

Walking Morocco's Undiscovered Coast

Trip Code: CCM

Version: CCM Walking Morocco's Undiscovered Coast



WALK & TREK



GUIDED GROUP



MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike coastal trails to remote fishing villages and experience unchanged Morocco
- Sleep in a traditional riad in Essaouira's ancient medina and explore Marrakech
- Enjoy fully supported camping whilst walking along a stunning coastline
- Take in spectacular scenery and sweeping sea views from deserted sandy beaches

AT A GLANCE

- 5 days trekking
- Join at Marrakech

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- All meals included
- 4 nights Camping
- 2 nights Hotel
- 1 nights Riad

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

The dramatic and beautifully wild Atlantic coast of Morocco is wonderfully remote and still undiscovered. This very special walking and cultural holiday includes sweeping sea views from cliff-top trails and hidden footpaths which snake through timeless villages and sleepy hamlets. Days are filled with spectacular cliffs, long sandy beaches and rural landscapes whilst nights will have you falling asleep to the sound of the Atlantic Ocean beneath star-filled Moroccan skies. During the holiday you'll also stay in a charming traditional riad in the heart of Essaouira's ancient white-washed medina. This UNESCO gem of a town is home to towering walls, picture-postcard architecture, a bustling harbour, thriving fishing fleet and labyrinth of cobbled streets which are perfect for wandering down. The holiday ends in the bustling city of Marrakech complete with exotic souks, beautiful palaces and colourful squares. This unique [Moroccan walking holiday](#) offers the perfect combination of stunning coastal landscapes and a rich diversity of cultures.

A Genuine Small Group Experience - The Secret of Our Success in morocco

We are proud to say this holiday in Morocco is limited to a maximum group size of 12, ensuring we leave only our footprints on the trails whilst enjoying a small group adventure. We've been taking our clients walking, trekking and mountaineering for almost thirty years so we know the ingredients of a good guide. Those who are new to trekking in Morocco will take particular comfort in the presence of our experienced Moroccan guides, who we believe are the best in the business.

Is this holiday for you?

Each day you'll walk around 4 to 5 hours with frequent breaks for dipping your feet in the sea and exploring beaches. The trails include mule tracks, rural footpaths, cliff top paths, and sandy beaches. You only need to carry a small day pack as the holiday is fully supported with a camping crew, therefore all equipment and main bags are carried by pack camels. During July and August the Moroccan sun feels stronger in Marrakech, however the Atlantic Coast has a cooling breeze which makes it pleasant for walking, even during the summer months.

Itinerary

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DAY 1

Meet at the group hotel in Marrakech. Transfers from Marrakech Airport are provided.

Your holiday starts at the hotel in Marrakech. On arrival at Marrakech Airport you'll be met by a KE representative who will assist with the short transfer to the group hotel. Depending on your arrival time and after settling in you may like to explore Marrakech which is a fantastic place and great for wandering through. Most people head for the central square of Djemaa-el-Fna beneath the stunning minaret of Koutoubia Mosque. Here you can enjoy a bird's eye view with a refreshing mint tea at one of the cafes overlooking the square. If you would prefer to arrive a day or two earlier, please contact the KE office who can book you extra nights at the group hotel or we can offer you a choice of riad overnights if you would like a traditional Moroccan experience. In the evening there will be a briefing from the leader over dinner, which is generally taken in the hotel for ease and late arrival of a number of flights.

Meals: **D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 2

Transfer to the Atlantic Coast and hike to our superbly located cliff-top camp.

After breakfast we leave Marrakech behind and make our way towards the start of our walking adventure. The transfer to the Atlantic Coast takes approximately 5 hours and is a great way to see local Moroccan life, plus we'll enjoy lunch and a number of rest stops along the way. In the afternoon we'll get to stretch our legs as we leave the vehicle and walk towards the area of Imessouane. This remote region is like stepping back in time with sleepy hamlets and the occasional white-washed house with a brightly coloured door. Our camp will be set up in a fantastic location high on the cliffs, and we'll enjoy views of the Atlantic Ocean directly from our tents. Once we've arrived and settled in, there will be time to wander down to the beach below us which is used by the occasional local fisherman. Tonight the team will prepare dinner before we fall asleep to the sound of the ocean.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Camping



Ascent
50M



Descent
300M



Time
2 hrs walking



Distance
6KM

DAY 3

Follow trails above secret bays to the fishing village of Tafeda.

This morning usually starts with breakfast alfresco as we prepare for a splendid day of walking. Today we're treated to trails high above the ocean as we look down on hidden bays nestled along a stunning coastline. This beautiful region is completely undiscovered and offers that rare opportunity to step back in time. Our trail weaves along the coast until we reach a wonderful long sandy beach just outside the village of Tafedna. With its hilly backdrop, this coastal village was once an important Portuguese port but today life moves at a much slower pace, and fishing boats are launched directly from the beach. The Portuguese Empire started to occupy parts of coastal Morocco as early as 1415 after the conquest of Ceuta and during this time they seized 6 Moroccan cities. They also built 6 stand-alone fortresses on the Moroccan Atlantic coast which are located between the River Loukos in the north and River Sous in the south. At times it's easy to see a Portuguese influence in the white and blue colouring of the houses of Tafedna. Tonight we camp outside the village and after a refreshing cup of Moroccan tea, there will be time to stroll along the wonderful beach and enjoy the solitude.

Meals: **B L D**

	Accommodation Camping		Ascent 350M		Descent 350M		Time 5 hours walking		Distance 18KM
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DAY 4

A day of hiking through forests of argan and along deserted sandy beaches.

This morning we start by passing Tafedna and then gradually start ascending up the dramatic hills immediately behind the village. This wild landscape is home to argan forest or Argania, where herds of goats graze on the scrubby plants. Endemic to the semi-desert Sous valley of Morocco, Argan trees are between 8-10m high and can live up to 200 years old. They are easy to spot with their thorny, twisted trunks and wide spreading crown. Argan forests now cover some 8,280km² and are in areas which are designated as UNESCO biosphere reserves. Argan oil is produced by a number of women's co-operatives in the southwestern parts of Morocco. The most labour intensive part of the oil-extraction is removal of the soft pulp (used to feed animals) and the cracking by hand of the hard nut. The seeds are then removed and gently roasted and this roasting accounts for part of the oil's distinctive, nutty flavour. Argan oil has two uses - either as a food product or in cosmetics. Is it delicious when used for dipping bread or drizzled on couscous and salads. Next we drop down and walk beside the waves to our camp at Sidi Ahmed Assayh. Our camels will have taken a different route today due to the terrain but they'll be there when we come into camp. Tonight we camp directly opposite the sea and before we settle down for dinner there will be time to stroll along the sand.

Meals: **B L D**

	Accommodation Camping		Ascent 850M		Descent 850M		Time 6 hrs walking		Distance 17KM
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DAY 5

A spectacular day walking to our waterfall camp nestled beneath towering dunes.

Today we'll enjoy a superb day of walking on wonderful trails high above the Atlantic Ocean. Along the way we'll pass Berber villages, tiny hamlets and small rural areas where farmers and local villagers grow vegetables in this wild environment. In the afternoon we arrive in a magical landscape of towering dunes. After we've made camp beside the River Boud, which cuts through the dunes to the sea, there will be time to wander down to the sea or hike up onto the dunes. This is a lovely location as we're near a pretty waterfall and only a few minutes' walk to the beach. From the top of the dunes you'll be able to see the beach which we'll walk along on our final day tomorrow. Tonight we'll enjoy dinner in this little oasis before settling down for our final night of camping.

Meals: **B L D**

 Accommodation Camping	 Ascent 200M	 Descent 200M	 Time 4 - 5 hrs walking	 Distance 10KM
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DAY 6

Through beautiful scenery to Sidi Kaouki beach before exploring Essaouira.

After breakfast we set off for our final morning of walking through a wonderful variety of spectacular landscapes as we head from one deserted beach to another. During the morning the light for taking photos is particularly breath-taking as we're surrounded by wide ocean views which are stunning. On reaching the beach at Sidi Kaouki we're likely to see wind surfers or surfers who come to enjoy the excellent surf and wonderful climate. We'll say goodbye to our trek crew before a brief transfer of 40mins to the coastal gem of Essaouira.

Tonight we stay in a lovely riad, right in the heart of the ancient medina. The riad offers peace and tranquillity plus a roof terrace and traditional inner courtyard, once we've checked in there will be time to wander the spice-scented lanes and palm-lined avenues of the fortified medina. Dating from the late 18th century, the walled medina was added to Unesco's World Heritage list in 2001. The whole place is fascinating and a fantastic example of European military architecture in North Africa. A labyrinth of narrow streets, souqs, busy squares and whitewashed houses with beautiful wooden doors, means it's a wonderful place to explore. The towering ramparts surrounding the medina are excellent for taking photos of the white washed houses against the bright blue of the ocean. A must see is the bustling harbour where you'll witness the mending of fishing nets and boats being built in a wonderfully atmospheric little port.

Meals: **B L D**

 Accommodation Riad	 Ascent 100M	 Descent 100M	 Time 4 - 5 hrs walking	 Distance 11KM
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DAY 7**Transfer from Essaouira to Marrakech for an afternoon at leisure in the city.**

After breakfast we leave Essaouira and drive back to Marrakech. After checking in at the group hotel the rest of the afternoon is free for you to enjoy the city at leisure. Marrakech has a number of highlights including Jardin Majorelle which was owned by fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent from the 1960s to his death in 2008. Ville Nouvelle majestically sits in the garden and is a striking cobalt-blue exterior surrounded by a delightful garden of rare desert flora, fuchsia bougainvillea and deep green palms. The result is an explosion of colour nestled in the city and a wonderful place to photograph. The Bahia Palace is a wonderful palace set in gardens and also worth a visit. Built in the late 19th century, this beautiful building was reputed to be the greatest palace of its time. With a name meaning brilliance, the palace was built by craftsmen from Fez. The best time to visit the Djemaa el-Fna is in the evening and the souks are great for any last minute souvenir shopping. In the evening we'll enjoy dinner together to round off a fantastic holiday.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Hotel

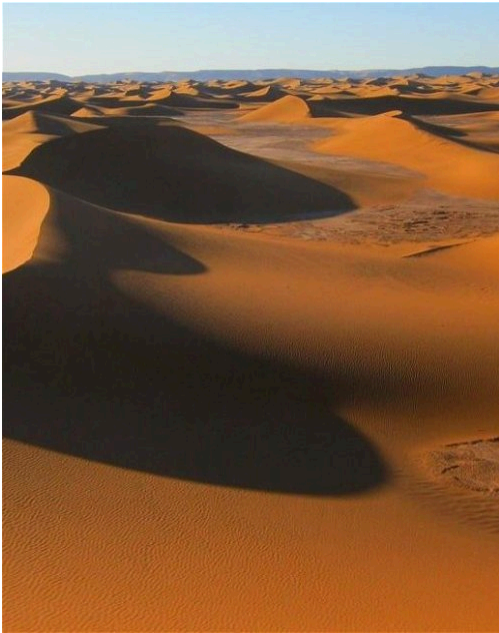
DAY 8**Departure day. Marrakech Airport transfers are provided.**

Your holiday ends after breakfast. Depending on your flight time you may wish to enjoy a final stroll around Marrakech before your transfer to the airport. If you wish to extend your time in Marrakech or Morocco then please don't hesitate to contact the KE office. We can assist you in booking extra nights in the group hotel or in a recommended riad. We also can help you organise a Moroccan extension in the magnificent Sahara Desert.

Meals: **B**

Extensions

When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



Into the Sahara Desert

For a real taste of the Sahara this adventure is hard to beat! After journeying across the Atlas Mountains we arrive in the oasis town of Agdz for a night in a traditional Moroccan house. Next we head to our comfortable fixed Berber camp at Erg Chegaga and take in a spectacular desert sunset before settling down under star-filled Saharan skies! In the morning we'll watch sunrise over the dunes before exploring this magical landscapes by 4WD. After a night in Ouarzazate, we make our way back to Marrakech via the magnificent UNESCO Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou. (Please note this extension includes a local driver but not a KE leader. This gives you more freedom to explore at leisure pre/post KE group trip).

4 days from

✕9,223,372,036,854,776,000 per person

Holiday Information

What's not Included

- Travel Insurance
- Tips for staff
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

TRAVEL TO YOUR DESTINATION

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive than low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

The group will meet at the hotel in Marrakech.

Airport transfers are provided for all clients on Day 1 and Day 8.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals are included in the holiday price from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8.

Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. You should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a [Water-To-Go bottle](#)) to treat your water. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

All food whilst on trek is purchased locally and cooked for us by our excellent trek cooks. KE groups are always surprised at what the cook team conjure up!

Breakfasts are continental style, with tea and coffee, muesli, bread, jam, honey and soft cheese. A morning snack is also provided and this usually consists of a type of Moroccan 'trail mix' with dried figs and dates, peanuts, sugar coated peanuts and other nuts.

Lunch usually starts with the Berber speciality of mint tea, followed by a buffet of rice, pasta or couscous, with a freshly prepared salad - onion, tomatoes, green peppers, grated carrot, green-beans, with tinned sweetcorn or peas added. Hard and soft cheeses, tinned fish, olives, biscuits and bread are also on the lunchtime menu.

Dinner starts off with soup and bread. The main course is usually rice, pasta, couscous, spaghetti or chips, with a vegetable stew (or tagine) consisting of some of the following - onion, potato, carrot, green pepper, zucchini, turnip, parsnip, green beans, and peas. There will be some meat (usually chicken, lamb or beef), however meat is not prominent in the menu. All dishes come with traditional sauces which are rarely (spicy) hot. To round off dinner, there is the usual range of hot drinks.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your diet with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

During this trip the group will spend two nights at a tourist hotel in Marrakech on an en-suite basis. While there are a range of high-end hotels in Marrakech, we try to strike the right balance of a comfortable and conveniently located base while maintaining a really good value holiday. In Essaouria we spend 1 night in a traditional riad-style hotel. This lovely building is located within the ancient medina and has a wonderful roof-top terrace for relaxing and a traditional inner courtyard filled with plants.

Whilst trekking we have 4 nights camping on beaches or on superb cliff top locations. This camping is fully supported with all baggage being carried by mules, as well as tents, a mess tent and a toilet tent. You will have a team of staff to look after you including a cook. One of the highlights of this holiday is the true remoteness of the camping locations and the excellent service provided by the local team. A mattresses is provided, although some people like to bring their own thermarest as well. You will need a sleeping bag. Sleeping bags are available to hire, please contact the KE office to arrange this.

If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single hotel rooms and/or single tents are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights at the group hotel or in a range of different hotels and Riad's in Marrakech are available on request.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified tour leader. The group will also have the support of a full trek crew including cook, baggage animals (camels) and their handlers.

Spending Money

Approximately £100-150 per person (or equivalent in US dollars or Euros) should be allowed for tips, soft drinks, snacks and miscellaneous expenses. Alcoholic drinks, souvenirs and optional activities are additional so you may wish to budget for these.

You cannot usually purchase Moroccan Dirhams outside the country. You can withdraw money in local currency from ATM's on arrival at the airport in arrivals or in Marrakech. You can choose to take your money in pounds sterling, dollars or euros, and you will be able to exchange it at the airport. Credit cards are useful and it is a good idea to carry one in case of emergency.

Guidance on Tipping

Tips are the accepted way of saying 'thank you' to your local guides and porters. They do not form part of their wages and any tips they receive are seen as a personal thank you from group members. For our part, we advise local teams that tips are not a duty or a prerequisite but are a bonus and entirely dependent on the service that was given.

This is your 'thank-you' to the crew and the final amount should be decided by the group. We estimate that approximately £45 per group member should provide an appropriate level of tips. However, for the leader, we leave the tipping amount totally at your own discretion.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status and so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Visa Morocco

UK and USA passport holders do not require a visa for short stays.

For this holiday we require a scanned copy of the main pages of your passport. Please email this to the office when your holiday is guaranteed to run.

Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

VACCINATIONS

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella, along with hepatitis A and typhoid. A good online resource is [Travel Health Pro](#).

Currency

The unit of currency in Morocco is the Moroccan Dirham.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience.

You should be aerobically fit and comfortable with walking 3 to 5 hours for consecutive days. Hill walking, with a good amount of ascent and descent, is the best training. Running, cycling and swimming are also good for developing cardiovascular fitness and stamina.

Climate

Average daytime temperatures in Marrakech range from 20°C to 30°C during main summer months however temperatures on the coast are considerably cooler than in Marrakech. During April and October average daytime temperatures in Marrakech are a comfortable 20 to 22°C whilst on the coast around 18 to 20°C. During the year night time temperatures on the coast can drop to 5°C. During all our departures you are unlikely to experience rain but it's best to be prepared for all weathers.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that prior to travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates direct from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You should bring the following items:

- Hiking boots
- Trainers or sandals for camp
- Socks & underwear
- Trekking trousers / shorts (please respect local culture and don't wear in villages and town)
- Lightweight waterproof over-trousers
- Thermal baselayers
- T-shirts / tops / shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Sunhat / Warm hat (Winter only)
- Sunglasses
- Lightweight thermal or fleece gloves
- Daypack 30 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Sun protection (including lip sun screen)
- Water bottles 1 Litre (x2), a camelbak or platypus is useful (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Sleeping bag (comfort rated -5°C)*
- Small padlock (to lock your kit bag)
- A selection of dry bags (to keep kit bag contents dry)
- Antibacterial handwash
- Washbag and toiletries
- Toilet roll
- Small trek towel
- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, Insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

The following items are optional:

- Sleeping bag liner
- Thermarest (a foam mattresses is provided)
- Gaiters (for thorny sections)
- Trekking poles (recommended)
- Camera
- Travel clothes (can be left in Marrakech in a foldaway bag)
- Biodegradable wet wipes (washing water can be scarce at camp)
- Pen-knife (note: always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Equipment hire:

*Available for hire/rental through KE Adventure Travel

Cotswold Outdoor



Many of the Equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive 12.5% discount voucher from Cotswold Outdoor and other retailers. [>> Find out more](#)

Land Only Information

We sell this holiday on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The holiday starts at the hotel in Marrakech and transfers are provided from Marrakech Airport.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

This, exclusive to KE, holiday takes you along the beautiful and undiscovered Atlantic Coast which blissfully remains unknown to travellers. Read Lisa's blog Moroccan Experience when she travelled on this wonderful holiday. This holiday features in Penny Watson's new book 'Slow Travel'

Please Note This document was downloaded on 17/05/2024 and the trip is subject to change