

Morocco Packing Guidelines

The climate in Morocco varies between areas, especially in the fall months. In these periods there are not a lot of rainy days and the daily temperatures are between 60-90F, depending on your location.

When it comes to clothing, it is important to remember that the local etiquette of clothing can be rather different to Western travellers. Morocco is a Muslim country, meaning that conservative clothing is expected throughout the country. As responsible and respectful travellers, as we all are, it is polite to avoid excessively short, tight, or low-cut clothing. Moroccans are rather liberal compared to other Muslim countries, therefore t-shirts, skinny jeans, and knee-length dresses are quite common, especially in bigger cities. A good rule of thumb is to keep shoulders and down to your knees covered. The countryside is naturally more conservative and there we recommend wearing something a bit more covering and with a loose-fit. This also applies if you are possibly going to visit with local families. If you are going into the Sahara Desert and making a stop to visit a nomadic family, please be aware you will likely be having to crawl into the tent and will be more or less sitting on the ground, so please keep that in mind for appropriate attire.

If you are visiting the Hassan II Mosque, be aware that you will have to remove your shoes during the tour. Also, shorts, ripped clothing, exposed shoulders, and any clothing that would be otherwise deemed in poor taste are prohibited. However, it is not required to wear full length sleeves, skirts, or cover your head.

When you are heading to the mountains make sure to bring some good walking shoes. Those might be a good idea in the cities, as the best way to explore medinas is on foot, and not all of the ground is smooth and level. Protection from the sun is also important while in the south, particularly in the desert. Hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen will all help protect you in the desert. There is no need for women to cover their hair. Wearing hijab is a personal choice to Moroccan women, and many choose not to wear it. As it is a religious symbol, it should not be adopted lightly or to try to "fit in". However, having a turban wrapped in the Sahara is a matter of practicality, and your guide will be more than happy to teach you how to wrap one!

If you intend to take advantage of local nightlife in the cities, attire is much as you would find in the United States.

September is usually quite warm, especially in the south. Shorts and knee length skirts are perfectly acceptable to help stay cool. However, the Sahara Desert cools dramatically after the sun goes down, so a light jacket is a good idea to have. Also, comfortable pants are recommended for the camel ride, as well as for the day spent traveling south. Comfortable walking shoes are important for the city tours, as not all walkways are as smooth as you will find in the U.S. While we have a pretty full schedule, most of the properties do have swimming pools that there may or may not be time to take advantage of.

Beyond clothing, be sure to bring sun protection, and we highly recommend stomach medicines as it's always possible something could disagree with you. Additionally, if you are prone to motion sickness, you will absolutely need some sort of remedy for traveling through the mountains. The electrical outlets are the same as European, but twice the voltage of the U.S. Therefore, any heating implements (hairdryer, curling iron, etc.) MUST have a power converter, not merely an outlet adapter. If you short out the electricity in a property because you just had to have your own hair dryer without appropriate power conversion, you are fully responsible for any damage caused.

Money will be exchanged on the ground in Morocco. This can be done several times during the trip, as it is best not to have any leftover cash that must be converted back before leaving Morocco. Most everyday shops and restaurants do not accept credit cards, and tips are common for practically all services. A SIM card can be purchased for a low price to be used in any unlocked cell phone if desired.

Suggested packing (some items can be purchased here)

- Sneakers/hiking boots for hiking
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Comfortable pants for hikes and camel trek
- Knee length shorts/skirts for time in the hot cities, such as Marrakech
- Swimsuit if you wish to take advantage of the swimming pool
- Light jacket for the chilly nights
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Motion sickness remedies
- Stomach issue remedies
- Backpack/overnight bag to pack for overnight in the desert
- Power adapter (African/European)
- <u>Power converter</u> if you are planning on using heating elements (hair dryer, straightener, curling iron)
- Unlocked cell phone if you plan to use a SIM card