

Essaouira Sojourn



trip highlights

Walk the historic ramparts at sunset, tracing the town's ancient walls and taking in the ocean views

Wander the medina's whitewashed lanes, soaking up the coastal charm and artisan shops

Enjoy a fresh seafood by the harbour with the sea at your feet

The perfect way to unwind after our High Atlas Trek, Morocco Rafting Adventure or Morocco Explorer



Trip Duration	3 days	Trip Code: ESS
Grade	Discovery and Cruising	
Activities	Discovery Touring	
Summary	3 day trip, 2 nights riad	

welcome to World Expeditions

For over 50 years, we've been creating high-quality, expedition-style adventures for active travellers with a curious spirit. From our very first trek in the mountains of Nepal to pioneering remote routes across all seven continents, our journeys are built for those who want to truly explore – not just visit.

At the heart of what we do is a simple philosophy: take the paths less travelled.

This means travelling with care, supporting local communities, minimising our impact, and unlocking experiences that most travellers will never have.

If you're ready to go further and dig deeper, we invite you to join us on the Essaouira Sojourn, a journey that captures the essence of a unique adventure.

why travel with World Expeditions?

When planning travel to remote and challenging destinations, many factors need to be considered. Our extra attention to detail ensures that you will have a memorable experience in Morocco. We take every precaution to ensure smooth logistics. Most importantly, our adventures have always sought to benefit the local peoples we interact with, safeguard the ecosystems we explore and contribute to the sustainability of travel in the regions we experience. Given our local knowledge, experience and excellent leadership, we are quite sure that this tour will be a trip of a lifetime.



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These short extensions usually operate for a minimum of 2 passengers travelling together, however most can be done if you are travelling alone (Solo Traveller Surcharge). If there are two or more people travelling together who cannot or prefer not to share rooms a single supplement cost will be added to your invoice.

the trip

Unwind by the sea in Morocco's breezy whitewashed port town. This 3 day sojourn to Essaouira is the perfect change of pace after time in the mountains or desert. Often added to our High Atlas Trek, Morocco Rafting Adventure or Morocco Explorer itineraries, this short escape is an ideal way to complete your North African journey.

Travel by public coach from Marrakesh to the Atlantic coast and settle into a welcoming riad, perched beside the ocean within the old medina walls. Rooms blend handcrafted details with comfort, and a rooftop terrace offers views of the Atlantic and Essaouira's sea walls.

Explore at your own pace - stroll the historic ramparts, wander the laneway shops, or enjoy fresh seafood by the harbour.

at a glance

DAY 1	JOIN MARRAKESH, BUS TO ESSAOUIRA
DAY 2	EXPLORE ESSAOUIRA AT LEISURE
DAY 3	BUS TO MARRAKESH, TRIP CONCLUDES

what's included

- 2 breakfasts
- 2 nights in traditional riad on a twinshare basis
- Public bus transfers between Marrakesh and Essaouira
- Transfers in Marrakesh between bus station and hotel/airport on day 1 and 3
- *additional nights in Essaouira on request (extra cost applies)

what's not included

- Flights
- Visas & Travel insurance
- Bottled water, aerated and alcoholic drinks
- Tips
- Additional nights in Essaouira on request (extra cost applies)

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Join Marrakesh, bus to Essaouira

This morning, you will be collected in Marrakesh and transferred to the Marrakesh Bus Station, to board the public bus service to Essaouira. The journey time is approx 3 hours. The bus departs at 9:00am or 10:45am.

On arrival in Essaouira, take a short 15 minute walk to your riad inside the old city walls, your home for the next two nights. The rest of the afternoon is yours to explore. Get your bearings with a relaxed wander through the medina's maze-like streets, browse artisan workshops, or head to the port for a mint tea by the sea.

Overnight: Riad Mimouna or similar
meals: NIL

DAY 2 Explore Essaouira at leisure

Today you have a wonderful, relaxing day in Essaouira where you are free to do as you please. With its Greek-like whitewashed walls and its mixture of Portuguese, French and Berber fortifications, Essaouira has a completely different flavour to Marrakesh, and other destinations in inland Morocco. Essaouira is a handicraft centre, particularly for artisans working with sandal, cedar and lemon wood. You

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trip dates

Departs daily year round

fast facts

Countries Visited:
Morocco

Visas:
Please check visa requirements with your reservations consultant*

Vaccinations:
Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Singles:
A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:
This journey is unescorted

Advice for people with limited mobility
This trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

thoughtful travel

The natural environments that you'll travel through are fragile; the cultures and traditions precious and often the communities we pass through are reliant on tourism. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence, protect what is precious and where we can leave a positive impact. Learn how you can do this by downloading the Thoughtful Traveller booklet from our website.

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary and may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

can take a relaxing walk along the Atlantic coastline. Fishing is also one of the main industries of the town and the fresh catch is a specialty of the restaurants and the inexpensive harbour side fish markets are a must for lunch. The shopping is great and so is the beach with numerous water sports on offer. Overnight: Riad Mimouna (or similar).

meals: B

DAY 3 Bus to Marrakesh, trip concludes

After breakfast this morning, you will walk from your riad to the Supratours Bus Station (approx 15 mins walk). You will board the Supratours public bus service to Marrakesh, which takes approx 3 hours. The bus departure times depend on your flight time in Marrakesh.

Upon arrival into Marrakesh, you will be collected from the bus station and transferred to the airport or your hotel. If you have stored luggage at your hotel in Marrakesh, then the transfer to the airport will be via the hotel. Trip arrangements end on arrival at the airport.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

country information

The oldest known inhabitants of Morocco are the Berber people. They have occupied the area for at least 5000 years however their exact origins are unknown. As early as the 6th century BC Phoenician traders established depots on the Atlantic coast, forging relations with Berber tribes to enable the exploitation of raw materials. With the fall of Carthage in the 1st century CE (Common Era) the Romans annexed much of the northern coastal plain and allied themselves with Berber leaders which facilitated their control of economically viable regions, especially for the cultivation of wheat and olives. In the 5th century, the Roman presence ended with a wave of invasions by the Vandals, Visigoths and Byzantine Greeks and Christianity was introduced. There was already a significant Jewish presence at that time. In the 7th century, Arabs conquered the region bringing Islam to Morocco. Berber tribes adopted Islam, adapting it to encompass their folk traditions and beliefs. The first Muslim dynasty was founded by Idriss I, an Arab descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, who broke away from the Abbasid Caliphate based in Baghdad. Morocco achieved its greatest heights under subsequent Berber dynasties, the Almoravids and the Almohads who came from south of the Atlas Mountains and the Merinids from Figuig in the East. They embarked on a great wave of building and expansion, dominating the Maghreb and Andalusian Spain for over two centuries. In the mid 16th century, the region was ruled for close to 100 years by the Arab Saadian dynasty, followed in the mid 17th century by the Alaouite dynasty, claiming to be descendants of the Prophet and who reign to this day. King Mohamed VI is the current ruler of Morocco and has instituted considerable social reforms since he came to the throne in 1999. Prior to the First World War, when European powers were eyeing Morocco as a region of interest, the Algeiras Conference of 1906 conferred control of Morocco to France and Spain. The treaty of Fez resulted in Morocco becoming a French Protectorate in 1912, while Spain retained control of an enclave in the north and the Western Sahara. The French exploited Morocco's mineral wealth and built roads, French quarters in the major cities and military garrisons in the more remote areas. In 1944, the Istiqlal (Independence) Party was active in the move towards independence, which was finally proclaimed in 1956.

Most Moroccans (over 98%) are Sunni Moslems of Arab, Arab-Berber, Arabized Berber and Berber descent. There is also a minority of Gnaoua or Haratin descended from sub Saharan African slaves. The Jewish population has decreased considerably since the 1950s and the Christian population consists of foreign nationals, mainly French. Morocco's official language is

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Classical Arabic although Moroccan Arabic or Darija is the lingua franca. 12 million of Morocco's population of 31 million speak a Berber language (there are 3 regional languages, Riff, Shilha and Tamazight). Although education is compulsory to grade 5, Morocco's literacy rate remains around 50%. Morocco is renowned for its arts and crafts – music, ceramics, textiles and jewellery. Its incredibly diverse and stunning landscape, good roads, charming and hospitable people and delicious cuisine all contribute to an extraordinary feast for the senses and a very special experience for the visitor.

climate

Average daytime temperatures in Essaouira are: Dec to Feb 18°C, March to June & Sept to Nov are 21 to 23 °C and July to Aug are 26 to 27 °C. On average, it is windy almost every day. Morocco's climate varies according to altitude and location. Coastal areas experience a Mediterranean climate tempered by winds from the southwest. At low altitudes, summers tend to be humid and warm. In the Alpine regions the summers are warm and dry with winters being extremely cold. Snow is not unusual at high altitude. Average temperatures range from 28-35 degrees in the summer with the nights on the trek getting as low as 0-5 degrees in April and September.

dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

equipment required

Specialist gear required include comfortable walking shoes and a day pack (a comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information provided on booking).

visas

Visas are exempt for passport holders from the following countries:-

Australia

New Zealand

Canada

United States

United Kingdom

All other nationalities should check with your nearest embassy or consulate.

Please bear in mind that visas may be required for countries you are visiting en route or transiting through on the way to your destination. It is important that you check the requirements of all countries you will visit. Visa costs and requirements do change regularly so we suggest you check with your travel agent or World Expeditions reservations consultant. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary visas.

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webinars & events

Catch a Webinar – Live or On Demand - to learn more about a particular trip. Make sure the trip you choose is right for you. Watch them live, so you can ask our presenters a question, or catch the recording later at your leisure and watch it On Demand. Visit our website or keep an eye on our newsletter for upcoming presentations.

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social networking

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Share the love

Use the hashtag #WorldExpeditions on your best travel photos and videos to be featured.

trip availability

We operate small group adventures, which means availability is always worth checking early.

Check trip availability online or call our team who might be able to dig a little deeper for you to find what you want, when you want.

how to book

Check trip availability and book your tour online, or call or visit one of our offices. To book a trip, you will need to complete a Booking Form (online or request a PDF) and pay a non-refundable deposit. Please note that when booking our tours to not confirm any additional arrangements until all services related to your tour are confirmed by your dedicated Reservations Consultant.