Morocco - Ride the Kasbah

Trip Code: JEMB

Version:

CYCLE	GUIDED GROUP	MODERATE
		5



HIGHLIGHTS

- Mountain biking to the Tazazart Pass, Draa Valley and Todra Gorge
- Morocco, one of the best winter-sun cycling destinations
- Journey across the Atlas Mountains to the amazing landscape of the Jebel Sahro
- 2 nights in Marrakech and the chance to visit the UNESCO listed Djemma el-Fna

AT A GLANCE

- 5 days biking
- 310 kilometres
- 60% off-road
- 100% vehicle supported
- Max altitude - 2615 metres
- Join at Marrakech

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

This is a classic adventure cycling holiday in Morocco's arid Jebel Sahro region. With the snow-covered peaks of the High Atlas to the north and the Sahara to the south, the climate of the Jebel Sahro in southern Morocco is the perfect place for cycling outside the summer months. From the intoxicating city of Marrakech, we drive across the Atlas Mountains to Tinerhir and begin biking in the magnificent Todra Gorge, whose towering walls attract rock climbers from all over the world.

Following surfaced roads and then hard-pack jeep tracks, we find ourselves in a remote mountain area, with nomadic Berber shepherds and views of the Atlas peaks. Crossing the Tamtattouchte Pass (2615m), we drop down into the beautiful Dades Valley, the so-called 'Valley of the 1000 Kasbahs'. Our journey continues, largely on 'piste' (hard-pack and gravel) roads, through Boulmane Dades and passing close to the striking rock formation of Bab n'Ali (Ali's Gate) to N'Kob. A fantastic and newly-introduced dirt road ride then takes us directly across country to the oasis town of Zagora on the very edge of the Sahara. With its flexible itinerary and time to explore the souks and sounds of Marrakech, this great biking adventure is perfect for anyone looking to make a winter escape to Morocco and the pink and ochre coloured mountains of the Jebel Sahro!

Is this holiday for you?

ADVENTURE CYCLING. The Jebel Sahro is a great place for an adventurous cycling holiday. Mountain bikes with front suspension work best on a mix of tarmac, hard-pack 'piste' roads and loose gravel tracks. Cross-country tyres suitable for dry conditions and offering reasonably low rolling resistance are recommended. The route is never technical, but there are enough climbs to offer a challenge, especially on the first couple of days, as well as some great, fast descents. We stay in comfortable hotels each night. This holiday is suitable for weekend mountain bikers with a reasonable level of fitness, who are comfortable on rocky jeep roads and forest road double-track. The ride distance on each of the 5 days of cycling averages out at 60 kilometres and after the first day (with around 1550 metres of ascent) the days become progressively easier. Four-wheel-drive vehicle support accompanies the group throughout. EXCELLENT BIKE HIRE AVAILABLE LOCALLY.

Itinerary

Version:

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.



Essaouira Riad and Atlantic Coast

Friendly Essaouira provides a beautiful base for this colouful Atlantic Coast extension which offers a fantastic start or end to our holidays in Morocco. Described as the prettiest town in the country, the UNESCO port and medina are a riot of colour and activity. To ensure a relaxing time in Essaouira we take care of private return transfers and riad accommodation for 3 nights at the comfortable Riad Maison du Sud, situated within the ramparts of the medina and just a few minutes walk from the sea. Redecorated in Moorish style, it has a snug sitting room and sunny roof terrace with views of the Mellah and the Atlantic Ocean. Essaouira has plenty of things to do so we leave your days free for you to enjoy at leisure. This extension starts and ends in Marrakech.

4 days from
US$655 per person

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A locally based professional bike guide
- Marrakech Airport transfers on Day 1 and Day 8
- One or more support vehicles and drivers
- Hotel accommodation
- All meals
- Bottled water during the rides

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Moroccan Visa (if applicable)
- Tips for our local bike guide and support crew
- Marrakech Airport transfers (other than on Day 1 and Day 8)
- Miscellaneous expenses - souvenirs and drinks etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

Travelling 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 that 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.

Transfers from/to Marrakech Airport are provided for all clients arriving on Day 1 and departing on the last day of the Land Only itinerary.

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

Meal Plan

All meals are included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 8.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for 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 meals 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.

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.

Breakfasts are continental style, with tea and coffee, orange juice, cereals as well as muesli, bread, jam, honey and cheese. A morning snack is also provided and this usually consists of Moroccan 'trail mix' of 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 cous cous, 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, cous-cous, spaghetti or chips, with a vegetable stew (or tagine) consisting of some of the following - onion, potato, carrot, green pepper, zucchini, turnip, and parsnip. green beans, peas. There will be some meat (usually chicken, lamb or beef). Meat is not prominent in the menu. All dishes come with traditional sauces that are rarely (spicy) hot. Desserts usually consist of fruit, some fresh but more likely tinned, including pineapple, apricot, pears, peaches or mixed. Moroccan tinned fruit is excellent quality. To round off dinner, there is the usual range of hot drinks. During the day, the group will be provided with water and with snacks in the form of dried dates and mixed nuts, and possibly also bananas, but It's a good idea to bring along a few of your favourite energy bars from home.

Accommodation

During this holiday the group will spend 2 nights in a city centre hotel in Marrakech. The accommodation for the rest of the trip is in comfortable Moroccan style hotels, on a twin-sharing basis. All rooms will usually have private facilities other than in Zagora. All the hotels are clean and very friendly, varying from good standard kasbahs to simpler establishments, although they are usually not heated. Many have outdoor swimming pools that you can use (weather permitting). If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single room occupancy can be pre-booked at supplementary cost. Additional hotel nights in Marrakech can also be arranged. For hotel prices and single supplement costs please refer to the Dates and Prices page of the trip on our website. Hotels are subject to availability and prices may vary.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The trip will be led by an experienced, English-speaking local bike guide. There will also be one or more support vehicles and drivers.

Altitude

This holiday involves going to moderately high altitude. During the course of your trip you will reach altitudes in excess of 2500 metres. Most people will have no difficulty with this level of altitude but before coming on the holiday, we recommend you read the advice on trekking at high altitude. You can also talk to one of our trekking experts if you have any concerns about altitude.

Spending Money

We suggest that £120 (or equivalent in US dollars, Euros etc.) will adequately cover your needs. You should allow £30 for drinks etc. and around £30 for local crew tips. If you are intending to buy more expensive souvenirs, you should budget accordingly (credit cards can be useful in this respect). Some of the merchants in the Marrakech souks will be able to take credit cards and there are some fantastic souvenir opportunities to be had. However, don't expect to get a bargain without haggling for it. The unit of currency in Morocco is the Dirham. It is not normally possible (and it is certainly not necessary) to purchase Moroccan currency outside the country. Your travel money should be carried in the form of cash or travellers cheques. Sterling, euros and dollars are all readily exchanged. You can also draw cash from ATM's in Marrakech using credit or debit cards.

Guidance on Tipping

Tips are the accepted way of saying 'thank you' to your local guides and crew. They do not form part of their wages. KE always pays local crews the best rates of pay, no matter what country they are in 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 is given. We recommend that you give a tip if you feel that the services you have received have been good. As a rough guide we suggest you allow a total of £30 for tipping your crew.

Additional Information

If you are taking your own bike, we suggest that a lightweight full-suspension mountain bike is appropriate for this holiday.

NOTE: This is the type of bike that we are recommending as our Bike Hire option.

Your bike should have a good range of gears and we recommend you fit fast-rolling 'all-rounder' tyres which work well on the sometimes rough surfaced roads and non-technical trails found on this holiday.

Since you are depending on your bike to transport you throughout your holiday, it's important to ensure it is in good working order. If you are not mechanically minded, get your local bicycle dealer to service it for you.

Please contact us if you are unsure about the suitability of your bike.

Bike Hire

We have a long-established relationship with a bike hire company in Marrakech who can provide the following bikes. All prices subject to change.

1). 2018 model carbon framed Cannondale Scalpel CRB 4 full suspension bike at a hire cost of 230 euros. They have 29 inch wheels, 100mm Fox suspension front and rear and SRAM 1 x 12 gearing, together with Shimano hydraulic disc brakes. They are available in sizes S to XL. Security deposit - 800 euros.

2). 2018 model Cannondale Trail SL3 hardtail bike at a cost of 120 euros. They have 100mm front suspension, 29 inch wheels and Shimano 1 x 12 gearing, together with Shimano hydraulic disc brakes. Security deposit - 400 euros.

Payment will be made locally and does not cover you if you lose the bike or damage it beyond 'fair wear and tear'. You can pay in euros, GBP or US$ or with a credit card (3% charge). Additionally, when you pick up your bike, you will be required to post a security deposit - see above - which will be held against your credit card and refunded when the bike is returned. If you want to hire a bike, please contact the KE office and we can reserve one on your behalf. We must stress that your hire contract will be with the local hire company and that KE cannot be held responsible for any issues arising from bike hire. If you do hire a bike, we recommend that you take your own shoes, pedals and possibly even your saddle, which will go a long way towards making it feel like your own bike. You will also need to take your own helmet, which must be worn at all times when riding. E-Bikes are not an option for this holiday.

Travelling With Your Bike

Airlines require that you pack your bike properly for travel and for this holiday we recommend that you use either soft bike bag or a purpose-made bike box or case. Whether you are using a bag or a case, you will need to partially dismantle your bike to pack it. Please note that bike bags or boxes will be placed in secure storage and will not travel with us during the course of the trip.

Please contact us if you have any questions about travelling with your bike.

Vehicle Support

Throughout this trip we have the back up of one or more 4-wheel-drive support vehicles. Each morning our main baggage will be loaded onto the support vehicle(s) which will follow the group on the day's ride. The local biking leader and the support vehicle driver(s) will watch over the group and will carry mobile phones, allowing you to contact them in the case of a breakdown or other incident. We want everyone to enjoy their cycling experience on this trip and we recognise the importance of group members being allowed to cycle at their own pace. So, although the group will become split up at times, we have regular stops to ensure that it's never long before we regroup. The support vehicle(s) can pick up any group members who wish to take a break from cycling at any time.

Baggage Allowance

Apart from your bike in its bag or box (if you are taking your own bike), you should travel with one main item of luggage, such as a KE Trek Bag or similar holdall, as well as a small day pack or mountain bike-specific hydration pack. The day pack can be used to carry valuable items such as cameras and GPS devices whilst travelling and will also carry your day-ride essentials during the rides.

Your baggage allowance on the flights will depend on your airline. When choosing your flights, whether booking them directly or through KE, you will need to consider the cost of carrying your bike. These costs are your responsibility.

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 the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status 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.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Visa Morocco

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

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

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.

Currency

The unit of currency in Morocco is the Moroccan Dirham.

Preparing for your Holiday

The better conditioned you are the more you will enjoy your trip. We suggest that you adopt a sensible weekly exercise regime and fit in a number of long cycle rides in hilly country to ensure you are physically capable of taking part in this trip - this will also provide you with an opportunity to make sure all your riding kit is tried and tested before you travel. Cycling is obviously the best activity to prepare for this trip, however, running, squash and swimming are also good for developing aerobic fitness and stamina.

Climate

The region of the Jebel Sahro is extremely hot in the summer months. However, between November and April we can usually expect to find mostly pleasant temperatures for mountain biking. Daytime temperatures at low level will usually vary between 20 and 30 degrees Centigrade, falling away to as low as 5 degrees Centigrade at night. Crossing the higher passes, we can expect temperatures to be much lower than in the valleys. During the Christmas and February departures, it can be several degrees cooler than this and we recommend additional warm wear at this season. This part of the world receives very little rainfall and we can usually anticipate fine weather. However, weather in mountainous areas is notoriously difficult to predict, and rain or even short-lived storms can occur at any time of the year.

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 before 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. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

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 directly 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.

Books

- Lonely Planet Guide - Morocco
- The Rough Guide to Morocco
- Atlas Biker. Nicholas Crane
- Lords of the Atlas. Gavin Maxwell

Maps

Carte Du Maroc. 1:100,000 Series

A good map series. Several sheets are needed to cover the route of this bike trip and are difficult to obtain outside of Morocco.

Private Groups Information

Make this KE cycling holiday your own!

- Do our normal group departure dates not fit?
- Are you wanting to travel with just your friends or family?
- Are you looking to organise a trip for your local cycling club?

We are experts in creating holidays for groups of friends, families, charities, and cycling clubs. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect adventure holiday.

Independence with Security

Travelling as a KE Private Group allows you more flexibility and choice, but still with the peace of mind that everything is pre-planned and arranged for your group by a reputable adventure travel company.

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your friends and family complete the private group enquiry form, or call our **Sales Experts on: 017687 73966**

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.

Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through our international partner. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

Equipment Information

Equipment List

For this holiday you will need your usual cycling clothing, including shoes, cycling gloves and helmet (which must be worn at all times when cycling).

Whether you are hiring a bike or taking your own, we recommend that you take the usual day-ride essentials of: mobile phone, multi-tool, mini-pump, tyre levers, spare tubes and puncture repair kit.

Bike Wear

- Cycling helmet
- Cycling shoes
- Daypack or mountain bike-specific hydration pack (e.g. Camelbak)
- Water bladder - min. 2 litres water capacity (we encourage re-filling rather than single use plastic)
- Padded (baggy) cycling shorts
- Long leg cycling trousers or leg warmers
- Base-layer – short sleeve cycling tops
- Mid-layer - long sleeved cycling tops
- Fleece jacket or jumper
- Lightweight windproof top
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Regular biking gloves
- Long-fingered biking gloved
- Warm hat that fits under your helmet
- Buff
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream (inc. total bloc for lips/nose)
- Camera

Other Stuff

- Travel and off-the-bike clothing and footwear
- Lightweight, loose-fitting trousers to cover up on village visits
- Wash bag, towel, toiletries, including anti-bacterial handwash
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Swimwear
- Basic First Aid kit and personal medication
- Chamois cream (e.g. Assos/Ozone)
- Water purification tablets
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Spares

If you are hiring a bike you do not need to bring any spares. The hire bikes are provided in good condition and a supply of spares is carried. You may be asked to pay directly for any spares used, especially in the case of crash damage or damage by mis-use. If you are taking your own bike, you should consider taking a minimum of spares, including a couple of spare spokes (for each wheel if they are different), spare brake blocks (or brake disc pads), chain links/chain connector, rear derailleur hanger and any non-standard parts specific to your bike.

Repairs

Whilst not essential, it is a good idea that you familiarise yourself with how to carry out at least some basic repairs to your bike e.g. changing an inner tube and fixing a puncture. Your bike guide will be happy to help with repairs and general maintenance, but being able to carry out a simple repair yourself could save the inconvenience of having to wait for assistance.

Hydration and Energy Snacks

You should take suitable water bottle(s) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic) or a hydration pack and you should also consider taking a small supply of the gels, power bars or sports drink mix that you would normally use on a ride at home.

Please contact us if you have any questions about your equipment.

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

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. Transfers from/to Marrakech Airport are provided for all clients arriving on Day 1 and departing on the last day of the Land Only itinerary.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Jebel Sahro Experts We have been riding the gravel roads and village tracks of the Jebel Sahro for a decade. No-one knows it better and no other company is offering a largely off-road cycling holiday in this fascinating region of Morocco. What's more this is a holiday that offers Great Value For Money. It's fully inclusive of transfers, guiding, vehicle support, 7 nights hotels and all meals!

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change