

BERBER TOURS

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Tour 11, THE SAHARA AND HIGH ATLAS MOUNTAINS PACKAGE

Meet authentic Morocco in this route which allows you to see mountains, meadows, desert oases and Moroccan life.

ARRIVE ANY DAY IN MARRAKECH – PRIVATE 4X4 TOUR

6 PEOPLE PER 4X4

10 nights – 11 day 4x4 Tour

Airport transfers

3-star or 4-star hotel accommodations

Transportation by **TOYOTA LAND CRUISER** 4x4

Dinner and breakfast with room accommodations

Services of one English speaking driver for the ENTIRE tour

INCLUDES OVERNIGHT CAMEL TREK AT MERZOUGA:

(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner during camel trek, camping equipment, camels, entertainment.)

ALL PRICES ARE BASED ON 3-STAR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

HIGH SEASON – September 1 to May 31

**4x4 TOURS SOLD BY BERBER TOURS ARE OFFERED AS
"INDIVIDUALIZED OR PRIVATE GROUP TOURS"**

CLIENTS MAY NOT PURCHASE "PLACES" ON SOMEONE ELSE'S 4X4 TOUR

THIS PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE AIRLINE COSTS

PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Day 1: Marrakech

Reception in Marrakech airport and transfer to the hotel.

Day 2: Marrakech / Beni Mellal / Cascades d'Ouzoud

Beni Mellal on the N8 to Marrakech, is a large market town, offering several places to stay. The town also makes the frontier proper between the High and Middle Atlas Mountains. Going north towards Khenifra, the Middle Atals branch out on their own, an ever-increasing distance separating the two ranges. From Beni Mellal a good side trip is to the Cascades d'Ouzoud, impressive waterfalls off the N8. The good road twists up to the vast Bin el Ouidine reservoir and then on to Azilal, a market town with a basic hotel, bank and modest restaurants.

The Cascades d'Ouzoud are signposted to the right about 10km (6 miles) beyond Azilal. The small Berber village next to the falls offers reasonable camping and accommodations, the most comfortable being the Riad Cascades d'Ouzoud, which can also arrange excursions through the limestone valleys of the area. From the road's end, an easy path snakes through trees to the base of the falls, passing low-key cafés on the way. There are no restrictions on swimming; people simply strip off to their bathing costumes and plunge in. Rock climbing is also popular. There will always be a few visitors around, but the falls only get busy on weekends and holidays, when locals head here from Beni Mellal and Marrakech.

Day 3: Cascades d'Ouzoud / Ouarzazate

Meet your driver at your hotel at 8:00am and travel through the High Atlas Mountains via the Tizi-n-Tischka Pass to the city of Ouarzazate. On your way, you will visit the "seat" of Glaoui tribal power, Telouet Kasbah, now mostly in ruins except for the magnificent state rooms of this once great kasbah which can still be visited. British author Gavin Maxwell accomplished the twofold task of detailing the daily life, customs, and rituals in pre-independence Morocco and of recounting the rise and fall of El Hadj T'hani El Glaoui, the legendary tribal warlord through whom the French ruled one of their prize colonies in North Africa in his famous book, *Lords of the Atlas*. Maxwell, who died in 1969, considered himself an explorer and wrote of faraway places; in *Lords of the Atlas* he introduces readers to the harshness and beauty of Morocco. He shows how the blend of Berber, Arab, and black African races created an extraordinary cultural mosaic and explains how the French colonialists recruited the Atlas Mountain tribal warlords to subdue the other tribes. As the chief beneficiary of this policy, El Glaoui was able to rule most of southern Morocco in an absolute fashion, until Morocco's independence from France in 1956 brought an end to the rule of a very colorful warlord. The book contains many superb color photographs that enhance Maxwell's lively narrative. From Telouet Kasbah we will take the piste (dirt) road along mountainous cliffs high above the valley floor and then stop at another Glaoui Kasbah, Aït Benhaddou, which is the oldest continuously inhabited Kasbah in Morocco (500+ years) and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.) Night in Ouarzazate.

Day 4: Ouarzazate / Gorges of Dadès / Gorges of Todra

After breakfast, visit the Taourirt and Tifoultout Kasbahs, ancient residences of the Glaoui (The former Pacha of Marrakech). Resume the road in the direction of the Dadès gorge, you will walk in the tranquility of mountains and take a moment to appreciate the lifestyle of the Berbers isolated by the mountains. Everywhere you will discover a new scene of daily life. Dinner and accommodation in hotel in Tinerhir.

Day 5: Gorges of Todra / Merzouga

Depart through cliffs and gorges on a magnificent track, surrounded by the variety of colors and forms. Upon arrival at the Todra gorge, you will discover a wild landscape populated with Berber villages and nomads minding their herds of goats. Hike down the narrow gorges, the fruit of the separation of the High Atlas Mountains and Djebel Sarrho. Refresh yourself a bit by bathing your feet in the cold and crystal clear water of the river. Dinner and accommodation in hotel in Merzouga.

Day 6 & 7: Merzouga

Discover the palm plantation of Todra and camp in the desert. It is here that you will cross a big area of sand. You will appreciate the pure beauty of the landscape and then you will be in the desert. Take advantage of these days in the desert to admire the ever-changing light on the dunes which are always the same, yet always different. Spending the evening by a campfire under the starry sky will help you to catch the spirit of the desert. **OVERNIGHT CAMEL TREK** (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner during camel trek, camping equipment, camels, entertainment.) Leave in the afternoon of Day 7 for Ouarzazate.

Day 8: Ouarzazate

After breakfast, visit the Taourirt and Tifoultout Kasbahs, ancient residences of the Glaoui (The former Pacha of Marrakech). The rest of the day is for relaxation by the swimming pool or for further exploration of the city.

Day 9: Ouarzazate / Marrakech

Half-day free upon your arrival in Marrakech. Toyota Land Cruiser 4x4 and driver are at your disposal.

Day 10: Marrakech

Free day in Marrakech. Discover the famous red city, visit the immense *souk* (market), and plunge into the excitement of the place Jemaa el-Fna in the heart of Morocco. Be enchanted by the dancers, snake-charmers, jugglers, narrators, singers. Cool off with an orange juice in front of the numerous workshops. Toyota Land Cruiser 4x4 and driver are at your disposal.

Day 11: Return Flight Home

INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE:

11 day program from arrival in Marrakech to departure from Marrakech

All transportation in air conditioned Toyota Land Cruiser 4x4

Airport transfers

All 3-star or 4-star hotel accommodations

Dinner and breakfast with room accommodations

Services of one English speaking driver for the ENTIRE tour

INCLUDES OVERNIGHT CAMEL TREK AT MERZOUGA:

(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner during camel trek, camping equipment, camels, entertainment.)

Note: Breakfast and dinner are included in the in the cost of this package. However, if the clients wish they are not obligated to have dinner or breakfast “when or where” Berber Tours says that they must. The clients are free to go somewhere else if they choose, but there will be NO REFUND or DEDUCTION to the base price should the clients choose to have dinner or breakfast on their own and that is not supplied by Berber Tours.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE:

Tips and portage for Berber Tours Employees: Ten percent (10%) of the TOTAL TOUR COST

Applicable entrance fees: Not able to quote, depends on where you go. However, the “average price” is \$2.50 to \$6.00 USD or PER PERSON

Additional Guide Services: Cost depends on what is required. For example, a guide in Marrakech averages approximately \$40.00 USD - \$50.00 USD per day. **Due to restrictions by the Moroccan Government, ONLY those guides who live and work in the city visited are allowed to guide any clients and they set their own rates.** This is the reason why Berber Tours does not include guide services in the cost of a 4x4 tour. However, if given prior notice, Berber Tours will arrange for a guide but it is the responsibility of the client to pay for the guide services themselves.

Lunches during tour: \$7.00 to \$13.00 USD PER PERSON. This is considered a “free time” for the clients to explore the towns and villages that we visit.

Single room supplement: \$45.00 USD per room, per day

Incidentals: Such as soft drinks, wine or beer with meals; personal purchases, or tips.

Airline costs are not included and Berber Tours does not supply other information such as airline cost; hotel costs; transportation not directly supplied by Berber Tours.

RATES FOR THE SAHARA AND HIGH ATLAS MOUNTAINS PACKAGE:

HIGH SEASON: SEPTEMBER 1 TO MAY 31

OFF SEASON: JUNE 1 TO AUGUST 31 – 30% REDUCTION IN PRICE, EXCLUDING OPTIONS

Prices are based on 3-star hotel accommodations with double occupancy:

\$4,400.00 USD total package cost: 1 person, 3-star hotel accommodations

\$5,400.00 USD total package cost: 1 person, 4-star hotel accommodations or a combination of 4-star hotel/riad – 4-star hotel tour rates will be charged

\$4,150.00 USD total package cost: 2 people, dbl. occ. w/1 room, 3-star hotel accommodations

\$5,150.00 USD total package cost: 2 people, dbl. occ. w/1 room, 4-star hotel accommodations or a combination of 4-star hotel/riad – 4-star hotel tour rates will be charged

For a 3rd person add \$250.00 USD total

\$3,900.00 USD total package cost: 4-6 people, dbl occ. w/3 rooms, 3-star hotel accommodations

\$4,900.00 USD total package cost: 4-6 people, dbl occ. w/3 rooms, 4-star hotel accommodations

A SECOND 4X4 WITH AN ADDITIONAL 4-6 PARTICIPANTS – 25% REDUCTION IN PRICE

HOTELS IN MOROCCO:

Berber Tours uses a variety of different 3-star and 4-star hotels around the country for our 4x4 tours. While we cannot guarantee a specific hotel, we can guarantee that ALL of the hotels we use are clean and comfortable and will have many of the amenities you would expect to find in a hotel. The hotels we use also offer either breakfast or dinner, but usually both, as part of the hotel stay. Where available, as in Marrakech, we can also offer at the 4-star hotel package rate, the option of staying at one of the many quaint and comfortable riads within the Medina. However, at a riad, usually only breakfast is offered as part of the cost for staying there.

Hotel standards in Morocco and Europe DIFFER from those in the United States; in most cases, a “3-star” hotel by U.S. standards is the same as a “4-star” hotel in Morocco and Europe.

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