BLUE DOOR
MOROCCO

Your first trip to Morocco

12 things to know before you go

A practical guide from Blue Door Morocco · 2026 edition

01

How many days

7 days covers Marrakech, the Sahara and Fes. 10 days adds Aït Ben Haddou, Volubilis and Meknes without long drives. 12–14 days lets you add Chefchaouen or the Atlantic coast.

02

Best months

March to May and late September to November: 20–28 °C in the cities. July and August pass 40 °C in the desert. Winter days are mild, but desert nights can drop near 0 °C.

03

What to wear

Light, loose clothes that cover shoulders and knees work everywhere. Comfortable shoes for cobbled medinas, a warm layer for the desert at night and a scarf for sun, dust and mosque visits.

04

Money

The currency is the dirham (MAD), which you can only get in Morocco. ATMs are easy in cities. Riads and good restaurants take cards; souks, taxis and tips are cash.

05

Tipping

Expected and appreciated. As a guide: 10% in restaurants, 20–50 MAD a day for riad staff, 100–200 MAD for a half-day city guide, 150–250 MAD a day for your private guide. Your proposal includes a written tipping guide.

06

Riad or hotel

A riad is a house built around a courtyard inside the old city: quiet, small and walking distance to everything. Hotels outside the walls are bigger and have pools. Most of our journeys mix both.

07

The desert camp

Selected luxury camps have tents with a real bed and a private bathroom. You arrive by 4×4 or camel, have dinner under the stars and watch sunrise from the dunes. Bring a warm layer from October to April.

08

In the medina

Streets are a maze, and that is part of the charm. With a licensed guide you will not be approached by unofficial ones. Say “la, shukran” (no, thank you) with a smile to sellers.

09

Photos

Ask before photographing people; some will say no or ask for a small tip. Avoid photographing police, military sites and royal palaces up close.

10

Food and water

Drink bottled water. Moroccan food is mild, not spicy: tagine, couscous on Fridays, harira soup and mint tea everywhere. Alcohol is served in many riads and hotels, rarely in local cafés.

11

Phone and internet

Riads have Wi-Fi. A local SIM or eSIM costs little and works almost everywhere, even near the dunes. Your guide can help you set one up on day one.

12

Safety

The U.S. State Department rates Morocco Level 2 of 4 (exercise increased caution). Most problems are small: pushy sellers and unofficial guides. Enrol in STEP and take insurance with medical evacuation.

Ready to plan? Tell us your dates and receive a day-by-day proposal within 24 hours.

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