Morocco - High Atlas

First, we would like to thank you for your interest in our motorcycle adventures. We hope that riding with us, either in Morocco, Iceland, Nepal or elsewhere will fuel your taste for many more adventures.

In this brochure you'll get some information that you should know before starting your tour in Marrakech.

Riding abilities.

On all our trips are having a positive experience, fun and safety our main goals. You need off-road experience or you have attended an (two-day) off-road course (like Off Road Skills in Wales, or similar). But for sure you don't need to be an expert to join our tours.

You'll need a minimum of 1-2 year experience on your motorcycle and gravel riding experience. This tour is a *level 3 / medium level* on a scale of 5 as maximum.

You need to feel comfortable on asphalt as well as on gravel. Riding passes with narrow switchbacks (paved and gravel) are no problem for you. The off-road part is over 40% of the total distance and we will spend *most time* (not distance) on the unpaved sections. More challenging sections with bigger stones, climbs/descents and riding sand will be part of this adventure.

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The days can be long, depending on many factors (punctures, weather etc.), so you have to be comfortable in most situations in order not to suffer fatigue too quickly. The pace is relaxed, it is not a competition. We are traveling, not racing and will take a break frequently. There will be time enough to take pictures, movies, rest etc. We do want to emphasise that for our off-road tours that you need to be healthy and in a good physical condition. The riding, in combination with the weather can make it challenging en strenuous

ITINERARY.

Day	From:	To:	Accommodation:	Distance (ca.)
1	Home	Marrakech	Luxury hotel	-
2	Marrakech	Skoura	Auberge	290 km
3	Ouarzazate	Gorge du Todra	Auberge	230 km
4	Gorge du Todra	Merzouga	Auberge	320 km
5	Merzouga	Merzouga	Auberge	100 km
6	Merzouga	Nekob	Auberge	300 km
7	Nekob	Ouarzazate	Auberge	320 km
8	Ouarzazate	Marrakech	Luxury hotel	270 km
9	Marrakech	Home	-	-

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There is a lot of variety in our itinerary because we will cross the High Atlas (twice) and ride all the way to the Sahara desert in *Merzouga*.
We will ride as much so-called *piste* (gravel/off-road) as possible. But we will spend some time on (curvy) tarmac as well, because we'll cover a large part of the country. After all it's an *allroad* tour.

We will have a shorter / resting day in *Merzouga* (day 5) where we'll make a day-loop around the sand dunes in the desert. In the afternoon/evening we'll have a guided quad-tour (optional) into the sand dunes to watch the sunset.

Tour package / prices (without rental bike):

Tour package (one rider / own bike / twin room):	€ 2450
Single room supplement	€ 350
Pillion / passenger in support vehicle:	€ 2150

Rental prices motorcycles (added to the tour price)*:

BMW GS	€ 1290
KTM 790/890 ADV	€ 1190
KTM 890 ADV R	€ 1260

* The rental price includes 3rd party insurance and off-road tires.

There is a €1500 / €2000 self-risk on the motorcycles (depending on the type of motorcycle).

Included in package:

- ✓ 9 days holiday with 7 riding days.
- ✓ 8 nights accommodation in hotels and unique (rural) *Auberges* (based on a twin room).
- ✓ All breakfasts (8x) and all dinners (8x).
- ✓ Transfers from/to airport on arrival and departure to/from hotel.
- ✓ Support vehicle with mechanic, and carrying luggage, etc.
- ✓ Very experienced guide & sweeper (when > 6 participants).
- ✓ Garmin inReach satellite emergency tracker and/or satellite phone.

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Not included in package:

- Flight tickets to and from Marrakech, Morocco.
- Travel / Medical insurance (with repatriation) and cancellation insurance.
- (Alcoholic) drinks
- Lunches
- Gasoline
- Personal expenses.
- Single room supplement.
- Guided Quad tour in Merzouga dunes (optional, € 80 p.p. for 2 hours tour)
- Any costs for unforeseen circumstances.

All prices are per person and are subject to change depending on accommodations, rental prices and applicable currency (€/MAD), taxes or VAT.

Accommodations

Each location is chosen for variety and quality, ensuring an eclectic mix and unique experience at the end of each day's riding. It ranges from a luxury 5* hotel to *auberges*, a typical Moroccan inn, based on a twin room. Toilets and a hot shower are always available. Wi-Fi as well, but it can be a bit slow. Even more reason to have a real conversation with one of your riding buddies instead of hanging out on social media ;)

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Food

We only halt our adventure at places to “refuel” where the food is good. Not only the bikes need to be maintained! You’ll sample the best of Moroccan cuisine and eat as the locals do, and indulge yourself with *tagine*, *couscous* or other local delicacies.

Breakfast and dinner are included. Sometimes we have a simple pick-nick along the track as lunch, simply because there is nothing else available because we are in the middle of nowhere.

Additional (alcoholic) beverages you’ll pay yourself. We create a Kitty, a common wallet to make payments as smooth as possible.

Motorcycles / support

We rent excellent prepared BMW and KTM motorbikes for this amazing adventure. These all-rounders are perfect on the asphalt and have no troubles when it’s getting a bit rougher. We have a support vehicle with a mechanic for our luggage and water and snacks.

- Well maintained motorcycles from our partner in Morocco, unlimited mileage and a Moroccan third party insurance*
- Deposit / self-risk € 1500 / € 2000 per bike (by cash or by credit card).

* There is *no* full coverage insurance available for the motorcycles. Some travel insurances cover up to € 2500 / SEK 25 000) self-risk on damage of rental motorcycles (e.g. ERV in Sweden). You are responsible yourself to arrange this.

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Own bike. You are also welcome to join this adventure on your own ADV-motorbike!

Travel / medical insurance(s)
Make sure that your travel insurance covers medical expenses in case of an accident or getting sick and you need to be hospitalised stay longer than expected and/or repatriated back home.

A cancellation insurance is recommended. See our terms & conditions for our cancelations fees.

Luggage
You can bring a big hard suit case for you riding gear. You will get a soft-bag (50 litres) from us to bring your personal clothes during the tour in the support vehicle. The hard suit case/big bag you can leave in the luggage storage of the hotel during the tour.

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Temperature/weather conditions.
The temperature of course always varies. For example in March/April or October/ November, it can be between 10° and 35° Celsius. And it can cool down quite a lot during the nights, especially when up in the mountains. Because of the variety of the terrain that we encounter, it might be colder also during the day when riding up in the mountains. But in the desert, the temperature can go up to 40° degrees during the day.

There is change for rain so bring also (light) rain-gear for the (unlikely) event of rain or for that chilly mornings.
We recommend to bring well ventilated gear with good protecting hard-plastic off-road boots. A thick 3-layer Gore-Tex suit is maybe not the best for this tour.

We highly recommend to bring a back-pack with a re-hydration bladder. You'll loose quite some fluids while riding, and dehydration is not uncommon. It will keep you stay focussed and prevent accidents.

Practical information:

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- ✓ Moroccan Dirhams. You will have the possibility to change money or upon arrival at the airport or take money from an ATM (bring your credit card). You will need cash Dirhams as well for putting money in the Kitty (the common wallet). We will have several possibilities more during our tour. You are not allowed to bring Dirhams out of Morocco.
- ✓ ATM. There are ATM's in the bigger towns. Maker sure you'll have a 4 digits PIN code and money either in Saving or Checking account.
- ✓ Credit Card. Most of them are accepted, but preferable is VISA/Mastercard. But most shops in Morocco take only cash. (Dirham and sometimes Euro's).
- ✓ Phone. Make sure you have an international (roaming) package, otherwise it could become expensive. You can also buy a local sim-card including data, there is a network available almost everywhere.
- ✓ Electricity is EURO 220 V / 50 Hz (plugs type C and E).
- ✓ Internet. We won't have always access to WiFi/internet, but most accommodations do have it nowadays. When staying in remote located *auberges*, it is most likely that it will be slow or non-exiting.
- ✓ Food. The food is good in Morocco, and we will eat in known restaurants with a good reputation. But there is always the chance for travellers-diarrhoea. Bring some medicines that will help when it occurs.
- ✓ Water. Drink only bottled water! We *strongly* recommend to bring a hydration backpack so you'll have access to water all day instead of drinking lots of water in one time during a break.
- ✓ Allergies/medications. Let us know on before hand if you have any allergies, a special dietary food need or are using special medication.

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What to bring?
This is a guide-line and the things that are mandatory to bring are specified.

For riding

- Boots. These are very important, especially for our off-road tours. Boots with a good hard sole (for standing up) and a **hard plastic ankle protection** are a **must** have. It will safe possibly your leg/ankle and therefor your holiday!
- Helmet. Road, system, full face or cross/enduro (with goggles) helmet are all fine. Just make sure you'll have a clear visor and sunglasses. We advise you to bring your helmet with you in the plane as hand-luggage.
- Base-layer/warm clothing. (long) under-wear, fleece or a wind-stopper.
- Rain gear. Light rain jacket/pants accessible at all time (back-pack or tail-bag on the bike).
- Riding gear. Jacket and pants with protection on back, shoulder, elbows and knees. Make sure that it has good *ventilation* possibilities. A full Gore-tex suit can get warm if temperatures go up.
- Gloves. Bring a pair of thin warm-weather gloves and a pair all weather (Gore-Tex) gloves.
- Small hydration backpack. For bringing water while riding and bringing some other small stuff. Another options is a small tail-back, which you strap on the back of the bike.

DO NOT BRING A DRONE! (It will be confiscated at the airport)

What to bring on you?

- ID (passport / EU ID card) and drivers license, money (Dollars/Euros, Moroccan Dirhams), credit card. International Driving Permit is not mandatory.
- Camera / smart phone
- Buff / bandana. To protect against sun and dust
- Hydration back-pack (like a Camelbak, Kriega, Klim, etc.)
- Lip balm with sun protection!
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen

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Clothing and other

- ➢ Most of the time you will be on your motorcycle and wearing you riding gear, so don't bring too much clothing.
- ➢ Non-riding clothing. Bring light and thin clothes and beside a pair of shorts, at least a pair of long trousers.
- ➢ Warm sweater (for the possible chilly evenings)
- ➢ Swimming trunk / bathing clothes.
- ➢ Pair of walking shoes / sandals.
- ➢ Personal toiletry items.

Documents needed

- ✓ Valid passport / EU ID card (**at least 3 months upon entry**).
- ✓ Drivers license (international drivers is not required but suggested for some countries).
- ✓ Insurance (travel/medical) papers including policy number and emergency phone numbers.
- ✓ Medical insurance information (emergency and policy number).
- ✓ Our contact information.
- ✓ Your flight information/tickets.
- ✓ Check your own medical health organisation which vaccinations (like hepatitis A/B, etc.) are recommended for travelling to Morocco.

What to do upon arrival at the airport?

- ➢ Make sure you have all your luggage before leaving the terminal. When luggage is missing, advise the airline and let us know too. You have to pick this up in person (hopefully) the day after.
- ➢ Take out money from a ATM or exchange money. Busy a local (e)sim card?
- ➢ A taxi driver (with an Explore360 sign) will wait for you at the main exit of the airport to pick you up and bring you to the hotel.
- ➢ If you arrive earlier or later, please let us know asap by giving us a call or Whatsapp/SMS to let us know your whereabouts.
- ➢ The hotel we start and finish the tour is Palm Plaza in Marrakech (5* hotel)

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