

Moroccan Magic



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*If you're not living on the edge
you're taking up too much room !*

Moroccan Magic Motorcycle Safari



Destinations and Places of Interest			
1. Tangier	5. Marrakech	9. Fom Zguid	13. Midelt
2. Chefchaouen	6. Essaouira	10. M'hamid	14. Fes
3. Ifrane	7. Mirleft	11. Ait Ben Haddou	15. Casablanca
4. Bin-el-Ouidane	8. Tafraoute	12. Dades Gorge	1. Tangier



Moroccan Magic Motorcycle Safari

Itinerary for September 2024

Day	Date	Details	Distance
1	M Sep 02	Arrange your international flights to arrive in Tangier, on the northern tip of Morocco	
2	T 03	From Tangier we meander through coastal hills to Chefchaouen in the Rif mountains	240k
3	W 04	A scenic ride to Ifrane via the edge-of-empire Roman ruins at Volubilis	290k
4	T 05	From alpine Ifrane, through cedar forest to the picturesque lake of Bin-el-Ouidane	310k
5	F 06	We keep to the smaller roads as we wander through the hinterland, to Marrakech	230k
6	S 07	* Exploring the old town, medina, the famous Djemaa el Fna town square	--
7	S 08	A half-day ride west to 'Hendrix town' Essaouira; explore the town in the afternoon	180k
8	M 09	Southbound along the rugged Atlantic coast through Agadir and Tiznit to Mirleft	320k
9	T 10	Heading away from the coast, inland to the almond town of Tafraoute	300k
10	W 11	Through arid and wide-open spaces via Irherm and Tata, to reach Foug Zguid	320k
11	T 12	South-east through the Draa Valley to M'hamid; sunset camel ride in Sahara Desert	220k
12	F 13	North through Zagora and Agdz to the fairytale kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou	290k
13	S 14	* A rest day; explore the kasbah, chill by the pool, or optional ride to Tizi'n'Tichka pass	(150k)
14	S 15	Via the spectacular Dades Gorge, to the equally impressive Todra Gorge	240k
15	M 16	Through Todra Gorge and the impressive Atlas Mountains heading east, to Midelt	260k
16	T 17	A half-day ride to Fes, leaving us the afternoon to explore the amazing medina	210k
17	W 18	We'll enjoy some twisty winding roads on our way to Casablanca on the coast	320k
18	T 19	* Our final rest day, visiting Casa's famous Hassan II mosque and Rick's cafe	--
19	F 20	Last day's ride with some highway and then smaller roads, to return to Tangier	380k
20	S 21	Tour concludes with breakfast; make arrangements to fly out today, or extend	-----
			4,110k (+150k)

* indicates consecutive night in same hotel, allowing for laundry, etc.

Departure Date

For the Moroccan Magic Motorcycle Safari 2024, your recommended arrival date in Tangier is **Monday 2nd September 2024** as shown above, or earlier. Several European capital cities have daily connections to Tangier. Please see further discussion on International Flights herein.

Tour Operator

This Motorcycle Safari is one of several itineraries offered by **World On Wheels**, Australia's only professional tour operator specialising solely in international motorcycle adventures. Operating for 20+ years as **Ferris Wheels**, Mike Ferris pioneered the Himalayan Motorcycle Safari concept in 1994 with his first crossing of the world's greatest mountain range by an Australian group of riders. In 1995 as a newly qualified travel agent, he took his first commercial safari to the Khardung La in Ladakh (India), at 5,602 metres the highest road in the world. Mike now operates and personally leads annual **World On Wheels** motorcycle safaris to diverse destinations such as the Indian Himalaya, Nepal-Bhutan, Rajasthan, Peru-Bolivia, Iceland, Turkey, Mexico-Guatemala-Belize, South Africa, the Baltic States, and the Dalmatian coastline, as well as this one through Morocco, each of them two to three weeks in duration. **Mike Ferris** is Australia's only international motorcycle guide who is also a fully qualified and government-accredited motorcycle riding instructor.

Be aware that this itinerary is a guide only and may need to change due to weather, road conditions or other factors. Please be flexible, but rest assured your Tour Leader will make the final day-to-day decisions only after consultation with our local partner, local authorities and group members.



Package Price

The **Moroccan Magic** tour price, excluding airfares and joining in Tangier, is US\$7,500-00. Riders must have a full and unrestricted Rider's license. Pillions are welcome and we also have a limited number of passenger seats available in our support vehicle, accompanying the riders for the length of the Safari – price for pillion or passenger is US\$6,500-00. Please note that our prices are subject to foreign exchange fluctuations, and we reserve the right to alter any pricing pursuant to Clause 9 of our Terms and Conditions herewith, up to the date of final payment.

In this itinerary our tour prices are shown in US\$ for greatest stability but we ask for the equivalent in AU\$ at the prevailing daily exchange rate. The international website (unaffiliated with any bank) to be used for daily foreign exchange calculations is: www.XE.com/currencyconverter We request a US\$1,000 deposit and will invoice you in US\$ thereafter for the remaining balance, but you have some flexibility as to when to pay. Final payment will be due 60 days before the tour date, but if you choose to pay us at any time beforehand because you feel the forex rate is favourable, this works well for everyone all round.

Price includes

- BMW motorbike rental for the duration of the Safari; see '**Our Motorbikes**' below
- Clean, friendly, mid-range accommodation throughout the Safari, nights 1 to 19 inclusive
- Twin-share basis; (single room supplement, additional US\$1200-00) ¹
- Three meals per day except on non-riding days; breakfast only, to allow maximum free-format day
- Experienced guide, local agent and qualified mechanic
- Minibus support vehicle and driver, for luggage transport and assistance
- Spare parts, tools, medicines and first aid equipment
- All fuel costs, maintenance and third party insurance for the bikes
- Camel safari and bivouac dinner in the dunes of the Sahara Desert
- A complimentary *World On Wheels* T-shirt and cap, luggage tags, Moroccan map

¹Accommodation is provided on a twin-share basis and if you're on your own we'll do our best to bunk you in with an acceptable roommate. But if you're the last person to book, there's obviously a 50-50 chance you'll have to take a room on your own and will therefore be liable for the single room supplement. So the moral of the story is, book early or bring your own roommate with you. Or preferably both!

Price excludes

- Airfares to/from Tangier (allow around Au\$2,500-00 depending on airline)
- Comprehensive travel insurance policy, which must cover use of large-capacity motorbike ²
- Medical examination and vaccinations before departure (recommended)
- Tipping for any local hotel porters you may choose to utilise
- Road tolls if necessary (we always try to avoid if time permits!)
- Entry fees to selected (optional) destinations of interest and fees for local guides
- Expenses of a personal nature such as postage, laundry, souvenirs and all drinks
- Tips for support staff at completion; optional but always appreciated, US\$100-00 suggested ³

² Please note that a motorcycle safari overseas must be considered one of life's more adventurous pursuits and therefore personal travel insurance is mandatory. In Australia, we can suggest www.AussieTravelCover.com.au **Be aware**, however, that any travel insurance ceases immediately on return to your own country, even if on-going medical treatment or surgery is required. Private health cover or government Medicare resumes at that point.

³ A note on tips. We recognize tipping is not generally part of the antipodean psyche, but it is pretty much expected in most other parts of the world. Daily hotel porters will expect a small reward for carrying your bags to your room and our mechanic/driver/local guide will anticipate a reasonable tip to supplement his modest wages whilst on tour. We suggest something like US\$100-00 is affordable for this tour (only US\$5-00 per day), collected at the conclusion of the tour. If you've had a good time, we would encourage you to contribute generously! (...and if you haven't, please let us know why and we'll contribute on your behalf).

International Flights

It's a pretty simple procedure these days to book airline tickets online. There are several internet sites such as Flight Centre, Expedia, Sky Scanner, Flight Network, etc which will give you comparisons on all available carriers to/from your required destination. There are several daily airline connections from European capital cities to/from Tangier. We recommend you book your airfare at least six months ahead to get the best price.

Food & Health

Quality of food can obviously be a concern when visiting exotic foreign lands. We take care in selecting clean and reputable establishments for our meals and the local fare is not always as fiery and spicy as some people would have you believe. Our riders are often pleasantly surprised by the delicious meals available. Even so, an occasional upset stomach cannot always be avoided in remote areas, so we advise initial caution and we carry various medicines to ensure as much comfort as possible.



Participants in any of our adventure activities are obviously expected to have a reasonably high level of health, fitness and capability, but in all cases a **consultation with your doctor is suggested** in order to identify necessary vaccinations and precautions, particularly if you are traveling overseas for the first time. Anti-malarials are not necessary and can sometimes have a negative impact on the digestive system as they are a very strong drug, so we would advise against them. And don't get talked into a rabies vaccine unless you're intending to wrestle with the street dogs...

Climate & Clothing

Our itinerary is designed to take advantage of the pleasant weather of the northern autumn. However, Morocco's geography varies greatly and therefore temperatures can range from cold in the mountains to warm on the coast to hot in the desert, and also with a chance of some rain. At times there will be little shade available, so sunscreen, sunglasses, hats and sleeves will also be required. Jeans and our *World On Wheels* shirts tend to be the norm, with strong boots and riding gloves. Helmets, full or open-faced as you prefer, should be brought from home.

Professional quality riding gear including jackets, over-pants and other protective clothing are an excellent investment and will go a long way to ensuring your comfort and protection in what may sometimes be adverse conditions. If you're susceptible to the cold, then possibly a good set of thermal underwear might also come in handy. A couple of products we've used for several years and are happy to endorse are the Kevlar-reinforced jeans and other clothing from Draggin Jeans in Melbourne (www.dragginjeans.com.au) and those velcro alternatives to hooked 'occy' straps from Andy Strapz (www.andystrapz.com).



And while we're giving plugs, we'd like to suggest you consider a Rider Improvement course, regardless of your experience or perceived ability on a motorcycle, to brush up on your skills prior to joining an international riding safari. Our recommendation here is the renowned operation Stay Upright, who offer a range of courses designed to progressively increase your riding ability. Mike Ferris completed his Instructor's course with Stay Upright, who offer various track and adventure riding courses in the eastern states of Australia. Check your own regional area to see what courses might be available. Highly recommended.

Our Motorbikes

Our bike supplier is an official travel partner of BMW Motorrad. Our standard bike is the F750GS, but the F850GS and R1250GS models are available for an additional upgrade fee; please see our **Booking Form** for details. All of these are fully-faired and are perfect steeds for traveling the Moroccan roads. For the more vertically challenged we are able to make some lowering adjustments to some of these models to assist in your riding comfort. Fuel, insurance and maintenance are included.

Please note you will be required to sign a rental contract with our bike supplier in Tangier, leave a photocopy of your passport and a credit card imprint as a security deposit. Our package price includes comprehensive insurance but the policy carries an Excess (or 'Deductible self-risk') of €2,000 – ie the rider is liable for the first €2,000 of any damage; if you drop the bike, any broken levers, mirrors, lights, etc will be payable by you. This Excess can optionally be substantially reduced to €350 by the upfront payment of an additional insurance premium of €20 per day x 18 riding days = €360.

Our Riding Policy

We will occasionally require riders to 'bunch up', particularly when navigating through large towns, but out on the open road we know that you will want a lot of freedom and time on your own (isn't that what riding is all about?) We allow plenty of time for people to set their own pace, and it's unlikely that you'll ever be pressed to keep up. We know of some motorbike tour operators who insist that everybody ride in formation every day and play follow the leader, but that's not our style at all.

You'll be given maps and daily directions on how far we're going, the destination for the night (including hotel name and phone number), and where we are likely to stop for lunch, drink breaks, sightseeing and refueling along the way, etc. Our preferred Corner Marking system will be explained to you in detail. There is always plenty of time to take photos, chat to the locals, or just sit and soak it all in. Our support vehicle with our luggage will always be the last vehicle in the convoy, with our mechanic, spare parts and tools, etc. in case of bike problems.

But let's not pull any punches here. A tour such as this is potentially a dangerous undertaking; it's inherent in the very nature of the trip. You'll be on an unfamiliar bike, on unfamiliar roads in unfamiliar traffic conditions. It is important for you to recognize this and accept ultimate responsibility, firstly for joining and secondly for riding in a circumspect manner for the duration of the tour. Please read and acknowledge Paragraph 16 of our Terms and Conditions! (End of sermon)

Detailed Daily Itinerary

Day 1 will mainly consist of flying, and involves the logistics of getting everyone into Tangier at more or less the same time from several different locations. Tangier has an international airport with connections to many countries, and daily flights to several European capitals. You may want to arrive a day or so early to explore; we need you to at least arrive in time please for a meet 'n' greet with a welcoming drink at our hotel early in the evening, before our first group dinner together. We need to dedicate some time to processing paperwork for your motorbike rental, and have a briefing on road rules, etiquette, our corner-man system, 'the plan' and so forth.



Day 2 sees us heading out initially on a coastal road along the Mediterranean. But rather than sticking to the main roads, we'll then take a rather longer detour via some excitingly twisty mountain roads. Chefchaouen is known as the Blue City and is a quiet medina village nestled in a valley encircled by the peaks of the lesser known Rif Mountains. Our accommodation tonight is in the very heart of the blue medina, offering us lovely views of this beautiful town and its surrounding landscapes.

An absolute highlight here is to rise at dawn and stroll the quiet medina streets watching the locals start their day, before the tourist shops get busy.

Day 3 has us commencing our pilgrimage south. We ride via Moulay-Idriss, the town named in honour of Morocco's most revered Muslim saint and a great-grandson of the prophet Mohammed. We'll visit nearby Volubilis, the largest and best-preserved Roman ruins in Morocco, delineating the southern limit of the Roman Empire. Then it's past Meknes, one of Morocco's four Imperial Cities (ie former capitals) and on to our destination for tonight, the alpine ski resort village of Ifrane, sometimes referred to as the Switzerland of Morocco.

Day 4 Initially, we'll enjoy an exquisite morning ride through the *Forêt de Cèdres*, inhaling the clean, green, cedar forest perfumes. We'll stop for an early lunch in Khenifra, surrounded by the Atlas Mountains, before continuing south through one of the main agricultural breadbaskets of Morocco. Many of the local oranges, olives and figs will find their way to market via Beni-Mellal, which we'll be passing through. Tonight's accommodation is a gorgeous rustic hotel on the banks of a river just outside the lakeside town of Bin-el-Ouidane.

Day 5 Leaving Bin-el-Ouidane this morning, we'll cross the dam of the same name, a functional facility providing hydroelectric power and irrigation to the region. We may have time for a side-trip to view the Cascades de Ouzoud, the highest waterfalls in Morocco, (*if it's been raining recently!*) before riding on some of the smaller roads into the *medina* district of Marrakech. We will arrive in Marrakech early enough in the afternoon to allow time to settle in and enjoy a relaxing drink on the rooftop of our hotel before dinner. Tonight after dinner we can take a short stroll to experience the buzzing Djemaa el-Fna old town square that comes alive each evening, where we'll enjoy the wonderful array of street theatre and open-air entertainment.

Day 6 Marrakech is a fantastic place for a rest day. The country name Morocco is actually derived from the name of this town. The Marrakech Explorer open-top bus does a lap of the 'new' city, or you can do a similar route by horse and buggy, but most of Marrakech's 'buzz' is centred around the old medina within walking distance of our

hotel. You have all day free for souvenir shopping in the *souqs* (don't forget to bargain hard!), catching up on communications back home or even a relaxing massage in the comfort of the hotel in preparation for the next leg of our journey. You're on your own for lunch and dinner today, and we recommend an open-air progressive dinner tonight browsing the many food stalls, seen here in Djemaa el-Fna.



Day 7 This morning we head out of Marrakech in a westerly direction on our way to Essaouira, tonight's destination. We arrive in time for lunch and then the afternoon is your own to explore this wonderful Atlantic coastal town. Essaouira has several claims to fame, one of which is being the part-time home of legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix. It is also a popular location for the movie industry and many films have been shot and produced here (including Ridley Scott's *Kingdom of Heaven*). Essaouira is a popular destination not only with moviemakers and actors but also with many artisans, and with local and international windsurfers because of its breezy coastal location. At the end of the ocean boulevard the well-preserved maze-like *medina* is definitely worth a visit, with many tiny shops and eateries lining the labyrinth of laneways. It's a great opportunity to sit and observe the local culture while sampling the famous Moroccan mint tea (whiskey de Berber!)

Day 8 Today it's south along the wild and rugged Atlantic coast. We'll ride through some relatively developed coastal surfing towns, out in the 'middle of nowhere', where surprisingly you'll observe the presence of many familiar Antipodean surfing brands. The Atlantic winds blow us further south, bypassing Agadir the principal port of southern Morocco on our way towards Tiznit at the end of the *Anti Atlas*, in a corner of the Souss Valley. Before reaching Tiznit we turn off the main road and make our way about 70k southwest to the small village of Mirleft, where we can relax for the night and watch the sun setting over the Atlantique. Our hand-picked hotel offers a relaxing pool surrounded by arid Moroccan landscape.



Day 9 This morning we continue a short distance down the coast to Sidi Ifni and then head inland, through the remote and beautiful *Anti Atlas* landscape. After an exhilarating morning's ride through the mountains we arrive, via the high or the low road, in the 'almond capital' of Tafraoute. This modestly sized village is nestled in the peaceful and delightful Ameln Valley, best known for its pink-hued rock faces and lush palm groves (*palmeraies*).

The afternoon is your own, to explore Tafraoute and the region on foot or by bike. The tones of the surreal surrounding landscape will amaze and uplift.

Day 10 has us passing through the eastern half of the Ameln Valley and over Tizi Mlil mountain pass for the ride north to Irherm, where we change direction and head southeast to Tata for lunch. We continue further to our destination tonight, Foum-Zguid. This area is known for its fossils and a large hot water source (tissint)... and the smell of the desert begins. Foum-Zguid used to be a major staging post in the famous Paris-Dakar rally when it was held in this part of the world. You've just been through the desert on a horse with no mane.



Day 11 is through more arid lands to reach Agdz, at the heart of the luscious *Vallee du Draa*. The Draa river is one of the longest and most important in Morocco, providing irrigation for wonderful produce. We follow the river valley for a while until we quite literally reach 'the end of the road' at M'hamid – there is nothing beyond here but endless sand dunes. Our hotel has a wonderful pool where we can relax and cool down a bit before we take a sunset camel ride into the Sahara, accompanied by our Berber guides. We enjoy a campfire bivouac dinner in the dunes, with traditional Berber and Touareg music from the guides / cooks / minstrels before returning to our hotel late in the evening.

Day 12 We re-trace a little of the Draa Valley before heading through the popular film-making district of Ouarzazate, to Ait ben Haddou, an incredibly spectacular *kasbah* (citadel) 30kms further on. This mud-walled *medina* and *kasbah* resembles a Hollywood film set, which is why it has been chosen as the setting for such blockbusters as *Lawrence of Arabia* and more recently *Gladiator*. Any mention of Australian heritage will be greeted with cries of 'Russell Crowe shopped here!' from the local vendors. And yes, we know, he's a Kiwi. Tonight's *Dar* (traditional guest house) is as close to the kasbah as you can get, so after a refreshing swim in the pool we'll finish off the day with a well-earned beer or a G&T, sharing tales of adventure whilst gazing at this unique vista and soaking up its exotic ambience.



Day 13 is a rest day. We can spend a couple of hours wandering through the kasbah, then relax by the hotel pool in the afternoon. Or if you haven't had enough time in the saddle yet, there's an optional 150k riding loop to visit the Tizi'n'Tichka pass, the highest mountain road in Morocco.



Day 14 After breakfast and one last gaze at the magnificent kasbah, we head east. Our destination for tonight is the oft-photographed *Gorges du Dades* which we visit purely for the pleasure of riding some awesome switchback corners. We'll ride up to the top of the valley and then turn around and enjoy it again in the opposite direction to find our hotel.

Day 15 sees us heading to our second spectacular gorge, the *Gorge du Todra*, where another river has carved a steep-sided swathe through the landscape. We continue through this gorge and cover lots of open ground with the Atlas Mountains holding sentinel all around, and pass through Rich on our way to our overnight destination of Midelt.

Day 16 This morning we are on our way to Fes. We have a half day ride on some magnificent roads across the contrasting landscape of the *Moyen Atlas* mountains through beautiful cedar forests, before arriving in Morocco's oldest imperial city in time for lunch. Fes is a very large and busy city with a population of more than one million people,

bursting at the seams. Commonly known as the religious and spiritual capital of Morocco, the city is divided into three main areas and this afternoon is our opportunity to discover and experience the central medina of Fes-el-Bali. The leather tanneries made famous by Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner are here, and Fes also boasts the oldest university in the world. We will take a walking tour this afternoon experiencing the vibe, architecture and sights of this wonderful city rich in Moroccan history, tradition and culture. And incidentally, please note the spelling of Fes; it has nothing whatsoever to do with the Turkish Ottoman hat known as the *fez*! Although you can of course buy a fez everywhere in the medina; the Moroccans are quick to jump on a popular tourist souvenir.

Day 17 We're obliged to join a highway for a short while to escape the urban sprawl of Fes, and then we'll take to some smaller rural roads to ride through some fabulous hills on our way again to the Atlantic Coast, to arrive in Casablanca.

Casa, as it's affectionately known, is the largest city in Morocco and its busiest port, but has never been the capital of the country. The four Imperial Cities (meaning, where the King has resided) are Marrakech, Meknes, Fes and Rabat, which is the current capital. We've now visited three of these but we'll bypass the last.

Day 18 is a day exploring a little of Casablanca. The stunning Hassan II Mosque, on the boulevard right on the beachfront, is a must-see regardless of your religious persuasions! An exquisite building in white marble with the traditional green roof of Islam, it is a massive and awe-inspiring sight.

Differing from most Muslim countries where the mosques typically have cylindrical minarets, you'll have noticed by now all the mosques in Morocco have ornately decorated oblong-shaped minarets. The Hassan II Mosque here in Casa is the largest in Morocco, in fact the largest in the entire continent of Africa.



Day 19 Completing our circuit of Morocco and drawing the curtain on our tour, we bypass busy Rabat and wander through some small ranges of hills to bring us back to Tangier where we reluctantly hand back our motorcycles, then it's into the hotel for a celebratory drink! Tonight is our farewell dinner, where we can reflect on what we've just seen and done over the past three exciting weeks.

Day 20 Swap addresses with your fellow riders at breakfast so we can all keep in touch and share photos of your happy memories. Don't forget to tell 100 friends how much fun you've had with us in Magical Morocco! We hope to see you again somewhere else in the world, sometime soon, on two wheels.

Further trip notes including a Checklist of essential clothing and equipment to take, health considerations, visa formalities, etc, will be sent upon receipt of a completed Booking Form and deposit. Please contact our office any time for further information via email: Adventure@WorldOnWheels.Tours

(Please continue to next page, where we describe our motorbike options)

Our motorbikes:



BMW F750GS

Capacity	853cc ('powered down' to 750cc)
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Parallel twin
Transmission	6-speed, chain drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single disk rear
Wheels, front / rear	Cast aluminium, 19" / 17"
Fuel capacity	15 litres
Wet weight	227 kg
Seat height options	815mm, or 770 with lowering kit
Maximum power	77 HP



BMW F850GS

Capacity	853cc
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Parallel twin
Transmission	6-speed, chain drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single disk rear
Wheels, front / rear	Spoked 21" / 17"
Fuel capacity	15 litres
Wet weight	233 kg
Seat height options	860mm, or 815 with lowering kit
Maximum power	90 HP



BMW R1250GS

Capacity	1254 cc
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Horizontally opposed twin (boxer)
Transmission	6-speed, shaft drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single disk rear
Wheels, front / rear	Spoked, 19" / 17"
Fuel capacity	20 litres
Wet weight	249 kg
Seat height options	850mm, or 800 with lowering kit
Maximum power	136 HP