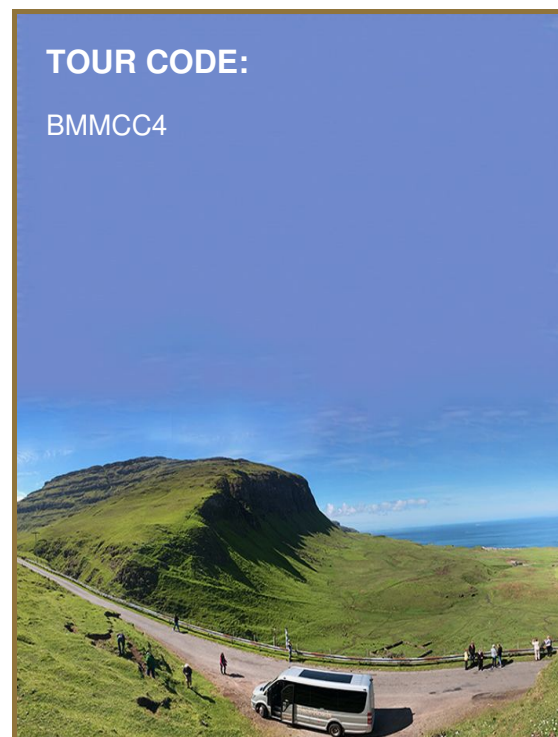




## Blue-Roads | Europe (BRT)

Kasbahs rising out of the desert, legendary mountain passes and ancient cities brimming with a thousand-and-one sights. This tour will take you on a magic carpet ride through magnificent Morocco, where adventurous days give way to Arabian nights.



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# Thank you for choosing **Blue-Roads**

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Your extraordinary adventure awaits!

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## About your tour notes

These tour notes contain everything you need to know before your tour departs – from where to meet your fellow guests and local guide to what essentials to pack for your journey.

We recommend you print this document out and bring it with you on your tour. Give a copy to loved ones at home so they can follow your adventure, too.

IMPORTANT: please refresh this document as close to your departure as possible to ensure you're equipped with the latest information available.

### THE BLUE-ROADS DIFFERENCE

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- ✓ Learn how to cook a traditional tagine in Ouarzazate
- ✓ Spend the night amidst the dunes of the Sahara Desert at an authentic Berber camp – complete with a traditional feast and local entertainment
- ✓ Enjoy a guided walking tour of the World Heritage-listed city: Meknes

### TOUR CURRENCIES

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- Morocco - MAD

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# Your itinerary

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## DAY 1 | CASABLANCA (MOROCCO)

Once an old pirate lair on the Atlantic coast, the sophisticated city of Casablanca is where we'll meet to begin our intoxicating journey through Morocco. Tonight, we'll have the opportunity to get to know one another better over a delicious welcome meal at a local restaurant. Accommodation: Idou Anfa Hôtel (or similar)

### MEALS:

✓ Dinner

## DAY 2 | CASABLANCA – RABAT – FES

After breakfast, we'll hit the road to our first stop: Rabat, where we'll see the marble Mausoleum of Mohammed V and the similarly spectacular Hassan Tower on a guided walking tour. When we arrive in Fes, the evening will be ours to explore at our leisure or relax back at our accommodation. Accommodation: Riad Reda (or similar)

### MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

## DAY 3 | FES – MOULAY IDRIS AND MEKNES – FES

After a stop in the pretty whitewashed town of Moulay Idriss, we'll make our way to Meknes. Enjoy a relaxed walking tour of this enchanting UNESCO World Heritage-listed city – winding up at the stunning Bab Mansour Gate. Next we'll savour an included lunch and sample some delicious local wines, before returning to Fes for an evening spent at our leisure. Accommodation: Riad Reda (or similar)

### MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

✓ Lunch

## DAY 4 | FES

First on the agenda today is a walking tour of Fes' maze-like medina before we move on to a Moroccan must-see: a leather tannery. We will also visit a workshop that specialises in creating a range of local artisanal products, before having the afternoon free to explore Fes at our own pace. We recommend returning to the buzzing medina and exploring the many colourful storefronts and medieval streets bursting with exotic food stands. Accommodation: Riad Reda (or similar)

### MEALS:

✓ Breakfast

## DAY 5 | FES – MIDELE – ERFOUD

Today our path leads us out of the city and on a voyage through the striking, jagged landscapes of the Atlas Mountains, covering some distance as we go. We'll pay a visit to Midelt; nestled in a valley, this golden-hued town offers breathtaking vistas of the surrounding peaks. Afterwards, our scenic journey continues towards the welcoming oasis town of Erfoud, where we'll enjoy dinner as a group at our hotel. Accommodation: Kasbah Hotel Chergui (or similar)

### MEALS:

- ✓ Breakfast
- ✓ Dinner

## DAY 6 | ERFOUD – RISSANI – MERZOUGA

Our first stop of the day will be Rissani, where we'll be treated to a walking tour of this historic town, once the site of the renowned desert capital Sijilmasa. Afterwards, we'll swap the mini-coach for four-wheel drives and venture into the spectacular Sahara Desert – where our camp just outside of Merzouga awaits. Tonight's dinner will come in the traditional form of a Berber feast, complete with local entertainment. Accommodation: Golden Camp (or similar)

### MEALS:

- ✓ Breakfast
- ✓ Dinner

## DAY 7 | MERZOUGA – DADÈS GORGE – OUARZAZATE REGION

Rise early this morning to catch the mesmerising sunrise over the expanse of red dunes, before we set off on a day's travel. First we'll make the picturesque journey to the dramatic Dadès Gorge. After taking some time to explore the gorge at our own pace, we'll make our way to our hotel for the night. It's situated a short drive from the fortified village of Aït Benhaddou: a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Accommodation: Riad Tamdakht (or similar)

### MEALS:

- ✓ Breakfast

## DAY 8 | OUARZAZATE REGION

We'll begin our day uncovering the secret to cooking the perfect tagine during an included cooking class. Taking its name from the conical clay pot in which this sumptuous dish is cooked, we'll sample our own attempts at this slow-cooked stew of meats, dried fruit and vegetables for lunch. Following this, we'll take a visit to Ouarzazate to find out more about its role on the silver screen at Atlas Film Studios, before an evening spent relaxing at our accommodation. Accommodation: Riad Tamdakht (or similar)

### MEALS:

- ✓ Breakfast
- ✓ Lunch

## DAY 9 | OUARZAZATE REGION – AÏT BENHADDOU – MARRAKECH

After stopping off at Aït Benhaddou Kasbah for a photo opportunity, we'll move onwards to Marrakech via the awe-inspiring Tizi n'Tichka mountain pass. Tonight, we'll come together to toast the end of our adventure with a farewell dinner. What an incredible journey we've had! Accommodation: 2Ciels Hotel (or similar)

### MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast
- ☑ Dinner

## DAY 10 | MARRAKECH

Before we say our final goodbyes, we'll enjoy a sightseeing tour of the 'Red City' – where we'll have the chance to view the incredible Bahia Palace. Following that, we'll conclude our tour and part ways.

### MEALS:

- ☑ Breakfast





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## Tour information

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### Meals

#### **INCLUDED MEALS**

Breakfast (B) is included daily.

Some of your lunches and dinners are also included, either in hotels or local restaurants. These are indicated by (L) and (D) in the itinerary.

Please note that drinks will not always be included.

We will do our best to accommodate any specific dietary requirements you may have. Please ensure to make these clear to us before your tour begins so we can communicate them to our hotels, restaurants and suppliers.

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# Other information

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## Finances

### CHANGING MONEY

CASH: Foreign money can be changed at banks, airports, some railway and tube stations, and at major hotels (though at a less favourable rate).

CREDIT CARDS: Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted. American Express is only accepted in some larger establishments.

CASH MACHINES: ATMS are widely available.

### TIPPING

Tipping is entirely at your discretion. If you feel you have received exceptional service, it is recommended that you tip £1-2/€ per day for Drivers and £4- 5/€ per day for Tour Leaders.

## Insurance

Before travelling with Blue-Roads Touring, it is compulsory for all guests to take out comprehensive travel insurance. Please ensure your insurance covers medical expenses (including repatriation), cancellation cover, loss or damage to baggage and personal effects, money and personal liability.

We recommend you carry your insurance details with you at all times. You may be asked to provide details of your medical insurance or a payment guarantee in some countries before medical assistance can be provided.

For more information, please see our FAQ page:  
[www.blueroadstouring.com/faqs](http://www.blueroadstouring.com/faqs)

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact our friendly Customer Service team: [www.blueroadstouring.com/contact-us](http://www.blueroadstouring.com/contact-us)

## Passports and visas

Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your tour. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your tour's departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

PLEASE NOTE: Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure as requirements do change periodically.

We advise you to either carry a photocopy of your passport (and visa, if applicable) with you while abroad, or to ensure that you leave a copy with relatives back at home. This will enable the local embassy or high commission to arrange a replacement if the original should be lost or stolen. If you do take copies with you on your tour, please ensure that you keep these separate from your

## Medication and mobility

Whilst on your tour, we want you to have the smoothest journey possible which requires some mobility conditions:

- You must be fit enough to get on and off the vehicle on a regular basis, and to walk around towns and villages or to attractions.
- You must be able to walk up and down stairs and use a shower over the bath.

Please note that, unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate mobility scooter or wheelchair users as we frequently stay in traditional-style hotels and the majority do not have lifts or ground-floor rooms.

If you take medicine for certain conditions, such as diabetes or heart problems, please carry it with you at all times.

Please declare any medical conditions you may have in advance of your tour. If you are in any doubt as to whether our tours are suitable for you, please contact our friendly Customer Service team:

[www.blueroadstouring.com/contact-us](http://www.blueroadstouring.com/contact-us)

## Mental health and wellbeing

Culture shock, homesickness and periods of feeling down happen regardless of age. Be rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Tour Leader and Driver will do their utmost to make you smile.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- Call loved ones. Hearing a familiar voice whilst in an unfamiliar destination can help ground you and remind you you're not alone.
- Eat well. Nobody feels their best when they're hungry. There are plenty of nutritious culinary delights to be savoured along the road!
- Integrate with your fellow guests. The more you socialise with the group, the less likely you'll feel homesick.

## Transport

We travel in premium mini-coaches equipped with comfortable seats, air conditioning and large windows for enjoying the view.

With far more flexibility than a standard-size coach, we're able to take the scenic route – winding through beautiful countryside to the heart of tiny villages and coastal towns.



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# What to bring

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Based on our experience, the following items are essential.

Please note, this is a general packing list for Blue-Roads tours. What you pack will depend on the countries you're visiting as well as the time of year you plan to travel.

## CLOTHING:

- |               |                             |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ☑ Sun hat     | ☑ Long-sleeved tops         | ☑ Light jacket                    |
| ☑ Sunglasses  | ☑ Short-sleeved tops        | ☑ Waterproof jacket               |
| ☑ Sleepwear   | ☑ Shorts/skirts             | ☑ Trousers                        |
| ☑ Warm jacket | ☑ Socks                     | ☑ Swimwear                        |
| ☑ Underwear   | ☑ Smart casual evening wear | ☑ Walking shoes/comfortable shoes |

## OTHER THINGS TO PACK:

- |                           |  |                    |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
| ☑ Multi-use adapter plug  | ☑ Toiletries   | ☑ Camera           |
| ☑ Batteries               | ☑ Sunscreen  | ☑ Towel            |
| ☑ Umbrella                | ☑ Reusable water bottle  | ☑ Insect repellent |
| ☑ Any personal medication | ☑ Basic medical kit (including paracetamol, aspirin, plasters etc) |                    |

# That's it!

**We look forward to seeing you on tour.**