

BERBER TOURS

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Tour 5, SOUTHERN CARAVAN CAMEL TREK PACKAGE

ARRIVE ANY DAY IN MARRAKECH – PRIVATE CAMEL TREK

13 nights – 14 day camel trek (7 days and 7 nights trekking)

4 nights, 3-star or 4-star hotel accommodations in Marrakech

2 nights, 3-star or 4-star hotel accommodations in Zagora

Transportation to and from Marrakech by TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 4x4

7 day/ 7 night camel trek to Erg Chigaga Sand Dunes

For SMALL Groups of 1-6 participants or

LARGE Groups of 7-20+ participants

ALL PRICES ARE BASED ON 3-STAR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

CAMEL TREKS SOLD BY BERBER TOURS ARE OFFERED AS "INDIVIDUALIZED OR PRIVATE GROUP TREKS"

CLIENTS MAY NOT PURCHASE "PLACES" ON SOMEONE ELSE'S CAMEL TREK

THIS PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE AIRLINE COSTS

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Description:

Day 1 – Arrival in Marrakech

Arrive in Marrakech. Spend night in your hotel.

Day 2 – Marrakech to Zagora

Meet your driver at 8:00am and travel through the High Atlas Mountains via the Tizi-n-Tischka Pass to the city of Ouarzazate and then on to Zagora, a trip of 226+ miles. 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, Ait Benhaddou, which is the oldest continuously inhabited kasbah in Morocco (500+ years) and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (**Client pays for own lunches.**). Continue on to Zagora where you will spend the night at your hotel.

Days 3-9 – Camel Trek

These days are devoted to your camel trek. You will leave Zagora at 8:00am and be driven to the small village of M'hamid where you will meet your camels. You will trek toward the sand dunes at RAS RECH where you will camp for the night. On Day 2 you will then trek to ERG SAHAL where you will again camp. From Erg Sahal you will make your way to the big sand dunes at ERG CHIGAGA where you will again camp before returning by camel to M'hamid. (All food, camels, camping equipment and tents, **excluding sleeping bag unless specifically requested by SMALL groups of six (6) or less**, etc. on these days is provided by Berber Tours.).

Day 10 – Tamegroute – Zagora

After your desert experience, on your return to Zagora in the afternoon you will stop in the town of Tamegroute on the way back from M'hamid. Tamegroute is dominated by a *zaouia* (religious cloister) of the Sufi Naciri brotherhood that has been a center of religious learning since the Almoravide dynasty spear-headed a wave of religious reawakening in the 11th century. The zaouia also attracts some of the most underprivileged members of Moroccan society, people suffering from mental or physical illness, or simply lost souls who find their way to its peace and charity from as far away as Casablanca. It was also the cradle of the Saadian dynasty. The zaouia incorporates a *madrassa* which, although now a modern school, has its origins in the 17th century. Alongside the school is a celebrated library (another modern building) which counts among its treasures Islamic commentaries written on gazelle skin dating from before the 13th century. The library is open to visitors.

Also in Tamegroute is a "co-op" of artisans who produce some of the finest examples of Moroccan pottery, jewelry and other folk art in all of Southern Morocco. All of the pottery is made from local clay. The artisans will even show you how it is all done from the "refining" of the clay, to the forming of the pottery on the wheel, to the decorating with traditional symbols, and finally, to the firing of the finished product. Spend the night at your hotel.

Day 11 – Zagora – Marrakech

Return to Marrakech. Half-day free in Marrakech. Spend night in your hotel.

Day 12 – Marrakech

Free day in Marrakech.

Day 13 – Marrakech

Free day in Marrakech.

Day 14 – Depart Marrakech

Depart from Marrakech International Airport.

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

\$2,150.00 USD total package cost: 1 person, 3-star hotel in Marrakech and Zagora

\$2,300.00 USD total package cost: 1 person, 4-star hotel in Marrakech and Zagora

\$100.00 USD supplement added to 4-star hotel package price for riad accommodations in Marrakech **only**

\$2,300.00 USD total package cost: 2 people, dbl. occ., w/1 room, 3-star hotel in Marrakech and Zagora

\$2,500.00 USD total package cost: 2 people, dbl. occ., w/1 room, 4-star hotel in Marrakech and Zagora

\$100.00 USD supplement added to 4-star hotel package price for riad accommodations in Marrakech **only**

For a 3rd person add **\$350.00 USD total**

\$4,650.00 USD total package cost: 4 people, dbl. occ., w/2 rooms, 3-star hotel in Marrakech and Zagora
\$4,850.00 USD total package cost: 4 people, dbl. occ., w/2 rooms, 4-star hotel in Marrakech and Zagora
\$200.00 USD supplement added to 4-star hotel package price for riad accommodations in Marrakech **only**
For a 5th person add **\$350.00 USD total**

\$6,285.00 USD total package cost: 6 people, dbl. occ., w/3 rooms, 3-star hotel in Marrakech and Zagora
\$6,660.00 USD total package cost: 6 people, dbl. occ., w/3 rooms, 4-star hotel in Marrakech and Zagora
\$400.00 USD supplement added to 4-star hotel package price for riad accommodations in Marrakech **only**

DAY 5 OPTION FOR SMALL GROUPS OF 6 OR LESS ONLY: Instead of returning directly to Zagora, a 4x4 will meet you and transport you through the Sahara to the large sand dunes at ERG CHIGAGA where you can spend the day. The distance round trip is approximately 70 miles. **ADDITIONAL FEE: \$235.00 USD for 4x4; driver, picnic lunch and fuel included.**

**LARGE PRIVATE GROUPS MUST SUPPLY THEIR OWN SLEEPING BAGS
FOR GROUPS OF 7 PERSONS OR MORE, GROUPS RATES WILL APPLY:**

NOTE: For groups larger than 12 people, transportation will be by MINI-BUS; riad accommodations are not available for large groups and large groups can only choose 3 or 4-star hotel accommodations.

7-20 PEOPLE TOTAL

\$1,350.00 USD TOTAL PER PERSON, dbl. occ. w/3-star hotel in Marrakech and Zagora
\$1,550.00 USD TOTAL PER PERSON, dbl. occ. w/4-star hotel in Marrakech and Zagora

20 and above PEOPLE TOTAL

\$850.00 USD TOTAL PER PERSON, dbl. occ. w/3-star hotel in Marrakech and Zagora
\$1,150.00 USD TOTAL PER PERSON, dbl. occ. w/4-star hotel in Marrakech and Zagora

The prices for camel treks include:

All 3 or 4-star hotel accommodations in Marrakech and Zagora
Airport transfers
Transportation to/from Marrakech by TOYOYTA LAND CRUISER 4x4s
All food and drinking water while on the camel trek
All camping equipment EXCEPT sleeping bags for PRIVATE groups of 7 or more
All camels for you and your baggage
Breakfast and dinner during hotel stays
Your camel driver(s)/guide(s)
All desert 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 a camel trek:

Airline costs or any transportation costs not provided by Berber Tours
Your lunch unless provided by Berber Tours
Any additional guide service or any entrance fees
Incidentals such as soft drinks, beer or wine with meals, personal purchases or tips.

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 any 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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