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Europe

Morocco Long Break

For accurate departure times, travel times, prices of activities and suggestions on how much extra money you will need please contact info@bus2alps.com

The trip meets at Marrakech Airport anytime on Thursday. Transportation to this destination is not included. Please plan your arrival accordingly.

What's Included

- Luxury coach transport
- accommodation at Riads(guest houses) and hotels
- Bus2alps trip leader and local guides
- Breakfasts and some dinners
- Welcome tea and cookies
- Souk Survival streetmarket tour
- Group dinner in Jamma Ef Fna Square
- Day trip to the Ourika valley and Atlas mountains
- Overnight excursion in a Bedouin campsite
- Mountain camel ride
- 4x4 drive into Sahara desert with sand boarding
- Lunch with a Berber family
- Historical walking tour of Marrakech including museum entry and entry to the Majorelle Gardens

Currency: Moroccan Dirham (MAD)

What's Not Included, Optional Costs

- Airfare
- Lunches, snack and drinks
- Additional tips
- Optional activities
- Optional day trips

What to bring

- Passport
- Proof of age
- Pillow
- Camera
- Towel
- Weather appropriate clothing
- Comfortable shoes
- Extra money





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Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 The trip departs Marrakech Airport between 9:00* and 13:00*. The meeting point is in the Arrivals Hall of the airport. Please meet your trip leader once you have claimed your luggage. We will then transfer to our accommodation in Marrakech by private bus. Upon arrival to Marrakech, we will immediately check into our accommodation.

Marrakech is the quintessential Moroccan city. A desert Oasis, Marrakech boasts a unique culture, special charm, and delicious cuisine. After some time for lunch and to freshen up, we will head off on the guided 'Souk Survival' intro tour of Marrakech, where you will learn the intricacies of bartering with Moroccans. The tour begins at 15:00*. After the tour completes, we will head to a traditional Moroccan restaurant for our welcome dinner.

Day 2 Saturday morning, after breakfast, we depart on an excursion to the Ourika Valley and the foothills of the Atlas mountains. Along the way we will take a break at a Berber family's house, go for a mountain camel ride, enjoy a short hike to the waterfalls, and stop at an Argan Oil Womens Cooperative to learn how the Berber women make Argan Oil by traditional methods. We will return to Marrakech between 5:00 and 6:00 in the evening allowing plenty of time for you to continue exploring the jamaa el Fna and get lost in the Souks.

Day 3 Sunday morning we depart Marrakech for the High Atlas Mountains at 8:00*. Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:00. Estimated drive time is 4 hours**. We will arrive in Ait Ben Haddou at approximately 12:00*. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ait Ben Haddou is an ancient Kasbah (fortified city) resting on a hillside. We will take a guided tour, exploring the intricate terraced city. Ait Ben Haddou is a perfect place to grab lunch and appreciate one of the world's most known Kasbahs. We will spend Sunday night in Ouarzazate.

After arrival, we will check into our accommodation. You will have some free time to explore Ouarzazate or relax. Meeting time for our group dinner is 20:00. Ouarzazate is a popular holiday destination in Morocco, as well as the filming location for such movies as 'Gladiator' and 'The Mummy'.



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Day 4 We will depart Ouarzazate in our private 4x4 vehicle at 12:00* for M'hamid. Estimated travel time is 4 hours**. We will make a stop in Tamegroute en route where you can view the world famous Zagora Pottery. We then continue to M'hamid, a small village located on the edge of the Sahara. After M'hamid we turn off the paved road, and head for the desert camp of Erg Chegaga. We will arrive at Erg Chegaga Desert Camp at approximately 18:00*. Once we have arrived, you will be introduced to your camp and the surrounding dunes. Dinner, music, and fun will follow.

Day 5 Tuesday morning we will awake early to watch the sunrise over the Sahara Sand Dunes. After breakfast, we will begin a day packed with action and adventure in the desert. Before lunch we will shred some sand, sandboarding down 1000 foot high sand dunes. After some exhilarating thrills on the dune, we will enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by our Saharan guides. After lunch we will embark on a camel trek across the desert. Upon return from the camel trek, you will have the afternoon to relax and get some sun, or hone your sandboarding skills.

Tonight we will have a Sahara-style party complete with dinner, drinks, and local nomadic music.

Day 6 On Wednesday we leave the desert behind and drive back across the Atlas mountains to the Moroccan coast for some well deserved R&R on the beach. We will arrive in Tazegzout late Wednesday evening.

Day 7 Thursday is beach day in the small fishing village of Taghazout that has now become a world famous surf destination. Today is a day to relax on the beach, explore the village, or take a surf lesson.

Day 8 Friday we drive up the coast to explore the fishing village of Essaouira. Check out the Medina (an ancient Islamic quarter, typically containing mosques and palaces), head out to the fishing port and hang out at the Ramparts, or head to the beaches and go kite and wind surfing. Essaouira is known for its unique culture, charming narrow streets, and shopping. We will meet at approximately 19:00 to head off for dinner and drinks at the rooftop bar and restaurant, Casa Vera. Casa Vera overlooks the beach and the Medina.



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Day 9 Saturday morning we will depart from Essaouira at 10:00* for Marrakech. Estimated travel time is 3 hours**. We will arrive in Marrakech at approximately 13:00*. You will have the afternoon in Marrakech free to see all of the sites you have not yet visited. We will meet at approximately 19:00* for our farewell dinner and the night out.

Day 10 Sunday morning, we will depart for Marrakech Airport (RAK) after breakfast. Airport transfer will be via private transport.

Additional Information

Accommodation: While in Marrakech we stay in a traditional accommodation called a "Riad." These beautiful buildings consist of rooms over looking a central garden, usually with a fountain as the focus point. Rooms will be shared between 4-6 people.

Weather: The weather in Morocco tends to be warm during the day time but may cool down in the evenings. We recommend bringing a fleece or sweater to wear at night time. Although usually sunny, there are sometimes short rain showers during the months of November & December

Common Sense: Morocco is generally a very safe place to travel, Marrakech especially is welcoming to tourists. People following a few basic common sense travel rules should have no problem.

- Keep your passport and money safe at all times.
- Don't carry your wallet in your back pocket.
- Travel in groups and don't leave friends behind.
- Respect the local culture and they will respect you.

Shopping: Street vendors, sales people and hustlers can be very persistent. Bargaining is a part of daily life in Marrakech. If you are interested in something feel free to enter into the bargaining process, but never pay the first price and never feel obligated to pay more than you want to. If you do not want something politely say no thank you, hold up your hand and walk away. For those vendors who are particularly persistent, just ignore them and keep walking.

Included Activities

Marrakech City Tour: Learn and live the massive history of one of North Africa's most important cities, while visiting its most notable sites.

Souk Survival Tour: Moroccans love to haggle. The Souk Survival Tour will teach you the ways of negotiating the best deals in the 'Souks' or markets.

Saharan Adventure: Explore the Moroccan section of the world's largest, and most known desert. The Saharan Adventure includes 4x4 transportation through the desert, sandboarding, a camel trek, desert camping, traditional meals & parties,

Sandboarding: Just because there is no snow doesn't mean you can't strap into a board and rip down 1,000 foot sand dunes.

Camel Trek: Explore the expanses of the Sahara by the most logical form of transportation.

* All departure/arrival times are subject to change due to weather and seasonal availability. You will be informed 24 hours prior about any changes.

** Drive times are all estimated and are subject to change due to road conditions and traffic.