

# From the souks to the surf: a guide to the best trips to Morocco for summer holidays

Morocco, a land of contrasting landscapes and rich culture, offers a wide range of experiences for summer travellers. From lively souks and ancient medinas to the stunning Atlantic coast, inland valleys, and pre-desert areas, Morocco has something for everyone.

In this brief guide for our readers, we will propose some must-see destinations and activities that will make your summer vacation in Morocco unforgettable.



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## Shopping in the Vibrant Souks

Start your Moroccan adventure in the heart of its cities, where vibrant souks (markets) come alive with the colours of

textiles, sounds, and the aromas of spices. The Jemaa el-Fnaa in Marrakech is perhaps the most famous, offering a sensory atmosphere with its wide range of spices, fabrics, lanterns, and handcrafted artifacts. Stroll through the narrow alleys, haggle with local vendors, and bring home unique souvenirs. For a more relaxed shopping experience, explore the souks of Fez, known for its traditional leather and ceramic products.

### **Crossing the Strait of Gibraltar: A Van Adventure with Friends**

For those seeking an overland road trip, [catch a ferry to northern Morocco](#) and crossing the Strait of Gibraltar in a van is a must-do. The ferry from the port of Algeciras or Tarifa to Tangier takes about an hour, offering breathtaking views of the meeting point between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Once you disembark in Tangier, hop in the van with your friends and explore northern Morocco's coast, especially the picturesque town of Asilah and the bustling port city of Casablanca.

### **Surfing on the Atlantic Coast**

Heading south, Morocco's Atlantic coast turns into a paradise for surfers, offering waves for all levels. Taghazout, a small fishing village turned surf hotspot, is ideal for both beginners and experienced surfers. With its laid-back vibe and constant waves, it's the perfect place for sunbathing and surfing. Further south, the tourist city of Agadir boasts beautiful sandy beaches and excellent surf schools. Don't miss the chance to relax at one of the many beachside cafes and enjoy fresh seafood after an intense day on the waves.

### **Exploring the Ancient Medina of Fez**

If you want to step back in time, visit Fez, home to one of the largest and oldest medieval cities in the world. The Medina of Fez, [a UNESCO World Heritage site](#), is a maze of narrow streets, historic mosques, and lively markets. Visit

the Al Quaraouiyine University, the oldest continuously operating higher education institution in the world and admire the intricate architecture of the Bou Inania Madrasa. The city's tanneries are another highlight, offering a glimpse into the traditional leather-making process.

### **Hiking in the Atlas Mountains**

For nature lovers, the Atlas Mountains provide a breathtaking backdrop for outdoor adventures. The High Atlas, known as the "Mountain of Mountains," offers numerous trekking routes, ranging from easy day hikes to challenging multi-day treks, as well as several alternative off-road van routes. The Toubkal National Park, home to North Africa's highest peak, Mount Toubkal, is a popular destination for hikers. Along the way, you'll encounter Berber villages, stunning valleys, and truly inspiring panoramic views.

### **Experiencing the Sahara Desert**

No trip to Morocco is complete without experiencing the magic of the Sahara Desert. Join a camel trek from Merzouga and venture into the golden dunes of Erg Chebbi, among the most beautiful in North Africa. Spend a night in a traditional Berber camp, enjoying the desert silence under a starry sky. For an added adventure, try sandboarding on the dunes or take a 4x4 excursion to explore deeper into the desert.

### **Discovering the Blue City of Chefchaouen**

Nestled in the Rif Mountains, the [enchanting blue city of Chefchaouen](#) is a must-visit destination. Known for its vibrant blue buildings and serene atmosphere, Chefchaouen offers a peaceful retreat from busier tourist spots. Stroll through its picturesque streets, visit the Kasbah Museum, and hike to the nearby Akchour Waterfalls for a refreshing swim.

The diverse experiences offered by Morocco make it an ideal destination for summer vacations, whether you're seeking

unique shopping spots in traditional markets, embarking on exciting off-road routes, riding the Atlantic waves, immersing yourself in the heart of the medinas, hiking in enchanting mountains, experiencing the tranquillity of the desert, or exploring fascinating towns. With its rich culture and breathtaking landscapes, Morocco promises an unforgettable adventure. So pack your bags, gather your friends or family, and get ready to discover the magic of Morocco this summer.