



MOROCCO: A PHOTOGRAPHY MIRAGE



Eleven Days

October 4 - October 14 2023

\$7100. PPDO + \$600. SRO

- ❖ Marrakech
- ❖ Todra Gorges
- ❖ Sahara Desert
- ❖ Midelt
- ❖ Fes
- ❖ Chefchaouen

MOROCCO IS YOURS TO PHOTOGRAPH



See Morocco through your lens. Over the Atlas Mountains through the desert and onward to meet the Berber craftsmen, herder, nomad and snake charmer who call this place their home.

Spend two nights in the Sahara Desert capturing the contours of the sand. Ride camels by day and marvel at the night sky all the while honing your photography skills.

Take in the oases, Medinas, rich tones of the blue city Chefchaouen and end the day in a lovely riad.

This will be epic.

PHOTOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Pre-trip Consultation
- ▶ Instruction Throughout
- ▶ Learn thy Camera
- ▶ The Art of Seeing~ Desert, Gorges, Medina & Streets
- ▶ Advanced techniques
- ▶ Star Gaze and Shoot the Night Sky
- ▶ Post-processing and Friendly Share Sessions
- ▶ All skills welcome



ITINERARY

AT A GLANCE



- ◆ **Day One:** Meet in Marrakech
- ◆ **Day Two:** Cross the High Atlas Mountains
- ◆ **Day Three:** Todra Gorges
- ◆ **Day Four:** Sahara Desert
- ◆ **Day Five:** Sahara Desert
- ◆ **Day Six:** Midelt
- ◆ **Day Seven:** Midelt to Fez
- ◆ **Day Eight:** Fez
- ◆ **Day Nine:** Fez to Chefchaouen
- ◆ **Day Ten:** Chefchaouen
- ◆ **Day Eleven:** Transfer to Tangiers International Airport



THE JOURNEY

Day 1 Marrakech: Arrive in Marrakech and then transfer to the hotel by a private vehicle (30 minutes drive). Depending upon your arrival time, you may visit the exotic Majorelle Gardens, a haven of tranquillity and legacy of fashion legend Yves St. Laurent. You may also choose a visit to the Ben Youssef Madrasa or the Marrakech Museums in the Medina. This or just settle in, get your bearings and take photos of snake charmers in the Jamaa Lafna Square.



Day 2 Marrakech to Todra Gorges: Today we have our longest, but most spectacular drive (6 hours) across the High Atlas Mountains via the Tizi n' Tichka pass, the highest in Morocco. The views from the pass are spectacular with each bend of the winding road bringing another breathtaking panorama. We pass through several Berber villages, where you might come across a weekly souk where locals gather from miles around to exchange their produce.

We will arrive in Todra Gorges late afternoon.

Day 3 Todra Gorges: Todra Gorges is the ideal time to sit back and relax by the pool, photograph the breathtaking scenery or go shopping for Berber carpets or silver jewelry. If you are feeling energized, there are many activities to choose from like a walk with a local guide who will take you to an oasis to learn more about life in the heart of Morocco.



Day 4 Todra Gorges è Sahara desert: We leave the gorgeous gorges behind us and transfer to Sahara (4.5 hours). About halfway on our route today, we can visit a Berber museum where you can learn about the history and culture of Morocco's indigenous tribes through a large collection of Berber artifacts, clothes, jewelry, crafts and other day-to-day items.

We arrive at the majesty of the Saharan dunes in time to take a camel ride into the desert. Our stay for two nights will be at a Berber camp in traditional nomad tents under the starry Saharan sky. This will be a truly unforgettable experience and an ideal location to capture the milky way at the hotel of a thousand stars.

Day 5 Sahara desert: Awaken to the quiet of the desert and the cool morning light. As the sun rises, experience the desert as she warms to a golden hue. This is a day to settle in, explore and capture this unique place.

Day 6 Sahara desert to Midelt: Sunrise in the Saharan dunes, work your skills and then transfer to Midelt (4.5 hours). We will drive through Ait Chaker Oasis and the beautiful Ziz Gorges. The Ziz Gorges are a series of gorges on the upper course of the Ziz River. We will photograph the changing landscape as we travel from dry arid land to the mountains and valleys. From there we head towards oases, reservoirs, rolling plains and finally the High Atlas mountains.

Onward to a traditional Berber village giving us an opportunity to hike and document life with locals. Finally, settle in and enjoy the sweeping views of the Ayachi High Atlas Mountain Range from your beautiful hotel.

Day 7 Midelt to Fes:

Departure to Fes via the alpine Middle Atlas Mountains (4.5 hours). Plenty to capture along the way...the great Cedar forest, the Barbary apes, Ifrane city and the valleys of Imouzzer.

Fes is a northeastern Moroccan city often referred to as the country's cultural capital. It's primarily known for its Fes El Bali, a walled city with medieval architecture, vibrant souks and old-world atmosphere. Test your lighting skills in tight alleyways where no cars are to be seen and donkeys provide transport of goods.

At mid-afternoon, we will have the opportunity to visit the pottery section of the Fes medina. We will learn about the mosaics and the zellij work; An ancient art that is the pride of Morocco.



Day 8 Fes: Fes photography! The old city, known as a Medina with nine thousand streets! It is one of the best-preserved medieval cities in the world and is considered the spiritual heart of Morocco. We will attempt to uncover her mystery. The monuments, souks, markets, handicrafts quarters including the famous Tannery Sidi Moussa will surely make for a rich photographic experience. (If you are looking for the ultimate souvenir, a leather jacket from the tannery will be a stylish addition to your wardrobe.)

Day 9 Fes to Chefchaouen: Chefchaouen is a city in the Rif Mountains of northwest Morocco. It is known for its distinctive blue-washed buildings. It is perched on the foothills of the Rif Mountains and the name comes from a Berber phrase that means "watch the horns".

(Day nine continued)

Our riad today is a traditional Moroccan house built around an interior courtyard that has been converted into a comfortable rustic guesthouse and roof terrace with sweeping views of the city and mountainsides.

Late afternoon, we will take a photowalk to become oriented to this vibrant city. During our walk, we will step into the lives of locals at a coffee shop in the main square: Place Outa el Hammam. We'll enjoy a cup of coffee and your tour guide/ host will lead a conversation about the smoking habits of this conservative society.

Day 10 Chefchaouen: Our day will start with a walking tour of the Medina before the city wakes up. Surely a feast for the senses with its lively vendors, sumptuous scents, and distinctive blue-washed buildings.

Free time will be yours to explore this photographically rich place followed by a late afternoon walk to a spot overlooking the city for a last sunset. We will conclude with a farewell dinner at a wonderful restaurant.

Day 11 Departure day with transfer to Tangier international airport (3hrs)

***A heartfelt thanks to Pat Anderson
for providing the images for this brochure.***



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ◆ Two Hearty Meals per Day
- ◆ Lodging all 4 star
- ◆ Luxury camp in desert
- ◆ Photography coaching
- ◆ All Ground Transportation in Morocco
- ◆ Local guide

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- ◆ Flights to and from Morocco
- ◆ Baggage fees
- ◆ Mini bar
- ◆ Tips

WHAT AIRPORTS WILL I USE TO FLY IN AND OUT OF MOROCCO?

- ◆ Arrive Marrakech Merana Airport (RAK) Oct. 4, 2023
- ◆ Depart from Tangiers (TNG) Oct. 14, 2023

WHAT CURRENCY IS USED IN MOROCCO?

The currency used throughout the country is the Moroccan dirham. Credit cards are widely accepted and ATM's are widespread. Small vendors may require cash.

WHAT LANGUAGE IS SPOKEN IN MOROCCO?

The official languages of Morocco are Arabic and Berber. You will also note French is often spoken as Morocco is a former colony of France.

The weather in Morocco in fall is in general perfect. October has maximum daytime temperatures ranging from moderate (71°F) to very warm temperatures (88°F). Nighttime temperatures can drop to 40's and 50's.





YOUR MOROCCAN GUIDE, MOHA AIT AAMOU

My name is Moha Ait Aamou; I am Amazigh (Berber) from a nomadic tribe in the Southeast of Morocco. I come from a family of eight siblings and I am the eldest. My parents and most of my brothers and sisters live in the Atlas Mountains; these snowcapped ranges represent life and eternity in our culture and it's where I go to resource myself.

I was born in a nomadic tribe and had a normal childhood as all other children at the camp. We would go rock-climbing with friends or trout fishing in creeks and rivers using our t-shirts as nets.

March and April is when the goats give birth to their little ones; I remember going with my older shepherd cousins to help them carrying the baby goats in the grazing hills. We always came back to the camp with our bags full and it was so special to hear the whole flock bleat.

When my dad and mum moved to live in a house, I discovered where the candies and the canned sardines came from; it was the only shop in the valley maintained by a tight-arse called Aammi Zayd; When I had no coins to buy bonbons, I would sneak into the henhouse and take an egg to trade it for lolies. Aammi Zayd would take the egg or a handful of wool and give us a candy in return; at that time I taught it was a good deal.

A perfect day for me is the day that follows a rainy-day. It's when I wake up after a wet night, open the windows and see clear skies. The joy follows with the smell of the traditional home made coffee traveling through the place. An ideal day also is when I share a spontaneous but quality conversation with someone with positive attitude to life. It gives me more incentive to be more open and embrace new people and things that day. Nothing adds a spring to my step more than saying good morning to family, friends or travelers and seeing the smile on their faces.

I love Moroccan people; they are the primary factor that makes this part of Africa livable and enjoyable. They are a mix of races, religions and backgrounds; some are indigenous, some came from the Middle East, others from sub-Saharan countries and a minority from the medieval Spain. Everyone came with an ingredient to contribute in giving shape to what is today's called The Moroccan cuisine, The Moroccan art and The Moroccan culture.

Nowadays, we have three religions that coexist in peace and harmony: Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Everyone is equal before the law including taking time off for spiritual purposes. For instance, every Jewish quarter has a day off on Saturday, the Muslim traditional handicraft sections are shut on Fridays and the modern westernized sections are closed on Sunday. One of my friends said: If only we had more religions!

I am grateful to many people in my life; so many contributed in giving shape to who I am today and to the values I stand for. One name stands out significantly though, it's my grandfather Assou who inspired me to do all what I can to learn from others and share what I have. He was born in 1898 and passed away in 2002. His flint is hanging on my living room wall today.



*You're in good hands.
In addition to Moha....*

Your Custom Travels, Jordan Diaz, the walking encyclopedia, multi-lingual, logistics expert and hospitality specialist.

Laura L Gingerich, freelance photographer and educator who will give you all she has to ensure you take your photography to the next level.

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THIS TRIP IS LIMITED TO TEN TRAVELERS



Travel logistic questions? Feel free to [email Eli](#).
Photography questions? Email feel free [email Laura](#).

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