

Topdecker

SURF, SAND & SOUKS



TRIP CODE:
MXSSCE-0

TOPDECKER, meet Middle East & Nth Africa

It's the ancient ruins, colourful bazaars and spice-filled tagines that first draws you to Morocco BUT it's hitting the surf at some of the best beaches in the world, sipping mint tea with the locals outside the buzzing medina or finding yourself amongst the palms of a hidden paradise that really makes a trip here something special. Lucky for you, we've got every angle covered with this one.

WORTH NOTING...

A Sector trip is part of a larger journey, meaning your new friends might continue on or after you leave, or you might be joining a trip already in progress.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Explorer



Nights



Android/iPhone
app download
info



This is a sector
trip.

Hi, and thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

PLEASE NOTE: We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Visit Hassan II Mosque
- + City tour of Chefchaouen
- + Visit the archaeological site of Volubilis
- + City tour of Fes
- + City tour of Marrakech
- + City tour of Essaouira

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Visit Hassan II Mosque
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- + City tour of Fes
- + City tour of Marrakech
- + City tour of Essaouira

YOUR TRIP WILL START

PICK UP:

Casablanca
Morocco

YOUR TRIP WILL FINISH

DROP OFF:

Essaouira
Morocco

TRIP CURRENCIES

- + Morocco -

YOUR ITINERARY



AWESOME
TRIP
LEADER



DRIVER

DAY 1 | CASABLANCA, MOROCCO TO CHEFCHAOUEN

Morocco, let's do this! Brace yourself for Casablanca's mix of sparkling waters, palm-fringed avenues, street art and colonial buildings. Ahhh – doesn't it feel great to be here? After this morning's welcome meeting, we'll check out the seriously impressive Hassan II Mosque – a religious and cultural complex topped off with the tallest minaret in the world. And then? Off to Chefchaouen we go! You'll soon see why this place is known as the 'blue city'...



MEALS:

- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Hassan II Mosque

DAY 2 | CHEFCHAOUEN TO FES VIA VOLUBILIS

First up today: a guided walking tour of the medina will make your Insta story pop with brilliant blue and white buildings and terracotta tiles. Then: put on your archaeology hat, 'cos we're off to Volubilis to check out the Roman ruins. Want more history? Good! Tonight we'll be heading deep into the heart of old Morocco on our journey to Fes.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + City tour of Chefchaouen
- + Visit the archaeological site of Volubilis

DAY 3 | FES

Hellooo, city tour! You've got a whole day to get all up in the winding alleyways and buzzing souks of Fes el Bali. Yes! As we make our way around we'll tick off the likes of the Jewish Quarter, the Royal Palace and a traditional ceramics factory for a true insight into the local culture. Later on, why not head over to The Ruined Garden (Google it) for a spot of Moroccan tapas?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + City tour of Fes

DAY 4 | FES TO MARRAKECH

Next stop, Marrakech! When we get there, the evening will be yours to spend exploring the old medina as you please. Think: henna artists, street performers, storytellers and stall after stall crammed full of tantalising local delicacies. It's weird, it's wonderful, and it's like nowhere else on earth. Enjoy!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch

DAY 5 | MARRAKECH

You haven't done Marrakech until a local guide has shown you the sights. Fact! That's why we'll be hitting the streets today for a walking tour featuring busy souks, Koutoubia Mosque and the famous Jemaa el-Fna square. Ready to take on those bazaars? Yeah, you are! Oh - and did we mention today's awesome array of optional extras? Take your pick from quad biking in the rock desert, a tagine cooking class or a cycling tour of the Palmery. Just... wow!



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ City tour of Marrakech



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Quad biking in the rock desert from: MAD715
- + Tagine cooking class in Marrakech from: MAD640
- + Cycling tour of the Palmery from: MAD350

DAY 6 | MARRAKESH

What's it gonna be today? The choice is yours! That's right, you've got a free day to take on the city your way. Get the full Moroccan spa treatment at a hammam, go souvenir shopping or simply let your tummy lead the way. Wanna get out of town? You could always hop on one of today's optional tours! Choose from a cycling day tour in the Atlas Mountains or a trip to the flower-dotted Ourika Valley.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Cycling day tour of the Atlas Mountains from: MAD2000
- + Day tour of Ourika Valley from: MAD1817

DAY 7 | MARRAKECH TO TAGHAZOUT

We've done the souks. Now it's time for sand and surf! Get pumped – today we're off to the laid-back surfer's paradise that is Taghazout. Welcome to some of the most famous breaks in Morocco! Tonight, laze by the pool and plan all the things you wanna do tomorrow. Exciting times!



MEALS:

+ Breakfast

DAY 8 | TAGHAZOUT

Awww, yeah! You've got a free day to spend chilling at the beach, taking epic photos, splashing in the sea, sunbathing and sipping mint tea. This is what it's all about! Taghazout, you're our kinda place. Wanna see our optional extras menu? We're glad you asked. Take your pick from yoga, paddle boarding, a surf class or a trip to the VERY aptly named Paradise Valley. What a day!



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Yoga in Taghazout from:
MAD184
- + Paddle boarding in
Taghazout (prices available
locally)
- + Surf class in Taghazout from:
MAD301
- + Visit Paradise Valley from:
prices available locally

DAY 9 | TAGHAZOUT TO ESSAOUIRA

Give one last shaka to Taghazout – today we'll be kicking it up the Atlantic Coast to the fishing town of Essaouira (it's pronounced 'Essa-weera', if you're wondering). A walking tour through the medina, the port and along the Scala (sea wall) will help you get your bearings before we come together for a super emotional farewell dinner in a local restaurant. No, you're crying. Also today: optional kayaking. Keen?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + City tour of Essaouira



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Kayaking in Essaouira (prices
available locally)

DAY 10 | ESSAOUIRA

We hate to say it, but it's time to go home! One last breakfast, then the party's over. Same time next year?



MEALS:

- + Breakfast

MEALS

Breakfasts are included every day on most trips (except on the first morning). A typical breakfast may consist of cereals with milk or yoghurt, bread, croissants, cold meats, cheese and a range of spreads, with fruit juice, tea or coffee to drink. It is rare to get a hot breakfast, though on some occasions there may be some hot food available as well.

Included evening meals are in local restaurants or your place of accommodation. In most cases table water is provided with the meals, and if you wish to purchase additional drinks you can do so at your own expense.

If you have any dietary requirements we will make every effort to cater to your specific needs as long as you advise your travel agent or Topdeck Customer Service Consultant when you book. But please be aware that although we will do everything in our power to arrange it, we cannot guarantee that every restaurant we use will be able to cater to all dietary needs. We also cannot cater for tastes or dislikes, as most of our included evening meals feature a set menu.

Your included meals are detailed in the 'More Inclusions' section of this document.

Important note on Ramadan: As many Middle Eastern countries are of Islamic faith, it is important to remember that many restaurants and shops will either be closed or operating on reduced hours during this time. Some Optional and Included Activities may also be affected. Despite some of these restraints, Ramadan is an incredibly important and sacred month for Muslims. When equipped with some basic knowledge, you'll have the chance to immerse yourself in this special tradition and experience all its highlights.

TIPPING

NO TIP NECESSARY

Your Topdeck Trip Leaders and Drivers never expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead – spoil yourself with the money you save traveling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking face emoji.

ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing better.

PLEASE NOTE: The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

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PASSENGER SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, remember to avoid walking alone, particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking, and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong – that's just not what families do. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow passengers. The golden rules? Always remember to respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation and treat others how you'd wish to be treated yourself. Easy!

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana, even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

REMEMBER – if you are found in possession of drugs, not only could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn't want that to happen to any of our Drivers – they're awesome.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up again.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- + Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones

- + Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!
- + Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink, you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations
- + Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home, too – so they're sure to know of some tried-and-tested ways to beat the blues
- + Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (trust us).

HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome holiday AND have a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- + Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your hotel towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth
- + Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- + Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets and book tours and activities run by local guides
- + Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- + Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

OTHER INFORMATION

INSURANCE

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information, visit www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

PLEASE NOTE: Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check

with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

WHAT TO BRING

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it! (As long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is.)

- + 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes
- + 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- + 1 pair of thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- + 2 pairs of jeans/trousers
- + 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- + 4 shirts/T-shirts
- + 2 sweaters/jumpers
- + Smart casual evening wear
- + 1 rainproof jacket
- + 1 warm jacket
- + Underwear and socks
- + Swimwear
- + Towel
- + Toiletries
- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug
- + Reusable water bottle
- + Snow gear



THAT'S IT!