MOROCCO WOMEN’S ADVENTURE WITH ANNIKA ZIEHEN
Day 1 / Date: 29th October 2021
Marrakech

Meals included: Dinner
Welcome to Marrakech, Morocco. Marrakech is a feast for the senses. Be enticed by the alluring scents and brilliant colours of the spice markets, the sounds of the musicians, the rich folds of carpets, delectable foods, acrobats and perfumed gardens. An arrival transfer is included. If you can’t arrange a flight that will arrive in time, you may wish to arrive a day early. We’ll be happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability). If you’re going to be late, please inform the hotel reception. Your adventure began by welcome meeting with your female tour leader. We'll be collecting your insurance details and next of kin information at this meeting, so please have these on hand.

Tonight, enjoy Moroccan gastronomy at the riad - riads often offer more authentic food than many restaurants so you are going to get a real taste of Morocco.

Group arrival Transfer
• Included on a group basis. If you can’t make the group arrival time, we can book you a private transfer from the airport to the riad for xxx.

Included Activities
• Welcome meeting

Accommodation Riad Luzia or similar

Day 2 / Date: 30th October 2021
Marrakech

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch
Today enjoy hand cooking class at Amal Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to the empowerment of disadvantaged women through restaurant training and job placement. After lunch meet your local guide and set off on a morning tour of the old medina, through the bustling souks that are the lifeblood flowing through the city. Stop by the Koutoubia Mosque; its famous minaret is the prototype for others of its kind around the world, including La Giralda in Seville. Then walk back through the streets of the old medina to the Djemaa el-Fna. The rest of the day is free to explore further or shop in the bazaar.

Included Activities
• Cooking class Amal association
• Guided tour of Marrakech

Accommodation Riad Luzia or similar
Day 3 / Date: 31st October 2021
Ait Benhaddou

Meals included: Breakfast
This morning journey along mountain roads and over Morocco’s highest pass, Tizi n’Tichka (2,260 metres), to Ait Benhaddou on the edges of the Sahara (approximately 6 hours). Perched on a hilltop and almost unchanged since the 11th century, Ait Benhaddou is one of Morocco’s most iconic site. It was once an important stop for caravans passing through as they carried salt across the Sahara, returning with gold, ivory and slaves. Today its grand kasbah has been listed as a World Heritage site, with its fortified village being a fine example of clay architecture. If you think you recognize the place, you probably do, as the town has a long list of film and TV credits, including Lawrence of Arabia, Game of Thrones and Gladiator. Enjoy a walk through the winding streets of old town, making your way to the top of the hill, from where you can enjoy the views across the surrounding plains.

Note from Annika: For those who are keen, we can arrange a little photoshoot during sunset in front of the amazing backdrop of Ait Benhaddou.

Accommodation Kasbah la cigone (standard rooms) or similar

Day 4 / Date: 1st November 2021
Tinghir

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner
Today drive to the beautiful Todra Valley, which follows the foothills of the Atlas Mountains and is dotted with mud-brick villages perched on hillsides. The remarkable scenery – sprawling green valleys and rocks sculpted into stunning formations by the wind – will be your home for the next two nights. This area is best discovering on foot, so you’ll take a short walk through the surrounding farmland and a ruined village.

Note from Annika: We are not going on a hardcore hike, however, you should bring some sturdy shoes you are comfortable walking in.

Accommodation Hotel Tomboctou (standard rooms) or similar

Day 5 / Date: 2nd November 2021
Zagora

Meals included: Breakfast
This morning you'll journey south towards the Sahara specially to Zagora, a small oasis town on the Sahara fringe that is perfect for an overnight stop. Take a stroll through the palm groves, explore the ksars and wander around the surrounding countryside. Afterwards enjoy the famous Hena that is played an integral part of any major festival.

Note from Annika: Today is a day for R&R - our accommodation has a beautiful pool as well as a Hammam and spa onsite. We round up our day with some local henna tattoos.

Included Activities

• Henna Tattoo
Optional Activities
- Atlas Movie Studios - MAD50
- Kasbah Taourirt - MAD20

Accommodation Kasbah Sorocco (standard rooms) or similar

Day 6 / Date: 3\textsuperscript{rd} November 2021

Erg Chigaga

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner
Drive along the rugged and desolate Jbel Tadrart ranges and through seas of sand and past the occasional desert oasis of date palms to the township of Tamegroute. On arrival, visit an intriguing library filled with ancient scripts of science, literature, the Koran, and stories of the prophet Mohammed (subject to unregulated opening times). Afterward, join a local guide to uncover the underground Kasbah. Then carry on driving to the frontier town of M'Hamid (approximately 1 hour). From here, take a short camel ride through the dunes, then jump into 4WD vehicles and drive to the massive Erg Chigaga dunes. Arrive in the late afternoon. Enjoy a night under the stars at your desert camp.

Note from Annika: Today is an absolute highlight for many Morocco travelers. Please take a headscarf to cover up in the sand and the sun when we ride our camels. And don’t worry - the camels here are very well taken care of!

Tonight it is glamping at its best - of course, we can do a photoshoot for sunset and/or sunrise in the desert in front of this stunning backdrop. At night we will watch the stars and I will make sure we have a sundowner to cheers to an amazing adventure!

Included Activities
- Ancient library
- Camel ride
- Sahara Desert - 4WD to Erg Chigaga dunes
- Tamegroute - Underground kasbah guided tour

Accommodation Camp Aladin or similar

Day 7 / Date: 4\textsuperscript{th} November 2021

Taroudant

Meals included: Breakfast
Today re-join the minivan and venture towards the market town of Oulad Brhhil, sometimes called 'Little Marrakesh'. The journey should take around eight hours in total. This drive goes through desert scenery and along a route that’s a reserve for the indigenous argan trees. Argan oil is highly prized for its culinary, cosmetic and medicinal uses and is only produced in Morocco and is certainly a trademark of Morocco around the world. If you’re lucky, the group might come across the famous image of goats climbing these trees in search of nuts. Please note that this is a long travel day, and you won’t arrive at tonight’s accommodation until late afternoon/early evening.

Note from Annika: There are a few trees where people set up a paid photo opportunity with goats in the tree - this is not something that I personally support so we will only stop if we come across some goats in their natural habitat.
Accommodation  Riad Tourkia (standard rooms) or similar

Day 8 / Date: 5th November 2021
Essaouira

Meals included: Breakfast
In the morning, take to the souqs and haggle with local traders for silver jewellery or colourful Moroccan ceramics and mosaics. Afterwards, leave the valleys of the High Atlas Mountains behind and head west to the coastal town of Essaouira (approximately 5 hours). Stop by a Argan cooperative and observe how women prepare the famous Argan oil. The name Essaouira means image, which is appropriate since it's such a picturesque town. Its charm is undeniable; within the stone ramparts you'll find whitewashed houses with bright blue shutters, art galleries and wood workshops. This laidback artists' town is a former Portuguese trading colony and was once home to sizeable British and Jewish populations. The town faces a group of rocky islands, called the Mogador, and is surrounded by an expanse of sandy beaches and dunes. It's still a busy fishing port and its pretty harbour is filled with tiny colourful boats which go out early every morning for the day's catch. Visitors who have been seduced by its charms include Orson Welles and Jimi Hendrix, who (according to local legend) spent much of his time here in the 1960s. More recently, filmmaker Ridley Scott chose the ramparts as an important location for his film, Kingdom of Heaven. As you'll arrive in the early evening, there won't be much time to look around today. In the evening perhaps have some dinner with the group, as the local seafood is as fresh as it gets.

Note from Annika: Essaouira is one of my favorite places in Morocco and perfect for shopping if you deem the souks in Marrakech too hectic. For those who are keen we can organize an amazing seafood dinner (fresh sea urchins anyone?) with an ocean view tonight.

Included Activities
•  Stop by Argan cooperative

Accommodation  Riad Al madina (standard rooms) or similar

Day 9 / Date: 06th November 2021
Essaouira

Meals included: Breakfast
Today, join a local guide for a walking tour through the old medina, Jewish mellah, port and skala (sea wall). Afterwards, use your free time to get under the skin of the town. The narrow streets of Essaouira are ideal for casual exploration. Their size discourages cars, and on walk through the town it feels as though little has changed since the days of sea pirates. The fishing port is a serious commercial operation and there's much fun to be had observing the daily catch and its subsequent auction. A freshly cooked plate of the day's catch is highly recommended. Browse the plentiful shops and intriguing art galleries that make this little town a particularly pleasant place to unwind for a few days. It has a growing reputation for its unique art and is becoming even more famous for its burled Thuya wood, delicately formed and inlaid in tiny shops that are built into the thick walls of the Portuguese ramparts. The scent from the oils used to polish the richly coloured wood permeates the air and makes walking down the streets incredibly pleasant. Afterwards relax, don't miss the opportunity to indulge in a Berber hammam Massage.

Note from Annika: A traditional Berber Hammam is an experience unlike any other. Just go with the flow... afterwards your skin will feel super soft. It is recommend to rest a bit afterward, perfect excuse for a nap!
Included Activities

- Guided walking tour Essaouira
- Berber Hammam massage

**Accommodation** Riad Al madina (standard rooms) or similar

**Day 10 / Date: 7th November 2021**
Marrakech

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch
Use the morning to see the last of Essaouira, before heading back to Marrakech. Stop on your way in Val d’argan vineyard for wine tasting and lunch.

*Note from Annika: If you are keen, let’s head to Cafe de France for sunset - while they don’t serve alcohol, it is the best place in town to watch the sun go down over the Jemaa El Fna.*

Included Activities

- Wine Tasting Val d’argan with lunch

**Accommodation** Riad Ksar saad or similar

**Day 11 / Date: 08th November 2021**
Marrakech

**Meals included:** Breakfast, dinner
Today is at your leisure. Please check with your tour leader the optional activities you could book. Tonight, we enjoy a final farewell dinner at a restaurant in Marrakech.

*Note from Annika: Today is all about you and exploring Marrakech. Feel free to ask me for recommendations if you want to see more sights or go shopping. For those interested, I am happy to organize a trip in the morning to see Jardin Majorelle and the Musee Yves Saint Laurent. Early mornings are the best time to beat the crowds and to do a little photoshoot in front of the famous Majorelle Bleu walls (you can even buy the color to paint your home).*

**Optional Activities**

- Marrakech - Palmery Cycling Tour - MAD350
- Marrakech - Quad Biking the Rock Desert & Palmgrove - MAD715
- Marrakech - A Taste Of Marrakech: Inside the Medina Urban Adventure - MAD605
- Marrakech - Hot Air Ballooning - MAD2050
- Marrakech - Luxury Spa Hammam & Massage - MAD750
- Guided tour Marrakech secret shopping
- Marrakech - Magical Marrakech City Cycling Tour - MAD350
- Marrakech - Ourika Valley Day Tour - MAD1817
- Marrakech - Oukaimeden Day Tour - MAD1882
• Marrakech - Cascades d’Ouzoud Day Tour - MAD2207

**Accommodation** Riad Ksar saad or similar

**Day 12 / Date: 09th November 2021**

**Marrakech**

**Meals included:** Breakfast
Your trip ends today after breakfast. Check-out time is usually around midday and you are free to leave at any time. Additional accommodation can be pre-booked if you wish to spend more time exploring here. Speak to your leader about the wealth of extra activities to do around Marrakech. Group transfer to Marrakech airport is confirmed.

**Group Departure Transfer** Included on a group basis

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**Trip Cost & What’s Included**

**Leader/Guide**
1 English speaking **Female tour leader**
Local guides in Marrakech, and Essaouira

**Meals/drinks**
11 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners.

**Accommodation**
Hotel 3 nights
Riad 7 night
Camping 1 night

**Included Activities**
As per the itinerary, including entrance fees where applicable.

**Transport**
Arrival and departure transfers on a group basis
Private vehicle
4*4 vehicle

**Assistance**
24-hour support from our local office

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**Trip Cost**
Per person:

**EUR 1’650.00**

**Single Supplement** – **Compulsory for all single rooms**

**EUR 435.00**

* **Single supplement is not available at Desert camp**

Deposit required
**EUR 275.00 pp** – Balance due 8 weeks before departure.

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**Exclusions:**
• International arrival/departure flights
• International airport departure tax
• Tour guide for free time or days
• Optional activities
• Any visas required
• Services not mentioned in the itinerary
• Early check in or late check out at hotels
• Meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary
• Tips for leaders, guide and driver
• Expenditure of personal nature
• Personal Insurance

Problems and emergency contact information

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local representative straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader/local partner may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction - if this is the case, please ask the leader to speak to their direct manager.

You may also choose to provide details in your online feedback, which we ask you to complete within 30 days of the end of your trip. Please do be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is completed, so informing us while still travelling will give us the opportunity to resolve the issue in real-time.

In case of a genuine crisis or emergency, you can reach our local office on the number below:

For general contact details please use the following page: http://www.intrepidtravel.com/ourtrips/contact/

Intrepid’s Local Operator: +212 661922693

Passport and visas

PASSPORT
You will need a valid passport to travel internationally. As a general rule, most countries require that your passport has a minimum of 6 months validity remaining. Your passport details are required to complete your booking. Please ensure the name on your passport matches the name on your booking and airline tickets exactly and contact us immediately if there are any errors. We recommend taking copies of the main passport pages and other important documents with you as well as leave copies at home with family or friends.

VISAS
Visas are the responsibility of the individual traveller. Entry requirements can change at any time. It is important that you check your government’s foreign travel advisories along with the consular website of the country or countries you are travelling to for the most up to date information specific to your nationality and circumstances. Please be aware that not all visa information found online from other sources may be valid while COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

Visas can take several weeks to process, so make sure you research the requirements as soon as you have booked your trip to allow for obtaining any necessary documents as well as the application and processing time. Your booking consultant can advise on a visa processing service or you can apply yourself directly through a consulate.

Below you will find general visa advice about the destinations on your trip. Due to constantly evolving COVID-19 requirements and restrictions, please refer to your government’s foreign travel advice for most up to date information.

Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians, Americans, EU and British citizens do not require a visa to visit Morocco for stays up to 90 days. All other nationalities should check with the Moroccan Embassy or Consulate in their country for up-to-date visa information.
Medical and health information

GENERAL HEALTH
All travellers need to be in good physical health in order to participate fully on this trip. When selecting your trip please make sure you have read through the itinerary carefully and assess your ability to manage and enjoy our style of travel. Please note that if in the opinion of our group leader or local guide any traveller is unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group, we reserve the right to exclude them from all or part of a trip without refund.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information or for any necessary vaccinations before departure. We recommend that you carry a first aid kit as well as any personal medical requirements as they may not easily be obtained while travelling.

Below you can find some further information about health issues relevant to the destinations visited on this trip.

COVID-19
The safety and wellbeing of our travellers, leaders, crew, staff, and suppliers continues to remain our highest priority as we travel. You can read more about how we will keep you safe on our trips, including our COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines here: https://www.intrepidtravel.com/safe-travels

HEALTH SCREENING
If you are unwell prior to travelling, please stay at home and contact us to make alternative arrangements. At the group meeting, you will be asked to complete a self-screening health form and report any COVID-19 symptoms as well as any close contact with someone who has suspected or confirmed COVID-19. If you are displaying any symptoms or have any health concerns at this time, we will follow the advice of local health authorities to determine whether medical assistance, isolation or further action is required. We ask all travellers to continue to monitor their health throughout their travels and report any relevant symptoms to their tour leader.

TESTING & VACCINATION POLICY
From 1st May 2021 we have introduced new safety measures that apply on all of our trips, except for tours in Australia and New Zealand. You will need to show either of the below to your leader at the Group Meeting on Day 1 of your trip:
- Proof of COVID-19 vaccination, or
- Proof of negative COVID-19 test conducted no more than 72 hours before day 1 of your trip, or
- Proof of recovery documentation
In addition, if you’re aged 70+ or have an existing health condition that puts you at a higher risk of serious COVID-19 disease, you are also required to provide proof of vaccination before you can join a trip. This policy is in addition to any specific testing or vaccination requirements for entry to a destination or required by your airline. For more information, including a detailed FAQ about this policy, please visit https://www.intrepidtravel.com/covid19

DRINKING WATER:
As a rule, we recommend you don’t drink tap water in Morocco, even in hotels, as it contains much higher levels of different minerals than the water you may have at home. For local people, this is not a problem as their bodies are used to this and can cope, but for visitors drinking the tap water can result in illness. Generally, this isn’t serious, an upset stomach being the only symptom, but it’s enough to spoil a day or two of your holiday. Bottled water is widely available and your leader can recommend safe alternatives when available. Water consumption should be about two to three litres a day. Rehydration salts, motion sickness tablets, and diarrhoea blockers are recommended for you to pack in your personal first aid kit.

ASTHMA:
For some travellers, the desert sand and dust can bring on bouts of asthma. If you suffer from asthma even occasionally, we recommend you bring your medication as it cannot be administered by your group leader.
Food and dietary requirements

Moroccan food is, generally speaking, excellent though not particularly varied. This is especially the case in the south of Morocco. Our leaders would always try to find a variety of options, but on South Morocco Discovery trip it may feel like food options are repetitive. Breakfasts usually consist of bread and jam with coffee or tea. Meals eaten out are reasonably priced - kebab and bread cost only about MAD 30. In main towns it is possible to find very good French and Moroccan restaurants where a meal and French wine will cost anything from Mad 220 upwards. Generally dinner is likely to cost between MAD 80-120 depending on what you drink - so an estimate for food would be about MAD 150-200 a day. Soft drinks are available at very reasonable prices, but generally speaking alcohol is not widely available in Morocco due to the cultural and religious reasons. Still, in some hotels and restaurants you will be able to purchase beers, wines and spirits, but you can pay western prices or more for imported alcohol. Please be aware of local laws, believes and traditions, and be very sensitive and respectful while consuming alcohol. Your leader can help recommend restaurants each evening. Vegetarians can be catered for but there is a fairly limited choice of vegetarian cous cous and Tajine or omelettes. This is particularly the case in rural parts of this itinerary. Please note that if you have any special dietary requirements you should inform us prior to the trip. Vegans and those on gluten-free diets may find this region very challenging and may need to supplement meals with their own supplies from supermarkets and markets. Wherever possible we will cater for dietary needs for any included meals, but there may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own.

Money matters

CURRENCY
The currency of Morocco is the dirham (MAD), divided into 100 centimes. Bank notes come in denominations of MAD 200, 100, 50 and 20. Smaller values are issued as coins in values of 10, 5, 1 as well as 50c, 20c, 10c, and 5c. Changing money is easy and you will find banks and exchange bureaux in Casablanca, Fes, and Marrakech, however, please note AUD is not always accepted. In the desert and Atlas Mountains opportunities to exchange money are limited. There are ATMs in all major cities, which accept Visa cards, MasterCards, and cards connected with Cirrus. Some ATMs, belonging to smaller banks, will not work so occasionally you may need to try two or three before you are successful. We would strongly recommend bringing a combination of cash and credit cards. Credit cards are useful for large purchases such as carpets or gold from a large store, but generally speaking, they are not accepted in many places. Local restaurants, markets, and many hotels will only accept cash as payment for goods or services. Please ensure you only use banks, licensed money exchangers, or hotels. We also suggest you keep your receipts. Do not change money with street touts as this is illegal.

TIPPING
If you're happy with the services provided a tip - though not compulsory - is appropriate. While it may not be customary to you, it's of great significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels, inspires excellent service, and is an entrenched feature of the tourism industry across many Intrepid destinations.

The following amounts are based on local considerations and feedback from our past travellers:
Restaurants: Local markets and basic restaurants - leave the loose change. More up-market restaurants we suggest 5% to 10% of your bill.
Local guides: Throughout your trip, you may at times have a local guide in addition to your leader. We suggest MAD20-30 per person per day for local guides.
Drivers: You may have a range of private drivers on your trip. Some may be with you for a short journey while others may be with you for several days. We would suggest a higher tip for those more involved with the group however MAD10 per person per day is generally appropriate.
Your Group Leader: You may also consider tipping your leader for outstanding service throughout your trip.
The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline MAD30 per person, per day can be used. Of course, you are free to tip more or less as you see fit, depending on your perception of service quality and the length of your trip. Remember, a tip is not compulsory and should only be given when you receive excellent service.

TIPPING KITTY
Over the years we have found that many of our travellers find the need for tipping to be both tiresome and embarrassing, especially if they don’t have the correct small change. To overcome this, we have established a tipping kitty system. At your group meeting, your tour leader may discuss the idea of running a group tipping kitty, whereby everybody contributes an equal amount and then your tour leader pays the tips while keeping a running record of all monies spent (except restaurant tips). The record can be checked at any time and any money remaining at the end of the tour returned to group members. Please don’t tip with very small denomination coins, or dirty and ripped notes. This is regarded as an insult culturally.

PRICES IN MOROCCO
Morocco is often misjudged as being an inexpensive destination. With tourism booming, the influx of cheap flights from Europe, prices for some items are becoming more equivalent to prices you would be used to at home. Eating in local restaurants, roadside stalls, and from markets can be inexpensive, but for nights out at tourist-friendly restaurants you can expect to pay much more. With drinks, tipping, and of course - shopping, it can all add up. Budgets are a personal choice but please bear in mind that you should not expect Morocco to be a budget destination.

BARGAINING
In Morocco, some services and products are not a fixed price which means that your bartering skills will be tested from hiring taxis to buying a souvenir in the Medina. This can be challenging for travellers who have not experienced this before. Ask your leaders for advice when you arrive however the best approach is to smile and have fun as this is an entrenched part of Moroccan culture.

CONTINGENCY FUNDS
We try to plan for every eventuality, but there are still some things beyond our control. We reserve the right to change an itinerary after departure due to local circumstances or a Force Majeure Event. In such emergency circumstances, the additional cost of any necessary itinerary alterations will be covered by you. Please note we are not responsible for any incidental expenses that may be incurred as a result of the change of itineraries including but not limited to visas, vaccinations or non-refundable flights. Make sure you have access to an extra US$500 for emergencies (e.g. severe weather, natural disasters, civil unrest) or other events that result in unavoidable changes to the itinerary (e.g. transport strikes or cancellations, airport closures). Sometimes these things necessitate last-minute changes to enable our trips to continue to run, and as a result, there may be some extra costs involved. The recommended amount is listed in USD for the relatability of universal travellers, however, local currency may be needed once in the country to cover these costs.

SPENDING MONEY
When it comes to spending money on the trip, every traveller is a little different. You know your spending habits better than we do, so please budget an appropriate amount for things like optional meals, drinks, shopping, optional activities, and laundry. Make sure you have read the itinerary and inclusions thoroughly so you know what is included in the trip price and what you may need to pay for while travelling.

BUDGET FOR MEALS NOT INCLUDED:
Please budget for additional meals and expenses while on your trip. Our suggestion is based on past traveller feedback but you may choose to spend more or less.

Packing
What you need to bring will vary according to the trip style you have chosen, the countries you are visiting and when you are travelling. Generally speaking, you should pack as lightly as possible. On the vast majority
of our trips, you are expected to carry your own luggage, although you won’t be required to walk long
distances with it (max 30 minutes).

Most travellers carry their luggage in a backpack, although an overnight bag with a shoulder strap would
suffice if you travel lightly. Smaller bags or backpacks with wheels are convenient although we recommend
your bag has carry straps or handles. You’ll also need a day pack/bag to carry water and a camera etc for day
trips.

Please follow the link for the Intrepid’s ultimate packing list. Please use this checklist as a guide when packing
for your holiday.

https://www.intrepidtravel.com/packing-list

TRAVELLING ON LOCAL TRANSPORT
It’s important that your bags can be locked, as on local transport it may be necessary that your luggage gets
stowed separately (and unattended). The smaller your bag the better for you and other passengers, for when
it comes to travelling on local buses and trains it’s often only the smaller bags that will fit into the storage
areas inside the bus or your cabin. To ensure maximum comfort, try to pack small and light.

WATER BOTTLE
Consider bringing your own water bottle to refill along the way. The sale of bottled water contributes to an
enormous environmental problem around the world. In addition to the water in bottles, the production of a
1-litre plastic bottle takes 2 litres of water and 200ml of oil. A large proportion ends up in limited landfill or
discarded in waterways and natural environments. Although it can be difficult to avoid bottled water when
travelling, please consider water purification techniques such as iodine or micro pure. When unable to avoid
bottled water it is better to buy the largest available and distribute into your smaller bottle for the day.

SLEEPING BAGS
Sleeping bags consume valuable space in your luggage and can be a pain. However in the winter months
(from November to March), there may not be enough heating (sometimes none) or sufficient blankets to
keep everyone warm, we recommend bringing your own sleeping bag. Unfortunately sleeping bags can not
be hired/rented while on the trip and are not easy to find for purchase. Buy a small sleeping bag before you
leave, it will definitely come in handy, particularly if you tend to feel the cold.

DRONES IN MOROCCO
Please note that drones are not permitted to enter or be used in Morocco, neither for personal nor
professional/commercial use.

Climate and seasonal information

WEATHER IN MOROCCO
As a desert country, Morocco can have extreme weather. Winter (November to March) can be very cold,
particularly in the mountains and the desert, with overnight temperatures dropping to 5 degrees Celsius or
below. Even in summer the desert gets cold at night. It is recommended to bring a sleeping bag, thermals, a
scarf, gloves and a warm jacket for travel in winter. Please be prepared for cold showers.

Summer (May to September) can be very hot everywhere, which means that it can be quite uncomfortable
for those not used to the heat. It’s important to use sun protection and drink plenty of water.

Some of our guesthouses/hotels are unable to supply heating or air conditioning as this would be a major
financial and environmental strain. It is also a case of energy supply and timing provisions, which are limited
in some places.

RAMADAN & EID UL-FITR
The important month of Ramadan will from 12 April -11 May 2021 and 2 April - 1 May 2022, and the Eid ul-
Fitr festival will be held directly at its conclusion for 3-4 days. Ramadan is a festival of sacrifice where the
devout refrains from eating or drinking during daylight hours. During Ramadan, business hours are
shortened, including opening hours at some tourist attractions. Alcohol is not permitted during daylight hours and many restaurants will be closed. While you should expect some delays and inconveniences during this period, the month is a fantastic opportunity to travel in a Muslim country and witness this unique period, particularly the nightly celebrations when the sun sets and the fast is broken. Please note that although the Eid ul-Fitr festival can also be a fascinating time to travel it’s a period of national holiday. Most government offices and businesses will be closed and some tourist site opening hours may be affected.

**EID AL-ADHA**
Eid Al-Adha (Sacrifice Feast) will take place in Morocco 19 - 23 July 2021 and 9 - 13 July 2022. This festival honours the sacrifice Abraham made of his own son. In commemoration of this, an animal is sacrificed and divided into three parts: one-third of the share is given to the poor and needy; another third is given to relatives, friends and neighbours; and the remaining third is retained by the family. Please expect delays or complete suspension of public services during that time which may be disruptive to the trip schedule. For some, it may also be disturbing to see animals being sacrificed, as this can take place in public.

**HIGH ATLAS MOUNTAIN PASSES**
On this trip, you will cross the High Atlas Mountains through the impressive Tizi n’Tichka pass that rises to the altitude of 2,260 metres above sea level (7,415 ft). It is a great mountain road with breathtaking views. During the winter months (November to March) this part of Morocco can be hit by heavy snowfalls and it is possible for Tizi n’Tichka to become impassable. This usually lasts only for a day until authorities have a chance to clear the road. In the event of a snowstorm, your itinerary may be required to change. This is dealt with on the ground and depending on the situation we may re-route your itinerary or reverse it.

**Group Leader**
All group trips are accompanied by one of our group leaders. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. Intrepid endeavours to provide the services of an experienced leader however, due to the seasonality of travel, rare situations may arise where your leader is new to a particular region or training other group leaders.

Your leader will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense, you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the places visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious, and social aspects. At Intrepid we aim to support local guides who have specialised knowledge of the regions we visit. If you were interested in delving deeper into the local culture at a specific site or location then your leader can recommend a local guide service in most of the main destinations of your trip.

**Safety**
Most national governments provide regularly updated foreign travel advice on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government’s advice for their latest travel information before departure and ensure that your travel insurance covers you for all destinations and activities on your trip. Please refer to our website’s safety page for links to major travel advisories and updates on safety issues affecting our trips here: [https://www.intrepidtravel.com/travel-alerts](https://www.intrepidtravel.com/travel-alerts)

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe-keeping of your passport, flight tickets, cash and other valuable items. Leave your jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of our hotels have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

Your leader will accompany you on all included activities, however, during your trip you'll have some free time to pursue your own interests or relax and take it easy. While your leader will assist you with the available options in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your Intrepid itinerary, and Intrepid makes no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard
of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free
time. Please also note that your Leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if
it’s deemed necessary due to safety concerns.

Intrepid’s operational safety policies can be viewed on our website at the link below. We recommend that
you take a moment to read through this information before travelling, and would appreciate any feedback on
how safety is being managed on our trips.

https://www.intrepidtravel.com/safety-guidelines

SCAMS:
When walking through touristy areas of cities you may be approached by 'helpful' locals who want to show
you where to go or take you to a local spice shop. They will either ask to be your local guide for the day or
expect money when you arrive at your destination. Please note these people are not registered guides and
will try and get as much money from you as they can. A friendly 'no thank you (or 'la shukran') should suffice.

WOMEN’S SAFETY:
Women should exercise caution when travelling in Morocco. While the risk of an incident occurring on your
trip is very low, below are some things you can do for your safety and peace of mind when travelling:
- As with all travel, it’s important to use common sense and be vigilant.
- Respect local dress codes and customs, perhaps dressing more conservatively than you do at home.
- Avoid isolated areas when alone at any time of day.
- Lock your door when you are inside your room. Keep the door locked when you are leaving your room,
even for a short time.
- If hotel staff need access to your room for any reason, request that they do this while you are out, or wait at
the reception while they attend to any cleaning or repairs. For the protection of both our travellers and staff,
our leaders worldwide are not permitted to be alone in a room with a group member.
- Always take a hotel card with you when going out so you know the address and contact numbers.
- Should you encounter any inappropriate behaviour, inform your leader straight away.
- For further information and advice, visit:

PETTY THEFT AND PERSONAL SAFETY:
While travelling there is always the risk of pick-pocketing and petty theft, particularly in the more touristy
cities. We recommend that you exercise caution when walking alone at night and encourage you to walk
together and only on main, well-lit thoroughfares. Be particularly vigilant on public transport. Simple
measures like carrying your day pack on your front, not hanging your bag over the back of your chair or on
the floor and wearing a money belt will reduce any chance that your valuables should go missing.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS:
Please be aware that local laws governing tourism facilities in this region differ from those in your home
country and not all the accommodation which we use has a fire exit, fire extinguishers or smoke alarms.

TRAFFIC AND DRIVING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD:
Depending on where you come from please note that drivers in this part of the world may drive on the
opposite side of the road from what you are used to. Look both ways before crossing any road. Traffic can be
a little more chaotic than you might be used to at home. Be aware!

A couple of rules
Everyone has the right to feel safe when they travel. We don’t tolerate any form of violence (verbal or
physical) or sexual harassment, either between customers or involving our leaders, partners or local people.
Sexual relationships between a tour leader and a customer are strictly forbidden.
Use or possession of illegal drugs will not be tolerated on our trips. If you choose to consume alcohol while travelling, we encourage responsible drinking and expect that you’ll abide by the local laws regarding alcohol consumption.

The sex tourism industry is known to exploit vulnerable people and have negative consequences on communities, including undermining the development of sustainable tourism. For this reason, patronising sex workers will not be tolerated on our trips.

By travelling with us you are agreeing to adhere to these rules. You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited, and you also agree to travel in accordance with our Responsible Travel Guidelines.

The decision of the group leader is final on all matters likely to affect the safety or well-being of any traveller or staff member participating in the trip. If you fail to comply with a decision made by a group leader, or interfere with the well-being or mobility of the group, the group leader may direct you to leave the trip immediately, with no right of refund. We may also elect not to carry you on any future trips booked.

If you feel that someone is behaving inappropriately while travelling with us, please inform your tour leader or local guide immediately. Alternatively, contact us on the emergency contact number detailed in the Problems and Emergency Contact section of this Essential Trip Information.

For additional Conditions of Carriage regarding COVID-19, see here: https://www.intrepidtravel.com/conditions-carriage

**Travelling on a group trip**

As you travel on a group trip you will be exposed to all the pleasures and maybe some of the frustrations of travelling in a group. Your fellow travellers will probably come from all corners of the world and likely a range of age groups too. We ask you to be understanding of the various needs and preferences of your group - patience with your fellow travellers is sometimes required for the benefit of everyone's travel experience. Remember too that you have responsibilities to the group. If you are requested to be at a place at a certain time, ensure that you don’t keep the rest of the group waiting. We have found time and time again that the very best trips we operate are those where the dynamics within the group work well - this takes just a little effort on your part. Due to privacy reasons, we are unable to provide you with contact details and any personal information about your fellow travellers booked on your trip prior to departure.

**SOLO TRAVELLERS**

This is the beauty of our style of travel: many of our travellers join because they are travelling solo and want to meet and share experiences with like-minded people.

We pair up solo travellers with another traveller of the same gender as per your passport or the information we have in our booking system, so if you identify differently from the gender marker on your passport, please let us know in advance. We also have a Single Supplement available on most trips for travellers who prefer to have their own room.

Please note that this only applies to accommodation during the tour. Pre-trip and post-trip accommodation booked through us will on a single room basis.

Some of our itineraries have accommodation booked on an open gender, multi-share basis and where applicable this will be specified in our Essential Trip Information.

**Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is compulsory on all our trips for those travelling internationally. We require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency repatriation. If you are travelling within your home country or region please confirm before travel that you are entitled to access the public medical system easily should an accident occur. We strongly recommend all travellers have a policy that also covers...
personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage or personal effects. For international trips, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance and the insurance company’s 24-hour emergency contact number has been sighted by your leader.

If you have credit card insurance your group leader will require details of the participating insurer/underwriter, the level of coverage, policy number, and emergency contact number rather than the bank’s name and your credit card details. Please contact your bank for these details prior to arriving in-country.

Travellers who reside within the European Union or Switzerland receive basic international health insurance, so travel insurance is not mandatory under European Union Law. However, as this does not cover situations such as emergency rescues, private health care, or repatriation to their home country, comprehensive travel insurance is strongly recommended. European Union or Swiss travellers who decline travel insurance when travelling outside of their home region must sign a Travel Insurance Waiver Form at the Group Meeting.

For assistance with travel insurance or other services, please visit the link below:

**Responsible Travel**

Our Responsible Travel Policy outlines our commitment to preserving the environment, supporting local communities, protecting the vulnerable, and giving back to the places we travel. All our trip leaders, suppliers, and staff are trained on these principles and are core to us delivering sustainable, experience-rich travel.

Explore the different parts of our Responsible Travel Policy by visiting:

[https://www.intrepidtravel.com/responsible-travel](https://www.intrepidtravel.com/responsible-travel)

Morocco can be considered a liberal Muslim country as many Moroccan women do not wear headscarves. However, Morocco is very conservative when compared with standards you may be accustomed to at home and you should dress accordingly. As a general guideline, shoulders, cleavage and knees should be covered at all times. Wearing shorts (men and women), low-cut tops, and showing midriff is not recommended as it will restrict your entry into buildings of a religious nature and family homes, and is considered disrespectful to the local culture. Long, light-coloured, lightweight sleeved shirts, trousers, and skirts are respectful, cover your body, keep you cool in the heat and protect you from the harsh sun.

In Morocco, we have built strong links with local communities, craftspeople, animal hospitals, artists, and the handicapped - all of which directly rely on the assistance of donations and products purchased by our travellers and other visitors. We offer Intrepid travellers an opportunity to interact with locals, to value their activities and crafts and help towards sustaining their livelihoods.

While on our trips to Morocco you’ll have the opportunity to meet plenty of local people. Depending on which trip you choose there’s a chance to enjoy a meal in a local family’s house in Ait Benhaddou, spend a night in a family guesthouse in the High Atlas Mountains or in the pilgrimage village of Moulay Idriss, or share a camp with a nomadic family in Dades Gorge. These experiences will give you a better understanding of the way of life for a rural Moroccan family. You’ll also have some fun by learning how to make Morocco’s most famous dish, couscous.

Wherever possible, we contract local Moroccan suppliers and assist them to improve the quality of their services. By booking this tour, you’ll be helping us to support service providers, artists, small businesses, guesthouse owners, and the disadvantaged in communities throughout Morocco.

We use local guides with wide experience and knowledge of cultural traditions and an ability to interpret the cultural heritage of the people in the places visited.

**The Intrepid Foundation**

Help us change thousands of lives by creating meaningful work and supporting skills training in communities around the world.
The Intrepid Foundation is the not-for-profit for Intrepid Group. We work with local organisations around the world to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable individuals and communities through sustainable travel experiences. With our travellers’ help, we’ve contributed more than AU $6 million to over 100 community organisations since 2002.

Did you know that tourism is one of the biggest contributors to the global economy, making up 1 out of every 10 jobs? That’s why we support local projects that create meaningful jobs and give people the skills they need to work in the destinations we take you to. And it’s why we exist – to make it easy for travellers to give back to the communities and places they’ve been in an effective and meaningful way.

Intrepid Group covers all administration costs, every cent goes directly to the projects. Donating is simple and secure. Please ask your leader for information about the projects we support through The Intrepid Foundation or visit our website:

Organisations and projects currently supported by The Intrepid Foundation in Morocco include:

* Education For All (EFA) Morocco, which was founded in response to high illiteracy rates among women and girls. EFA provides boarding houses to girls missing out on high school because they live too far away from secondary schools in their region. [https://www.theintrepidfoundation.org/education-for-all](https://www.theintrepidfoundation.org/education-for-all)

For more information, or to make a donation please visit: [https://www.theintrepidfoundation.org/page/projects](https://www.theintrepidfoundation.org/page/projects)