

Morocco - Riad delight (NW225)

8 - 15 October 2022



The exotic sights, tastes and smells of this North African country, less than four hours from the UK (though in the same time zone) make this a truly interesting country for cycle touring. Based at a Riad (guesthouse) within the old walls of Tiznit, we will explore the surrounding area and the fascinating city of Tiznit with a local guide. Within reach is glorious coastal scenery, desert and mountains that make up this fascinating country. The holiday includes breakfast, lunch and dinner with English spoken.



Itinerary

Sat 8 Oct - Arrive in Tiznit

Transfer from Agadir Al Massira Airport to Tiznit, duration approximately 90 minutes. Settle into the Riad.

- No cycling
- Accommodation: Riad
- Meals: (D)

Sun 9 Oct

Starting at the Riad we will explore beautiful landscapes, mountains and Berber villages heading towards the dam at Sidi Youssef. Ridden on tarmac roads it is predominantly downhill, with an optional transfer back to the Riad once we meet the main road

- Route distance: 50.0 km
- Route altitude gain: 0.0 m
- Accommodation: Riad
- Meals: (B, D)

Mon 10 Oct

Inland through the mountains to Guelmin (the gate to the desert) through the Oasis of Asrir and Tighmert (museum visit and eco garden)

- Route distance: 80.0 km
- Route altitude gain: 0.0 m
- Accommodation: Riad
- Meals: (B, D)

Tue 11 Oct

We start with a transfer to Sidi Ifni. We will then cycle the coastal highway passing the coastal resort of Mirleft. Beautiful sea views throughout the day

- Route distance: 75.0 km
- Route altitude gain: 0.0 m
- Accommodation: Riad
- Meals: (B, D)

Wed 12 Oct

We will be taken around the historic city of Tiznit by our knowledgeable local guide. Within a wall with five historic gates there is a Palace, Grand Mosque and of course a market that specialises in silver

- No cycling
- Accommodation: Riad
- Meals: (B, D)

Thur 13 Oct

We ride inland to the east to explore the villages and mountains

- Route distance: 80.0 km
- Route altitude gain: 0.0 m
- Accommodation: Riad
- Meals: (B, D)

Fri 14 Oct

From Tiznit, we cycle to Aglou, from where we can visit the Sidi R'Bat National Park on the coast with many bird species to be seen

- Route distance: 60.0 km
- Route altitude gain: 0.0 m
- Accommodation: Riad
- Meals: (B, D)

Sat 15 Oct

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to return home

- No cycling
- Meals: (B)

Dates and Prices

Cost

- Land only price: £640.0

Payment Schedule

A deposit of £300 per person is payable upon booking, with the final balance of £340 per person to be paid by 31st July 2022 (10 weeks before departure)

Price includes:

- 7 nights in a Riad, on a shared room basis
- Breakfast and Dinner, during our stay at the Riad
- Services of an English speaking guide throughout the tour
- Airport transfers to and from Agadir Al Massira Airport
- Back up vehicle on cycling days and transfers if required to start and from the finish

Price does not include:

- Travel to and from Agadir Al Massira Airport
- Drinks with evening meals
- Entry fees at any attractions
- Any other personal expenses
- Travel Insurance

Cancellations

Written Notice Received: Cancellation Charge:

- Before 31st July 2022: £300 (deposit)
- 31 July through to departure : £640.0

Holiday Information

Accommodation

- Riad Janoub is a cosy 8 bedroom Guesthouse set within the old walls of Tiznit, known as the Silver City, in the South of Morocco. It's a haven of secret corners to hide away in. A small, luxury Riad offering you a Royal Breakfast as part of your stay with an option for lunch and dinner – we can give you that personal welcome and homely feel unlike a hotel. The build was inspired by traditional Andalusian and Moroccan style architecture.

Riad Janoub invites you to take a step back in time yet still being able to enjoy the modern comforts and feel the grandeur and charm of this original style of accommodation. Language is not a problem – between us we speak Moroccan, Tachelhit, English, Dutch, French, Spanish, German and Hindi.

Rooms

- There are eight rooms. Six rooms have a double bed, Two rooms have 2 or 3 single beds. All guest rooms include an en-suite bathroom with a spacious hot water shower and toilet, complimentary toiletries, and hairdryer.

Breakfast

- Breakfast is always included as part of your stay. Enjoy the daily freshly prepared breakfast with both Moroccan and European options offered. You can choose where to take your breakfast – either outside overlooking the swimming pool and enjoying the views of the Riad in the Moroccan morning sunshine, or perhaps you prefer to sit inside in the specially designed dining room.

Dinner

- The Riad can cater for vegetarians, gluten free and lactose free. The restaurant has a fusion cuisine of Moroccan and Indian flavours

Guide

- We will have a local guide throughout our stay. Aby speaks fluent English and has a charming disposition.

Tour of Tiznit

- The tour of the walled city of Tiznit takes about two and a half hours. We will explore this ancient walled city

The nature of the holiday

- This is a holiday designed to allow us to explore the area by bicycle utilizing a comfortable base. On each days cycling we will start at 0900 after breakfast. We will either cycle as a group or at your own pace and we will regroup every 16km or so to take on water or snacks that will be supplied. Most days will include something to see which will often be our lunchstop as well. Our return will follow the same formula and we will aim to arrive back at the Riad by 1630, though this may vary. I encourage people to stop and look because that's why we have come to Morocco, we don't cycle as a closely grouped bunch and as you will have GPX routes and route instructions, you are free to explore at your own pace, though I do encourage us all to meet up at periods during the day. This is not a race, it is an experience

Travel

- The tour is on a land-only basis with tour participants arranging their own travel to Morocco. There are flights to Agadir with Easyjet from London Gatwick, and various flights to Marrakesh.

Transfers

- Transfer to and from Agadir airport are included in this holiday as are transfer of your bicycles. During the week, on two days there will be a need to transfer bikes to the start or from the finish and this is included. On some cycling days there will be a transfer, either to the start or from the finish. These will be kept to a minimum but they are there to avoid busy roads and to allow us to access beautiful sections of cycling

Rest Day

- One rest day is dedicated to a tour if Tixnit. However if you would prefer to miss a day or two of cycling please feel free, it is after all a holiday

Roads used

- The tour will use tarmac roads, but there may be short sections of unmade roads. Quieter roads will be selected but there will be periods of busier roads

Group information

- The maximum number of participants will be 15

Weather and Clothing

- October is autumn time in Morocco, and day time and night time temperatures can vary considerably, varying from 16 to 29 degrees. During the day it should be warm and sunny, although there is always a chance of showers, and it is advisable to carry a lightweight waterproof jacket. Using sunscreen is strongly recommended. When the sun goes down it can be quite chilly, especially in the mountains, and a jumper or fleece may be necessary in the evenings.

Cycles / Equipment

- A touring bike is the most suitable, with a low bottom gear (eg the small chainring in the front being the same size as or smaller than the largest cog in the rear). Because of the variable road surfaces, tyres should be at least 32mm (1.25 inches), though due to the hilly terrain knobby tyres might not be the best. There can be quite a lot of broken glass on the roads, so puncture resistant tyres are recommended. Make sure your bike is in good working order, especially the brakes. It is advisable to fit a calibrated cycle computer; the route sheets are set out in kilometers. Each participant will be expected to bring/carry sufficient spares and tools to deal with punctures and minor repairs.

Maps

- Maps, route sheets and GPX tracks will be provided. There are many guidebooks to Morocco

Passports, Visas and Health

- UK citizens must hold a passport that is still valid for at least six months at the end of the tour. Holders of non-UK passports are advised to check whether they require a visa. There are no compulsory health-related requirements for UK residents although it is strongly recommended that you are vaccinated against hepatitis A, typhoid, polio and tetanus protection has not expired. You should contact your doctor at least 3 months prior to travel to obtain these vaccinations and the latest advice for travellers. Please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/morocco>

