

UK to Morocco in Springtime

THIS APRIL TOUR IS FOR 2020.

This is a 21 day tour starting from the UK, with a full 15 days in Morocco. Our incredible route takes you to the Sahara, high into the Atlas Mountains, with the famous Todra & Dades Gorges and the Tizi nTest and Tizi nTichka Passes, the magnificent Atlantic Coast, as far south as the walled Berber town of Taroudant, as well as the vibrant, colourful medieval cities of Marrakech, Fes and the ancient Ait Ben Haddou, backdrop for many a Hollywood movie!



This tour benefits from a support vehicle and driver when we are in Morocco. If you don't have 19 days holiday, you can fly to Malaga and pick up a rental bike and join us for 13 days on just the [Morocco section](#) of this tour.

We also dates for Morocco in September – [Click Here.](#)

At a glance

Duration (days): 21
Miles Covered: 3060
Riding difficulty: Moderate
Unpaved Roads: 2%
Culture Shock: Medium

Highlights

This tour starts and ends in Portsmouth, UK and includes your return travel on Brittany Ferries and three night stops in Spain on the way to and from Morocco.

- Explore the Roman Ruins at Volubilis. It is a must-see World Heritage site and dates from 3,000 BC, as well as being the most westerly Roman City in Africa
- Ifrane National Park – surprisingly green and cool, with dense cedar forest, lakes and old volcanic landscapes.
- The Cascades D'Ouzoud are Morocco's most majestic waterfalls in the Berber village of Ouzoud
- The magnificent Atlantic Coast route, via the old port of Essaouira (World Heritage Listed).
- Morocco's most spectacular roads through the High Atlas and ride the Tizi n'Test Pass at 2,092m.
- Toubkal National Park and the Tizi n'Tichka Pass at 2,260m
- The fortress ("ksar") of Ait Ben Haddou. A UNESCO Listed monument, everyone is sure to recognise this landmark from famous films such as "Lawrence of Arabia" and "Gladiator".
- Explore the rugged switchbacks and hairpin bends of the Dades and Todra Gorges.
- The Sahara Desert – Merzouga, a traditional kasbah. In the evening we will head out into the sand dunes and experience a traditional Moroccan feast of roasted lamb

ROUTE MAP

Itinerary

This is a 21 day itinerary, covering 3,060 miles. It starts and ends in Portsmouth, UK.

29 April 2020. Day 1: Portsmouth

Scheduled departure on the 11:45am overnight Brittany Ferries to Bilbao.

30 April 2020. Day 2: Bilbao – Tordesillas. (204 miles)

Scheduled arrival at 12:45 pm in Bilbao. Afternoon ride south to the Parador in Tordesillas, a traditional Castilian manor house

1 May 2020. Day 3: Tordesillas – Llerena. (285 miles)

A longer riding day on the Ruta de Plata, an ancient trade and pilgrimage route to the edge of the Sierra Norte and ready for the mountains tomorrow!

2 May 2020. Day 4: Llerena – Benahavis. (185 miles).

Ride across the mountains, super twisty roads -THAT famous Ronda road! – before dropping to the coast. Group Evening Dinner.

3 May 2020. Day 5: Benahavis – Chefchaouen. (140 miles)

Catch the Algeciras – Tangier ferry and head into the Atlas Mountains to the narrow alleys and blue buildings of Chefchaouen.

4 May 2020. Day 6: Chefchaouen – Azrou. (167 miles)

Our route takes us via the Roman ruins of Volubilis and onto the Ifrane National Park, with its pine forests and cool temperatures and Alpine like villages.

5 May 2020. Day 7: Azrou – Merzouga. (244 miles)

We descend to the Sahara Desert and a two night stopover in a traditional Kasbah.

6 May 2020. Day 8: Merzouga.

Day off to enjoy activities in the Sahara Desert (camel rides, 4x4 jeep tours etc) or just relax by the pool.

7 May 2020. Day 9: Merzouga – Boumalne Dades. (200 miles/ 255 miles).

A spectacular route via the Todra and Dades Gorges. If you don't want to do the Gorges loop, then head straight to the hotel for a shorter days ride.

8 May 2020. Day 10: Boumalne Dades – Marrakech. (198 miles)

We head to the imperial city of Marrakech via the ancient fortress of Ait Ben Haddou and then superb twisties on the Tizi n'Tichka Pass.

9 May 2020. Day 11: Marrakech.

Day off to enjoy the vibrant markets and narrow alleys of the medina in this medieval imperial city.

10 May 2020. Day 12: Essaouira. (100 miles)

Day off to enjoy the vibrant markets and narrow alleys of the medina in this medieval imperial city.

11 May 2020. Day 13: Essaouira – Taroudant. (166 miles)

Head out to the Atlantic Coast and the old port of Essaouira for lunch, before south on the coast road to Taroudant.

12 May 2020. Day 14: Taroudant – Cascades D'Ouzoud. (234 miles)

Today we ride the Tizi n'Test Pass at 2092m, before ending the day by the D'Ouzoud waterfalls in an old riad.

13 May 2020. Day 15: Cascades D'Ouzoud – Fes. (238 miles)

Descend from the mountains to Fes, one-time home of the Moroccan sultanate, many winding narrow medina streets and grand buildings.

14 May 2020. Day 16: Fes. (238 miles)

Day off to explore Fes.

15 May 2020. Day 17: Fes – Tangier – Benahavis. (261 miles)

Final days ride to the port town of Tangier, catch the ferry back to Spain. Group Evening Dinner. (Riders with hire bikes will drop them off today)

16 May 2020. Day 18: Benahavis – Zafra. (240miles)

Back on those fantastic bends across the Parque Natural de la Sierra de Grazalema, looping Seville and around the Aracena Reservoir to Zafra.

17 May 2020. Day 19: Zafra – Zamora (272 miles)

Using the main roads to push to Caceres, before heading through the Parque Natural de Las Batuecas and rural roads onto Zamora.

18 May 2020. Day 20: Zamora – Santander. (154 miles)

Fantastic riding on the edge and into Parque Nacional de Los Picos de Europa. Overnight ferry has scheduled departure of 20:30 for the overnight ferry from Santander to Portsmouth.

19 May 2020. Day 21: Portsmouth, UK

Scheduled arrival into Portsmouth is at 19:45.

Accommodation

We use good standard 4* hotel accommodation in Spain. When in Morocco, we select hotels for their character, rather than just on their star rating. We find most riders prefer the experience of staying in a converted riad or a kasbah, or a family run independent hotel rather than modern chain hotels. All hotels we use have en suite bathrooms and most have satellite TV and wifi, although don't expect a super fast connection!

Where available, we aim to use the equivalent of 4* standard hotel accommodation. In some more remote locations, we may use equivalent 3* hotels or the best in area, which could be a more family run establishment, with character.

Please be aware that Moroccan hotels are generally lower in standard than the same rating in equivalent European hotels, unless you are in a well trodden tourist area, such as Marrakesh.

Whats Included

You have the benefit of booking your motorcycle tour with a tour operator with Financial Payment Protection Insurance with Towergate Stevens & Chapman and your money paid to us in advance is protected in accordance with The Package Travel Regulations 1992.

Before you go

- The assurance of booking with a fully bonded and insured UK tour operator and knowing that your money paid in advance is protected.
- Access to the GlobeBusters Team for one to one meeting about preparing for the tour and what to expect.

- Motorcycle Tour Travel Pack, including Tour Specific Guidance Handbook, SD Card with mapping, downloadable GPS Route, Daily Route Notes with riding and safety tips, information about the hotels, the route and the sights.

En Route

- Return overnight Portsmouth (UK) – Bilbao/Santander (Spain) ferry crossing for you (sharing a twin berth inside cabin) and your motorcycle. If you wish to have a Single Cabin, please select Upgrade option when booking.
- Algeciras (Spain) to Tanger-Med (Morocco) return ferry crossing for you and your motorcycle.
- Hotel bed and breakfast accommodation on a shared basis (unless Single Room booked).
- Standard of accommodation is majority 4 *, some 3* or best in area.
- Six evening meals, including your Welcome & Farewell Meal and four evening meals in locations which are remote and you have no other choice of restaurants.
- Local overnight hotel parking charges.

Support Crew

- GlobeBusters Tour Leader on a motorcycle to accompany the group.
- In Morocco ONLY, support driver / mechanic with a support vehicle, equipped with medical first aid, water, tools, some spare tyres and parts, mobile phone contact.

Not Included

- Any other travel costs to get to the start and from the finish point for the tour.
- Personal travel, accident and medical insurance
- Motorcycle insurance or motorcycle breakdown recovery insurance
- Entrance fees to sights and parks, optional excursions or activities, (except where stated)
- Lunches, snacks or evening meals (except where stated). Any meals whilst on board ferries.
- Personal spending money, tips, souvenirs or other extras.
- Personal documentation (eg visas, passport), vaccinations, personal taxes, border crossing fees.
- Fuel, oil & other motorcycle consumables, toll road fees, traffic fines.
- Cost of parts, labour or other indirect costs relating to the repair of any damage to your motorcycle or a rental motorcycle
- We do not supply riding gear; you must bring your own helmet, jacket, trousers and gloves.
- Any other item not specifically stated as included in the price.

Please also refer to our [terms and conditions](#).

Useful Info

When you book a motorcycle tour with us, we provide you with Tour Specific Guidance Notes that give you detailed information about what you need to know to prepare and plan your tour, and what to expect when on our motorcycle tour. Here are some of the questions that we often get asked before a rider makes a booking. If you wish to meet with us prior to booking to ask more questions, do not hesitate to contact us and we can set up a one-to-one meeting.

What bike is suitable to bring?

If you are bringing your own bike, we recommend an adventure style bike as the most suitable. Typical bikes used are Triumph Tiger, BMW GS, Africa Twin, CCM, Yamaha Tenere etc. However, as this is primarily a paved road tour, any robust road bike will also be suitable. Just be aware that paved roads can be potholed with broken surfaces, so the higher clearance the better. Having said that we have had riders on Harleys successfully complete the trip, so it just depends on what you are comfortable riding and what comprises you are prepared to make. If you don't want to use your own bike, then you can rent one instead.

What riding experience do I need?

This tour is normally best for riders who are already experienced tourers in Europe and who are looking for that extra challenge of a varied and unpredictable road conditions and hazards, coupled with a different culture, foods and way of life. On your ride you will encounter poor road surfaces (as well as excellent ones!) – the magnificent mountain terrains, can often have bends that may be broken up and you need to watch out for diesel, as well as other road users who will work to the local rules of the road (as opposed to the “Highway Code”). You need to be an assertive rider, with good forward planning and hazard perception skills.

Do I have to ride in a group?

No! We do not make you ride in convoy. We offer you the freedom to decide how you would like to ride. We give you a road book, GPS co-ordinates and hotel information. You can use this to self-navigate. If you prefer to ride with our Motorcycle Leader, then you can do this.

Is this ride suitable for a passenger?

Yes. Many riders successfully complete this ride with a pillion passenger. Any dirt roads are optional.

What is the average group size?

Our groups are normally between 8 – 12 riders (some riders will have passengers).

Is there a support vehicle?

Yes, this tour operates with a local support vehicle and driver.

What documents do I need?

You will need your original documents as follows: Passport and Driving Licence. Passengers only need their passport. Passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the end of the tour. Riders from outside the EU will need an International Driving Permit.

If you are bringing your own motorcycle, you will also need your motorcycle registration document (V5 / log book) and your motorcycle insurance. You will need a Green Card as proof of insurance in Morocco – please check with your UK insurer. If your insurer will not issue this (some do not), then you can buy 3rd party insurance at Tangier-Med. We will also provide you with details on how to create your Morocco motorcycle temporary import permit online once you have booked.

In addition you must have valid travel/medical insurance.

What will the weather be like?

April & May are normally a good time to travel in Morocco. You miss the intense heat of the Sahara Desert, but riding in the Atlas Mountains should normally be dry and pleasant. Having said that temperatures can still be up to 35C and sometimes there can be storms and flash floods in the desert.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather>

<http://www.worldclimate.com/>

Do I need visas for travel?

UK / EU Citizens do not normally require visas in advance for travel. Any other citizens should check with a specialist visa agency. It is your responsibility to have the correct visas in place prior to travel, so please check what requirements are necessary for your nationality.

<http://www.thevisamachine.com/>

What about my health when I am abroad?

It is a condition of your travel with us that you have in place travel / medical insurance to cover you for medical treatment and repatriation if you suffer any illness or injury when on the expedition, including any injury sustained from riding or being a passenger on a motorcycle. Before you travel, we strongly recommend that you visit your GP or a specialised travel clinic to get advice on the recommended vaccinations and other health protection measures needed for the countries on this trip. As background, the websites listed below may prove useful.

<http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/>

<http://www.masta-travel-health.com/>

Please note that many countries on this route do not have the same level of medical infrastructure nor consistent medical standards that you may be used to. In particular, emergency services often may be a long distance away, with no co-ordinated response, or sometimes no medical response available within reasonable times. This is a risk that you must accept when making a booking.

What about local currency?

Local currency in Morocco is the Dirham. The Moroccan Dirham (MAD) is non-convertible. You can import or export up to a maximum of 2,000 MAD to or from Morocco. Most major credit cards are accepted in the larger towns. ATMs are widely available in cities and most of the main towns. The websites below will give you the current rates of exchange.

<http://www.oanda.com/>

<http://www.travelex.co.uk/>

Available Dates & Prices

Date	Rider Shared Room	Single Supplement	Passenger Shared Room	Bike Rental
Apr 29 – May 19, 2020	£3,595	£890	£2,195	