

VIP PRIVATE DAY TRIP TO TANGIER

Depart Spain for journey across the Strait of Gibraltar. Arrive at the port of Tangier where you will be assisted and met by Aziz, then transfer to sightseeing tour.

This tour is with an air-conditioning minibus, an interesting drive through the richest area of Tangier's zone of villas and palaces passing via the king's palace and celebrities homes (Barbara Hutton and Malcolm Forbs). Visit Cape Spartel which is the northeast western point of Africa, it is the exact point where the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean meet. Then visit the Caves of Hercules (dating from the Neolithic era). A stop to take pictures of the camels and if you like to experience a ride.



After a short drive return to Tangier for the cultural tour which will be in the Kasbah and the Medina, the oldest and the most exotic part of this mythical city. An opportunity to be in direct contact with the friendly locals!

Begin your tour of the old city to visit the Kasbah taking the itinerary of Matisse, the French famous painter who stayed here between 1912 and 1913 , snake charmers, the Medina where you will enjoy the world famous Moroccan cuisine while you relax to the entertainment of Andalusian musicians and belly dancer , Gran Socco, Petit Socco, Old American Legation, founded in 1821 (the 1st National Landscape for the USA in the overseas), the Mendoubia building and Gardens (The international administration when Tangier was under-control of 8 powerful countries) and then the market for shopping.

Price per person and services included in the tour

Price per person : 79 Euros per person

Children under 3 years are free

Children between 4 and 10 pay half of the price 40 Euros

NOTE If you choose the tour without ferry tickets then the price is 35 Euros

Included in the price are the following services :

- Round trip ferry tickets with the fast ferry
- Assistance at arrival and departure in the port of Tangier
- Air Conditioned Transportation with driver
- English speaking private guide
- Entrance fees to museums
- local taxes

What is not included:

- Drinks and all that is not mentioned above
- Lunch and all extras

Optional:

Aziz can arrange your lunch at 15 Euros a menu in a traditional Moroccan restaurant and a camel ride at 5 Euros per person.



Meet Aziz BENAMI

Salam Alikoum and Marhaba!

This means ,hello and welcome!



My name is Aziz BENAMI, born in the heart of the desert where the sun always shines! I welcome everyone who would like to discover the wealth and beauty of my country and hope that one day I will be able to greet you in person and show you the peace and culture of Morocco!

I have graduated from the famous “High International Institute of Tourism in Tangier” which has enabled me to become a licensed private tour guide in Morocco. Then when I have fallen in love with Tangier, then I am specialised now in Private Day Trips to this beautiful city where I am based for more than 6 years.

Having only 24 years old I am the youngest guide in the kingdom of Morocco but I was born within hearing different languages, history, and discovering the beauty of my country. With over 13 years of experience, I can offer the best guided tours. I design and guide custom made private tours of the kingdom of Morocco for couples and small parties.

I am a communicative guide with enthusiasm for my work. I love architecture, history, art, sightseeing and meeting people. I am personable, flexible, have a good sense of humour, and am always updated on current affairs. I take pride in offering a sensitive and professional service at all times. The greatest reward for me is a referral from my past clients!

Thanks to my experience in tourism and cooperating with many Travel Agencies and Tour Operators abroad not only did I earn a little bit of money but in time I learned to speak the languages of these visitors. Now I can speak English, French, Spanish, Italian, a little of German and Japanese, and of course Arabic and Berber.

Whatever you want to do on your holiday I consider you my guest and I will do all my best to make your time in Morocco the best holiday you have ever had thanks to the secrets I have learned over many years!

Let's share the sun, mint tea and fun!

Customs/immigration

****NOTE**** Coming to Morocco: while on the ferry you must get your passport stamped by Moroccan police. There will be a multilingual announcement (usually very difficult to hear) telling you to do this. If you do not hear this, just ask any of the ship's staff where the immigration agent is. Failure to have your passport stamped will result in extensive delays upon arrival to Tangier.

Finally how to meet Aziz :

I will be meeting at the port of Tangier holding a paper on it your name. There are different three Aziz's in Tangier operating as guides, my full name is Aziz BENAMI, and you trust no one until you see your name on a paper.

****NOTE**** If I am booked on the same day, If you are choosing a private tour I will give you one of my best guides that work in the same level, otherwise you can join me on the same tour if others agree. There may be also last minute or health problems and I cannot be able to be your guide, so you will be met by one of my colleagues. This doesn't happen, but may be possible.

ENJOY YOUR DAY TRIP WITH AZIZ....



Testimonials about Aziz Tour

Dear Aziz,

Having an ethical, dedicated professional tour guide that one can trust in a foreign country gives a welcome sense of security in today's world. We want to commend you for your efforts on our amazing trip. Your personal care is greatly cherished & your attention to detail and relentless determination in making sure we were happy and satisfied.

We want you to know that we are very pleased with the quality of service you provided us.

We sincerely appreciate your responsiveness and the way you conduct your business.

We are very grateful for the way you have cared for our family. You went to great lengths to help us from the moment we arrived in Morocco until we left. Many special thanks to you for a wonderful job. The extra time and effort you put in were certainly priceless. It gives our family great joy to have met you. We will be recommending you to others because of our satisfaction with your service; since such service builds great working relationships we look forward to doing business with you for years to come.

Warm regards,

The Azencot family- Los Angeles

Aziz,

I wanted to say thank you for taking the 4 of us through Tangers last week.

Thanks to your professional arrangement, we had a marvelous time and will recommend your services to anyone heading toward Morocco.

Please give my best to Saied and Sirhan.

Mark

Mark Douglas Jerger

QUALCOMM, Inc.

This October (2008), I travelled to Morocco for the first time. I travelled with my wife and 5 friends. We all feel that instead of hiring a guide, we made a friend in Aziz. There is no way we would have seen all the things we did without Aziz showing us the way. We had glimpses of private Royal Palaces, a tour of the Souk and the Kasbah, and even a camel ride. During the day Aziz introduced us to many people who really made us feel welcome. This would not have been possible had we been on our own, or on a "big public tour." One of our requests was to have a real Moroccan meal. The place Aziz took us to was great. It had real ambiance, live traditional music and great food. It was also at a very reasonable cost. We highly recommend Aziz Benami for any trip to Morocco! Thanks Aziz, keep in touch!

William Martellaro, United States, Throop, Pennsylvania

Bonjour Aziz,

Un petit mot pour vous dire bonne année 2006 et que nous nous rappellons de bons souvenirs de notre visite de Tanger avec vous.

Au plaisir.

Pierre Saddik

Montreal

Thank you so much for your help in Tangier. Yes, I will write about your tours when I go back to the US and write about Morocco.

Thank you for your help.

Best regards,

Janis Turk AMERICAN WRITER

Dear Aziz,

I like to thank you in the name of all 5 people for the very nice days we've spent in Tangier. Since one week we are back home and we will never forget those days.

I will always recommend your travel agency to everyone who might be interested to come to your country.

Yours sincerely

Othmar Wigger SWITZERLAND

Aziz,

I also want to express my gratitude for the successful trip we took into Tangier. This was an incredible opportunity for us. Our trip could not have been more enjoyable.

Thanks for your professionalism and graciousness and thanks to your local team.

Take care.

Chris Romine US

FAQ about Morocco...

What is the Moroccan Currency called?

What kind of clothes should I wear?

What is the food like?

Which language is spoken?

Helpful hints for photographers.

Must I bargain when I shop?

What about safety?

Which immunizations will I need?

What is their currency called? What is the exchange rate for the American dollar? Once in the country, where can I get the best rate?

The Moroccan monetary unit is called the dirham. At the present time, the American dollar buys 8 dirham. Rates vary little between banks, but some banks charge a fee per traveler's check which can add up to a considerable sum with the smaller denominations. Look for banks which don't charge a fee or bring the money you are sure to spend in large denominations.

Major credit cards are accepted in the larger hotels and almost all shops. ATM cards can be used in many cities even in the south.

Use a money belt for all your valuable papers, checks, passport and credit cards.

For an up to date currency conversion see the website www.oanda.com

What should I wear?

Covered is better. Moroccans appreciate respect shown for their culture. The Moroccans are covered and they look quite attractive. Loose, draped clothing enhances the human figure which too often needs all the enhancing it can get. Just compare a family of plumpish, pink, skimpily dressed tourists as they trundle about in the hot sun getting pinker and pinker to a Moroccan family dressed in flowing garments.

Men should avoid going bare-chested and neither sex should wear very short shorts. Walking shorts are fine for both sexes (knee length). Rather than sleeveless blouses or dresses, women should wear short sleeves.

Skirts or jeans are equally accepted. Good walking shoes are necessary. Take only the jewelry you can't do without.

What is the food like?

In a word, delicious. Salads are lovely; fresh, succulent vegetables served with light vinaigrette on the side. Harira is the Moroccan word for a thick vegetable soup. A particularly delicious one contains a bread dumpling.

Main courses are usually one of the following: grilled meat on skewers often served with French fries; couscous, either vegetarian or meat with vegetables; and Tagine, the Moroccan stew, usually meat, tomatoes, potatoes, onions and spices. Moroccan cooks use a mélange of spices such as cumin, turmeric, paprika, saffron and pepper for a subtly flavored cuisine. In the Sahara you can find 'Berber pizza'. This is a double crusted pie filled with meat, hard boiled eggs, almonds and spices. Sometimes rather peppery, Berber pizza is best eaten with glass after glass of hot, sweet, mint tea.

Every seaport has freshly caught fish prepared by the fishermen on or near the piers. Do not miss this treat!

Fresh fruit is served for dessert; pomegranates, melons, bananas, apples, oranges and dates all produced in Morocco and all bursting with flavor. One ongoing benefit of the French occupation are the fresh baguettes available nearly everywhere. Pastries both French and Moroccan are available in the many bakeries.

What language is spoken?

The official language is Moroccan Arabic which is quite different from the Arabic of the Middle East. French is the second language of the country with Berber spoken by the Berber peoples especially in the south. The Moroccans seem to have a finely tuned ear and can mimic the speech of almost anyone. In Tangier, almost of people do speak Spanish. Those who come into contact with tourists have taught themselves to converse in all the major languages. You will be humbled by their abilities especially if you have taken a language course and still can't carry on a conversation in anything other than your mother tongue. To put it plainer, you really don't need to speak French or Arabic, but there will be times when life would be much easier if you knew a few words. Bring a French or Moroccan Arabic phrase book.

Photography:

What film should I take?

A digital camera is always the best!

If you are outside you can use ASA 100 or slower for landscapes. If you are deep within a Kasbah or inside a nomad's tent you will need to push your ASA 3200 or use a flash. If you only bring one type of film, make it color. And bring a good supply, although color print film is sold almost everywhere now if you do run out. Black and white film may be difficult to find.

Morocco is practically synonymous with color. Deep blue skies contrast with golden sands, the green of the palmeries with the red hues of the mountains, tiles of blues, reds and yellows against walls of indigo blue, an orange turban paired with a dark Jellaba with a purple hue... color film is a must.

Black and white is great for the drama of indoors. The rugged faces of

nomads in their tents, the black tunnels of the Kasbahs with stabs of bright sunlight gleaming off gowned men and women as they sweep through the labyrinthine passages, hennaed hands, the latticed shadows of the market place combined with the beauty of the people will guarantee that you will bring home pictures worthy of hanging on your walls.

Will I be able to photograph the people?

It won't be easy. If you have the time to wait until you become inconspicuous, you will probably get what you want. However, even if your subject is not aware of your camera, someone else will be and he/she will warn that person. Then you may be the recipient of a lecture or a demand for money. You can either leave or ask the person to pose in exchange for a small amount of money. Make sure that they understand that you will take several exposures for that agreed upon sum. Otherwise, they will expect that amount of money for each exposure.

It is somewhat daunting to go through this procedure every time you want to take a picture. If you have a guide, he can intercede for you, approach the subject, help with any negotiations concerning money and translate your instructions regarding posing.

It is difficult if not impossible to photograph women unless they are unaware of you. Sometimes they will agree if you offer to pay. However, oftentimes their husband will appear out of nowhere in high dudgeon and demand that you stop. This you must do. Women can be frightened of the camera for fear of what her husband will say or do if he finds out that she has allowed her picture to be taken. Even a guide cannot help you here. Do not be discouraged. With charm and sincere appreciation of their culture, Moroccans can change from seemingly hostile to hospitable in seconds. It's up to you to bridge the gap.

Although many professional photographers feel that they should not have to pay for any photographs they have taken, it seems only fair to compensate some people who have in reality 'modeled' for you. You have paid a great deal of money to travel to Morocco in order to have some unique photos, why not compensate the people who have made this possible?

IS IT SAFE?

What about women traveling alone?

The Hollywood fantasy of the guttural whisper of "Come with me to see Kasbah" is just that a fantasy. Just as in the west, a person's demeanor conveys a message. Purposeful, confident behavior does tend to discourage unwanted comments.

Some young women who were traveling alone, riding the bus and having a budget of only a few dollars per day for accommodations, said that the harassment consisted of wanting to chat her up, giving her compliments such as telling her how many camels she is worth, or remarking on her

beauty. It wasn't so much what was said, but the fact that the western women couldn't have a moment's peace. When one fellow stopped, another soon took his place. According to these women, the way to avoid unwelcome intrusions on buses etc. is to sit with some older women.

Picking up a friend

Very little alcohol is consumed by Moroccans. The mere fact that public drunkenness is rare cuts down on any untoward acts. Moroccans are for the most part religious and will treat you with kindness. They are eager to know you, often inviting you into their home where you will sit with the family, drink tea while you smile and utter your meager French over and over. (Merci, très bon and très jolie are stock phrases good for almost any social situation).

If you are traveling alone, it is hard to avoid at least one of these encounters, but you are none the worse for it and in the long run are better prepared for the next encounter.

Being in the company of a Moroccan friend such Aziz will ensure that no Moroccan man will approach you in the hopes of selling you something or being your guide. Aziz will be your expeditor for any situation, from a problem with your hotel room to pointing out the shops where you will most likely find the best buys.

Safety on the highway

Farmers appear out of nowhere to help a stranded motorist.

Moroccan roads are the best in Africa with this caveat: most are one lane with no shoulder. It is sometimes like a game of chicken with the smallest chicken giving way. Trucks, buses and taxis bear down on smaller vehicles and there is no choice but to slow down and get at least two wheels off the pavement. Much of the time you have the road to yourself, but you must be watchful for animals, children or even adults who might cross the road in front of you.

Morocco is a safe place both for tourists and for her own citizens. You will find the people helpful, charming and welcoming. Their kindness and generous hospitality will amaze you.

The dreaded "B" word....Bargaining.

The best way to be a successful bargainer is to know the going price of the article you are interested in buying. How can you know this? Here at home, you can research Moroccan goods in specialty shops in the larger cities. You can go to flea markets where you will probably find someone who makes a living selling goods imported from Morocco. Not that this person will tell you what he paid, but you know he is asking a 100% markup including the shipping. The best bargainer I ever saw is a friend of mine who likes ethnic jewelry and goes to gem shows frequently. When she came up against a Moroccan jewelry salesman, the poor guy had a melt down. He kept insisting she was not American but Moroccan. you really don't need to speak French or Arabic, but there will be times when

life would be much easier if you knew a few words. Bring a French or Moroccan Arabic phrase book. Or Aziz will help you advising you what a fair price is.

Immunizations

No need for that If you are travelling to Morocco.

The Travel Nurse at your local Health Department can not only tell you what immunizations you will need but she can administer most of them. And she can provide information on precautions to take while in the country which will help you have an illness free holiday.

You can also look this information up on the website www.cdc.gov.

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