

## Good to know



ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE: Depending on the airline company, the period of the year and the travel agency you will choose, the prices can almost vary from simple to double. For more details, contact your travel agent or an on-line ticket service.

As with regard to the service and cleanliness you will undoubtedly note some negligence. But do not forget that the Moroccans need to learn the values of European service standards like a foreign language. We therefore prefer putting up a private camp in some remote parts of the country.

BISMILLAH - BON APPÉTIT: you have probably heard of couscous and tajine, the main national dishes of Moroccan cuisine, which are low in fat and moderately spicy. The cuisine is composed of single dishes, which can be cooked many different ways. You will find couscous with lamb, beef, chicken, or fish or just simply, vegetarian. Although the variety is less in the number of different dishes than in their composition, there are nevertheless some dishes not to miss... most famous of all is the bastilla (a pastry stuffed with chicken or pigeon, almonds, eggs, cinnamon...).

CLEANNESS: Moroccans are unfortunately not yet very sensitive to the concept of environmental protection! Sanitation in general and toilets in particular, are of relative spotlessness, although the situation is improving!

CLIMATE: the great geographical and geological diversity of the country, doesn't make it easy to draw a simple sketch of Morocco's climate. In general one can divide Southern Morocco into three climatic zones: the *High Atlas* (area of high mountains up to 4000 meters, some of which are snow-capped all year, involving the closure of many roads in winter; rains in spring and autumn are not uncommon, making the crossing of rivers impossible; pleasantly warm summertime, although nights may be fresh); the *Anti-Atlas* and *Hamada of Drâa* (these areas of hills and desert plains know the greatest daily fluctuations: moderate to hot during daytime - very hot from May to September - fresh to chilly throughout the night, frequent winds in altitude); *Atlantic coast* (influenced by the stream of Canaries, the climate is moderate winter like summer, often misty and knowing strong breezes).

CLOTHES: Limit your luggage. Choose comfort: broad, light and long clothing, in layers of all warmth. You'll need something very isolating as well as head cover all year long. Show mercy to your feet and ankles: bring light, closed and rising walking shoes.

CURRENCY AND CHANGE: 100 Dirham are roughly worth 10 Euros. The Dirham can neither be imported, nor exported (do not change too big amounts, you'll have to spend all of the money before leaving the country). The exchange rate is fixed by the government, in order to prevent the black market. The foreign currencies are thus exchanged everywhere without any difficulty at the same rate. Credit cards such as Visa or MasterCard are useful for large amounts and in tourist centers, where distributors become increasingly popular. Not being accepted everywhere, we don't recommend the use of checks such as " American Express Traveler Checks ", if it's not by precaution (only means of payment refunded in case of robbery or loss). The simplest remains: cash in foreign currencies.

To have a look at the exchange rate of the day : [www.oanda.com/converter/classic](http://www.oanda.com/converter/classic)

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CUSTOM AND HABITS: Is it necessary to shock the spirits? To respect the local habits and sensitivity, avoid shorts, miniskirts, sleeveless shirts, and so on. Also remember that the less your skin will be exposed to the sun, the less you will suffer from the heat and sunstrokes! Last but not least you'll certainly understand that respecting the local dressing code will make human contact much easier.

ELECTRICITY: 220 Volt.

HASHISH: The presence of hashish throughout Morocco is well known, but the accent is less often put on the measures of repression taken by the Moroccan government against violation of law.

HOTEL FACILITIES: we believe that the quality of accommodation takes part in a considerable way in the success of your holidays. Charm and peace thus mainly influenced the choice of the hotels and inns that we suggest. In the cities, the quality of the best hotels meets high European standards. As for smaller towns, sleeping facilities are often simple with sometimes even summary comfort. Altogether, it would be exaggerated to speak of great luxury, with a few exceptions. The local style has usually been favored for architecture and decoration. Most of the rooms dispose of shower, toilet and sometimes air conditioning, although not everything is always in working order. Some hotels are surrounded by beautiful gardens and swimming pools.

IN FAMILY: Itinerant tours are seldom of much rest. This is why we don't recommend our tours to families with children that haven't reached the age of scholarship. Only then do they start having the necessary curiosity and enthusiasm to take pleasure in adventure. In advance we thank you for your comprehension.

INSURANCES: For security sake, we require that each participant have an insurance covering illness and accidents and guaranteeing repatriation in case of emergency. Travel insurance is also recommended covering the expenses of cancellation, as well as robbery and loss of luggage.

LUGGAGE: remember that no hard luggage can be accepted on our Land Rovers (choose flexible and as far as possible "dustproof" luggage, i.e. sea bags). Attention also to overweight: airlines allow a maximum weight of 20kg per passenger, charging 20\$ on average for every additional kg.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILMING: Caution! Dust and sand penetrate everywhere and shocks are to be expected. Thus give up carrying ultra-sensitive and sophisticated gear, if you're not a pro. Especially as light, compact and easy to handle equipment allows much more freedom in picture taking in public areas. Also, it is preferable to carry films and rolls with you, as they are often badly stored, outdated and expensive. Difficult to find are: sensitive rolls (more than 400 ASA), slides and professional quality, as well as VHS and DVC cassettes, etc.

PHYSICAL CONDITION: No particular fitness is required for a trip by Fennec Tours. We however recommend good health, some endurance (the tracks can be pretty bumpy) and a certain amount of flexibility (the unforeseen is synonymous with adventure).

SECURITY: From a political point of view, Morocco has been a stable country for many years, and doesn't therefore justify any apprehension. If you're concerned about personal aggressions and robbery, keep in mind that these crimes are still very seldom throughout the Muslim world, for they are very severely punished. As for the importance which the word security takes within Fennec Tours, consult our chapter on Security.

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SOUVENIRS: You will find something for every taste and budget : spices, pottery, leather work, jewels, carpets... but watch the rip off and be careful about the false " real ones ".

SPORT: opportunities for sportsmen are numerous: skiing, surfing, trekking, mountain-biking,... and especially golf, be it in Rabat, Agadir, Marrakech or Essaouira. To be combined with a trip by Fennec Tours...

STANDARD TIME: Greenwich-mean-time (GMT).

TELEPHONES: there is hardly one village without a Tele-Boutique (public phone); good communication and unquestionably the least expensive way to call abroad. Mobile phones are not of great use off the beaten tracks, where the network is frequently lacking. In case of emergency, we are equipped with a satellite telephone.

TIPS: Are not included in our prices. They are always welcome by locals, but be careful with the value the currency has over there. As a bench mark, think about how much a loaf of bread costs, and how much you would give in terms of bread in your country for the same service.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: European and Swiss citizens need a passport valid for six months beyond their departure from Morocco. No Visa is required for a stay of less than three months. For any other nationality, please contact the Moroccan Embassy of your country.

VACCINATION: there's no compulsory vaccination to enter Morocco, but we nevertheless recommend the usual basic ones: tetanus, diphtheria and poliomyelitis (renewable every ten years). Hepatitis A - one of the diseases most often contracted by travelers - is welcome all over the world. For more information, please contact a specialized doctor or the institute of tropical medicine of your area.

Do not hesitate moreover to consult the site [www.safetravel.ch](http://www.safetravel.ch)

WEATHER: check <http://weather.yahoo.com/regional/MOXX.html>

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