



TORAH in MOTION travel

Morocco 2020

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR TRAVELERS:

Everything has been done to make your journey special, please read this information that will be helpful to you as you prepare for the trip.

Optional Reading:

Emily Gottreich, *The Mellah of Marrakesh*

Aomar Boum, *Memories of Absence: How Muslims Remember Jews in Morocco*

Raphael David Elmaleh and George Ricketts, *Jews Under Moroccan Skies: 2000 years of Jewish Life*

Andre Chouraqui, *Between East and West: A History of the Jews of North Africa*

Susan Gilson Miller, *A History of Modern Morocco*

Movie: Casablanca

Traveller information:

Time Zone:

Morocco is 5 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (GMT+1). Please consider this when making arrangements to be in touch with friends and family.

Entry requirements:

A valid passport is required for entry to Morocco. The passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your planned return home. No visa or other papers are required for Canadian or US citizens. Israeli citizens require a visa for Morocco –if you travelling on an Israeli passport please be sure to arrange the visa in a timely fashion before the tour. If you are travelling on another passport please check with us to confirm visa requirements. Visa information: <http://www.moroccanconsulate.com/visa.cfm>

Languages:

Arabic is the official language of Morocco. Moroccan Arabic is the most different to the other dialects, so much so that everyday Moroccan Arabic is virtually incomprehensible in the Arab world. French is very widely spoken, and with the exception of remote rural areas and Berber enclaves in the mountains, you will be able to communicate with basic French.

Berber is the language of the indigenous tribes of Morocco and comes in a variety of dialects.

Currency:

Local currency is the Moroccan Dirham, divided into 100 centimes and can be obtained once in Morocco. Credit cards can be used in hotels, and larger shops, but not in many other places. There are ATMs now in the airport and most of the cities –many people find this to be the easiest way to obtain cash in the local currency. The dirham is a closed currency and it can only be obtained in Morocco, and cannot be converted back to your home currency once you have the Moroccan Dirham (MAD) so it's best just to convert or take out small amounts.

Cell phones:

Many travelers choose to use plans from home as required and WIFI in the hotels. SIM cards can also be obtained in the airport on arrival for those who feel they need local service.

Weather:

Winter: Temperatures in Morocco during January vary widely, a range of 10-20 degrees Celsius could occur in one day and will very likely over the course of the tour. It is also likely that we will get some rain. Please dress in layers (to add or take away as needed), bring some clothes for cooler weather and be prepared for rain. In the evening you could need jackets, hats and gloves. Waterproof shoes or boots may come in handy.

Summer: July are expected to be hot. Day temperatures can range anywhere from 20-40 degrees Celsius. The weather is most frequently sunny and dry. The air is usually hot during the day and pleasantly warm at night. It is always a good idea when travelling to pack a light jacket.

Health:

Please visit a doctor before travelling to ensure that you are healthy to travel and up to date with routine vaccinations. Health information for travelers can be found here (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>) The best travel information for you should be obtained from your doctor.

Electricity:

For **Morocco** there are two plug types, types C and E. Plug type C is the plug which has two round pins and plug type E is the plug which has two round pins and a hole for the socket's male earth pin. **Morocco** operates on a 220V supply voltage and 50Hz. Check if your appliances work with 220 volts (written on your appliance or charger).

Kosher food:

During the tour, you are provided with 3 Kosher meals daily. Meals are either prepared for us in the hotels under hashgacha or offered at local restaurants.

Kosher snacks: Feel free to bring your favorite snacks and in between meal supplies. Kosher food is not as easily available as it is in Canada or the USA and even when you find some provisions, they are very limited. You will be provided with the food you need during the trip.

Water:

You can drink the water in most places, drinking of bottled water is recommended and will be provided.

Luggage on the tour:

Luggage is limited to one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person. There is no reason to pack heavily for this tour, since required clothing is mostly light and casual throughout. Never pack essential medication, money or other personal necessities in your checked luggage; these should be kept in your carry-on bag at all times.

What to Bring:

Think comfortably and practically when packing. Casual clothing is widely used and accepted.

- Comfortable walking shoes are a must, many people like to bring two pairs
- sun protection
- siddur
- chumash (optional)

3 useful preparations:

1. Make two copies of your passport. Bring one copy with you on the tour (separately kept from your passport) and leave the other copy with a selected family member or friend.
2. Contact your credit card and ATM companies and inform them that charges might be made abroad - otherwise they will likely close your card as a protection. This has become common to fight credit card fraud. It is a good idea to make sure that your daily withdrawal allowance is sufficient for you.
3. Bring along the international number to your credit card company, should you need to cancel your card while travelling (in case of loss etc.).

In addition:

- We will provide emergency contact for during the trip, but if you have any questions or comments before or during the trip please be in touch with us.
- **Email is usually reliable and you can be in touch with us at info@torahinmotion.org**
- Each passenger will need to provide their credit card number at each hotel to take care of their own extra expenses (if there are any).
- During the trip there may be times when each traveler will be given a set of headphones for use when touring. Each person needs to take care of these and be responsible for them until they are returned in good repair.

Hotel Information Morocco:

Le Casablanca Hôtel
19, Boulevard Moulay Rachid,
Casablanca Maroc
Phone: +212 522 64 97 25

Hotel Sahrai Fez
Bab Lghoul Dhar El Mehraz
30 000 Fez, MOROCCO
Phone: +212 535 94 03 32

Le Naoura Barriere Marrakech
Rue Djebel Alakhdar – Bab Doukkala,
40000 Marrakech, Morocco
Phone: +212 (0) 524 45 9000

The Médina Essaouira Hotel Thalassa -MGallery
Avenue Mohamed V
44000 Essaouira, MOROCCO
Phone: +212(0)525072526

Tailor-Made tour for Torah in Motion Group to Morocco

Torah in Motion Travel

3910 Bathurst Street, Suite 307
Toronto, ON M3H 5Z3 Canada
Tel: (416) 633-5770 info@torahinmotion.org
www.torahinmotion.org
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