



MOROCCAN CARAVAN, LLC. TRAVEL TIPS

Travel tips are just some ideas and guiding

Passports and Visas

U.S. citizens do not need a visa but a valid passport is necessary. If you are from outside the U.S., even if you are in the US with any type visa, please contact us and or the Moroccan Consulate nearest to you to find out if you need a visa to enter Morocco. To find out if you need a visa, check this link:

<http://www.moroccanconsulate.com/visa.cfm>

Luggage:

To secure your luggage when checked with airlines, make sure you use TSA approved locks only.

Plan to check in one **light** suitcase **or** bag that must weigh **NO MORE** than 50 pounds.

Each participant is allowed one hand bag as a carry on of **NO MORE** than 22 pounds. You can easily get one good cheap duffel bag while in Morocco for around \$10-\$15, so that at the end of the tour you can use it for your extra souvenirs you may end up buying. Having a small soft foldable bag that can be used as an overnight bag and or for your pre used clothes during the trip, is a good idea to bring..

Money Concerns

The dirham is the unit of currency in Morocco. There are typically around 9 Moroccan dirhams to the USA dollar (depending on the exchange rate). Money can be changed easily in Morocco. **ATM machines are widely available.** We typically recommend that you bring more than just one credit card and or debit cards. Bringing some cash in in 100 US dollar bills, NEW BILLS as in new dates on bills, good to bring as a backup in case something like blockage, by your bank system, happens to your cards.

Remember to **let your bank know** that you will be traveling to Morocco so they do not refuse your credit card purchases abroad.

Tipping

Tipping is surely appreciated. Tipping is recommended at restaurants and other places that cater to tourists, around 10% is good. Any tips offered at the end of the tour are distributed fairly by the tour manager.

Voltage

The voltage used in Morocco is 220 volts, 50 Hz. Two-pin round plugs. (The U.S. and Canada use 110/120 volts). You can purchase a converter at most hardware stores in the US and Canada for appliances that do not switch to 220V. Also don't forget **adaptors** that you can use to transform the flat prongs/pins on your plugs to round prongs/pins that you will need in Morocco..

Health

No inoculations are required to travel to Morocco. We recommend that you consult with your health care provider before traveling. To prevent traveler's diarrhea, avoid drinking tap water and eating raw fruits and or vegetables. We recommend that travelers buy the safe inexpensive bottled water commonly available in Morocco (a one liter bottle costs approximately less than 75 U.S. cents). Since your stomach may still become upset due to the change in diet, **MAKE SURE TO BRING** anti-diarrhea medicine and electrolytes just in case.

If you experience motion sickness make sure you get the right medicine for that. Check with your Doctor or Pharmacist.

Notes about COVID Pandemic

In this post-COVID world, we are keeping abreast of the situation on the ground in Morocco, as well as keeping up with our own US travel restrictions. This trip requires all participants to be **fully vaccinated** against COVID 19. We will be required to wear masks in any areas required by Morocco and airlines and airports to and from the country. As it stands today, Morocco is allowing anyone from the US to enter with a Vaccination Card. We suggest you bring the card and a copy of the card (stored in a separate location) along with a photo of the front and back of your card – similar to your passport. Take a clear front and back photo of your Vaccination Card with your cell phone and email it to yourself, this way you can always get to it from anywhere should you misplace your card.

As of today, to re-enter the USA on your return home, you will need a Negative PCR test result. A PCR test can be arranged in Morocco. The current cost of the test is approximately \$80-\$100 US dollars (about 800 – 1000 Moroccan Dirham) which will have to be paid in cash at the time of testing.

Communication

It is not possible to make collect calls from Morocco to the US.

Internet service is common and it is very easy to send and check your emails from Morocco.

If you will be using a smart phone, make sure you and your family download the free App called “WhatsApp” and whenever/wherever you connect to any WIFI you will be able to talk and send written or voice messages, pictures, videos for free.

Of course, you can also call home using your own cell phone plan.. But keep in mind, international cell phone plans can be very expensive. We recommend you turn your Cell phone data to avoid international roaming expensive charges.

Climate / Clothing

Morocco's climate is Mediterranean in the north and sub-tropical in the south. Dress is casual, even in the major cities. We recommend that expensive jewelry be left at home. Comfortable shoes, sandals and or sneakers, according to the season that you are traveling in, are recommended. Sturdy comfortable sandals would be adequate for almost the whole trip. The sun is beautiful in Morocco and sunglasses are a must. Some religious sites do not allow shorts or sleeveless shirts.

For the month of October and November you will need Fall clothes. Bring a collapsible umbrella. If your tour is during December, January and until mid-February you need winter clothes as it can get very cold.

In the Sahara desert, from October to February, temperature could drop down at night, so make sure you have a warm coat. You can always add layers under if needed.

Try not to over pack and bring too many clothes, just easy wash and dry, mix and match, clothes. Easy to care for wash and wear clothes are the best. Also, you are certain to buy many souvenirs in Morocco and will regret if you arrive with over packed suitcases. Hotels have laundry service where your clothing can be washed and pressed for a modest fee. Other Laundromats are available outside of the hotels and they are affordable. Or in most cases you can just rinse them your self and hang dry..

Idea on temperatures in Morocco around the year. The Desert may be little warmer:

8 C/ 46F in January, 13 C/ 55F in February, 22 C/ 71F in March, 27 C/ 80F in April, 29C/ 84F in May, 33C/ 91F in June, 38 C/ 100F in July, 46 C/ 115F in August, 25 C/ 77F in September, 24 C/ 75F in October, 20 C/ 68F in November, 10 C/ 50F in December

Idea on Rain in Morocco around the year:

30 mm in January, 30 mm in February, 30 mm in March, 30 mm in April, 17 mm in May, 7 mm in June, 2 mm in July, 3 mm in August, 10 mm in September, 20 mm in October, 20 mm in November, 15 mm in December.

Shopping

Shopping is wonderful in Morocco. Morocco is renowned for its Amazigh (Berber) jewelry, handwoven carpets, leather goods, fine metalwork, decorative pottery and more. Prices are rarely fixed so be prepared to have fun bargaining for the best price. You may wish to avoid the street vendors, some of whom can be very aggressive and or scam.

Language

Arabic and Tamazight (Tama-zirt) (also called Berber) are the two official languages of Morocco. Tamazight (Tama-zirt) is the native language. French is widely spoken. English and Spanish are less common but it is not unusual to find people who speak these languages.

Traveler's Checklist

1. Pre-departure planning & Essentials:

- Plan for one piece of baggage not to exceed 50 pounds, weight limit allowed. Most Airlines currently charge an extra fee for bags exceeding 50 pounds or extra bags. Light luggage is encouraged for touring.
- Small collapsible bag for overnight in the Sahara if included your tour.
- Personal Identification is needed
- Passport
- Visa to get into the country if needed. US nationals don't need a visa to Morocco. Some other nationals don't need a visa but make sure to check if you need one.
- Transportation Tickets: paper or E-tickets.

- Good idea to take pictures of your airline tickets and your luggage tags after you receive them when you check in.
- If you will be connecting, make sure you print your connecting flights. Airlines, in most cases, will want to know information for your connecting flight. This is also important if your luggage will be checked all the way to your final destination.
- Credit Cards (ATM machines are readily available in Morocco)
- Currency in US dollars or Euros or other major currencies (Bring some cash in case your cards get blocked..). American dollars must be in clean bills with later dates on them.
- Insurance (Travel insurance that can cover you overseas is **a must have**)
- Health Documentation
- Emergency Information
- Photocopies of Documentation: (passport and tickets)
- Suggestion: Scan or take digital picture of your passport and email it yourself.. in case you loose your passport you can always go back to your email and print a copy..
- Leave copies of your documents and your cards with your family and or friends

2. Medicines

- Take your medicine with you for pre-existing ailments
- Antibiotic for traveler's diarrhea
- Electrolytes are very much needed if your stomach interruptions.
- Motion sickness medicine that works for you.
- Bring a bag or two of Crystallized Ginger (if safe for you to take). Ginger is a good as a remedy for nausea and motion sickness.
- Cold medicine: Decongestant, antihistamine, cough syrup
- Tylenol or other Pain relievers. Check with your Doctor about what's good for you.
- Insect repellent with DEET 30% if traveling during Summer.
- Antibiotic cream & disinfectant for scrapes and cuts
- Band aids
- Sunscreen, both UVA and UVB protection; use highest possible protection
- Sunglasses
- Extra glasses, extra contact lenses and eyeglass prescription.
- Feminine hygiene products
- Hand sanitizer.
- Disposable antibacterial wipes or cleanser (washing hands frequently and before eating greatly helps reducing transmission of germs that can cause illness)
- List of medicines, purpose, and dosage

3. Basics

- Travel clothing : Easy wash and wear clothes. Make sure you have one long sleeve top to wear with pants or skirt or long dress to enter the mosque in Casablanca if included in your tour. The rest of the trip is moderate you can even wear short clothes if you like too.
- Bring a collapsible umbrella.
- Bring swimsuits
- Travel Footwear (comfortable sandals & shoes)
- Brimmed Hat, Visor, Hat
- Camera & extra memory cards (extra large memory cards are best) and or film
- Video Camera & Tapes if you use them.
- Extra Camera Batteries
- Battery charger
- Electrical plug adapter and or converter
- Radiation shield for film if you will be using film.
- Travel ID tags. Also put a paper with your name and contact info inside your hand bag and checked in bag.
- Travel lock approved by TSA ONLY to be used to lock your checked in bag before you check in. Maybe an extra lock for your carry on too maybe a good idea to use to lock your items in hotels.
- Travel Alarm
- Flashlight / extra bulbs
- Travel Journal
- Address book
- Money /Cards/ Passport Carrier
- Leave copies of all your documents at home with family or friends.
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Enjoy your trip!

Oh... one last detail... don't forget to bring your smile and your sense of humor.