14-Day Morocco Itinerary: Grand Imperial & Sahara Route

Comprehensive Field Blueprint: Imperial Palaces, Atlas Passes, Erg Chebbi Bivouacs & Atlantic Ramparts

Grand Circuit | 14 Days · 13 Nights | 2,150 km Route | Highways, Atlas & Erg Chebbi

This **14-day Morocco itinerary** bridges Casablanca, Rabat, Volubilis, Fez, Erg Chebbi luxury desert camps, the Dades and Todra gorges, High Atlas mountain passes, Marrakech, and Essaouira. Designed for independent road trippers and private travelers.

Field Assistance: WhatsApp Concierge (+212 670 951 796) | Facebook Community Group

OFFICIAL MOROCCO EMERGENCY & HIGHWAY DISPATCH NUMBERS

- **Mountain & Desert Routes (Gendarmerie Royale):** Dial 177
- **Urban Police (Imperial Cities):** 112 (Mobile) / 19
- **Ambulance & Rescue (Protection Civile):** 112 (Mobile) / 15
- **National Toll Highway Assistance (ADM):** Dial 5050

Operational Field Protocols

Vehicle & Rental Safety

A standard 2WD crossover or sedan handles N-highways, Atlas passes, and gorges. Erg Chebbi dune access requires 4x4 transfers provided by luxury desert camps. Compare vehicles on DiscoverCars.

Connectivity & Navigation

Mountain switchbacks and desert valleys feature dead zones. Download offline maps and install a Morocco eSIM before departure to maintain seamless navigation.

Cash & Fuel Reserves

Rural fuel stations and medina artisan stalls frequently require cash (MAD). Start full in Midelt or Errachidia before desert runs and consult the Office des Changes.

Transparent Trip Budgeting Matrix (2 Adults / 14 Days)

Travel Tier	Daily Average	Transit Style	Accommodations & Bivouacs
Self-Drive Explorer	$75 – $115 / day	Rental Compact SUV / Sedan	Charming traditional riads & standard desert camps
Curated Comfort	$160 – $260 / day	Comfort Crossover / High Clearance	Boutique historic riads & luxury en-suite desert bivouacs
Private Chauffeured	$380 – $650+ / day	Private Mercedes V-Class Chauffeur	Five-star palace riads & ultra-luxury desert dome pavilions

Schematic Grand Circuit Flow (2,150 km)

Casablanca (CMN) → Rabat (Train) → Volubilis & Meknes → Fez (Medina) → Middle Atlas & Ziz Gorge → Erg Chebbi Sahara Dunes → Todra & Dades Gorges → Skoura & Aït Benhaddou → Tizi n'Tichka Pass (2,260m) → Marrakech → Essaouira (Atlantic Coast) → Marrakech/Casablanca Departure.

Daily Expedition Route Log: Days 01 to 08

DAY 01 Casablanca & Hassan II Mosque

35 km · CMN to City

Touchdown at CMN, transit downtown, and explore the soaring minaret and ocean platform of the Hassan II Mosque.

Tip: Tour tickets close 45 mins before prayer calls.

DAY 02 Train to Imperial Rabat

87 km · ONCF TNR Rail

Ride the conventional train to Rabat-Ville. Explore the Andalusian gardens of the Kasbah of the Udayas and Hassan Tower.

Tip: Blue petit taxis run meters easily (15–20 MAD).

DAY 03 Volubilis & Meknes to Fez

220 km · Roman Ruins

Tour UNESCO Roman mosaics at Volubilis, view Bab El-Mansour in Meknes, and enter Fez via Bab Bou Jeloud.

Tip: Volubilis has zero shade; bring hat and water.

DAY 04 Fez El-Bali Medina Deep-Dive

Walking Only · Artisan Hub

Wander 9,000 alleys, visit Medersa Bou Inania, University of Al-Qarawiyyin, and Chouara Tanneries.

Tip: Hire official guides via your riad to avoid touts.

DAY 05 Atlas Forests & Ziz Valley

420 km · 6.5h Driving

Climb past Ifrane and Azrou cedar forests, cross Midelt plateau, and descend into the red canyon walls of Ziz Valley.

Tip: Start full in Midelt; rural fuel stations are sparse.

DAY 06 Erg Chebbi Luxury Bivouac

55 km · Camel & 4x4

Journey through Rissani, ride camels across golden Erg Chebbi dunes, enjoy Berber tagines, and sleep under stars.

Tip: Pack warm layers; desert nights get cold rapidly.

DAY 07 Sahara Dawn & Todra Gorge

200 km · 3.25h Driving

Witness dune sunrise, travel through Tinghir date palms, and walk the canyon floor of 300m Todra cliffs.

Tip: Visit Todra Gorge early afternoon to beat tour buses.

DAY 08 Dades Gorge & Rose Valley

140 km · Hairpin Bends

Drive the Tisdrine hairpins, view Monkey Fingers rock formations, and tour Kalaat M'Gouna rose distilleries.

Tip: Stop at the cliffside cafe at the top of Tisdrine.

Daily Expedition Route Log: Days 09 to 14

DAY 09 Skoura & Aït Benhaddou
180 km · Earthen Ksar

Explore Kasbah Amridil in Skoura and cross the riverbed to explore UNESCO Ksar Aït Benhaddou.

Tip: Stay in the village opposite the ksar for morning light.

DAY 10 Tizi n'Tichka Pass to Marrakech
200 km · 2,260m Summit

Ascend Telouet palace, cross Tizi n'Tichka pass at 2,260m, and descend into vibrant Marrakech.

Tip: Watch for slow transport trucks on mountain inclines.

DAY 11 Marrakech Palaces & Jemaa el-Fnaa
Walking · Bahia & Tombs

Tour Bahia Palace, Saadian Tombs, spice souks, and watch sunset magic on Jemaa el-Fnaa plaza.

Tip: Dine at trusted food stalls #1, #14, or #31 on the square.

DAY 12 Jardin Majorelle or Ourika Valley
Botanical Gardens

Pre-book Jardin Majorelle and YSL Museum or take an active day excursion into the Ourika river valley.

Tip: Majorelle tickets must be purchased online in advance.

DAY 13 Marrakech to Seaside Essaouira
178 km · Argan Forests

Drive west through argan forests to Essaouira. Walk Skala de la Kasbah ramparts and browse thuya wood workshops.

Tip: Porters with handcarts move luggage inside the car-free medina.

DAY 14 Port Grills & Airport Departure
To RAK or CMN Airport

Savor fresh harbor seafood, provision argan oil at Bab Marrakech, and take your transfer to Marrakech (RAK) or Casablanca (CMN).

Tip: Buy authentic cosmetic argan oil from certified cooperatives.

Need Live Road Clearances, Riads or Custom Sahara Bivouac Bookings?

For live weather updates on Tizi n'Tichka, vetted riad reservations, or private Mercedes van charters across this 14-day grand circuit, contact our on-the-ground Morocco Wayfinder Concierge desk or join our verified travel community:

Chat on WhatsApp (+212 670 951 796) | Join Facebook Travelers Group

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