



Frequently Asked Questions

3 Day Shared Excursion from Marrakech to Merzouga

General Information

Where does the tour start and end?

The tour begins and ends in Marrakech. **Pickup is included from centrally located hotels, Riads, or the closest accessible point if your accommodation is in the Medina.** For more details about the pickup and drop off area you can view the pickup zone via the link on your **Personalized Travel Page**.

What is the departure time?

Pickup starts around 7:00 AM. Your specific meeting time can be found on your **Personalized Travel Page**. Final pickup details will be confirmed the evening before departure via WhatsApp if different from those listed on your Personalized Travel Page.

What time does the tour return to Marrakech?

Arrival in Marrakech varies depending on road conditions, traffic, and the number of stops made along the way. On average, you can expect to return between 17h–19h (5–7 PM).

How many people are on the shared tour?

Group sizes typically range between 7–18 people traveling in a minibus or van.

What's included in the price?

Pickup from at or near your hotel or Riad, transportation by minivan or minibus, fuel, tolls, and all road expenses, knowledgeable local driver throughout, guided camel ride in the Sahara (Erg Chebbi), and overnight accommodations with dinner and breakfast.

What's not included in the price?

Licensed guide at Ait Ben Haddou, lunches and all beverages (including water), and tips for guides and drivers

What languages do the drivers speak?

Our drivers speak conversational Arabic, Berber, English, Spanish, and French. For other languages, we recommend booking a private tour. **Please note that in Morocco it is illegal for a licensed tourism driver to act as a guide.** Our drivers will gladly share their personal knowledge and answer any questions they can, but they are not guides. For cultural and historical information along your route please make sure to download the digital guide we provide via email.

Can I charge my phone?

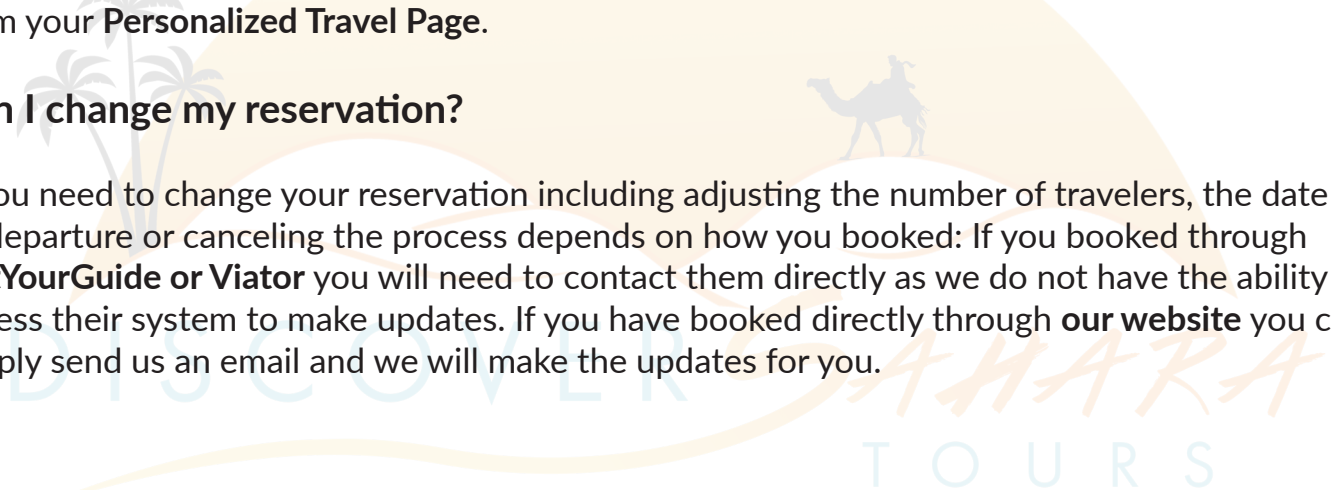
In the hotel or Riad on night one: Yes - there are 220V outlets in the rooms.
In the Standard Camp: Charging stations in the common area (USB-A ports).
In the Deluxe/Luxury Camp: Chargers in each tent (USB-A ports).
Vehicles: Limited charging; bring a power bank just in case.

Where can I get my pickup information?

You can find your pickup information on your **Personalized Travel Page**. Our driver team will finalize pickups the evening before departure. You'll receive a WhatsApp message between 19h-21h as necessary for confirmation. Please ensure your phone number includes the country code and that you have WhatsApp installed. If you need to update/correct your accommodations in Marrakech for pickup or your WhatsApp number you can do that directly from your **Personalized Travel Page**.

Can I change my reservation?

If you need to change your reservation including adjusting the number of travelers, the date of departure or canceling the process depends on how you booked: If you booked through **GetYourGuide** or **Viator** you will need to contact them directly as we do not have the ability to access their system to make updates. If you have booked directly through **our website** you can simply send us an email and we will make the updates for you.



Packing & Preparation

What should I bring with me?

Comfortable walking shoes, Layers for cold nights and warm days, Sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, Reusable water bottle, Camera or smartphone, and Cash in Moroccan Dirhams for lunches, tips, and souvenirs

Do I need to bring a sleeping bag or blanket?

No. Clean bedding and blankets are provided at the desert camp. In the winter additional blankets are provided for added warmth.

Is there luggage storage available?

You can bring a small overnight bag. Larger luggage can be stored in the van but space is limited, so we limit it to one roller bag per guest. If you have more luggage than that, you will need to make arrangements to store your extra luggage in Marrakech for the duration of the tour. Discover Sahara Tours does not offer luggage storage in Marrakech.

Can I bring water?

Yes you are welcome to bring your own water with you, but there will also be several stops where you can buy bottled water, snacks, and drinks along the route.

Are towels and toiletries provided?

Towels are provided, but **toiletries (like shampoo, soap, toothpaste) are not provided.** Please bring your own.



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Should I pack differently for different seasons?

Winter: Bring warm layers for cool nights and desert winds.

Summer: Light, loose clothing to cover skin, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a wide-brim hat.

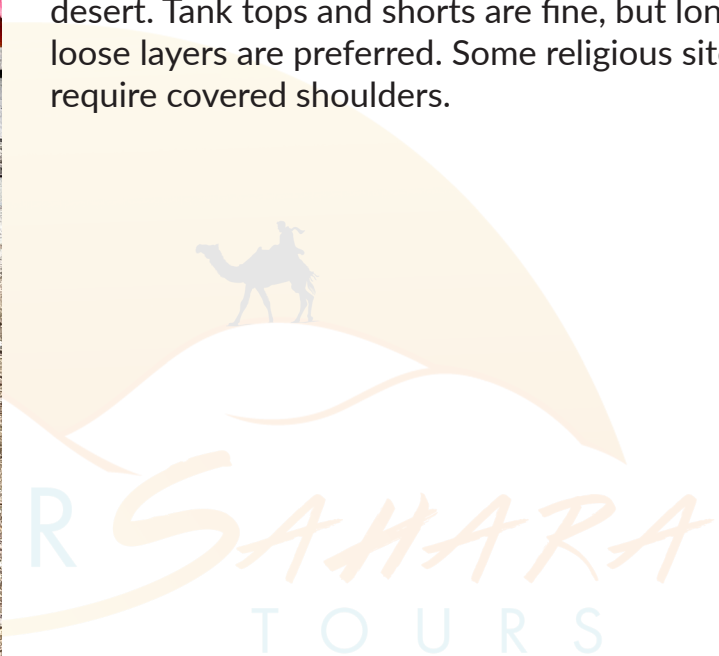
Morocco's temperatures vary widely. For historical data and seasonal tips we have [a guide that provides Weather by City & Season in Morocco](#). You can find the link on the FAQs page we've provided or on our website under "Resources." Additionally, you can do a quick Google search to find the forecast for your destination(s) in Morocco.

Need help packing?

There are a number of resources online that provide suggestions for what to pack when traveling to Morocco. You can check out our [Morocco Packing Guide: General Packing Tips & Clothing Inspiration](#) on our website as well.

What should women wear in Morocco?

While Morocco is progressive, modest clothing is respectful and more comfortable in the desert. Tank tops and shorts are fine, but long, loose layers are preferred. Some religious sites require covered shoulders.



The Desert Experience

What is the desert like in Merzouga?

Merzouga is famous for the Erg Chebbi dunes, a breathtaking sea of golden sand that can rise over 150 meters high and stretch for nearly 30 kilometers. The landscape is dramatic—especially at sunrise and sunset—when the dunes shift in color from deep orange to soft gold. **Because Merzouga is the most accessible dune area in Morocco, it's also the most visited.** You'll find a range of desert camps, camel caravans, and 4x4 vehicles sharing the landscape, especially during peak travel months. Despite its popularity, there are still quiet moments to enjoy the serenity of the desert—particularly if you visit during the shoulder seasons. **Learn more in our Comprehensive Guide to Discovering the Sahara Desert in Morocco on our website.**

Will we ride camels/dromedary?

Yes! A camel ride is included just before sunset. If you prefer not to ride, you can walk or ride in a vehicle (additional fee) to the camp. **Please review important safety details on your Personalized Travel Page before your departure.**

How long is the camel ride?

The camel ride typically lasts between 45 mins to 1 hour, planned to reach the camp around sunset. On shared tours, **timing depends on the group's ability to stay on schedule, which may occasionally affect the duration or exact timing of the camel ride.** We appreciate your understanding that some flexibility is needed when traveling with a group.

DISCOVER





Can I skip the camel ride?

Absolutely. We can arrange 4x4 transport to the camp. This optional transfer is not included in the excursion pricing. The cost is 20 EUR/person for the transfer to the camp.

You can book a 4x4 Transfer to the Camp instead of Camel Ride on your [Personalized Travel Page](#).

Is there a weight limit for camel rides?

There is no strict limit, but if you're concerned about comfort or safety, we recommend opting for the 4x4 transfer.

Are quad bikes available in the desert?

Yes! Quad biking is available. The cost is 60 EUR/person for a 1-hour guided ride.

[You can book a Quad Bike Ride in the Desert from your Personalized Travel Page.](#)

Is sandboarding included?

Yes! Sandboards are available at the camp at no extra cost. You are able to use them at your leisure while in the camp. **This is not a guided/managed activity.** Please note that this excursion covers a lot of ground in only 3 days, so there may be limited time at the camp.

Are headwraps provided?

No, but you can purchase them at various stops. For more options and lower prices, we recommend buying in Marrakech before departure.

Is stargazing possible?

Yes! The skies over the Sahara Desert are often clear and ideal for stargazing. Bring a flashlight or headlamp for navigating at night.



Accommodations & Meals

What is the name/are there photos of the first night's accommodations?

For the first night the accommodations will be in or near the village of Tinghir. The exact location of the hotel or Riad depends on the number of travelers booked and the availability at that time. For this reason we cannot provide you with the name of the accommodations or images in advance. The accommodations for the first night will be a private room and are included in the cost of the excursion.

What is the standard camp like?

You'll stay in a Berber-style desert camp with standard accommodations. Tents are simple but comfortable, and communal bathrooms are available. There may be live music around the campfire, depending on the group. We make every effort to ensure your party will have a private tent, however if you are a solo traveler we cannot guarantee a private tent with a standard reservation.

What is the deluxe camp like?

The deluxe camp offers the same Berber-style desert accommodations with upgraded features including an en suite, private bathroom (toilet, sink & shower) in each tent.

How many people per room/tent?

We offer double, triple, and quad options. Single rooms can be arranged for an extra cost.

Will it be hot in the desert camp in summer?

Yes – it is very hot in the desert during summer, both during the day and at night. Our camps do not have air conditioning or fans, as electricity in the desert is limited. While evenings are slightly cooler, it can still feel hot compared to other parts of Morocco. We recommend bringing light, breathable clothing, staying hydrated, and keeping expectations realistic – this is part of the true Sahara experience. **None of the camps, regardless of level have air conditioning.**

Will it be cold in the desert camp in winter?

Yes – desert nights in winter can be very cold, sometimes approaching freezing temperatures. Days are usually sunny and comfortable, but evenings and early mornings can feel quite chilly. Because electricity in the desert is limited, there is no heating in the tents. Our deluxe camps extra blankets, and a campfire is usually lit after dinner to help you stay warm. We recommend packing warm layers, including a jacket, hat, and gloves, for a comfortable night in the desert.

None of the camps, regardless of level have heating in the tents.

Are meals included?

Breakfast and dinner are included during the tour – except breakfast on the first day and dinner on the final day. **Lunches are not included and typically cost around 100–150 MAD per person per meal.** Because the route to and from the desert passes through remote regions, there are limited dining options along the way. We select lunch stops based on cleanliness, food safety, and reliability, not price or partnership. **Most restaurants along this route cater primarily to tourists, and their prices reflect this and the challenges of operating in sparsely populated areas.** Please note that Discover Sahara Tours does not own, operate, or receive any commission from these establishments. Our priority is ensuring you have safe, hygienic, and convenient meal options during your journey through Morocco's desert landscapes.

Are vegetarian/vegan or special meal options available?

Vegetarian/vegan meals are available upon request. Our partners and local eateries will do their best to provide you with meals that meet your dietary needs. You can let us know in advance, however you will want to communicate your dietary preferences/requirements to the establishments and accommodations directly so that they are aware and there is no confusion. **Please note these and other specific dietary restrictions are very rare in Morocco so the options can be quite limited, particularly in the more remote regions of the Atlas Mountains and Sahara Desert.**

What are the included meals typically like?

Breakfast: Tea/coffee, bread, jam, omelets (in some accommodations locations), pastries.

Lunch: Not included, you will be able to choose from menus at stops along the way.

Dinner: Moroccan salad, tagine, bread, and seasonal fruit.

Is breakfast provided on Day 1?

No. We recommend eating before departure. Most accommodations can provide you with breakfast early if they are aware of your departure time in advance. We'll stop mid-morning at which time you can purchase snacks (not included).

Transportation & Stops

What type of vehicle is used?

Modern, air-conditioned minibuses or vans, depending on the group size.

Are there any long drives?

Yes. You'll be covering long distances each day, with scenic stops along the way. Expect a mix of mountains, valleys, kasbahs, and desert views. For details on the distance and time check the outline of your itinerary.

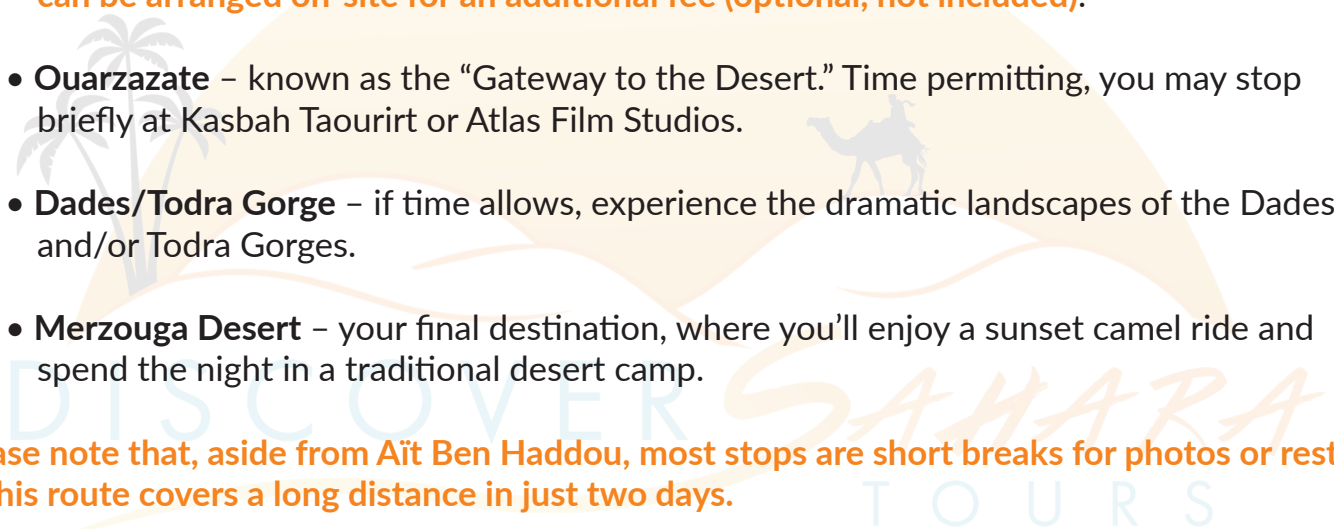
Which places will we stop at?

On the **3 Day Shared Excursion from Marrakech to Merzouga**, you'll travel through some of southern Morocco's most iconic landscapes and cultural landmarks.

Highlights include:

- **High Atlas Mountains & Tizi n'Tichka Pass** – a scenic drive with breathtaking views and photo stops along the winding mountain road.
- **Aït Ben Haddou (UNESCO World Heritage Site)** – a visit to this ancient fortified ksar, famous for its unique earthen architecture and film history. **A local guide can be arranged on-site for an additional fee (optional, not included).**
- **Ouarzazate** – known as the “Gateway to the Desert.” Time permitting, you may stop briefly at Kasbah Taourirt or Atlas Film Studios.
- **Dades/Todra Gorge** – if time allows, experience the dramatic landscapes of the Dades and/or Todra Gorges.
- **Merzouga Desert** – your final destination, where you'll enjoy a sunset camel ride and spend the night in a traditional desert camp.

Please note that, aside from Aït Ben Haddou, most stops are short breaks for photos or rest, as this route covers a long distance in just two days.





Can I get picked up or dropped off somewhere else?

In Marrakech: We can arrange alternative drop-off locations within the city—just let your driver know.

In Ouarzazate: We can accommodate drop-off in Ouarzazate on return. Please confirm in advance by email.

Airport Drop-off: Yes, if your flight departs after 9 PM. We recommend private tours for tighter flight schedules.

Other cities: **Drop-off in a different city is not included on a shared tour.** Private transfer can be arranged for an extra fee.

Do you provide car seats for children?

Due to liability concerns, we don't provide car seats. You are welcome to bring your own.

I'd like to change my pickup time

The pick up window (between 7-8am) is designated to be able to pick everyone in the group up based on the best route in and around the Medina of Marrakech. The location you are picked up at is based on your accommodations and at the designated time so that we can ensure everyone is picked up in a timely manner. It is a very long day of driving so we have to try to be as efficient as possible. If you need to have a set time for pickup outside of this window, we also offer this excursion as a private option that has much more flexibility. You can book a Private Tour to Zagora on our website (Use Discount Code BOOKDIRECTDST for 10% off)

Payment, Tipping & Cancellation

How do I pay for the tour?

If you have booked through a third party (Viator, GetYourGuide, etc) your payment will be processed by the third party based on their schedule of charges. If you have booked directly with us, we will process your 10% deposit by credit card or bank transfer at the time of booking and the remaining 90% 2 days before your departure.

Should I tip the driver/guide?

Tipping is optional but appreciated for excellent service. 100–300 MAD per person for the driver/guide is a common range.

What is your cancellation policy?

Please refer to the cancellation terms provided at the time of booking. If booked via a third-party platform (e.g., Viator or GetYourGuide), their policies apply.

What extra costs should I plan for?

Lunches, beverages, tips, souvenirs, quad bikes, and optional camel alternatives are not included. For budgeting tips read our Cost Guide available on our website



Miscellaneous Questions

Is this tour suitable for children?

Children are welcome but keep in mind the long drive. For very young kids, we recommend a private tour for more flexibility.

What if I am traveling during Ramadan?

We still run all tours as scheduled. Expect some changes in restaurant hours and a unique cultural atmosphere. You can read more in our Ramadan Travel Guide on our website

What about birthdays?

Let us know! While we don't offer birthday packages, our desert hosts are often happy to celebrate with song and hospitality.

Can we drink beer, wine, or alcohol in Morocco?

In general, tourists can drink alcohol in Morocco, but there are restrictions. Alcohol is permitted in licensed hotels, bars, and tourist areas, and can be purchased at most major supermarkets. While consuming alcohol in public is not allowed, a small number of establishments permit outside drinking, primarily for tourists. Additionally, alcohol is much more difficult to find the further you travel from the major cities. If you are celebrating a special event and would like to have a toast, we suggest purchasing your alcohol before departing and bringing it with you in your checked luggage. It is important to note that drinking in the vehicle is strictly prohibited.

