa or Algeciras (southern Spain) – Tangier (Morocco) – 1h to 1h30 – several companies operate this route. Expect to pay between €30 and €40 per crossing.

Book your train tickets to the departure ports in France or Spain
Book your ferry tickets

Once you are in northern Morocco, you can get to the country's main cities by train or bus. Allow about 5 hours by train from Tangier to Marrakech, with a change in Casablanca.

How long should you stay in Morocco?

Morocco is a big country, and the distances between the main tourist sites can be significant depending on the itinerary you choose. To avoid spending all your time in the car, you'll need to plan your itinerary carefully around the time you have available (or vice versa).

In general, I recommend coming to Morocco for at least a week. I know many people come for a weekend in Marrakech, but I'm really not a fan of that format.

When to go to Morocco? Which season?

The best time to go to Morocco depends mostly on what you're looking for. Spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) are generally the most pleasant times, with mild temperatures that are ideal for visiting cities as well as the desert or the mountains. Summer can be very hot, especially inland (Marrakech, Fez), which can make some visits tiring, but it's a good time to enjoy the cooler Atlantic coast.

Winter, for its part, offers sunny and mild days in many regions. But be careful: temperatures are not summery and it can also rain. It can be quite chilly, even in Marrakech, or very cold in the desert or at altitude (it can even snow). So make sure you check the weather and dress accordingly. In short, don't go to Morocco in winter thinking it's the tropics.

Entry requirements for Morocco

For European citizens, entry requirements for Morocco are simple. A valid passport is enough for a tourist stay of less than 90 days, with no visa required. It is recommended that your passport be valid for at least the whole length of your stay (some airlines even require longer validity).

eSIM cards and mobile data in Morocco: your options

As you may have noticed, Morocco is not part of the EU, which means your mobile plan won't include 4G or 5G data during your trip. Be careful not to enable data roaming, otherwise the bill will be very steep at €10 per MB…

How many times have I seen travelers get caught out when their plane lands, switching off airplane mode and just checking their emails or a couple of web pages before receiving a text message announcing a €200 overage charge… And that's only for the lucky ones who get an alert from their carrier.

In short, you have two options:

- get a local SIM card at the airport. There are kiosks for this purpose, with prices displayed. You'll just need a bit of patience while waiting your turn for the operator to install and activate the SIM card. Choose the right data plan, enough for your stay based on how much you use (social media and streaming are very data-hungry).
- even simpler, get an eSIM in advance so your mobile data connection is available as soon as you land. That way you avoid the stress of sorting it out at the airport, not knowing which operator to choose, how much data to get, etc.

My advice: Holafly, which offers unlimited data for the whole length of your stay and connects you to Morocco's widest and fastest networks. On top of that, we've negotiated a 5% discount for you!

How to get around in Morocco?

There are several ways to get around Morocco, depending on your itinerary, your budget and the length of your stay:

- By train: to connect big cities like Casablanca, Rabat, Fez or Marrakech, this mode of transport is comfortable and fast.
- By bus or coach: to reach smaller towns or other regions. The network is well developed.
- By car: ideal for more freedom, reaching less touristy places and stopping whenever you feel like it. It's also more comfortable and practical, especially when traveling with children.

Where to rent a car in Morocco? Our tips for driving in Morocco

If you arrive in a big city (Marrakech, Agadir…), I recommend only renting a car after your stay in the city, or using it only for trips outside the urban center. In Marrakech, traffic is really complicated and stressful, so it's better to take taxis for short trips.

For the rental, we recommend using the comparison site Discovercars, which makes it easy to find good value for money, filter vehicles by various criteria (notably payment by debit card) and rely on customer reviews to assess how reliable the rental companies are.

Rent a car in Morocco at the best value for money

As for road trips, we give you plenty of tips in our guide to renting a car in Morocco (road conditions, driving particularities…):

How to avoid foreign exchange fees in Morocco?

In Morocco, standard operations such as currency exchange, withdrawals or card payments can incur fees. The vast majority of transactions are made in cash, so I recommend withdrawing directly in dirhams once you're there.

The most practical option is therefore to gradually withdraw local currency on the spot. Besides, most transactions are made in cash. Be aware that some bank cards are particularly well suited to travelers, as they help limit fees. These options are also free and can be used both when traveling and in everyday life in France, as a main or secondary account. Here are our two suggestions for bank cards that are ideal for travelers.

Fortuneo Gold Mastercard	Boursobank Ultim
debit or deferred debit card -> income requirements: €2,200 / month for one person or €3,300 for two	**debit card** -> no income requirements **deferred debit card** -> income requirements: €2,400 for one person
Free withdrawals and payments with no limit Travel insurance included for 90 days	Free payments with no limit, 3 free withdrawals per month (1.6% beyond that) Travel insurance included for 90 days
info and sign-up for Fortuneo Gold *Right now, up to €250 offered when you open a Gold Mastercard account*	info and sign-up for Boursobank Ultim

Which travel insurance should you choose for a trip to Morocco?

If you aren't already covered when you travel, I suggest looking into specific travel insurance for your various trips. When you set off, you don't want to think about the worst. Yet it's important to plan ahead so you're well protected and supported if a problem arises during the trip. We've compared many offers, and here are the ones we recommend for your trip to Morocco.

Type of trip	Travel insurance recommendation
Solo or couple travel	Chapka Assurance (5% discount for our readers) or Heymondo (5% discount for our readers)
Family travel	Heymondo (5% discount for our readers)

Don't hesitate to get several quotes to find the best solution for your needs (it's quick and free).

Check out our complete comparison of short-stay travel insurance (under 3 months)

This article contains affiliate links for accommodations, activities, insurance and other services to help you plan your trip. We have carefully selected them for their quality and reliability. If you use these links to make your bookings, we will receive a commission at no extra cost to you. It's a lovely way to thank us for our work. Thank you so much.