

MARRAKECH TO THE DESERT · MOROCCO

Marrakech and the desert: from the Atlas to the Erg Chebbi *dunes*

Five days are enough to cross Morocco: from the bustle of Marrakech to the silence of Erg Chebbi, with the Atlas and the kasbahs in between.

DURATION

5 days / 4 nights

DESIGNED BY

Sergio García

TRIP STYLE

Grupo reducido

FROM

430 €

— THE CHARACTER OF THE TRIP

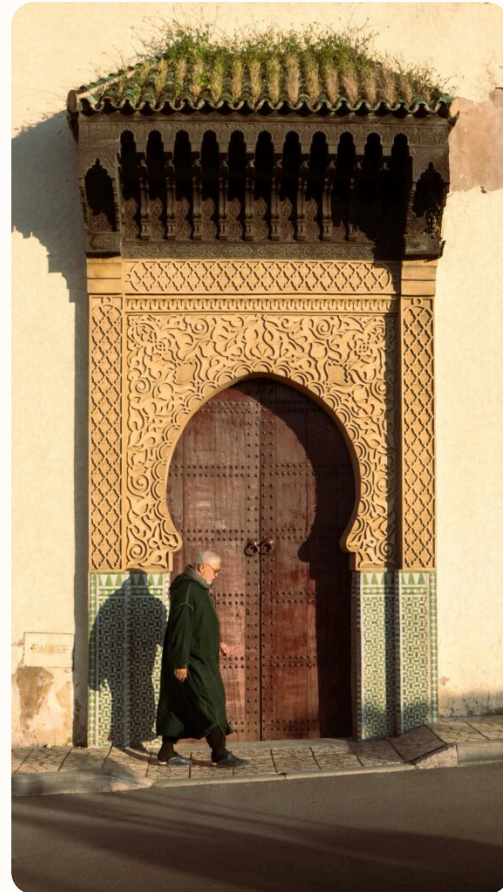
From Marrakech to the *desert*

The route from Marrakech to the desert takes five days, and there is time for more than you might think. You leave the red city, cross the High Atlas over the Tichka pass — at 2,260 metres — and head south, where the green of the palm groves gives way to the ochre of the mud-brick kasbahs. Along the way come Aït Ben Haddou, the Todra Gorge and the Dades Valley, until you reach the Erg Chebbi dunes to spend a night in a camp.

It is a **small-group** trip, with a Spanish-speaking guide and a private minibus. The first day is for arriving and getting a feel for Marrakech; the main part of the route begins early the next morning, to make the most of the light and the stops.

This is not a trip about racking up kilometres for the sake of it: each stretch ends where it should — a valley, a gorge, a dune — and the highlight, the night in the desert, is enjoyed calmly: a camel ride at sunset, a Berber dinner and the stars.

Five days are enough to cross Morocco from the inside: from the bustle of Marrakech to the silence of Erg Chebbi, with the Atlas and the kasbahs in between.



This trip is for you if...

- ✓ You have only a few days and want to really see the desert.
- ✓ You prefer a small group and a Spanish-speaking guide.
- ✓ You want to sleep in a tent among the dunes.
- ✓ You value staying in riads inside the medina.

THE TRIP AT A GLANCE

The essentials, at a *glance*.

Small-group departure, with a Spanish-speaking guide and a night in the desert.

 DURATION 5 days / 4 nights	 TRIP STYLE Grupo reducido
 GROUP SIZE 2–10 viajeros	 ACTIVITY LEVEL Suave
 ACCOMMODATION Characterful riads · desert camp	 BEST TIME TO TRAVEL March — May · Sep — Nov
 PRICE 430 €	 DATES Dates on request
 INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS Flights and travel to Marrakech are not included.	 ROUTE Marrakech · Dades · Sáhara · Atlas

— THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRIP

Moments you will *remember*.



01 • Atlas

Tichka pass (2,260 m)

Cross the High Atlas on one of the most spectacular roads in Morocco, stopping to photograph the valleys and the first Berber mud-brick villages.



02 • Atlas

Aït Ben Haddou

Visit the best-preserved mud-brick ksar in the country, a World Heritage site and the setting for dozens of films. You cross the fortified village on foot up to...



03 • Todra

Todra Gorge

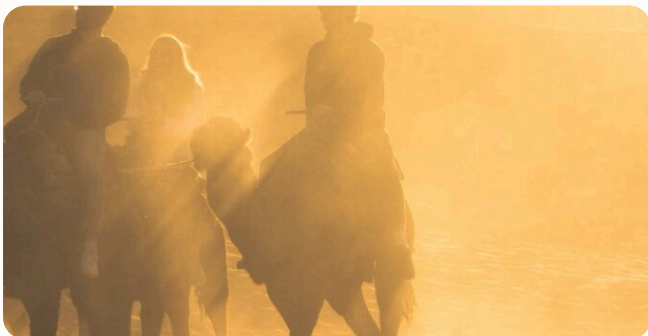
Walk along the floor of a canyon with towering walls, at 1,350 metres, surrounded by palm groves, with the river running between the rocks.



04 • Merzouga

A night in a tent at Erg Chebbi

Reach the dunes by camel at sunset, have dinner to the rhythm of Berber drums and sleep in a camp under a sky full of stars.



05 • Merzouga

Sunrise over the dunes

Get up early to watch the sun rise over Erg Chebbi, one of those sunrises few places offer like this. Silence, sand and colour.



06 • Marrakech

Jemaa el-Fna

A first taste of Marrakech's liveliest square: food stalls, storytellers, music and games as evening falls and everything lights up.

— MAP AND ROUTE

The route, stage by *stage*.

1

MARRAKECH • DÍA 1

Arrival in Marrakech

Pick-up at the airport — or anywhere in Marrakech — at whatever time suits you, with an agency...

2

DADES • DÍA 2

Marrakech, the Atlas and the Dades Valley

Early departure with the guide. We cross the High Atlas over the Tichka pass, at 2,260 metres, with...

3

SÁHARA • DÍA 3

From the Dades to the Erg Chebbi desert

After breakfast we head down through Boumalne Dades, a road dotted with ochre and mauve kasbahs and ksour....

4

ATLAS • DÍA 4

From the desert back to Marrakech

If you like, you can get up early to watch the sunrise from the dunes — it is...

5

MARRAKECH • DÍA 5

Marrakech and airport transfer

Depending on your flight time, a free morning for last visits and shopping. On day 5 there is...

STAGE 1 • MARRAKECH • DÍA 1

Marrakech

DAY MARRAKECH

01 Arrival in Marrakech

Pick-up at the airport — or anywhere in Marrakech — at whatever time suits you, with an agency sign, and transfer to the riad. There are no activities on the first day: it is free for a first contact with the city. A good time to head to Jemaa el-Fna square, with its food stalls, storytellers, music and games as evening falls. Night in a charming riad in the medina.

📍 Jemaa el-Fna square

📍 Riad BB

— None included

🚗 Airport transfer

🕒 The tour starts on day 2 at 8:00 with the rest of the group, so you can arrive in Marrakech at any time on the first day.

STAGE 2 • DADES • DÍA 2

Dades

DAY DADES

02 Marrakech, the Atlas and the Dades Valley

Early departure with the guide. We cross the High Atlas over the Tichka pass, at 2,260 metres, with stops for the views: one of the most impressive roads in the country, where the green of Marrakech gives way to the dry south. We take a detour to the kasbah of Aït Ben Haddou, a World Heritage mud-brick ksar. We pass Ouarzazate, the “gateway to the desert”, the palm grove of Skoura and the Valley of the Roses until we reach the Dades Valley, surrounded by mountains, where we have dinner and spend the night.

📍 Tichka pass

📍 Aït Ben Haddou

📍 Riad Gabsi Dades

— Breakfast • dinner

🚗 Drive ~7 h

STAGE 3 • SÁHARA • DÍA 3

Sáhara

DAY MERZOUGA

03 From the Dades to the Erg Chebbi desert

After breakfast we head down through Boumalne Dades, a road dotted with ochre and mauve kasbahs and ksour. Between oases and palm trees we reach Tinghir and the Todra Gorge, at 1,350 metres, set within the palm grove. We continue to Erfoud, the city of fossils, and along a stretch of tracks to Merzouga, facing the Erg Chebbi dunes. There we swap the vehicle for camels, which take us to the camp. Night in a tent, dinner to the rhythm of Berber drums and a sky full of thousands of stars.

📍 Todra Gorge

📍 Camels and a night in a tent

📍 The Desert Palace

— Breakfast • dinner

🚗 Drive ~5 h + camels

🕒 Large luggage stays in the vehicle; for the night at the camp a small bag is enough.

— STAGE 4 • ATLAS • DÍA 4

Atlas

DAY MARRAKECH

04 From the desert back to Marrakech

If you like, you can get up early to watch the sunrise from the dunes — it is worth it. After breakfast we say goodbye to the desert and ride back by camel to the vehicle to continue the route to Marrakech, this time via Alnif and Ouarzazate. We stop at the mud-brick kasbahs and Berber villages that dot the way, and at the valley's geological formations. Arrival in Marrakech in the afternoon and transfer to the riad to rest or carry on sightseeing.

📍 Sunrise at Erg Chebbi

📍 Riad BB

— Breakfast

🚗 Drive ~9 h

— STAGE 5 • MARRAKECH • DÍA 5

Marrakech

DAY MARRAKECH

05 Marrakech and airport transfer

Depending on your flight time, a free morning for last visits and shopping. On day 5 there is a short tour of central Marrakech with a local guide, from 9:00 to 11:00, so an afternoon departure is recommended to make the most of it. At the agreed time, transfer to the airport. The end of the trip — or the start of the next one, if you stay a few more days in the city.

— Breakfast

☞ Airport transfer

🕒 On day 5 there is a tour of the centre from 9:00 to 11:00; if you can, choose an afternoon flight (from 14:00) to make the most of it.

— WHERE YOU WILL SLEEP

Accommodation chosen with *care*.



MARRAKECH

Riad BB

Riad in the medina

A charming riad in the medina, your base for the first and last nights.



DADES

Riad Gabsi Dades

Mountain riad

A stop in the Dades Valley, surrounded by mountains, with dinner included.



SÁHARA

The Desert Palace

Desert camp

Tents in the heart of Erg Chebbi, with a Berber dinner and the dunes on your doorstep for sunrise.



Final accommodation is subject to availability. If it changes, we will propose an equivalent alternative.

— CLEAR CONDITIONS

What is included and what is *not*.



The trip includes

- ✓ Arrival and departure transfers in Marrakech (airport or station).
- ✓ Private air-conditioned minibus for the whole group.
- ✓ Fuel, tolls and all transport costs.
- ✓ Spanish-speaking tour guide throughout the route.
- ✓ 4 nights of accommodation with 4 breakfasts and 2 dinners.
- ✓ Camel ride to the camp (one per person).
- ✓ One night in a desert tent camp.
- ✓ Berber party in the dunes and a private room in each place you stay.



Not included

- ✗ Flights
- ✗ Dinners in Marrakech.
- ✗ All drinks.
- ✗ Entrance fees to monuments
- ✗ Lunches
- ✗ Personal expenses not specified



Flights and travel to Marrakech are not included.

— PRICE, DATES AND PERSONALISATION

A transparent *price*.

FROM

430 €

per person, in a double room.

Updated **4 October 2026**. Flights and travel to Marrakech are not included.

DATES ON REQUEST

Dates

Your choice

Trip style

Grupo reducido

Group size

2—10 viajeros

Status

● Disponible

Tell us which month you have in mind

Condiciones

This dossier is for information only. Check the website for the latest version of the trip.

— WHO DESIGNS THE TRIP

Behind the route, a *person*.



TEAM UKIYO

Sergio García

Sergio co-founded UKIYO with Víctor and Helena. A backpacker before he was a travel agent, he designs routes with the judgement of someone who has walked them: he knows which early start is worth it, where to stay an extra night and which long drive feels short because of the scenery. UKIYO was born from one non-negotiable principle — to organise only trips its team knows first-hand — and this route from Marrakech to the desert follows that rule: the Atlas, the kasbahs of the south, the Todra Gorge and a real night at Erg Chebbi, in five well-measured days. He likes what is authentic and mindful, far from the crowds and close to what matters.

“You do not see the desert in passing: you sleep in it. That is why this route keeps a whole night for Erg Chebbi, camel and stars included.”

SPECIALISM

Route design

LANGUAGES

ES

PROFILE

Spain

— PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Before you *decide*.

P. Is it a group or a private trip?

It is a small-group trip: you share the route and the minibus with a small group (up to about ten people), with a Spanish-speaking guide. Transport, the included dinners and the night at the camp are for the whole group.

P. Where does the route start and finish?

It starts and finishes in Marrakech. We pick you up on the first day at the airport — or wherever you are in the city — and take you back on the last day. It is a circular route: you head down to the desert and return by a different road.

P. What time do I need to arrive on the first day?

Whenever you like. The first day is only for arriving and transferring to the riad, with no activities. The tour starts on day 2 at 8:00 with the rest of the group, so any flight time on the first day works.

P. What is the night in the desert like?

You ride into the Erg Chebbi dunes by camel at sunset and sleep in a tent camp. There is a Berber dinner to the rhythm of drums and, at sunrise, the dunes are almost empty. One night, the most special of the trip.

P. Which meals are included?

All four breakfasts and two dinners: one in the Dades Valley and one at the desert camp. Dinners in Marrakech and all lunches are extra, so you can choose where and what to eat.

P. Does the price include flights?

No. The price is from €430 per person in a double room and includes the route, accommodation and everything listed. Flights and travel to Marrakech are extra; if you travel alone, there is a single supplement.

P. What documents do I need?

Spanish citizens and those of most EU countries can enter Morocco with a valid passport and no visa for short tourist stays. A minimum validity of six months is recommended. Always check the requirements for your nationality before travelling.

P. When is the best time to go?

Spring (March—May) and autumn (September—November) are the best seasons: mild days and bearable nights in the desert. Summer is very hot in the south and winter makes nights in the Sahara very cold, although the days are still pleasant.

P. Do you visit any World Heritage sites?

Yes. The main stop is the mud-brick ksar of Aït Ben Haddou (whc.unesco.org), a World Heritage site and the setting for films such as “Gladiator”. A fortified adobe village that you cross on foot up to the top.

P. Can I add nights or excursions?

Yes. You can add extra nights in Marrakech (riad with breakfast and airport transfer) and activities such as quad bikes, buggies or day trips to Ouzoud, Ourika or Essaouira. Let us know and we will arrange it.

LET US START TOGETHER

Shall we make it *happen?*

Tell us your dates, your pace and what you would like to find. We will review the route with you and prepare a clear, personalised proposal.



See the trip online

viajesukiyo.com/en/viajes/marrakech-to-desert-route-5-days

Scan the code to open the trip page with up-to-date price, dates and availability.

WHATSAPP

+34 626 912 673

EMAIL

sergio@viajesukiyo.com

INSTAGRAM

[@viajes.ukiyo](https://www.instagram.com/viajes.ukiyo)

UKIYO

This dossier is for information only. Check the website for the latest version of the trip.

Dossier · Updated 4 Oct 2026 · viajesukiyo.com/en/viajes/marrakech-to-desert-route-5-days