

# Moroccan Magic

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*Life is a*  
***DARING ADVENTURE***  
*or nothing at all!*

***Moroccan Magic Motorcycle Safari***



<b>Destinations and Places of Interest</b>			
1. Malaga	5. Marrakech	9. Ait Ben Haddou	13. Fes
2. Chefchaouen	6. Essaouira	10. M'hamid	14. Tetouan
3. Ifrane	7. Mirleft	11. Boumalne	01. Malaga
4. Bin-el-Ouidane	8. Tafraoute	12. Midelt	



# Moroccan Magic Motorcycle Safari

## Itinerary for May 2020

Day	Date	Details	Distance
1	M	May 04	Arrange your international flights to Malaga in southern Spain by this afternoon
2	T	05	From Malaga across Straits of Gibraltar to Chefchaouen in the Rif mountains 350k
3	W	06	A scenic ride to Ifrane via the edge-of-empire Roman ruins at Volubilis 290k
4	T	07	From alpine Ifrane, through cedar forest to the picturesque lake of Bin-el-Ouidane 310k
5	F	08	We keep to the smaller roads via a visit to Cascades d'Ouzoud, to Marrakech 230k
6	S	09	* Exploring the old town, medina, the famous Djemaa el Fna town square --
7	S	10	A half-day ride west to Hendrix's Essaouira; explore the town in the afternoon 180k
8	M	11	Along the rugged Atlantic coast through Agadir and Tiznit to Mirleft 320k
9	T	12	Heading away from the coast, inland to the almond town of Tafraoute 300k
10	W	13	North-east through the Anti Atlas mountains to Ait Ben Haddou and the kasbah 360k
11	T	14	South-east through the Draa Valley to M'hamid; overnight bivouac in Sahara Desert 370k
12	F	15	* A rest day soaking up the Sahara or simply chilling by the hotel pool --
13	S	16	North once more to Boumalne and the nearby Dades Gorge 450k
14	S	17	Through Todra Gorge, then wide open spaces via Rich to Midelt 310k
15	M	18	Half day ride through forested hinterland, afternoon exploring imperial city of Fes 220k
16	T	19	Further north, into the Rif mountains and the Mediterranean port of Tetouan 320k
17	W	20	A final ride from Morocco back to Spain, relinquish bikes and farewell dinner 300k
18	T	21	Tour concludes with breakfast; make arrangements to fly out today -----
			4,310k

\* indicates consecutive night in same hotel, allowing for laundry, etc.

### Departure Date

For the Moroccan Magic Motorcycle Safari 2020, your recommended arrival date in Malaga is **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020** as shown above, with enough time to allow for bike allocation and commissioning. Many European capital cities connect to Malaga. Please see further discussion on International Flights herein.

### Tour Operator

This Motorcycle Safari is one of several itineraries offered by **World On Wheels**, Australia's only professional tour operator specialising solely in international motorcycle adventures. Operating for 20+ years as **Ferris Wheels**, Mike Ferris pioneered the Himalayan Motorcycle Safari concept in 1994 with his first crossing of the world's greatest mountain range by an Australian group of riders. In 1995, by now a qualified travel agent, he took his first commercial safari to the Khardung La in Ladakh (India), at 5,602 metres the highest road in the world. Mike and Denise Ferris now operate and personally lead annual **World On Wheels** motorcycle safaris to diverse destinations such as the Indian Himalaya, Nepal-Bhutan, Rajasthan, Peru-Bolivia, Iceland, Turkey, Mexico-Guatemala-Belize, South Africa, the Baltic States, and the Dalmatian coastline, as well as this one through Morocco, each of them two to three weeks in duration.

**Be aware that this itinerary is a guide only and may need to change due to weather, road conditions or other factors. Please be flexible, but rest assured your Tour Leader will make the final day-to-day decisions only after consultation with our local partner, local authorities and group members.**



## Package Price

The Moroccan Magic tour price, excluding airfares and joining in Malaga, is US\$7,500-00. Pillions are welcome and we also have a limited number of passenger seats available in our support vehicle, which accompanies the riders for the length of the Safari – price for pillion or passenger is US\$6,750-00. Please note that our prices are subject to foreign exchange fluctuations and we reserve the right to alter any pricing, pursuant to Clause 9 of our Terms and Conditions herewith, up to the date of final payment.

In this itinerary our tour prices are shown in US\$ for greatest stability and we ask for the equivalent in AU\$ at the prevailing daily exchange rate. The website to be used for daily foreign exchange calculations is: [www.westpac.com.au/business-banking/services/foreign-exchange-rates/](http://www.westpac.com.au/business-banking/services/foreign-exchange-rates/) We request a US\$1,000 deposit and will invoice you in US\$ thereafter for the remaining balance, but you have some flexibility as to when to pay. Final payment will be due 60 days before the tour date, but if you choose to pay us say 90 or 120 days beforehand because you feel the forex rate is favourable, this works well for everyone all round.

## Price includes

- BMW motorbike rental for the duration of the Safari; see '**Our Motorbikes**' below
- Clean, friendly, mid-range accommodation throughout the Safari, nights 1 to 17 inclusive
- Twin-share basis; (single room supplement, additional US\$1200-00) <sup>1</sup>
- Three meals per day except on non-riding days; breakfast only, to allow maximum free-format day
- Experienced guide, local agent and qualified mechanic
- Minibus support vehicle and driver, for luggage transport and assistance
- Spare parts, tools, medicines and first aid equipment
- All fuel costs, maintenance and third party insurance for the bikes
- Ferry tickets Spain - Morocco return
- Camel safari through the dunes of the Sahara Desert and overnight bivouac
- A complimentary *World On Wheels* T shirt, luggage tags, Moroccan map

<sup>1</sup>Accommodation is provided on a twin-share basis and if you're on your own we'll do our best to bunk you in with an acceptable roommate. But if you're the last person to book, there's obviously a 50-50 chance you'll have to take a room on your own and will therefore be liable for the single room supplement. So the moral of the story is, book early or bring your own roommate with you. Or preferably both!

## Price excludes

- Airfares to/from Malaga (allow around Au\$2,000-00 depending on airline)
- Comprehensive travel insurance policy, which must cover use of large-capacity motorbike <sup>2</sup>
- Medical examination and vaccinations before departure (recommended)
- Tipping for any local hotel porters you may choose to utilise
- Road tolls departing from / returning to Malaga (we try to avoid if time permits!)
- Entry fees to selected destinations of interest and fees for local guides
- Expenses of a personal nature such as postage, laundry, souvenirs and all drinks
- Tips for support staff at completion; optional but always appreciated, US\$100-00 suggested <sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Please note that a motorcycle safari overseas must be considered one of life's more adventurous pursuits and therefore personal travel insurance is mandatory. If you already have existing travel insurance, we will insist on sighting a copy of the policy before you will be permitted to participate in this tour. Or if you prefer, we can help arrange comprehensive travel insurance for you (Australian clients only). **Be aware**, however, that any travel insurance ceases immediately on return to your own country, even if on-going medical treatment or surgery is required. Private health cover or government Medicare resumes at that point.



<sup>3</sup> A note on tips. We recognize tipping is not generally part of the antipodean psyche, but it is pretty much expected in most other parts of the world. Daily hotel porters will expect a small reward for carrying your bags to your room and our mechanic/driver/local guide will anticipate a reasonable tip to supplement his modest wages whilst on tour. We suggest something like US\$100-00 is affordable for this tour (only about US\$5-00 per day), collected at the conclusion of the tour. If you've had a good time, we would encourage you to donate generously! (... and if you haven't, please let us know why and we'll contribute on your behalf).

## **International Flights**

You will have to arrange your own airfares through your preferred travel agent, or Australian clients may wish to take advantage of an arrangement we have with our local agent, Press & James Travel Associates. Phone 02 9979 5235 or email [natasha\\_dann@travel-associates.com.au](mailto:natasha_dann@travel-associates.com.au) and mention you're joining the ***World On Wheels 'Moroccan Magic' Tour***. They have a copy of this itinerary and they can arrange your route and flights as well as any stopovers or extensions you desire. There are a number of airline options to/from Malaga via Singapore and/or Dubai and various European capital cities. We recommend you book your airfare at least six months ahead, and full payment will usually be required six weeks before your departure.

## **Food & Health**

Quality of food can obviously be a concern when visiting exotic foreign lands. We take care in selecting clean and reputable establishments for our meals and the local fare is not always as fiery and spicy as some people would have you believe. Our clients are often pleasantly surprised by the delicious meals available. Even so, an occasional upset stomach cannot always be avoided in remote areas, so we advise initial caution and we carry various medicines to ensure as much comfort as possible. Participants in any of our adventure activities are obviously expected to have a reasonably high level of health, fitness and capability, but **in all cases a consultation with your doctor is recommended** in order to identify necessary vaccinations and precautions, particularly if traveling overseas for the first time.

## **Climate & Clothing**

Our itinerary is designed to take advantage of the pleasant weather of the northern spring. However, Morocco's geography varies greatly and therefore temperatures can range from cold in the mountains to warm on the coast to hot in the desert, and also with a chance of some rain. At times there will be little shade available, so sunscreen, sunglasses, hats and sleeves will also be required. Jeans and our ***World On Wheels*** shirts tend to be the norm, with strong boots and riding gloves. Helmets, full or open-faced as you prefer, should be brought from home.

Professional quality riding gear including jackets, over-pants and other protective clothing are an excellent investment and will go a long way to ensuring your comfort and protection in what may sometimes be adverse conditions. If you're susceptible to the cold, then probably a good set of thermal underwear will also come in handy. A couple of products we've used for several years and are happy to endorse are the Kevlar-reinforced jeans and other clothing from Draggin Jeans in Melbourne ([www.dragginjeans.com.au](http://www.dragginjeans.com.au)) and those velcro alternatives to hooked 'occy' straps from Andy Strapz ([www.andystrapz.com](http://www.andystrapz.com)).

And while we're giving plugs, we'd like to suggest you consider a Rider Improvement course, regardless of your experience or perceived ability on a motorcycle, to brush up on your skills prior to joining an international riding safari. We've teamed up with motoDNA as our Adventure Training partner. An Australian outfit boasting an impressive array of hugely talented instructors (Mark McVeigh, Chris Vermeulen, Garry McCoy, Peter Goddard, Kevin Magee ...) they have the skills and the syllabus to get the most out of your riding ability, which will give you the weapons you need to survive and enjoy your next ride, whether it be the daily commute or an international adventure with ***World On Wheels***. They offer track training, road training, off-road courses, bush bashing, sand and water techniques, you name it, in venues up and down Australia's east coast.



## **Our Motorbikes**

Our bike supplier is an official travel partner of BMW Motorrad. Our standard bike is the F700GS, but the F800GS and R1200GS models are available for an additional upgrade fee; please see our Booking Form for details. Some may even be the new 750, 850, 1250 models. All of these are fully-faired and are perfect steeds for traveling the Moroccan roads. For the more vertically challenged we are able to make some adjustments to the 700 to assist in your riding comfort. Fuel, insurance and maintenance are included.

Please note you will be required to sign a rental contract with our bike supplier in Malaga, leave a photocopy of your passport and a credit card imprint as a security deposit. Our package price includes comprehensive insurance but the policy carries an Excess (or 'Deductible self-risk') of €2,000 – ie the rider is liable for the first €2,000 of any damage; if you drop the bike, any broken levers, mirrors, lights, etc will be payable by you. This Excess can optionally be substantially reduced to €350 by the upfront payment of an additional insurance premium of €20 per day x 16 riding days = €320.

## **Our Riding Policy**

We will occasionally require riders to 'bunch up', particularly when navigating through large towns, but out on the open road we know that you will want a lot of freedom and time on your own (isn't that what riding is all about?) We allow plenty of time for people to set their own pace, and it's unlikely that you'll ever be pressed to keep up. We know of some motorbike tour operators who insist that everybody ride in formation every day and play follow the leader, but that's not our style at all. You'll be given maps and daily directions on how far we're going, the destination for the night (including hotel name and phone number), and where we are likely to stop for lunch, drink breaks, sightseeing and refueling along the way, etc. There is always plenty of time to take photos, chat to the locals, or just sit and soak it all in. Our support vehicle with our luggage will always be the last vehicle in the convoy, with our mechanic, spare parts and tools, etc. in case of bike problems.

But let's not pull any punches here. A tour such as this is potentially a dangerous undertaking; it's inherent in the very nature of the trip. You'll be on an unfamiliar bike, on unfamiliar roads in unfamiliar traffic conditions. It is important for you to recognize this and accept ultimate responsibility, firstly for joining and secondly for riding in a circumspect manner for the duration of the tour. Please read and acknowledge Paragraph 16 of our Terms and Conditions! (End of sermon)

## **Detailed Daily Itinerary**

**Day 1** will mainly consist of flying, and involves the logistics of getting everyone into southern Spain at more or less the same time from several different locations. Malaga is a large international airport with connections to 60 countries, and 100 cities in Europe alone. We need you to arrive please in time to complete some paperwork and commissioning for the bikes in the afternoon then we'll have a welcoming drink at our hotel in the evening and our first group dinner together.

**Day 2** sees us heading out along the Mediterranean's world-famous Costa del Sol. No time for nude bathing this morning though; we have a ferry to catch. We nip across the Straits of Gibraltar, spend a little time getting through Immigration, then we are in the land of date and coconut palms. Depending on time constraints we'll either stick to the main road into Chefchaouen, or take a slightly longer detour via the Mediterranean coast and some exquisite mountain roads. Chefchaouen is a quiet medina village nestled in a valley encircled by the peaks of the lesser known Rif Mountains and our accommodation tonight is in the very centre of the medina, offering us a lovely vista of this beautiful town and its surrounds.



**Day 3** sees us continuing our pilgrimage south. We ride via Moulay-Idriss, the town named in honour of Morocco's most revered Muslim saint and a great-grandson of the prophet Mohammed, to visit nearby Volubilis, the largest and best-preserved Roman ruins in Morocco, delineating the southern limit of the Roman Empire. Then it's through one of Morocco's four Imperial Cities (ie former capitals) Meknes and on to our destination for tonight, the alpine village of Ifrane, sometimes called the Switzerland of Morocco.

**Day 4** Initially, we'll enjoy an exquisite morning ride through the *Forêt de Cèdres*, inhaling the clean, green, cedar perfumes. We'll stop for an early lunch in Khenifra, surrounded by the Atlas Mountains, before continuing south through one of the main agricultural breadbaskets of Morocco. Many of the local oranges, olives and figs find their way to market via Beni-Mellal, which we'll be passing through. Tonight's accommodation is a gorgeous rustic hotel in the small lakeside town of Bin-el-Ouidane ... a swim or a kayak anyone?

**Day 5** Leaving Bin-el-Ouidane this morning, we'll cross the dam of the same name, a non-too-attractive facility providing hydroelectric power and irrigation to the region. We have time for a side-trip to view the Cascades de Ouzoud, the most highest waterfalls in Morocco, before riding on some of the smaller roads into the *medina* district of Marrakech. We will arrive in Marrakech early enough in the afternoon to allow time to settle in and enjoy a relaxing drink on the rooftop of our *riad* before dinner. Tonight after dinner we'll take a short stroll to experience the buzzing Djemaa el-Fna old town square that comes alive each evening, where we'll enjoy the wonderful array of street theatre and open-air entertainment.

**Day 6** Marrakech is a fantastic place for a rest day. The country name Morocco is actually derived from the name of this town. The Marrakech Explorer open-top bus does a lap of the 'new' city, or you can do a similar route by horse and buggy, but most of Marrakech's 'buzz' is centred around the old medina within walking distance of our hotel. You have all day free for souvenir shopping in the *souqs* (don't forget to bargain hard!), catching up on communications back home or even a relaxing massage in the comfort of the *riad* in preparation for the next leg of our journey. We recommend an open-air dinner tonight browsing the many food stalls in Djemaa el-Fna.

**Day 7** This morning we head out of Marrakech in a westerly direction on our way to Essaouira, tonight's destination. We arrive in time for lunch and then the afternoon is your own to explore this wonderful Atlantic coastal town. Essaouira has several claims to fame, one of which is being the part-time home of legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix. It is also a popular location for the movie industry and many films have been shot and produced here (including Ridley Scott's *Kingdom of Heaven*). Essaouira is a popular destination not only with moviemakers and actors but also with many artisans and of course with local and international windsurfers because of its windy coastal location. At the end of the ocean boulevard the well-preserved maze-like *medina* is definitely worth a visit, with many tiny shops and eateries lining the labyrinth of laneways. It's a great opportunity to sit and observe the local culture while sampling the famous Moroccan mint tea (whiskey de Berber!)

**Day 8** Today it's south along the wild and rugged Atlantic coast. We'll ride through some relatively developed coastal surfing towns, out in the 'middle of nowhere', where surprisingly you'll observe the presence of many familiar Antipodean surfing brands. The Atlantic winds blow us further south, bypassing Agadir the principal port of southern Morocco on our way towards Tiznit at the end of the *Anti Atlas*, in a corner of the Souss Valley. Before reaching Tiznit we turn off the main road and make our way about 70k southwest to the small village of Mirleft, where we can relax for the night and watch the sun setting over the Atlantique.

**Day 9** This morning we continue a short distance down the coast to Sidi Ifni and then head inland, through the remote and beautiful *Anti Atlas* landscape. After an exhilarating morning's ride through the mountains we arrive, via the high or the low road, in the 'almond capital' Tafraoute. This modestly sized village is nestled in the peaceful and delightful Ameln Valley, best known for its pink-hued rock faces and lush palm groves (*palmeraies*). The afternoon is your own, to explore Tafraoute and surrounds on foot or by bike. The tones of the surreal surrounding landscape will amaze and uplift.



**Day 10** has us passing through the eastern half of the Ameln Valley and over Tizi Mlil mountain pass for the ride northeast to Igherm. We explore some smaller roads via Taliouine and Tazenakht to take us up to Ait Ben Haddou, an incredibly spectacular *kasbah* (citadel) 30kms from Ouarzazate. This afternoon offers free time to explore the mud-walled *medina* and *kasbah* resembling a Hollywood film set, which is why it has been chosen as the setting for such blockbusters as *Lawrence of Arabia* and more recently *Gladiator*. Any mention of Australian heritage will be greeted with cries of 'Russell Crowe shopped here!' from the local vendors. And yes, we know, he's a Kiwi. Tonight's *Dar* (traditional guest house) is as close to the kasbah as you can get, so after a refreshing swim in the pool we'll finish off the day with a well-earned beer or g&t, sharing tales of adventure whilst gazing at the unique vista and soaking up the exotic ambience.

**Day 11** After breakfast and one last gaze at the magnificent kasbah, we head south-east through the towns of Ouarzazate and Agdz, entering the luscious *Vallee du Draa*. The Draa river is one of the longest and most important in Morocco, providing essential irrigation for wonderful local produce. At 'the end of the line', we reach M'hamid, where we will embark on an adventure of a different kind, this time on four legs rather than two wheels, our camel safari taking us out to the desert in time to watch the sunset over the Sahara. After dinner and drinks around the campfire it's time to retire to our bivouac for the night. The rest of the world seems so far away.

**Day 12** sees us heading back to relative civilization, from the Saharan desert to our nearby modern day hotel. We have a rest day to explore this tiny oasis town of M'hamid, one of only two places in Morocco where the Sahara begins. But today is mainly about relaxing - by the pool with a good book or a cold beer /vino or both, writing a few postcards, connecting on facebook, instagram or twitter ... whatever you choose to do or not do be sure to soak up the Saharan atmosphere and let the desert settle into your bones.

**Day 13** Now well rested, we have a big riding day ahead. Initially we ride back along the beautiful Draa Valley, appreciating it again from the other direction. Then we turn off and head through remote provinces, via Tazzarine, Alnif, Tinerhir. You might recognize some of the landscapes which featured prominently in the excellent 2006 movie *Babel*, starring Cate Blanchett and Brad Pitt. Our evening destination is Boumalne on the river Dades.

**Day 14** This morning we get to ride the oft-photographed *Gorges du Dades* which we visit purely for the pleasure of riding some awesome switchback corners. We'll ride up to the top and then turn around and enjoy it again in the opposite direction. We then head east to another gorge, the *Gorges du Todra*. The second gorge is completely different from the first and even more spectacular with its unique ambience and stunning landscape. With the gorges behind us we continue riding on into the heart of the *Moyen Atlas* mountains through Rich, on some adventurous roads offering breathtaking mountain vistas. Our destination for tonight is the small trading town of Midelt where not a great deal happens but it's a convenient overnight point on our journey north.

**Day 15** This morning we are on our way to Fes. We have a half day ride on some magnificent roads across the contrasting landscape of the *Moyen Atlas* mountains through beautiful cedar forests, before arriving in Morocco's oldest imperial city in time for lunch. Fes is a very large and busy city with a population of more than one million people, bursting at the seams. Commonly known as the religious and spiritual capital of Morocco, the city is divided into three main areas and this afternoon is our opportunity to discover and experience one of them; the medina of Fes-el-Bali. The leather tanneries made famous by Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner are here, and Fes also boasts the oldest university in the world. We will take a tour this afternoon experiencing the vibe, architecture and sights of this wonderful city rich in Moroccan history, tradition and culture.

**Day 16** It's a leisurely start to the day, soaking up the ambience of Fes from our supremely located hotel and then we ride back into the alluring Rif mountains. We're reminded we've returned to Mediterranean Morocco by virtue of the completely different forested landscapes. Tonight's destination Tetouan is one of only two major Moroccan ports on the Mediterranean Sea. Situated in an orchard belt of the Martil Valley and a few kilometers south of the Straits of Gibraltar, Tetouan is known for its tile-work which we can appreciate this afternoon as we ride into town. It's our last chance for a swim in the Moroccan Med!





**Day 17** Completing our circuit of Morocco and drawing the curtain on our tour, we cross a small range of hills to bring us back to Tangier, where we board the ferry and cross to Spain. Back along the Costa del Sol we ride into Malaga, farewell the motorbikes, and then it's to the hotel for a celebratory drink! Tonight is our farewell dinner, where we might have a relaxing jug or two of sangria...

**Day 18** Swap addresses with your fellow riders at breakfast so we can all keep in touch and share photos of your happy memories. Don't forget to tell 100 friends how much fun you've had with us in Magical Morocco! See you somewhere else in the world, sometime soon, on two wheels.

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Further trip notes including a list of essential clothing and equipment to take, health considerations, visa formalities, etc, will be sent upon receipt of a completed Booking Form and deposit. Please contact our office any time for further information via email: **[Adventure@WorldOnWheels.Tours](mailto:Adventure@WorldOnWheels.Tours)**

(Continue to next page to view our motorbikes)

**Our motorbikes:**



**BMW F700GS**

Capacity	798 cc ('powered down' to 650cc)
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Parallel twin
Transmission	6-speed, chain drive
Brakes	Single disks, front and rear
Wheels, front / rear	Cast alloy 19" / 17"
Fuel capacity	16 litres
Dry weight	171 kg
Seat height options	790 / 820 mm
Maximum power	71 HP



**BMW F800GS**

Capacity	798 cc
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Parallel twin
Transmission	6-speed, chain drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single rear
Wheels, front / rear	Spoked 21" / 17"
Fuel capacity	16 litres
Dry weight	178 kg
Seat height options	850 / 880 mm
Maximum power	85 HP



**BMW R1200GS**

Capacity	1170 cc
Engine-type	DOHC, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke
Number cylinders	Horizontally opposed twin (boxer)
Transmission	6-speed, shaft drive
Brakes	Twin disks front, single rear
Wheels, front / rear	Cast alloy, 19" / 17"
Fuel capacity	20 litres
Dry weight	205 kg
Seat height options	850 / 870 mm
Maximum power	110 HP