



PROJECT DOSSIER

MOROCCO, HIGH ATLAS & OASES

CASABLANCA TO CASABLANCA

15 days

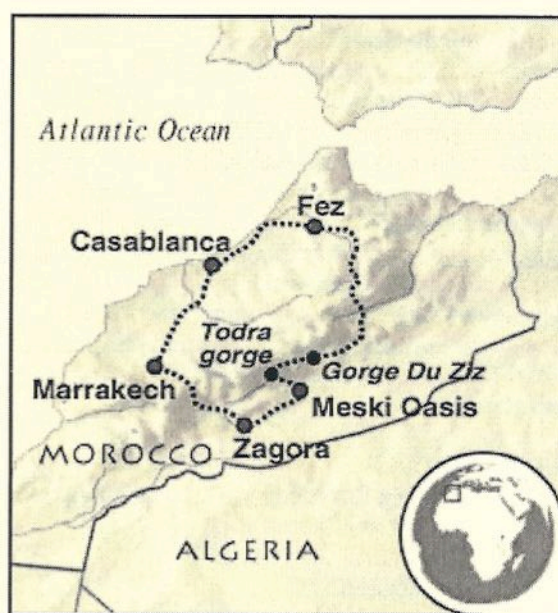
2350 kms by road

MOROCCO

Itinerary Guideline

CASABLANCA TO CASABLANCA

- Day 1:** Following our meeting in Casablanca, we drive north to Rabat, the nation's capital to camp at Sale.
- Day 2:** To Volubilis, visiting the ancient Roman ruins before driving on to the Imperial city of Fez.
- Days 3** In Fez, exploring the old Medina, the royal palaces and city mosques.
- Days 4 & 5:** The winding roads and Berber villages of the Middle Atlas to the Gorges du Ziz, Meski Oases and onwards to Erg Chebbi, the great sand dunes.
- Days 6 & 7:** Across the desert to the great chasms of Todra Gorge, with a free day there to explore.
- Day 8** South into the Sahara and our desert crossing, the Draa Valley to Zagora.
- Days 9 & 10** North along the fantastic Draa Valley to Ouarzate. Then into the High Atlas Mountains, crossing the Tizi-n-Tichka pass and up to the village of Imlil at the foot of Jebel Toubkal.
- Days 11 & 12:** After a full day trekking in the Atlas and a second night under the gaze of Jebel Toubkal, we descend to the fabulous city of Marrakech arriving there early afternoon.
- Day 13** Time to explore the palaces, market squares, bazaars and back alleys of Marrakech.
- Days 14 & 15:** We drive north to the beaches close to El Jadida, then on to our campsite in Casablanca. A chance to see the city, it's beaches or mosques. Arrangements end after breakfast on Day 15.



PLEASE NOTE

This is intended as a guide only and to indicate a typical itinerary and its highlights. While our intention is to adhere to this, it should be understood that group interests and wishes together with the constraints of weather, road conditions and local restrictions can alter our exact route, its activities and timings.

HIGHLIGHTS & ROUTE

Hardly more than a stone's throw from Europe - Casablanca, Fez and Marrakech are another world! Noisy souks and bazaars, the prayer call from the minaret, cool, hushed back streets heedy with spicy aromas and secluded courtyards hung with flowers. The sparkle of warm seas under an African sun. The Atlas Mountains' barren gorges and peaks, second only to Kilimanjaro in East Africa. And beyond the mountains to the reaches of the Sahara, to the sand-dune seas, the oases and the tented Berbers - this is Morocco...

From the bustle of Casablanca, a short drive brings us to the nation's capital, Rabat and our stop at Sale. From here to the ruined city of Volubilis, Roman capital of western Africa, and to Fez of royal

lineage and past intrigue. Slim minarets and Moorish palaces rise above Africa's greatest bazaar, a maze of narrow alleys where displays of intricate hammered brass, fabulous carpets and hand-tooled leather, jostle for place among mule trains and life's everyday necessities.

Beyond the high passes of the Atlas, the fertile land of plenty fades away. We descend through the Gorges du Ziz to wash away the dust of the road in the blue springs of Meski Oasis. Ahead stretches the Sahara, level sands fading to a distant hazy horizon. Rough desert tracks lead to a fabulous Todra, where road and river contest the space between sheer rock walls and the Erg Chebbi - the great sea of magnificent dunes and silent shifting sands. Date palm oases line the floor of the beautiful Draa valley.

North from the desert into the great passes of the High Atlas - we hike to Berber villages set beneath stunning views of the Atlas peaks.

Now to Marrakech, colourful melting pot of North Africa. Soukh, Medina, Kasbah, Bazaar - no wonder Arabia has such a lexicon for the world market! Squares crowded with traders and story-tellers, jugglers and itinerant artisans, desert nomads and all the mystique of Morocco and beyond.

The easy life beckons along the beaches and boulevards of the Atlantic coastline, El Jadida and Casablanca are our final stops on this extraordinary 15 day journey.

GROUP SIZE

21 max including Encounter staff. Local guides may be employed in Fez and Marrakech.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

This is an easy project of moderate physical demands other than the basic camping lifestyle. The heat of the Sahara (especially during July and August) will obviously be physically draining - one should follow sensible advice offered by our Project Leaders.

THE LOCAL PAYMENT (as in the brochure)

This is the payment made to the Project Leader at the point of departure. This payment must be made paid in US\$ dollars, either in cash notes or recognised Travellers Cheques. This payment completes the total inclusive price of the project.

This amount will be utilised by the Project Leader to cover a proportion but not all of the 'on the ground' running costs of this project. There are no hidden extra payments.

INCLUDED IN PROJECT COST

All transport, food, camping equipment & supplies, camping fees, entrance fee to Volubilis, guided tour of the Medina in Fez, 1 night in hotel in Marrakech. Activities as detailed in the itinerary guideline. There are no kitties or similar en route payment funds.

PROJECT COST DOES NOT COVER

Flights to/from Casablanca, transfers to/from airport & airport taxes, vaccinations, visas, personal insurance,
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laundry, snacks, drinks, occasional lunches in major cities (minimal cost), personal clothing/equipment & items of a personal nature, individual entry fees to museums/sights not noted in Highlights & Route (minimal cost). Accommodation and meals in Casablanca before/after the project.

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

Standard Encounter truck equipment including 2 person tents, campbeds, kitchen/dining tent, tables & stools, light, cooking equipment & utensils, mosquito nets, first aid kit etc.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

A sleeping bag (non specialised), a medium sized bag or backpack or a daypack. Personal clothing, strong footwear, water bottle, personal medicines & toiletries etc. No specialised clothing or equipment is necessary and you probably already have most of what is needed. A complete suggested clothing list is included in our pre-departure information. Most airlines flying in and out of Africa impose a 20kg baggage limit.

TRANSPORT

Encounter 4WD expedition truck for the entire journey. By foot for the day trek in the Atlas Mountains.

ACCOMMODATION

Camping throughout except one/two nights budget hotel accommodation in Marrakech. Basic campground facilities in main centres, usually extending to simple washing/showering and toilet arrangements only. Otherwise open 'bush' camping with no facilities other than standard Encounter truck equipment. Your involvement is needed in camp set-up, domestic & day to day routines etc. Hotel accommodation in Casablanca before/after the project is not included.

MEALS, COOKING & FOOD

Camp cooked breakfast & evening meals, picnic lunches. Fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, bread, cereals, preserves etc, occasionally supplemented by local & imported canned & dried goods if no fresh supplies available. Project members will be involved in daily fresh food shopping & cooking.

In larger towns (e.g. Fez, Marrakech) where a day is spent in individual, sightseeing or activities away from the truck, lunch will be at your own expense. The cost of these occasional lunches is minimal. Vegetarians should experience no difficulty maintaining an adequate diet, but please inform Encounter in advance.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

You will need a passport that is valid for not less than 6 months after the end of the project, and which contains not less than 2 **blank pages**. Very few nationalities require visas for Morocco, but you should check with Encounter or your agent.

INSURANCE

You must have personal Travel Insurance to cover Adventure Travel and it must cover all the aspects described on p 60 of the brochure. Please bring a copy

of your policy with you to the pre-departure meeting. If your policy does not cover this minimum level then Encounter will not accept responsibility for the consequences.

MEDICAL & VACCINATIONS

All vaccination requirements and medical recommendations are detailed in the pre-departure information pack at the time of booking.

PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

As a guideline you should budget approx US\$150 per week to cover personal day to day expenditure en route - drinks, snacks, occasional lunches & individual sightseeing Ethnic crafts and similar souvenirs in North Africa are attractive and tempting. You should budget approx £25/\$40 per day that you spend in Casablanca before and after the project to cover hotel, meals & incidentals. Credit cards are not accepted outside large cities. Other than the above, there are no hidden expenses, funds or kitties to surprise your spending money in Africa.

ARRIVING AT START OF THE PROJECT

You will need to arrive in Casablanca by either Friday evening or by no later than 9.00 hrs on the Saturday morning of departure.

There will be a brief pre-departure meeting at the Casablanca hotel at 10.00 hrs on the morning of Day 1 so this will be your latest arrival time. We depart Casablanca early afternoon for Rabat.

LEAVING AT END OF PROJECT

Arrangements end after our arrival and breakfast in Casablanca on Day 15 so any homeward flight arrangements could be taken later that day. Accommodation can be arranged through Encounter or your Project Leader should you wish to stay in Casablanca for this or subsequent nights.

INTERESTING READING

Morocco That Was by Walter Harris
Spiders House by Paul Bowles
Hideous Kinky by Esther Freud
A full list of interesting reading and maps is supplied in the pre-departure information.

OTHER COSTS/EXPENSES

Local Payment
Return flights.....
Visas.....
Vaccinations.....
Insurance.....
Personal Spending Money.....
Total _____

The information in this dossier 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 Encounter Overland Ltd.