



AFRICA · RECOMMENDED 13 DAYS

★ Camel caravan in Erg Chebbi

Southern Morocco

Marrakesh, breezy Essaouira, the High Atlas, kasbahs, gorges and a night in the Sahara dunes. Private, at your own pace

RECOMMENDED LENGTH

13 days

DATES

Your choice

you pick the dates

TRANSPORT

Self-drive

or private driver

PRICE

Coming soon

via the interest list

I arrange this route through southern Morocco in full for you as an 13-day private trip. You start in the souks of Marrakesh, at the waterfalls of the Ourika valley and by the ocean in Essaouira, walk to a Berber village in the High Atlas and drive over the Tichka pass to the earthen ksar of Aït Benhaddou. Via the Dades and Todra gorges you ride a camel into the Erg Chebbi dunes for two nights in a desert camp, and on the way back you spend two nights in a kasbah in the palm grove of Skoura, from where you drive over the Tichka pass to the airport. A private driver is my recommendation here, though you can also drive yourself.

✓ Personally composed

✓ No group travel

✓ At your own pace

✓ Leave out or add what you like

✓ Dates of your choice

✓ Eat wherever you like

Highlights

- ★ The souks, palaces and evening spectacle of Jemaa el-Fna in Marrakesh
- ★ The blue-and-white port town of Essaouira on the Atlantic, with an argan oil cooperative on the way
- ★ The Ourika valley and the Setti Fatma waterfalls in the High Atlas
- ★ A walk to the Berber villages at the foot of Toubkal, and mint tea with a Berber family
- ★ Over the Tichka pass to the kasbah of Telouet and the ksar of Aït Benhaddou (UNESCO)
- ★ The kasbahs of Ouarzazate and Skoura and the Dades and Todra gorges
- ★ Two nights in a desert camp in the Erg Chebbi dunes, reached by camel, with dinner under the stars
- ★ Two nights in a kasbah in the Skoura palm grove

Best time to travel

JAN FEB **MAR** **APR** **MAY** JUN JUL AUG SEP **OCT** **NOV** DEC

best time to travel: advice only, you travel when you like

TRAVELLERS

Only your own party, from 1 traveller. No group travel, no fellow travellers you don't know.

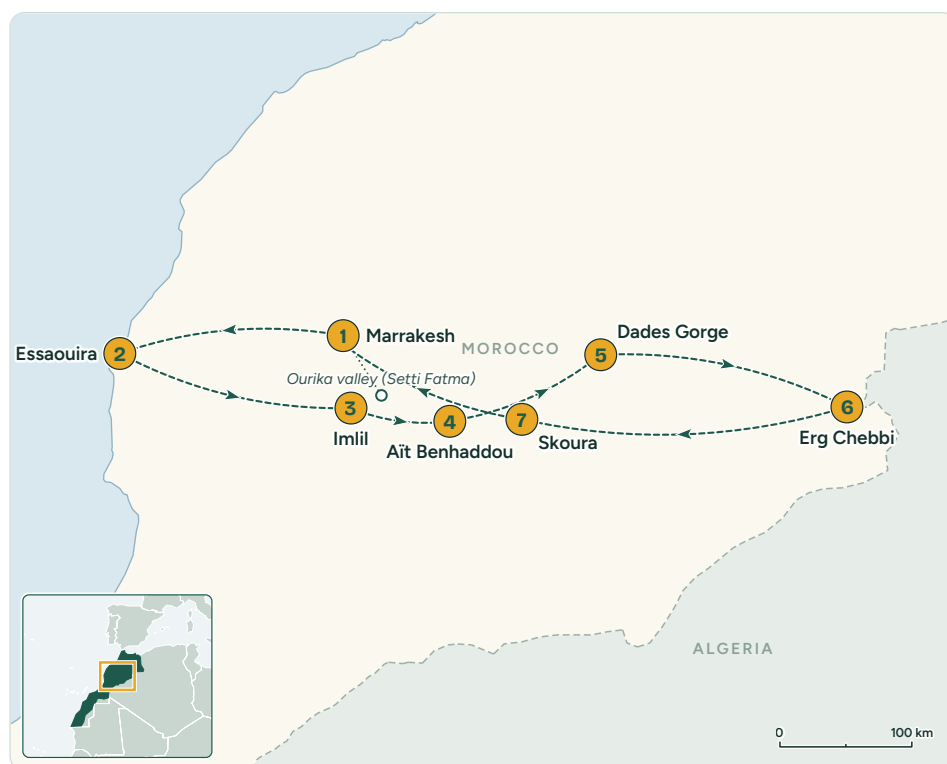
LENGTH

Recommended: 13 days · shorter or longer is always possible

DATES

Completely flexible: you leave on the day that suits you.

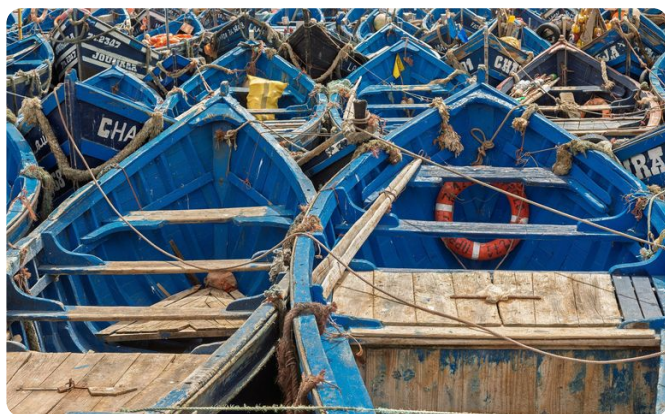
Your route on the map



Map: Natural Earth (public domain) · the arcs show the order of the route, not the exact road

- 1 Marrakesh**
3 nights · day 1–3
 - 2 Essaouira**
2 nights · day 4–5
 - 3 Imlil**
1 night · day 6
 - 4 Aït Benhaddou**
1 night · day 7
 - 5 Dades Gorge**
1 night · day 8
 - 6 Erg Chebbi desert camp**
2 nights · day 9–10
 - 7 Skoura**
2 nights · day 11–12
- ◇ Marrakesh airport day 13

---> overland, arrow = direction of travel
..... day trip ◇ airport / connection



DAY 4 Blue fishing boats in the port of Essaouira



DAY 7 The earthen ksar of Aït Benhaddou

My recommended route

This is the route as I put it together for you. It is a starting point, not a fixed programme: leave out what doesn't appeal to you, add what you would like to do and travel at your own pace. Everything below is arranged for you in advance. Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

DAY 1 **Arrival in Marrakesh** MARRAKECH

You fly to Marrakesh (I am happy to book the flight for you, or you book it yourself). A private driver waits in the arrivals hall with a name sign and takes you to your riad in the medina; a porter carries your luggage through the last lanes. Stroll to Jemaa el-Fna square with its storytellers, musicians and food stalls. Your roadbook lists my favourite addresses.

DAY 2 **Marrakesh** MARRAKECH ♦ BREAKFAST

In the morning you walk through the medina: the Bahia Palace with its gardens and zellij, the Ben Youssef Madrasa and the souks of the dyers, smiths and leatherworkers. After that, the Jardin Majorelle, a hammam or simply a roof terrace with mint tea awaits. At sunset Jemaa el-Fna truly comes to life.



The great courtyard of the Bahia Palace in Marrakech

DAY 3 **The Ourika valley and the Setti Fatma waterfalls** MARRAKECH ♦ BREAKFAST

Today the car comes in: your rental car is ready in Marrakesh, or your private driver picks you up at the edge of the medina. In approx. 1h15 you drive up into the High Atlas, through the green Ourika valley with Berber villages on the slopes and small eateries by the river. From Setti Fatma you scramble over rocks and along the stream to the first waterfalls (approx. 1 hour there and back, or further to the higher falls). You have lunch with your feet almost in the water. In the evening you are back in your riad in Marrakesh.

DAY 4 **To Essaouira on the ocean** ESSAOUIRA ♦ BREAKFAST

Through argan country to Essaouira (approx. 3 hours), with a stop at a women's argan oil cooperative. In the afternoon you walk along the Skala, the ramparts with cannons above the ocean, and through the blue-and-white medina (UNESCO).

DAY 5 **Essaouira at your own pace** ESSAOUIRA ♦ BREAKFAST

A day at your own pace. In the morning watch the blue fishing boats come into the port and eat fresh fish from the grill. Walk along the long beach, visit the thuya wood carvers' workshops or take a surf lesson (optional). Fancy some peace? Drive to Sidi Kaouki (approx. 25 minutes), a quiet beach village with surfers and camels on the sand. At sunset you sit on a terrace on the ramparts.

DAY 6**Into the High Atlas and a walk at Imlil** IMLIL ♦ BREAKFAST

Back inland and up into the mountains to Imlil (approx. 4 hours), the village at the foot of Toubkal, the highest mountain in North Africa. In the afternoon you walk through the walnut and apple orchards to the Berber village of Aroumd, with views of the peaks. On the way you drink mint tea with a Berber family. You sleep in a guesthouse or kasbah with a view of the mountains.



Berber village of Aroumd below Toubkal

DAY 7**Over the Tichka to Aït Benhaddou** AÏT BENHADDOU ♦ BREAKFAST

Over the Tizi n'Tichka pass (2,260 m) you cross the High Atlas (approx. 4.5 hours, with stops). On the way you visit the kasbah of Telouet, once the palace of the powerful Glaoui pasha, with beautiful stucco halls. From Telouet you skip the main road and follow the old caravan route through the Ounila valley, past crumbling kasbahs, green terraces and the village of Anemiter. In the late afternoon you reach Aït Benhaddou, the earthen ksar (UNESCO) you know from dozens of films. You watch the sunset from the top of the ksar.

DAY 8**Kasbahs and the Dades Gorge** DADÈSKLOOF ♦ BREAKFAST

In the morning you walk the quiet lanes of the ksar. Then to the hidden oasis of Fint, a strip of date palms among black rocks near Ouarzazate, and the Taourirt kasbah. On through the Valley of Roses to the Dades Gorge (approx. 3.5 hours). You sleep among the red rock formations and hairpin bends of the gorge, with an evening walk among the 'Monkey Fingers', rock formations shaped like fingers, often with mint tea at a nomad family.

DAY 9**The Todra Gorge and the Sahara** WOESTIJKAMP ERG

CHEBBI ♦ BREAKFAST · DINNER

First you walk through the Todra Gorge, where the rock walls rise up to 300 metres. Then on to Merzouga on the edge of the Sahara (approx. 4.5 hours of driving in total). Your car stays behind at the camp. Towards sunset you ride a camel into the golden-orange dunes of Erg Chebbi, to your desert camp with an en-suite tent; your luggage goes by 4x4. Dinner and breakfast at the camp are included; then stargazing and Berber music around the fire.



The red cliffs of the Todra Gorge

DAY 10**A day in the Erg Chebbi dunes** WOESTIJKAMP ERG

CHEBBI ♦ BREAKFAST · DINNER

Climb the dune for sunrise over the Sahara. After breakfast you may see flamingos at the seasonal lake of Dayet Srij at the foot of the dunes, and in the village of Khamlia Gnawa musicians, descendants of people from Mali, play for you in their own home. You spend the hot midday in the shade of the camp; fancy sandboarding or a 4x4 trip to a nomad family? I am happy to arrange it. At sunset you walk up the highest dune, and in the evening you dine under the stars again.

DAY 11**Rissani and on to Skoura** SKOURA ♦ BREAKFAST

After breakfast you leave the dunes. In Rissani, the old market town of the Tafilalet, the donkeys have their own 'car park' on market day. Then along the quiet road via Alnif and N'Kob, with its earthen kasbahs, to Skoura (approx. 5 hours of driving). You sleep in the palm grove, among the date palms and earthen kasbahs.

DAY 12**Kasbah Amridil and the Skoura palm grove** SKOURA ♦ BREAKFAST

A quiet day after the desert. In the morning you visit Kasbah Amridil, one of the finest in the country. Then you walk or cycle through the palm grove, along little irrigation channels, date palms and earthen kasbahs where families still live. At sunset the walls of your kasbah turn red, and in the evening you dine under the stars.

DAY 13**Over the Tichka to Marrakesh airport** ♦ BREAKFAST

After breakfast you cross the Tizi n'Tichka pass one last time, with views over the High Atlas, straight to Marrakesh airport (approx. 4.5 hours). If you drive yourself, you return your rental car there; otherwise your private driver drops you at departures. Flight home in the afternoon or evening. Is your flight early in the morning? Then you spend the last night in a hotel close to the airport.

What I arrange for you

1 Pickup on arrival

On arrival at Marrakesh airport a private driver waits with a name sign and takes you to your riad; a porter carries your luggage through the medina. On the last day you drive from Skoura straight to the airport.

2 Hotels

Every night is booked and confirmed in advance, at the level you choose: Budget, Comfort or Premium. Prefer another hotel? I change it.

3 Transport

You choose: self-drive with a rental car waiting for you, or a private driver and private transfers. Domestic flights, trains and boats where they make sense, all booked in advance.

4 Activities, at your pace

The activities and entrance tickets on the route. No guide or group travels with you: you set the pace, and anything you would rather skip, you simply leave out.

5 Eat wherever you like

Breakfast is included, as are the meals at remote camps and lodges where there is no alternative. For the rest I give you my restaurant tips, but you are completely free to choose where you eat. I never recommend a place because I earn a commission on it.

Level and transport

Price coming soon – join the interest list to be the first to receive it.

ACCOMMODATION LEVEL	Self-drive	Private driver
	rental car, everything pre-booked	private transfers and driver
Budget simple, clean and well located	price to follow	price to follow
Comfort characterful mid-range	price to follow	price to follow
Premium the best addresses on the ground	price to follow	price to follow

WITH 4 TRAVELLERS	the price per person goes down: you share the car and driver.
TRAVELLING SOLO	you pay a supplement: you cover the cost of the room and transport alone.
INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT	I'm happy to book your flight for you, or you book it yourself; if I book it, the flight price for your dates is in your personal quote. Return flight to Marrakesh not included. I am happy to book the flight for you, or you book it yourself.

SELF-DRIVE

You can drive yourself: the roads are paved and well signposted, also to Merzouga. Your rental car (full insurance with zero excess) is ready in Marrakesh on day 3 and you return it at Marrakesh airport on day 13. Fuel and parking are paid locally. Do expect a few long driving days (the Tichka pass twice, and approx. 4.5 to 5 hours on days 9, 11 and 13) and never drive after dark. In Merzouga your car stays at the camp. If you want to enjoy the landscape without steering yourself, choose the private driver.

WITH A PRIVATE DRIVER

My recommendation for this route: one dedicated French- or English-speaking private driver takes you from day 3 to day 13 in a comfortable air-conditioned vehicle. He knows the Tichka pass, the best viewpoints and the way to the desert camp, and waits while you walk or visit. Fuel, tolls and his meals and accommodation are included. He is a driver, not a guide.

Three accommodation levels

Budget

Simple, excellently reviewed riads, guesthouses and kasbahs with breakfast, and a desert camp with an en-suite tent.

Comfort

Characterful riads in Marrakesh and Essaouira, kasbah hotels with a view and a comfortable camp in the dunes.

Premium

The finest riads and kasbahs on the route, with a pool, spa or roof terrace, and a luxury camp in the Erg Chebbi dunes.

Possible guided moments

Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

- ✦ On this trip you discover everything at your own pace, without a fixed guide: your roadbook tells you what to see where.
- ✦ Day 9: camel ride with a camel handler to the desert camp
- ✦ Optional: a licensed city guide in Marrakesh (day 2) or a mountain guide from Imlil (day 6). I am happy to arrange one for you, also in Essaouira, Aït Benhaddou and the Todra Gorge.

Ideas to adapt the route

- ➔ More mountains: a second night in Imlil for a full walking day to the Tizi n'Mzik pass, with lunch at a Berber family home
- ➔ More desert: a second night in Erg Chebbi, with a trip to Khamlia and its Gnawa music
- ➔ Shorter (8 days): without Essaouira, straight from Marrakesh into the Atlas
- ➔ Combine with the north: after the Sahara through the Middle Atlas to Fes and on to Chefchaouen and Tangier (see my Northern Morocco trip)
- ➔ Extras: cooking class and hammam in Marrakesh, surf lesson in Essaouira, Toubkal ascent (2 days with a guide)
- ➔ Less time in the desert: one night in Erg Chebbi (the drive back to Skoura then becomes a long day)

Included

- ✓ 10 nights at the level you choose (Budget, Comfort or Premium): riads in Marrakesh and Essaouira, a mountain guesthouse in Imlil, kasbah hotels and a desert camp with an en-suite tent (double room, breakfast included)
- ✓ Dinner and breakfast at the desert camp, and mint tea with a Berber family during the Atlas walk
- ✓ Private transfer from Marrakesh airport to your riad on arrival
- ✓ Your choice: a private driver with a comfortable vehicle from day 3 to day 13 (fuel, tolls and the driver's board and lodging included) or a rental car from day 3 to day 13 (full insurance with zero excess; fuel and parking are paid locally)
- ✓ Camel ride to and from the desert camp, with your luggage taken by 4x4
- ✓ Entrance fees: Bahia Palace, Ben Youssef Madrasa, Telouet kasbah, Taourirt kasbah and Kasbah Amridil
- ✓ Visit to an argan oil cooperative
- ✓ Tourist tax (taxe de séjour)
- ✓ Detailed roadbook with routes, parking tips by the medinas and my favourite addresses

Not included

- Flight to Marrakesh and back (I am happy to book the flight for you, or you book it yourself; guide price: see below)
- Meals other than breakfast and the dinner at the desert camp, and drinks (allow approx. €20–30 pp per day; my restaurant tips are in your roadbook)
- Jardin Majorelle, hammam, cooking class and surf lesson (optional, I am happy to book them for you)
- Tips for the driver, guides, camel handlers and porters
- Travel and cancellation insurance
- When self-driving: fuel and parking (paid locally)
- When self-driving: credit-card deposit for the rental car and any traffic fines

Practical information

VISA (BELGIAN CITIZENS)

No visa required for tourist stays up to 90 days. Passport valid for the entire stay; 6 months' validity is recommended. The Belgian ID card is not sufficient.

HEALTH

No mandatory vaccinations. Recommended: routine vaccinations up to date and hepatitis A. No malaria. Drink bottled water. See wanda.be.

CURRENCY & PAYMENT

Moroccan dirham (MAD); exchange or withdraw cash locally. ATMs in the towns; in small villages and souks you pay cash.

FLIGHT TIME FROM BRUSSELS

Approx. 3.5 hours direct to Marrakesh (flights from Brussels and Charleroi).

TIME DIFFERENCE

Morocco uses UTC+1 (UTC+0 during Ramadan): no difference in Belgian winter, 1 hour behind in Belgian summer.

LANGUAGE

Arabic (Darija) and Tamazight (Berber) are official; French widely spoken, English in the tourism sector.

MEALS

Breakfast is included every day. For the other meals you get my restaurant recommendations, but you are completely free to choose where and when you eat.

GUIDES

By default you travel without a guide. Prefer a guide? I can add a local guide to any activity.

As of September 2026: check diplomatie.belgium.be (travel advice) and wanda.be (health) before you travel.

Travelling responsibly

You stay in small, locally owned riads, guesthouses and kasbahs, drink mint tea with a Berber family in the Atlas and buy argan oil from a women's cooperative. If you choose a guide, I arrange a licensed guide from the area, paid per visit. In the desert I choose a camp that uses water sparingly and removes its waste. You fly in and out of Marrakesh, without a domestic flight.



Steennot Travels

Contact

Steennot Travels (in formation) · Lentestraat 80, Ghent, Belgium

Phone and WhatsApp +32 475 23 18 45 · info@steennot-travels.be

steennot-travels.be

Personally composed, down to the last detail.

No group travel and no fixed dates: you travel privately, at your own pace. Leave out what doesn't appeal to you, add what you like. I give you my restaurant tips, but you choose freely where you eat: nobody sends you to expensive restaurants for a commission.

PRICE

Price coming soon – join the interest list to be the first to receive it.

Interested? Join the no-obligation list at steennot-travels.be or email info@steennot-travels.be. Other dates, more or fewer days, something left out or added? Everything can be adapted.

Steennot Travels is in formation and does not sell trips yet: this brochure is for information only and is not an offer. No bookings, options or payments are accepted until the legally required insolvency insurance (Belgian Package Travel Act of 21 November 2017) is in force. After launch you receive the standard information form and the travel conditions before you book. All prices are estimates.

Photo credits

Photos via Wikimedia Commons, used under the licence stated (CC BY / CC BY-SA: attribution required; CC BY-SA: adaptations are shared under the same licence). Cropped and/or resized for print as indicated; otherwise unaltered.



COVER

Camel caravan in Erg Chebbi · Photo: Houssain tork · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Les_dunes_de_Merzouga_\(Une_caravane_de_chameaux_.jpg\)](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Les_dunes_de_Merzouga_(Une_caravane_de_chameaux_.jpg)) · *cropped, resized*



DAY 2

The great courtyard of the Bahia Palace in Marrakech · Photo: Val Traveler · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bahia_Palace_large_court.jpg · *resized*



DAY 4

Blue fishing boats in the port of Essaouira · Photo: Mustang Joe · CC0 (creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/deed.en) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fishing_boats_of_Essaouira_-_Morocco.jpg · *cropped, resized*



DAY 6

Berber village of Aroumd below Toubkal · Photo: Kitetraveller.com from Vienna, Austria · CC BY-SA 2.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Imllil-Aroumd-kitetraveller-01.jpg · *resized*



DAY 7

The earthen ksar of Aït Benhaddou · Photo: Petar Milošević · CC BY-SA 4.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) · [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ksar_Ait_Benhaddou,_Marocco_\(أيت_بن_حدو،_الم_أيت_بن_حدو،_الم_أيت_بن_حدو،_الم\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ksar_Ait_Benhaddou,_Marocco_(أيت_بن_حدو،_الم_أيت_بن_حدو،_الم_أيت_بن_حدو،_الم).jpg) · *resized*



DAY 9

The red cliffs of the Todra Gorge · Photo: Bjørn Christian Tørrissen · CC BY-SA 3.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/) · commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Todra_Gorge_Morning_2011.jpg · *cropped, resized*