

YOUR FIRST TRIP TO

MOROCCO



**Less guesswork.
More room to explore.**

By Youness

Routes, arrivals and practical planning

A useful first step for your first visit.

OCTOBER 2026

Start with the trip you want.



Morocco can offer a city break, a coastal holiday, a mountain journey, or a longer route connecting several regions. Your first planning decision is not how many places you can fit in. It is how you want your days to feel.

Choose your priorities: historic cities, food and markets, coastal relaxation, mountain scenery, or a desert experience. Then build a route around two or three priorities. Leave room for meals, rest, and exploring without a timetable.

This starter guide helps you make those first decisions. It includes a sample route and a checklist you can use before booking. It does not replace current official entry requirements, live transport schedules, or your accommodation's arrival instructions.

Choose a route.

Leave room to enjoy it.



A shorter trip works best when your arrival airport and main destinations fit together. A return flight from one city can be convenient for a compact itinerary. Flying into one city and out of another may suit a longer route, but compare the full transport costs before booking.

Ask yourself:

- Which two experiences matter most to me?
- How many days do I actually have after arrival and before departure?
- Do I enjoy moving accommodation, or would I prefer a base?
- Will I use public transport, drive, or arrange a private driver?
- How much uninterrupted travel feels comfortable for my group?

If a place requires a long detour, decide what you will remove to make room for it. Avoid treating every destination as an essential stop.

Seven days. City + coast.

A relaxed first-trip example combining Marrakech and Essaouira. Check transport and leave a buffer before your flight.

MARRAKECH

>

ESSAOUIRA

>

RETURN



DAYS 1-3

EXPLORE + GET YOUR BEARINGS

Settle into Marrakech

Keep arrival day light. Explore the medina at a comfortable pace, then leave room for another city day or a suitable excursion.



DAYS 4-5

CHANGE THE PACE

Take a coastal pause

Travel to Essaouira, settle in, and enjoy a full day mixing medina exploration, waterfront walks and time to rest.

DAYS 6-7

Return with time to spare

Return to Marrakech if your flight departs there. Avoid a tight transfer on departure day; allow the time your airline and transport provider recommend.

MAKE THIS ROUTE YOURS

If Fes, Rabat or northern Morocco is your priority, choose a different route instead of squeezing them into this one.

Find the right way to get there.



Compare the whole journey, including reaching the station, carrying luggage, waiting, and getting to your accommodation.

Train: Consider it for journeys between cities served by rail. Check your exact departure and arrival stations, the current timetable, and ticket conditions before booking. Do not assume every station in a city serves the same trains.

Intercity bus: Consider it where a suitable rail connection is unavailable. Check the terminal locations, luggage terms, and arrival time.

Rental car: Consider it for a route with rural stops or flexibility that public transport cannot easily provide. Read the deposit, insurance excess, payment-card requirements, and return conditions before paying.

Private driver: Consider it when door-to-door travel, luggage space or a flexible route matters. Ask for a written quotation showing the route, inclusions, waiting time and planned stops.

For rail planning, consult the official ONCF booking website: <https://www.oncf-voyages.ma/>

Prefer a private tour? **Morkosh Tours is my own tour business.** Explore routes and discuss your plans directly.

[Explore private Morocco tours >](#)

A better stay starts before you arrive.



A riad deep inside a medina may offer a memorable stay, but the final approach can involve walking with luggage. Before booking, ask the property where a vehicle can stop and whether someone can meet you there.

Compare the location, recent reviews, room access, heating or air conditioning, noise, breakfast arrangements, and cancellation terms. Families and travelers with limited mobility should check stairs and room layout directly with the property.

Save the accommodation's telephone number and arrival instructions offline. A map pin alone may not explain the best entrance or accessible drop-off point.

Land with a plan.

Keep day one light.

Arrange your first night and decide how you will reach it before you travel. For a prearranged pickup, confirm the meeting point, contact number, vehicle capacity, and procedure if your flight is delayed.

Keep your first day light. A delayed flight, unfamiliar surroundings, and luggage can make an ambitious sightseeing plan tiring.

Arrival checklist

- ☐ Accommodation address and contact saved offline.
- ☐ Arrival time shared with the property.
- ☐ Transfer or public-transport plan checked.
- ☐ Backup plan if the arrival is delayed.
- ☐ A way to contact your accommodation or driver.
- ☐ Access to money for immediate needs.
- ☐ Essential medication and documents in hand luggage.

Plan your spending.

Keep a little spare.

Separate your budget into accommodation, transport, meals, sights and activities, shopping, and a contingency amount. Compare totals rather than only the cheapest headline price.

Before accepting a service, clarify the price and what it covers. This is particularly useful for private transport, guiding, excursions, and any service where terms have not already been fixed in a booking.

For a rental car, a refundable deposit is different from the rental price: you may need sufficient available funds even when the booking is prepaid. For accommodation and excursions, check which payments are due before arrival and which are due locally.

Your budget worksheet:

Item	Your planned amount
Accommodation	_____
Intercity transport and transfers	_____
Local transport	_____
Food and drinks	_____
Sights and activities	_____
Shopping and personal spending	_____
Contingency	_____

Small details.

A smoother trip.



Ask permission before photographing people. Check the visiting rules at religious or cultural sites, and follow instructions about access, clothing, and photography.

If someone offers help or guiding, clarify whether it is a paid service before accepting. If you do not want the service, decline politely and continue with your plan.

Download maps before longer journeys, keep your accommodation's contact details available, and allow time to get your bearings. If you are uncertain about an arrival point or route, ask your accommodation or a transport provider you have already chosen.

Check packing needs against your actual route and travel dates. Comfortable footwear, suitable layers, and any personal essentials will be more useful than packing for an imagined version of the whole country.

Before you book, check these essentials.

- ☐ Check passport, entry, and visa requirements using official sources for your nationality.
- ☐ Check suitable travel insurance and understand its exclusions.
- ☐ Review any health or medication questions with an appropriate professional.
- ☐ Confirm arrival and departure airports.
- ☐ Check realistic transport connections between your overnight stops.
- ☐ Read cancellation terms before paying.
- ☐ Confirm accommodation access and arrival arrangements.
- ☐ Keep booking details and essential contacts available offline.
- ☐ Leave a buffer before your flight home.

Start official destination research at <https://www.visitmorocco.com/> and follow the relevant official authorities for entry requirements. Requirements and travel arrangements can change.

Keep exploring. Your way.



Travel independently, or ask for local help.

Use Morocco Unfolded for destination guides and practical transport advice. If you would like a private tour, explore Morkosh Tours - my own Morocco tour business.

[Explore Morkosh Tours >](#)[Request a private itinerary >](#)

Share your dates, arrival city, group size and interests. Confirm the proposed route, inclusions, price and booking terms directly before paying.

MORE PLANNING HELP

A detailed companion guide, **Morocco for First-Time Visitors**, is in development. Follow Morocco Unfolded for news of its release.

[Visit Morocco Unfolded >](#)

Images in this guide are AI-generated illustrations. They do not document an actual tour or identify a specific property.