

Photographic Workshop in Morocco



Highlights

Brimming with contrast, colour and dreamscape desert light, Morocco is a photographer's dream! Led by an expert guide, this six-day photographic workshop takes you across the Kingdom on a quest for photographic gold!

From the faded charm of colonial Tangier to the mazy medinas of Marrakesh, Morocco boasts some of the world's most captivating travel destinations. It's also one of the most diverse countries you're likely to come across. Among the many stunning landscapes are the Sahara desert to the south, the mighty Rif and Atlas mountains to the north and almost 2,000km of glorious coastline, while on the culture front you'll find a heady blend of African, European and Middle Eastern influences. Add to this windswept desert fortresses, lush river valleys and ancient Berber villages and you have the makings of a seriously atmospheric holiday!

This six-day small group (max 8 people) photographic workshop is an awesome introduction to this captivating country! Beginning and ending in Marrakech, your road trip takes you via the High Atlas Mountains and palm-lined Draa River Valley to Zagora and the desert beyond! En route, you'll pass ancient Berber villages and mighty desert kasbahs (fortresses), stop at a sacred water oasis and visit the famous Koran library at Tamegroute! Your pro-photographer guide will be on hand at all times to advise you on everything from filters to flashes, lighting to lenses. Rest assured, there'll be no shortage of inspiration; the salt plains, scorched sands and lush river valleys provide the perfect testing ground for your newfound skills!

Is it for me?

This photographic workshop is much more than just a holiday. Never again will you have to worry about returning from your travels with hundreds of bland and blurry pictures – on this trip you'll learn skills that last a lifetime! A photographic safari is best suited to those with a genuine interest in taking great shots. Sounds obvious, but remember that photography requires patience, technical mastery and a fair few early starts (dawn is almost always the best time to shoot). As such, you'll get most from this trip if you put in the time and effort it deserves, making full use of your expert guide. No prior experience is necessary, just a resolution: no more boring holiday snaps!

Accommodation

For this tour you'll be based at a combination of inns, nomad tents and luxury hotels. The latter include the Riad Lamane in Zagora, with its period décor and lush gardens, and the Riad Zehar in Marrakech, a charming townhouse in the pretty Mouassine neighbourhood. All accommodation is clean, comfortable and, most importantly, supremely photogenic! There's also some excellent food on offer (breakfasts and dinners are included in the tour price). In addition to Berber dishes made from homegrown ingredients, you'll find hearty couscous and meat dishes liberally flavoured with cinnamon, ginger, coriander and saffron, not to mention tasty tagines, dried and spiced fruits and the guilty pleasure that is halwa (deep-fried dough with hot honey and sesame)!

Itinerary

Day 1: Marrakech

Prices from

849 GBP (6 days) per person

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Greet and meet at the airport and transfer to your Riad. You will be welcomed at the airport by Ben, your photography guide, and your driver. Ben will brief you on the itinerary, after which you will have some time to unpack, unwind and explore your surroundings.

Day 2: Marrakech – Ouarzazate – Zagora

You will be picked up early in the morning and head towards Ouarzazate via the Tichka Pass, the highest road pass in Morocco. This trip will offer you views of the High Atlas Mountains and beautiful scenery peppered by small Berber villages typical of the region. You'll make a stop in Ouarzazate to visit Kasbah Taourirt, the old Gladoui palace residence of the Pasha of Marrakech. Then, en route to Zagora, you will visit the small town of Agdz and impressive Kasbah of Tamnougalt with distinctive wall decorations and tapering towers. You will continue passing the scenic river Draa Valley lined by many palm groves and Sub Saharan Berber villages where life has continued almost unchanged over many centuries.

Day 3: Zagora – Tamengroute – M'hamid – Erg Chigaga

You will depart in the morning toward Tamegroute, which is home to a famous Koran library that contains many rare books and documents. In the library, you will see documents written on gazelle skin that date back to the 13th Century. You will also have a chance to visit the Underground Kasbah and pottery artisans. After that, you will drive to M'Hamid, known as "the doors of the desert," the last town of the Draa River. The palm oasis and the road all dissolve into nothing but sand and rocks as you drive through the sand dunes. You will pay a visit to a small, unique water oasis in the desert – Oasis Sacred. Later in the day, you will arrive at Erg Chigaga, just in time for sunset. At night, you'll sit around the fire, enjoy the starry sky, and listen to local Berbers play their drums.

Day 4: Erg Chigaga – camel trek

You'll rise early to take images of the sun rising over the sand dunes, which gives the sand a beautiful mix of colors. Then, after a leisurely breakfast, you'll saddle your camels and trek over the area, crossing the impressive and surrealistic sea of sand dunes.

Erg Chigaga – Taznakht – Ait Ben Haddou

You will swap your camels for 4x4 vehicles and head on the old Paris-Dakar road to Forum Zguid, crossing Lake Iriki, a dried salt lake bed. You'll stop for lunch in Taznakht, where you can watch local women making handmade Berber carpets. Then you will continue north to arrive at small village by the Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou.

Day 5: AitBen Haddou – Marrakech

Early in the morning, you will visit the UNESCO protected Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou. This Kasbah is one the most impressive and well-preserved fortress cities in Morocco. Built on a hilltop, Ait ben Haddou has been featured as a backdrop for memorable films, including Lawrence of Arabia and Gladiator. The views from the upper heights of the Kasbah are impressive and well worth the required climb through winding, narrow streets. A perfect spot for perfect pictures. After, you'll start heading back toward the Atlas Mountains via the Ounila Valley – an off road that offers unparalleled views of green valleys, river and remarkable colored slopes and hillsides. The region nearby is home to salt mines that produced a substance once as valuable as gold! You'll visit Telouet, a rustic town that was once a principal stop on the main caravan route to Mali. Here you'll visit an amazing relic of Moroccan history, the crumbling Kasbah that was once the palatial residence of the extremely powerful Glaoui family. Then we will cross the Atlas Mountains back to Marrakech.

Day 6: Marrakech

A free morning to wonder the streets of Marrakech then after lunch your airport transfer depending on your time of departure.

Details

Getting there

You will be met from Marrakesh International airport - there are regular flights from the UK and Europe.

Price includes

Included in this price are:

All transport, fuel, tolls, road taxes and fully equipped vehicle for the duration of the trip

Guidance by Ben Pipe and a local guide. Meals as per the itinerary (most days do NOT include Lunch)

All accommodation as per the itinerary. Entrance fees to all National Parks

All activities stated in the itinerary

Not included:

Meals as per itinerary (your guides will make sure that you are close to a restaurant for all lunches)

Flights

Items of personal nature

Travel insurance

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed