



TRAVEL ITINERARY

4 Days Desert Trip From Marrakech to Merzouga

4 Days / 3 Nights

Marrakech

Private Tour

From 1 traveller

TOUR ROUTE

Marrakech → Ait Benhaddou → Boumalne Dades → Tinghir → Merzouga → Rissani → Alnif → Ouarzazate → Marrakech

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TRIP OVERVIEW

4 Days Desert Trip From Marrakech to Merzouga

Embark on an extraordinary 4-day desert tour from Marrakech to Merzouga, crossing the majestic High Atlas Mountains, exploring ancient kasbahs and immersing yourself in the golden dunes of the Sahara. This private tour guarantees an authentic Moroccan experience, including a sunset camel ride, a night in a luxury desert camp and stargazing under the vast Saharan sky.

DURATION 4 Days / 3 Nights	DEPARTURE Marrakech	TYPE Private tour
GROUP SIZE From 1 traveller	LANGUAGES English, Spanish, French	DEPARTURES Daily

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights

- ✓ Cross the Tizi n'Tichka pass in the High Atlas Mountains
- ✓ Visit the Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- ✓ Explore the striking Dades and Todra canyons
- ✓ Enjoy a sunset camel ride across the Erg Chebbi dunes
- ✓ Spend a magical night at a luxury desert camp with Berber music
- ✓ Watch a spectacular sunrise over the desert

TOUR ROUTE

Tour route

Marrakech → Ait Benhaddou → Boumalne Dades → Tinghir → Merzouga → Rissani → Alnif → Ouarzazate → Marrakech



DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day-by-day itinerary



Marrakech → Ait Ben Haddou → Dades Canyons

Your trip begins with an early departure from the vibrant chaos of Marrakech. You cross the majestic High Atlas Mountains via the Tizi n'Tichka pass, where the scenery changes from the city's red walls to panoramic views of winding roads and Berber villages clinging to the mountainsides.

Your first major stop is the legendary Ksar of Ait Ben Haddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an ancient fortified clay town that has featured in countless films. After exploring its labyrinthine alleys and climbing to the top for panoramic views, you continue through the Valley of Roses and on into the dramatic geological landscapes of the Dades region.

You head past the remarkable “Monkey Fingers” rock formations before finally reaching your hotel, set in or overlooking the Dades Gorge, where you spend the night surrounded by towering rock cliffs sculpted by time and water.

 **Accommodation:** Night in Dades — Riad Gabsi or similar



Dades Canyons → Todra Gorges → Merzouga Desert

After breakfast overlooking the canyon, you set off on a short journey to another of Morocco's natural wonders: the Todra Gorge. Here the river has carved an enormous fissure in the limestone, creating a canyon with smooth vertical walls rising up to 300 metres. You can take a quiet walk along the river bed, feeling the cool shade and listening to the echo of the flowing water.

In the afternoon the landscape begins to flatten out and turn golden as you approach the Sahara Desert. You reach the edge of the dunes at Merzouga in the late afternoon, where you leave your vehicle and mount camels for a peaceful trek into the heart of the Erg Chebbi dunes.

As the sun begins to set, painting the sky in shades of orange and purple, you arrive at your desert camp. The evening unfolds beneath a blanket of stars, with a traditional Berber dinner accompanied by the rhythm of drums around a campfire.

 **Accommodation:** Night in Merzouga — Tawada Camp or similar

DAY
3**Merzouga → Rissani → Alnif → Ouarzazate**

Wake early to witness an unforgettable sunrise over the sea of sand, a truly magical moment as the dunes turn from shadow to bright orange. After breakfast at the camp and a camel ride back to the village of Merzouga, you begin your journey back towards civilisation.

Your first stop is the historic town of Rissani, the former economic and spiritual capital of the Tafilalt region and birthplace of the Alaouite dynasty, Morocco's current ruling family. You explore its bustling traditional market (souk), an authentic, less touristy experience where locals trade everything from spices to livestock.

The route then continues through a striking, moon-like landscape on the road through Alnif, marked by black hamada (stone desert) and rugged, dramatic mountains. This scenic drive takes you back to Ouarzazate, known as the "Gateway to the Desert".

You visit the impressive Taourirt Kasbah and perhaps the Atlas Film Studios, which earned Ouarzazate its nickname of "Hollywood of Africa", before settling in for the night.

 **Accommodation:** Night in Ouarzazate — Bouchedor or similar

DAY
4**Ouarzazate → Marrakech**

On your last day you have time to enjoy the relaxed morning atmosphere in Ouarzazate before starting the journey back to Marrakech. You retrace your route through the High Atlas Mountains, with another chance to admire the ever-changing views.

As you descend from the mountains, the familiar bustle of Marrakech returns, marking the end of your epic circuit. You arrive back in the city by mid-afternoon, having experienced Morocco's incredible contrasts—from ancient kasbahs and deep gorges to the vast, silent expanse of the Sahara Desert—all in four unforgettable days.

Please note: the hotels listed are mid-range. If you would like to upgrade to a luxury option, just get in touch. Rates may vary in high season and according to the accommodation you choose.

SERVICES**Included & not included****Included**

- ✓ **Transport:** all ground transport in a private air-conditioned vehicle throughout the tour
- ✓ **Professional guide/driver:** a Spanish-speaking driver or tour guide throughout the route

Not included

- ✗ Lunches and drinks
- ✗ Optional site entrance fees

- ✓ **Accommodation:** 3 nights as described in the itinerary

KEY EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Visit to Ait Ben Haddou (UNESCO World Heritage)
- ✓ Visit to Ouarzazate and its film studios
- ✓ Scenic stops at the Tizi n'Tichka pass
- ✓ Dades Valley and the Todra Gorges
- ✓ **Camel ride:** one camel per person to reach the camp
- ✓ Camp experience with dinner and Berber music/entertainment
- ✓ Exploring the Erg Chebbi area
- ✓ A visit to a nomad settlement and the village of Khamlia
- ✓ Enjoy Gnawa music
- ✓ A stop at the Rissani souk (on market days)
- ✓ **Final transfer:** drop-off at the end of the tour in Marrakech (airport or city accommodation)

- ✕ Tips for guides and drivers

PRICE AND CONDITIONS

Price and conditions

Important: Bear in mind that this 4-day tour is a suggested itinerary. If it doesn't match what you're looking for, don't hesitate to [contact us](#). We'll organize a different itinerary based on your preferences and the length of your trip. We offer customized tours and trips all around Morocco.

The price varies depending on the number of people: the more people join the tour, the lower the price per person. Since transportation has a fixed cost, it's shared among the travelers. The price also depends on the quality of the accommodation. [Contact us](#) for the exact price.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Practical information

Does this 4-day circuit return to Marrakech?

Yes, it starts and ends in Marrakech. It is convenient if your flight arrives in and leaves from Marrakech and you want a desert getaway without changing airports.

What do you gain with 4 days compared with the 3-day version?

The fourth day allows more time in the desert: a morning exploring by 4x4, visits to nomad families and to Khamlia, without the rush of the 3-day route.

What does the 4x4 excursion across Erg Chebbi involve?

It is a tour of the dunes and surroundings of Merzouga: oases, the village of Khamlia with Gnawa music, fossil mines and viewpoints, with photo stops.

Is there mobile coverage or wifi at the desert camp?

There is usually some 3G/4G coverage near Merzouga; Wi-Fi at the camps is limited or non-existent. It is a good chance to disconnect.

Is this tour suitable for older travellers or those with limited mobility?

Yes. The camel ride is optional (a 4x4 alternative is available), the drives include stops and we choose comfortable accommodation. Let us know about any needs when you book.

Can we customise the stops or the pace of this circuit?

As it is private, yes: we can spend more time on photography, at a particular village or resting. Tell us your preferences before departure.

PERSONALISED QUOTE

Would you like to take this trip?

A private departure, built around your dates. Groups of 4 or more pay less per person.

1

Tell us about your trip

Fill in the form or message us on WhatsApp. Tell us what interests you and these details, which are what we need to prepare the best proposal for you:

- How many of you are travelling.
- Exact dates (if your flights are booked) or the month you prefer.
- How many days you want to travel.
- Accommodation category: standard, superior or luxury.

2

Receive your tailor-made proposal

Within 24 hours we send you a day-by-day itinerary and the final price in a complete PDF. We adjust it together until it is exactly right.

3

Confirm your trip

Confirmed with a 30% deposit by PayPal, telling us the room and bed type you prefer (double or twin). You receive a formal confirmation and we start arranging everything.

Request a quote

 Message us on WhatsApp

 Send us an email

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Reply within 24 hours

