

WELCOME TO MOROCCO

## TRAVEL EXPLORATION 3- DAY HIGH ATLAS TICHKA TOUR



### MARRAKECH - HIGH ATLAS TICHKA- OUARZAZATE

Travel Exploration is an agency and transport company that offers tours to Morocco for the independent traveler, groups and families. We specialize in tailor-made Tours to Morocco with a distinctly authentic Moroccan flavor. Travel Exploration

Morocco provides unique itineraries that offer an unparalleled diversity of travel and terrain through a people that are naturally hospitable, warm and friendly. When planning a tour to Morocco, you can count on Travel

Exploration's benefits of an Anglo-Moroccan partnership: You will *journey and Discover the REAL MOROCCO* on this 3 Day Excursion from Marrakech through the High Atlas Mountains to Ouarzazate.

**MARHABA- WELCOME**



LE PETIT RIAD



STUDIOS CINEMA



HIGH ATLAS TICHKA

# 3 - Day Tour Itinerary

## DAY 1: MARRAKECH-OUARZAZATE

► After breakfast depart from **Marrakech** and drive through the **High Atlas Mountains**, the **largest mountain** chain in **North Africa** that is an ideal place for anyone who enjoys **hiking, mountain climbing** or breathtaking natural scenery.

► Heading south of Marrakesh you will pass **Ait Ourir**, a **charming Berber village** where you can stop to take pictures of the Atlas foothills.

► During your journey to **Southern Morocco** you will also pass the olive groves of the Oued Zat, as you ascend onto the **Tizi-N-Tichka Pass** Road. Built by the French in the 1920's, the **Tizi-N-Tichka Pass** can be described as having mountainous barriers, Mediterranean and oceanic influences and desert borders.

► Along the route you will see **panoramic views** of the **High Atlas Mountains** as well as sights of **fertile valleys, blue and red colored pise villages** and other striking mineral environments. The higher up you drive you will notice the mountains becoming more rounded and the crops turning into bare red soil.

► For lunch we will stop in the village of **Tadart** where you will dine in a local **restaurant** with **incredible views** and enjoy a **tajine** made with fresh local **olive oil** or grilled meat.

► After lunch you will continue the road toward Ouarzazate passing the

town of Amerzgane where ruined **Kasbah Telouet** sits. Once home to the **Pasha El Glaoui**, the **Kasbah Telouet** has a rich history that is intertwined with the French and is located in a fertile valley surrounded by palm, fig and olive trees. We will make a short stop at the kasbah for a brief tour whereby you can see the kasbah's painted wooden ceiling and low level corridors leading to two well preserved **Andalusian style** reception rooms engraved with stuccowork and **colorful zellij tilework**.

► Afterwards, we will go directly to Ouarzazate where you will unpack at your riad.

► Visit Spices Maria and get a Rose Water Massage.

► Spend the night in Ouarzazate.

## DAY 2: OUARZAZATE

► After breakfast at your hotel, we will depart **Ouarzazate** and take the pise (windy road) towards the **Oasis of Fint** passing the "**Plateau de pierres**".

► On this road you will find a shining **Oasis of palms**. Visit this **Oasis of Fint** that hovers under the Atlas Mountains. Journey on a one-hour walk inside the Oasis where you will have a **cup of tea** with the **headmaster's family Azziz Ouaziz** and tour the surrounding area where **date palm oases** and **dramatic desert scenery** are king.

## EXPLORE



AIT BENHADDOU



KASBAH TAOUIRIT



OASIS PALMARY



LAKE AMANSOR

# 3 - Day Tour Itinerary

## DAY 2: OUARZAZATE CONT'D

► After visiting the **Oasis of Fint** we will take the road to **Kasbah Tifouloute** which stands majestically on the banks of **Oued Tifouloute**. From a distance this old Kasbah is impressive with its castle-like architecture. In the 1960's the Kasbah was converted into a hotel for the cast of **Lawrence of Arabia**. Tour the Kasbah and have lunch at its restaurant which is known for delicious mint and herb teas. See **panoramic views** from the rooftop.

► After lunch, continue your tour by heading to the picturesque village of **Ait Benhaddou**. Ait Benhaddou is situated in **Souss-Massa-Draâ** on a hill along the **Ouarzazate River** and was once a significant stop for traders carrying gold, salt and slaves along the famous **Southern Caravan** route moving through the Sahara. **Lawrence of Arabia** was filmed here and **Orson Welles** used it as a location for **Sodom and Gomorrah**; and for **Jesus of Nazareth** the whole lower part of the village was rebuilt. In recent years more controlled restoration has been carried out under **UNESCO** auspices.

► Your guide will lead you on a **private tour** through this **Berber village** of towered and **crenulated kasbahs** that once guarded the lucrative caravan route through the Atlas Mountains. Explore the kasbahs by foot with the option to **ride a donkey across a river**.

► Dinner in the city center. Spend the night in Ouarzazate.

## DAY 2: OUARZAZATE - MARRAKECH

► After breakfast, visit the **Atlas Film Studios**. The studios are flanked by **Hollywood style Egyptian** figures and cover 30,000 sq m of desert. **David Lean** filmed **Lawrence of Arabia** at The Atlas Film Studios in the early 1960's.

► Since then many famous directors have followed in his footsteps to exploit the magnificent scenery. International blockbusters shot here in recent years include: the French version of **Cleopatra**, Bertolucci's **Sheltering Sky**, Scorsese's **Kundun**, Gillies MacKannon's **Hideous Kinky**, Ridley Scott's **Gladiator**, **Black Hawk Down**, Oliver Stone's **Alexander The Great**, Ridley Scott's **Kingdom of Heaven**, and Penelope Cruz's **Sahara**. Most of the **filming** takes place in the desert in the south however you can view the Tibetan **monastery** featured in Scorsese's **Kundun** and an Egyptian temple from **Cleopatra**.

► Have lunch in **Ouarzazate** then take the road back to Marrakech.

► Arrive in Marrakech in the early evening.

## DISCOVER



PLEATEAU DE PIERRES



OASIS OF FINT



KASBAH TIFOULTOUTE



ATLAS FILM STUDIOS

# Travel Exploration Payment & Tour Details

## **PRICE PAID TO TRAVEL EXPLORATION:**

The land price for 1-2 People for the **3 Day private tour** with one expert Travel Exploration – qualified driver / guide is: **925 Euros (\$1340.00 USA Dollars) (10,500 Moroccan DHS)**

## **INCLUDED IN LAND PACKAGE:**

1- 2 Person Excursion for a 3 day tour to High Atlas Tichka, Ouarzazate.

-Air-conditioned/ Heated Landcruiser with driver and fuel.

-One expert Travel Exploration-qualified driver.

- The services of our New York/ Morocco office and 24/7 emergency contact. The enthusiasm, expertise & care of the leading travel specialists to Morocco.

### **Not included:**

Airfare and accomodations not included.

Gratuities.

Meals (Not included)

Services on days or evenings at leisure.

THE ABOVE ITINERARY IS ONLY A PROPOSAL.ALL ARRANGEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. YOUR RESERVATIONS ARE PLACED AND ARRANGEMENTS CONFIRMED ONLY UPON RECEIPT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT AND THE RETURN OF YOUR FULLY COMPLETED RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM (ONE COPY PER PERSON)

Clients within the US: Payment is accepted by Visa, MasterCard,American Express, personal check or wire

transfer. Payment within 15 days of departure must be by Visa, MasterCard,American Express, wire transfer or certified bank check in US funds.

### **Driving times:**

Please note that all driving times are for the driving times only.You must add any time for breaks along the road or for unanticipated delays.

### **Insurance:**

We strongly recommend that all clients purchase acomprehensive travel package, including trip cancellation protection and emergency medical evacuation.

### **Navigating the World of Riads:**

Living a few days in a palace or mansion in the heart of a medina is an experience that will stay with you for the rest of your life.A great number of riads have opened in recent years. There are many with which we will not work; we select the very best so that our clients might have a truly exceptional experience. Each room is different; your room will not be identical to that of other guests. Because rooms surround a courtyard, quite often they are very shallow in depth and they are quite often dark. There are no elevators and stairs can be steep. Let us know if you would prefer a room on the ground floor.The word “suite” is often used with creative license in Morocco.Suites often indicate a room that is more spacious than a standard room, usually with small living area, more along the lines of a junior suite. Management and service are more casual and laid-back than a five-star resort. Your hosts will hopefully embody the finest of Moroccan hospitality, but may not speak great English. Room service may not be available.The full Moroccan experience a riad offers may exclude a TV and telephone in your room. Breakfasts may be continental.Yet the rewards are immense.You will never forget walking through the chaos of the medina down a small alley for your first time, opening an immense 18th

century cedar door to find a lush oasis of calm surrounding your garden and the beautiful Moroccan architecture of your home. In a riad, one can feel the heartbeat of a country.

### **The Travel Exploration Experience:**

The sights we list in your itinerary are the “highlights” of a certain city or region.The order in which they appear is not necessarily the order in which you will visit them. Due to weather or other factors beyond our control, your guide might suggest minor changes based on his or her judgment as to what makes the most sense for you.A city or a region is a whole experience. “Monuments” or “museums” are often best understood as an introduction or starting point. By no means should you feel obligated to visit all of the sights listed if you feel your time is better spent doing other things. Likewise, do not feel constrained to visit only those sights listed.This is your vacation; private travel with your own guide gives you countless opportunities otherwise not available to you.We encourage you, with the help of your guide, to be spontaneous, to follow your interests and to explore Morocco to your heart’s content.

**Travel Exploration requires a formal reservation and a 100% non refundable deposit prior to travel. Gratuity is appreciated but not required.**



# TRAVELING IN MOROCCO WHAT TO BRING



In preparation for your Moroccan adventure, the following is a list of things to consider packing that will make your trip as smooth and comfortable as possible.

## **Pre-departure Essentials**

- ▶ Personal Identification (drivers license)
- ▶ Passport and visa if required
- ▶ Airline Tickets
- ▶ Traveller's Checks
- ▶ Credit Cards
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Health Documentation
- ▶ Emergency Information
- ▶ Guide books & maps
- ▶ Photocopies of Documentation: (passport and tickets). You can also scan these, upload them to the internet and email them to yourself. Internet access is widely available in all major cities and most small ones in Morocco).

## **Medicines**

While no shots are required to enter Morocco, it is recommended that you come prepared with a personal medical kit, as you do not to spend time looking for a pharmacy and risk that they do not carry what you need. Morocco does have French pharmaceutical shops widely available throughout the country in all major cities and many villages therefore if basic things such as cold medicine, Imodium, allergy creams or over the counter medicine is needed you can visit one of them. Depending on your health condition, you may want to consult with your doctor before your trip. The climate in Morocco is diverse and different from what travelers are used to, so come prepared with the following:

- ▶ Antibiotic for traveler's diarrhoea
- ▶ Antibiotic cream & disinfectant for scrapes and cuts
- ▶ Band-Aids
- ▶ Disposable antibacterial wipes or cleanser
- ▶ Pepto-Bismol or Imodium for traveller's diarrhoea.
- ▶ Insect repellent with DEET 30%
- ▶ Iodine purifying tablets
- ▶ Re-hydration tablets
- ▶ Aspirin, Tylenol or other Pain relievers

- ▶ Skin Lotion (especially for Eczema)
- ▶ Salt tablets
- ▶ Sunscreen (SPF 30)
- ▶ Motion sickness medicine
- ▶ Cold medicine: Decongestant, antihistamine, cough syrup
- ▶ Aspirin, Tylenol or other Pain relievers
- ▶ Skin Lotion (especially for Eczema)-Sunglasses (or prescription glasses/ contact lenses, and solution)-Hydrocortisone cream

## **Toiletries**

- ▶ Feminine hygiene products (tampons, etc.)
- ▶ Hairbrush
- ▶ Shampoo, Conditioner
- ▶ Soap
- ▶ Shaving Cream, razor
- ▶ Toilet paper/ Mini-Tissues (12 pack)
- ▶ Tooth brush, tooth paste

## **Travel Clothing**

- ▶ Conservative clothing is worn throughout Morocco (clothes should not be tight or too revealing)
- ▶ Bathing suit (for beach resorts, hotel)
- ▶ Brimmed Hat, Visor, Hat, headscarf
- ▶ Long skirts, dresses or pants (for women)
- ▶ For summer: light weigh clohting
- ▶ Windbreaker or warm sweater for cooler months and desert cool air.
- ▶ Travel Footwear: broken in sneakers or hiking shoes, sandals, socks.

## **Electronics**

- ▶ Camera & Film (Kodak and Fuji is easy to find in Morocco but expensive)
  - ▶ Video Camera & Tapes
- ▶ Extra Camera Batteries
- ▶ International Electrical plug adapter and or converter
- ▶ Travel Alarm
- ▶ Flashlight / extra bulbs