



## Morocco - Cobra Valley

9 days / 8 nights / 7 stages / 1 400 km

This trip offers the traveler the absolute pleasure of driving both on aerial tracks and through orange dunes! Up above and down below, this itinerary is extremely varied as it journeys through the High, Middle and Anti-Atlas Mountain Range, at times through snowy peaks, at others through sand and basalt.

If you like to travel off the beaten path, this is the trip for you!

Here, the topography is always more contorted than one could imagine. Certain stretches of the itinerary will take you down narrow steep tracks that cling onto the sharp cliffs precariously. The very first stretch zigzags its way around olive trees and starts its climb towards the heights passing through a forest of cedar trees. Small red-earthed tracks crisscross the volcanic plateaus of Middle Atlas. Poppies blanket the embankment. Cherry trees withstand the weight of their juicy red fruit. The itinerary continues towards the High Atlas. But then, as you reach the end of the third stage, the desert extends towards the horizon, as if never ending.

The motorized traveler plunges into forests of ancient cedar trees in Middle Atlas, crisscrosses the high plateaus while skirting the numerous volcanic lakes, drives along the dizzyingly high tracks that almost brush against the High Atlas' snowy peaks, navigates their way through deserted expanses of sand and even takes a dangerous peak into an old volcanic crater... Driving through ancient cold magma and around eruption plumes, the traveler crosses the Anti-Atlas, cuts across the steppe and plunges into deep canyons before reaching the unexpected freshness offered by palm tree groves...

### YOUR PROGRAM

#### **Day 1 - Day 1 - Arrival in Fez**

Arrival in Fez.

Overnight stay in a hotel.

#### **Day 2 - Day 2 / Stage 1 – Fez – Midelt: 280 km**

A smooth departure among cacti and olive trees. Then, after the surprising little town of Ifrane, as you drive under ancient cedar trees and on a mattress of pine needles, the track plunges into the heart of the mountains. Whatever the season, you might come across a family of macaque monkeys; a species that long ago chose this harsh climate to establish their home. Skirting the high altitude volcanic lakes, a network of tracks and trails crisscrosses the grassy high plateaus. Settled at the foot of the High Atlas Mountains, Midelt appears in the horizon. The itinerary heads in that direction.

Overnight stay in a hotel.

#### **Day 3 - Day3 / Stage 2 - Midelt – Atchana: 220 km**

A tiny trail weaves its way around the mountains, coinciding with a dry river bed.

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Bivouac in Djebel Khang-el-Ghar.

**Day 4 - Day 4 / Stage 3 - Atchana – Dar Kaoua: 140 km**

As you leave the mountains behind and as the sun starts to set, the desert makes its appearance in all its grandeur; the majestic Erg Chebbi dunes are close by.

Overnight in a remote Kasbah, reminiscent of a tale from the Arabian Nights!

**Day 5 - Day 5 / Stage 4 - Dar Kaoua – Tazzarine: 230 km**

There is nothing much in sight other than the immense desert. Kilometer after kilometer, the track rises and falls as if surfing the waves of sand.

Bivouac close to the border with Algiers.

**Day 6 - Day 6 / Stage 5 - Tazzarine – Tinerghir: 170 km**

Weaving its way around shattered black rocks and cold magma, a winding track slowly climbs towards the Djebel Sarhro, the oldest mountain chain in the country. The Tizi-n' Tazazert peaks at 2 200 m. The landscape is lunar. After Iknioun, a sandy and wonderful track cuts through the steppe as it heads towards the gorges of River Todra.

Overnight stay in a hotel.

**Day 7 - Day 7 / Stage 6 - Tinerghir – Âit-Tamlil: 220 km**

After leaving the gorges of River Dades behind, the track heads through a stunning narrow pass to Bou Tharar. After crossing the wadi, the track tackles its way up to the High Atlas peaks almost reaching the giant Ighil M.Goun at 4 071 m. After skirting the summits, the track plunges towards the Toufrine valley and its century-old walnut trees. The waters of the powerful Tessaout wadi splash the branches of the oleanders.

Today's bivouac overlooks the valley.

**Day 8 - Day 8 / Stage 7 - Âit-Tamlil – Marrakech: 140 km**

The narrow track is slippery and, at times, precarious as it clings onto some steep cliffs. This stretch seems endless as it winds its way to the Aït-Aadel Dam. The track then continues towards Marrakesh along the canal.

Overnight stay in a hotel.

**Day 9 - Day 9 - Departure from Marrakech**

Return trip to your home country.

## Additional information

### TARIFFS

1595 € per pilot, 1140 € per passenger

Single room supplement : 150 €.

GPS rental (with handlebar support and uploaded GPS itinerary) : 60 €.



## **INCLUDED**

- Lodging:
  - o hotels, in twin rooms or bivouacs,
  - o from the evening of day 1 to the morning of the last day,
- Food:
  - o breakfast, lunch and dinner,
  - o from the evening of day 1 to the morning of the last day,
- A complete uploadable version of the GPS track,
- Tents and mattresses to bivouac,
- Tour leaders :
  - o Tour leader on his motorcycle,
  - o Support vehicle for luggage transport

## **NOT INCLUDED**

- Transportation :
  - o To and from tour start,
  - o Vehicle transportation to and from tour start,
  - o Transfers from airports to hotels and back
- Beverages

## **LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**

This itinerary is mainly composed of tracks and trails. At times you will have to drive on sand, at others through the typical mountain landscape including the crossing of streams (wadi), driving through rocky or sandy soil, managing steep pin curves, among other technical driving. Solid off-road motorcycle experience is necessary to undertake this trip.

## **GUIDE AND LUGGAGE**



You will be accompanied by a Trail Rando staff member, driving his own bike. A four-wheeled chase vehicle will also follow the group with the luggage, a basic first aid kit, tools, some spare parts and is always able to lend a hand if required. In case of motorbike breakdown or pilot fatigue, the bike or driver can be picked up by the chase vehicle, too.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

We believe in offering our clients authenticity and a warm welcome throughout the trip.

The hotels we have chosen are good but above all, we refuse to lodge our clients in your typical tourist trap!

Here are a couple of examples:

> [www.jardinsissil.com](http://www.jardinsissil.com)

> [www.kasbah-hotel-said](http://www.kasbah-hotel-said)

### **DEPARTURE**

Fez

### **ARRIVAL**

Marrakesh

### **EQUIPMENT TO TAKE**

#### **RIDER'S EQUIPMENT**

You should think carefully about saving space and reducing weight.

For riding

In addition to the normal motorcycle gear:

- Helmet
- Goggles (clear and tinted)
- Gloves
- Leather boots
- Motorcycle trousers and jacket
- Any protective equipment required to ride a motorcycle on any type of track

When riding, we advise you to carry a small backpack containing the following:

- Sun cream
- Lip balm
- Baby-wipes
- Scarf
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Waterproofs, to keep up morale during bad weather
- A change of gloves, to set off in a good mood after a rain shower
- A sweet snack tucked into a pocket (a life saver) will give you energy and takes up less room than a tin of spinach



- Water, vital to quench your thirst
- Survival blanket
- Swiss Army knife
- Pocket torch or head torch
- Optional camera
- Mobile phone (and charger!)

When you're dressed for riding, there should only be a few things remaining in your bag (please do not bring suitcases but rather a duffel bag, sports bag or rucksack without a frame).

For the evening

- Tee-shirts
- Socks
- Long-sleeved shirt
- Jumper or sweatshirt
- A change of trousers and shorts
- Swimwear
- Lightweight shoes
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Personal medication

A concentrated miracle: travel light, choose a tube of detergent!

For navigating

- Small notebook and pen to note down the briefing instructions each day
- Batteries for the GPS

Tools and spare parts

Carry basic tools and spare parts in your rucksack (levers, quick-release clips, clamps...) to remain self-sufficient along the route.

## **SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

- Valid passport
- Driving license
- Insurance policy
- Vehicle Registration document

Compulsory!!!

Repatriation insurance



If you are already insured, check with your provider to ensure your policy is valid:

- In the country in question
- For the type of activity you'll be undertaking

If required, we can provide you with repatriation insurance.

#### PRACTICAL INFO

- Telephone prefix: + 212
- Time difference: - 1 hour in winter / - 2 hours in summer (GMT)
- Flight time: approx. 3 hours
- Voltage – Frequency: 127/220 V - 50 Hz

#### ID CARD

- Capital City: Rabat
- Surface area: 450,000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population: 32,500,000 inhabitants
- Density: 65 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>
- Language: Arabic (official), Berber
- Currency: Dirham (MAD)

Health: Avoid eating raw vegetables or asking for ice for your drinks. due to issues related to the water.