



ROAD TRAVEL REPORT: MOROCCO



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO...

- Drive defensively. Reckless driving is a factor in over 80 percent of road crashes.
- Use caution if driving at night. Unusual vehicle lighting is common. Trucks often have red lights on the front and white lights on the rear.
- Emergency ambulance service may not be available.
- Crime is a problem on buses, taxis, but trains are generally crime-free.



ROAD REALITIES

DRIVER BEHAVIORS

- Leading factors in road crashes include reckless driving, speeding, disrespect for road signs, poor tires and weather conditions. A poor road network also contributes to road crashes.
- Driver education and safety are not of high standard.
- Moroccan drivers can be extremely aggressive. Drivers often ignore road markings. Crossing a solid white line is common.
- Poor local driving practices have resulted in U.S. fatalities and serious injuries.
- Road crashes decreased 6% in 2004 compared to 2005, but they accounted for 2.5 percent of Morocco's GDP.
- Driving conventions include the following:
 - Drivers of larger, faster vehicles expect drivers of slower or smaller vehicles to yield to them. Be especially alert for trucks on narrow roads.
 - When riding a donkey, moped or bicycle, move to the shoulder so faster moving vehicles can pass.
 - A driver flashing his lights is indicating that he is taking the right of way.
 - In urban areas, drivers already in a roundabout customarily yield to traffic entering the roundabout from the right.



- Good maps and guidebook are essential when traveling on secondary roads.
- There are 16 road fatalities per 100 million vehicle kilometers in Morocco, compared to 1.0 in the United States and 0.7 in the UK.

GENERAL ROAD CONDITIONS

- The road network is among the best in Africa, but, by international standards, is limited and often of low quality. Almost 50 percent of the road network is unpaved. Many roads are closed 30 to 60 days a year due to severe weather.
- There are more than 37,580 mi (60,500 km) of roads, 311 miles (500 km) of which are modern expressways linking Fez and Meknes and the coastal cities of Asilah, Rabat, and Casablanca. Good two-lane roads with hard, sandy shoulders connect other major cities.
- Major roads, especially in the north and northwest, are all-weather highways and are well maintained.
- Road conditions can be hazardous.
 - Many secondary roads are in poor condition.
 - Many minor roads are too narrow for average vehicles to pass without going onto the shoulder.
 - Stones thrown up by oncoming vehicles present a danger for windshields.
 - Road shoulders are generally very narrow and unpaved.



- Road signs may be difficult to see, lacking, contradict each other, or be inaccurate. On more heavily traveled routes, directions are more clearly marked.
- Road signs and directional signs are usually in French and Arabic. In more remote areas, signs may be in Arabic only.
- Lighting is frequently inadequate.
- Desert roads are sometimes covered with sand drifts.
- There are large numbers of imported second hand cars.
- The traffic mix includes motorized vehicles, pedestrians, donkey carts and other forms of non-motorized transport.
- Be alert for pedestrians running across the road.
- Fruit stands are often located near the road surface. Be alert for pedestrians and for vehicles leaving or entering parking areas of these stands.
- Types of inter-city highways:
 - "Autoroute nationale" (national motorways) are indicated by an "N" and a single or double-digit route number. Portions of the national motorways are toll roads. Autoroutes are generally in excellent condition. Some sections may be only two-lane.
 - "Route principale" (main roads) are indicated by an "R" and a three-digit route number.
- "N" routes have lower crash rates than local routes.
- The longest "N" route is the N1 from Tangier to Dakhla. The network is being extended to Marrakech and Agadir.

- Police and customs roadblocks are common.

BORDER CROSSINGS

- Only give documents to customs officials or police.
- Morocco's border with Algeria is closed. Legal options for traveling out of the country are by air, ferry via Spain, or land through Niger or Mauritania.
- The border control post on the Dakhla-Nouadhibou road is the only safe border crossing with Mauritania.

URBAN TRAVEL

- Condition and maintenance of streets and roads is fair.
- Traffic tends to be very congested. Traffic mix includes many mopeds and cycles. Drivers of these vehicles often weave in and out of traffic lanes.
- Traffic signals are sometimes difficult to see and may not function.
- Animals may wander on the road by night, making night driving dangerous.
- Parking meters are rare. Streets in larger cities have attendants wearing blue jackets who direct parking. Parking rates are not set. Tip the attendant 2 dirhams for short term parking; 10 dirhams for overnight parking.
- Some larger cities have parking facilities with posted guards. Fees are 20 to 40 dirham per night; agree upon fee before leaving your vehicle. Indicate that no additional services, including cleaning your vehicle, are desired.
- Most larger cities consist of a old city (Medina) and a new city (Ville Nouvelle).

AGADIR:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
		Agadir-Al-Massira Airport, 21 km (13 miles) from the city on the road to Taradouant, Phone: 048 83 91 02 / 048 83 91 52 and Fax: 048 83 91 49. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buses and taxis provide transport to the city. Rental cars are available.
CASABLANCA:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
Avoid driving when possible. Traffic is very congested partly due to inadequate signaling, lack of pedestrian crossovers and		The medina is car-free. CTM buses provide transport to most cities. Buses operate out of the CTM bus station (gare routière) on Rue Léon l'Africain.



CASABLANCA:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)
	<p>insufficient enforcement of parking and traffic regulations.</p> <p>The medina, the oldest section of the city, has extremely narrow streets.</p> <p>Traffic tends to be heavy on roads near the airport.</p>	<p>Private buses also provide inter-city service.</p> <p>City buses are very crowded during rush hour.</p> <p>Taxis are metered. Be sure the meter is turned on. Fares increase 20% at night.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Petits taxis are readily available on main streets. The vehicles are red and have a sign on the luggage rack on the roof. ○ Grande taxis have ranks at bus stations. <p>Mohamed V International Airport. 22 miles (35 km) south of the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a shuttle service between the airport and the CTM bus station. ○ Trains provide transport to the city. They stop at the airport on the hour from 6:15 am to 10:45 pm.
CHEFCHAOUEN:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
	<p>Located in the Rif Mountains. Many streets are narrow and steep.</p>	<p>The city is mostly car-free.</p> <p>Sights in the city are easily walked.</p> <p>Transport is provided by buses and shared taxis.</p>
EL-JADIDA:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
	<p>Traffic levels are high in summer.</p>	<p>Buses and shared taxis provide frequent inter-city transport.</p>
ESSAOURIA (MOGADOR):	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
	<p>CTM Mumtaz Express buses provide transport to Casablanca, including night runs.</p> <p>Using night buses is not recommended due to increased risk of road crashes.</p>	<p>A main square, the Place Prince Moulay El Hassan, is a pedestrianized zone. Two major streets, running parallel to each other, link this car-free area with the harbor.</p> <p>Supratours express buses provide daily transport to Marrakesh and Agadir. Purchase tickets a day in advance.</p>
FEZ (FES):	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
	<p>Driving a car is difficult, due to the many narrow alleys and one-way streets. City is easily walked.</p> <p>Driving conditions in Fes-El-Bali:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are many narrow winding streets, souks and blind alleys. ○ Most streets are too narrow for cars. ○ Most street signs are in Arabic only. 	<p>The Medina consists of two cities: Fes El Bali (Old Fes) and Fes El Djedid (New Fes).</p> <p>Fes El Bali is the oldest section of Fez. It is car-free except for a few roads coming in for a short distance.</p> <p>Most buses leave from the main bus station, which is just north of Bab Mahrouk.</p> <p>CTM buses leave from CTM's office in the Ville Nouvelle.</p> <p>Grande taxis can be picked up at ranks (waiting areas) near bus stations or the train station.</p> <p>Parking in the Ville Nouvelle area and walking into the city is recommended.</p>



FEZ (FES):	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)
		<p>Rental cars are available.</p> <p>Fes Saiss International Airport, 10km (6miles) from the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rental cars are available. ○ International rental companies are represented.
MARRAKESH:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
	<p>Parking in the Ville Nouvelle area and walking into the city is recommended.</p> <p>Motorbikes are very common on most streets.</p> <p>Petits taxis are metered, but few meters are functional. Agree upon fare before boarding. Taxis are beige and have a sign on the luggage rack on the roof.</p>	<p>The souk is car-free, but nearby areas are not.</p> <p>Intercity buses link the city with other large cities. Purchase tickets a day in advance.</p> <p>Supratours provides express buses to Agadir, Laayoune, and Essaouira. Buses depart from the bus station in Gueliz.</p> <p>Buses and petits taxis supply intra-city transport. Taxis can be picked up at taxi ranks.</p> <p>Grande taxis provide transport to Agadir, Laayoune, and Essaouira, Bab Er Robb and Bab Doukkala and make less frequent runs to other destinations.</p> <p>Grande taxis display a price list for specific destinations. The price is per trip, not per person. The cost can be shared. Grande taxis can be rented by the day.</p> <p>Horse-drawn cabs (calèches) are available. Agree upon fare before boarding.</p> <p>Bicycles and mopeds may be rented locally.</p> <p>Menara Airport is 5 km (3 miles) from the city. Phone: 044/44-79-03.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bus service to the city is infrequent. ○ Grande taxis and petits taxis provide transport to the city. Fares are more expensive than bus fares.
MEKNES:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
	<p>Oldest section has extremely narrow streets.</p>	<p>The medina is car-free.</p>
RABAT:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
	<p>Some heavily traveled roads pass through the median.</p> <p>The oldest section has extremely narrow streets.</p>	<p>Part of the median is car-free.</p> <p>All points of interest in the city can be reached easily on foot.</p> <p>Transport by local buses is available.</p> <p>Petits and grande taxis can be boarded on Blvd. Hassan II and near the train station.</p> <p>Petits taxis do not run between Rabat and Salé.</p> <p>Rental cars are available at train stations.</p> <p>Rabat International Airport (Rabat-Salé Airport), (RBA), 9 km (6 miles) from Rabat near Salé. Rental cars are available.</p>



TANGIERS:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
		<p>The Old Medina is car-free.</p> <p>Tingis and Raihini bus companies provide transport to the suburbs.</p> <p>CTM provides long-distance bus service. Buses leave from the Port Entrance.</p> <p>Other bus companies offer long-distant service. Buses leave from Gare Routière.</p> <p>Bourghaz minibus company provides service from the bus station and Cap Spartel and a bus stop near the gates of the port.</p> <p>Grande taxis also provide inter-city service. Taxis leave from Gare Routière. Travel time is shorter but fare is slightly higher than by bus.</p> <p>Grande taxis are cream/beige Mercedes. May carry up to six passengers. Agree upon fare before boarding.</p> <p>Grande taxis can be chartered. Fare is expensive unless shared by a group.</p> <p>Petits taxis are blue/green. May carry up to three passengers. Most are metered.</p> <p>Petits taxis provide transport to the city from Tanger Morora train station.</p> <p>Taxis can be hailed.</p> <p>Fares for grande and petits taxis double after 8 pm.</p> <p>Tangier International Airport (Boukhalf/Ibn Batouta), 11 km (7 miles) from the city. Phone: 212-9-393-720.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buses to the city are available at the main road, 2 km from the airport terminal. ○ Taxis provide transport to the city. Agree on fare before boarding. ○ Rental cars are available.
TAROUDANNT:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
Streets are narrow.		Walking is a good option.

RURAL TRAVEL

- The condition and maintenance of rural roads is generally poor.
- Roads in rural and mountainous areas tend to be narrow, poorly paved, poorly lit, and poorly maintained. Use maximum caution when driving in these areas, especially in the mountainous regions.
- There are many rough, unpaved roads (*pistes*) in mountainous and desert areas. 4WD or very sturdy vehicles are necessary on these tracks.
- Only about 45 percent of rural residents have access to an all-weather road.
- When traveling in mountainous or remote areas:
 - Use caution on hairpin bends. They may have patches of gravel, which may have the same effect as ice.
 - Take a medical kit and a Moroccan phone card for emergencies.
 - Expect detours in winter, as mountain roads are often blocked by snow.



- Road travel is more difficult in the interior of the country and in the south in the High Atlas Mountains.
- Use great caution if driving in the Atlas and Rif Mountains. Roads are steep, narrow, and winding.
- There are no roads in the Toubkal Massif.

NIGHT TRAVEL

- Night travel can be dangerous and should be avoided.
- Be alert for pedestrians, cyclists, and horse-drawn vehicles.
- Moped riders, cyclists and other modes of transport capable of traveling only 20 km/h or less are not required to use lights at night.
- Trucks frequently have red lights on the front and white lights on the rear.
- Limit travel on the road through the Gorge du Ziz north of El Rachida to daytime hours.

SEASONAL TRAVEL

- In winter (October to March) snow and ice can create dangerous driving conditions in mountainous areas, especially in the Rif and Atlas Mountains where rain or snow may cause even main roads to close.
- Roads/road sections likely to be closed due to snow in winter:
 - Road south of Agard to Oudad. Goes over a mountain pass
 - Tizi n"Test (R203) between Agadir and Marrakech
 - Tizi 'n Tichka (N9) between Marrakech and Quarzazate
 - Road to Telouet. Is very narrow.
- In the rainy season (November to February) flash flooding is frequent and sometimes severe. Road conditions can be hazardous. In rural areas, flash flooding may wash away both roads and vehicles.

- During the rainy season, landslides frequently block traffic on coastal highways bordering the Mediterranean Sea.
- Driving is not recommended during strong cherqui (sirocco) winds, due to reduced visibility. The dust carried by these winds can severely damage vehicles.
- Serious road crashes tend to increase during Ramadan and from July to September when many Moroccans are returning from trips to Europe.
- Drivers tend to drive more irresponsibly and are less likely to obey traffic laws during Ramadan, particularly at dusk.
- Long-distance buses, traveling between Morocco and France, are more likely to be overloaded during holidays. Bus drivers may not take required rest stops.
- Road crash deaths and injuries decreased about 9 percent in the summer of 2004 compared to the summer of 2003.

POLICE ENFORCEMENT

- A speeding offense may result in loss of license.
- Police often pull motorists over for inspections on city and inter-city roads.
- Police use digital radar to enforce road regulations.
- The Gendarmerie Royale patrol inter-city roads.
 - Regulations are strictly enforced.
 - Avoid arguing with officers.
 - Officers sometimes accept bribes.
- Roadblocks are frequent on intercity roads.
 - Reduce speed when you see a police jeep (gray and white with blue warning lights flashing) pulled to the side of the road.
 - Tourists are seldom stopped at roadblocks. When stopped and the officer extends his hand, he expects a 10 dirham tip.



ROAD REGULATIONS

- Driving is on the right.
- Minimum age for driving is 21.
- A national driver's license is accepted.
- An International Driving Permit is not required, but is recommended. An IDP is a legal identification document that translates driving license information into 11 languages, including English, and can only be



used as a supplement to a valid driving license. IDPs are available through AAA. Phone: 1-800-222-4357; website: www.aaa.com.

- The speed limits are as follows:
 - Rural areas 100 km/h (62 mph)
 - Freeways 120 km/h (74 mph)
 - Urban areas 40 or 60 km/h (25 or 37 mph).
 - Mopeds & bikes 20 km/h (12 mph).
- Traffic laws follow the International Convention on Road Traffic.
- Seatbelts are required.
- Children are not permitted to ride in the front seat.
- Using a cell phone while driving is illegal.
- Any vehicle weighing more than 8 tons must be equipped with a device that limits speed to maximum of 85 km/h.
- Requirements for taking your own vehicle into Morocco include:
 - An IDP or a license from an EU member state.
 - Proof of ownership (a “gray card”, i.e., a “carte grise”). When a vehicle is borrowed, you must have the owner’s written permission to use the vehicle.

- If your insurance is not valid in Morocco, temporary insurance (“Assurance Frontière”) must be purchased at the border. Cost is US \$80 per month.
- Submit a “Temporary Vehicle Admission” form and get a vehicle admission stamp on your passport. Forms can be downloaded in French from Moroccan customs website: www.douane.gov.ma.
- Give documents only to police or customs officials.
- Drivers who bring a vehicle into Morocco must take *the same vehicle* out when leaving, or the driver must have a police declaration or other official document explaining the vehicle’s absence.
- A Green Card (proof of insurance card) is required if you drive your own car. It is also called an International Insurance Certificate and can be obtain from insurance agent or AAA.
- If involved in a road crash:
 - Do not move any vehicle involved.
 - Remain at the scene (unless too seriously injured) until police arrive and document all facts relevant. Process may take a long time.



ROAD WATCH

SOME DANGEROUS ROADS IN MOROCCO

ROAD	CONDITIONS AND USEFUL INFORMATION
OUARZAZATE TO BOUNHALNE DE DADES ROAD	Reverts to a dirt track; 4WD required.
BOUMALNE DADÈS TO GORGES DU DADÈS ROAD	The first section of the road is deeply potholed, but the surface on the later section is smoother.
ON S303 IN THE MIDDLE ATLAS MOUNTAINS	Some of the tracks are treacherous. May be impassable in poor weather.
MAIN ROAD FROM FEZ TO TAZA AT SIDI ABDALLAH DE RHIAT	Road winds around hairpin bends through gorges.
THE ROAD FROM SOUQ TNINE DE SIDI EL YAMANI OFF HIGHWAY P37	Has a six-kilometer stretch of bad piste.

**ROAD WATCH****SOME DANGEROUS ROADS IN MOROCCO (CONTINUED)**

ROAD	CONDITIONS AND USEFUL INFORMATION
ROAD TO SETTI FATMA	A poor road.
ROAD FROM MSEMIRIR TO IMILCHIL	4WD is necessary. Driving is slow and some stretches are pistes that may be impassable in wet weather and in winter.
ROAD TO AIT OUDINAR	A winding, potholed road.
ROAD TO ERG CHEBBI	A poor bitumin road where pistas can be rough. It winds across rough black Hammada, a stony desert area.
ROAD TO TARTAYA	4WD is necessary.
ROAD FROM AIT BENHADDOU TO TELOUET	Road ends abruptly at the river Ounila. Road continues on the other side and turns into a poor piste.
N9	<p>The Tizi 'n Tichka (N9) is a mountainous road that may close in rain or snow. Heavy clouds and mist often reduce vision to near zero at the top of the pass and during the descent on Taroudannt side. Links Marrakeck to Ouarzazate and Telouet.</p> <p>Last section is narrow and potholed. 4WD is recommended.</p> <p>The section to Telouet is bumpy, rocky, potholed and narrow.</p>
ROADS IN THE RIF AND ATLAS MOUNTAINS, ESPECIALLY IN THE HIGH ATLAS REGION	Roads tend to be steep, winding, narrow. Flash floods are common in rainy season (Nov. to March) and may wash away bridges and roads in rural areas.
TETOUAN TO CHEFCHAOUEN ROAD	There are many steep, winding sections, as the road passes through the Rif Mountains.
CASABLANCA-MARRAKECH	Section from Cassablanca to Settat has been upgraded.
A3, THE CASABLANCA-EL JADIDA ROAD	There are frequent road crashes involving fatalities. Road is being upgraded. (See "Some Roads Under Construction in Morocco.")
MARRAKESH TO AGADIR ROAD	High road crash rate. Heavy truck traffic. Trucks are often overloaded. Buses and grande taxis may pass slow moving trucks on blind curves in steeper sections. Road passes through many villages and towns. Road is being upgraded. (See "Some Roads Under Construction in Morocco.")
ROADS THE GUELMIM REGION	Road network is inadequate. Only 40% of the rural population has access to the national road system.
TAFROUTE TO TAMANART ROAD	Main sealed roads lead to Tafroute except from southeast. 4WD is recommended on piste linking the city to Tamanart. Bridges may be lacking.



SOME ROADS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN MOROCCO

ROAD	CONDITIONS AND USEFUL INFORMATION
A1, THE NORTH-SOUTH TRUNK ROAD FROM TANGIER TO AGADIR	Section from Asilah to Tangiers is nearing completion.
A1, THE RABAT TO CASABLANCA SECTION.	Under construction.
A1, THE RABAT AND LARACHE SECTION	Under construction.
A9	When completed, the road will link Marrakech and Agadir.
A9, THE AGADIR-TAROUDANT SECTION	Be alert for construction zones.
A9, THE CHICHAOUA AND AGADIR SECTION	Be alert for construction zones.
SETTAT-MARRAKECH EXPRESSWAY	Be alert for construction zones.
SETTAT BYPASS	Construction nearing completion
A5	The road is being upgraded, partly due to the high road crash rate. Links Casablanca, El Jadida, and Jorf Lasfar. The road is completed to Had Soualem. The road will intersect with the north-south road network (Agadir-Marrakech-Casablanca-Tangier) and the west-east network (Casablanca-Oujda).
NEW MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL ROAD	Links Tangier and Saidia on the border with Algeria.
TANGIERS-OUED RMEL-FNIDEQ EXPRESSWAY	Be alert for construction zones.
HAD SOUALEM-TNIN CHTOUKA	Construction is nearing completion
TETOUAN TO JEBHA HIGHWAY	A main coastal highway bordering the Mediterranean Sea. Being upgraded.
EAST-WEST TRUNK ROAD, THE FEZ TO OUJDA SECTION	Be alert for construction zones This is the last section of East-West Trunk Road, linking Rabat, Fez and Oujda.

SOME GOOD ROADS IN MOROCCO

ROAD	CONDITIONS AND USEFUL INFORMATION
A2, THE RABAT TO FEZ HIGHWAY	Construction is complete. The A2 is part of the East-West Truck Road (Rabat-Fez-Oujda).
A3	Links Casablanca, Rabat, Kénitra, and Asilah.



SOME GOOD ROADS IN MOROCCO (CONTINUED)

ROAD	CONDITIONS AND USEFUL INFORMATION
ASILAH-TANGIER HIGHWAY	Upgrading is completed. This is the final section of the Rabat-Tangier highway.
N1	Links Tangier to Dakhla. Runs along the Atlantic coast.
A-7	Links Cassablanca and Settat. The road is being extended to Marrakech.
R207	This road forms the latter part of the Marrakech to Essaouira Highway.
COASTAL ROAD FROM ESSAOUIRA TO SAFI	Smooth, straight road through a sparsely populated region.
COASTAL ROAD FROM SAFI TO OUALIDIA	Smooth road with little traffic.
ROUTE 6956 TO MERZOUGA	The road is winding but in good condition. Passes through a flat, stony desert area (Hamada). Very hot and dry in summer. Take provisions of food and water for travelers and spare water for the vehicle.



ROAD RECOMMENDATION

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

- The safety of public buses is poor.
 - Drivers typically exhibit poor driving habits.
 - Public buses are very crowded, especially during Ramadan. Fares are inexpensive.
- Bus stations (gare routière) are generally located at the edge of towns.
- Using public transportation is difficult for non-French or Arabic speaking individuals.
- In rural areas, lorries and trucks are commonly used to transport passengers. These vehicles are routinely overcrowded.
- Bus service to most major towns and villages is regular and frequent. Buy tickets ahead of time to assure getting a seat
- The largest companies are CTM (serves all of Morocco) and SATAS (serves Casablanca, Agadir, and the area south of Agadir).
- Bus service is often provided by private companies. Smaller private bus companies' vehicles vary in quality. Some are comparable to CTM and SATAS buses, while others are old and in poor operating condition.

- Public transport vehicles able to carry 15 or more passengers must be equipped with a device that limits speed to maximum of 100 km/h.
- Buses may be extremely hot and crowded during the day. Lack of adequate leg room on many buses makes long trips uncomfortable.
- Some buses lack heating.

TAXIS

- Taxi drivers typically exhibit poor driving habits.
- Taxis can be hailed anywhere. Radio-equipped taxis are rare.
- Taxi service often is very limited in residential areas.
- Taxis can be uncomfortable on long rides.
- "Grand taxis" (Mercedes or similar vehicles) travel fixed routes between cities or areas outside of cities. Agree on fare before departing. Fares are inexpensive unless chartered for personal use.
- "Petit taxis" (Fiats or similar vehicles) are available in major towns. They only run within city limits, and can carry a maximum of three passengers. Fares are lower when the meter is used.



- When traveling to more remote areas, especially in the Atlas Mountains, taxis, pickup trucks or Land Rovers may be the only public transportation available. Travelers may have to wait to get a ride.

TRAIN TRAVEL

- Trains generally have a good safety record. They are generally comfortable and run on schedule, but may be overcrowded.
- Train service links Tangier to Casablanca and Rabat. There are connections to Meknes, Fes, Marrakech and other towns.
- Some trains are air conditioned.

AUTO FERRIES

- Auto ferry services run between Tangier and Algeciras (Tarifa) Morocco; from Tangier to Sete, France and from Ceuta (a Spanish enclave) to Algeciras.
- During summer, an auto ferry runs from Melilla (another Spanish enclave) to Malaga.

RENTAL VEHICLES

- Requirements for renting a vehicle:
 - The minimum age of renter is 23. Age may vary by vehicle type.
 - Must have held a license for one year.
 - Maximum age is 75.
 - Must have an IDP.
- Major companies have offices in Tangier, Casablanca, and Agadir.
- Rental vehicles tend to be older and in poorer condition than those in the US or Europe. Fees are higher.
- Consider adding Collision Damage Waiver coverage. International rental fees may be higher than local companies' fees, but they provide more efficient roadside assistance.
- Drivers are not permitted to take European companies' rental vehicles into Morocco. Vehicles rented in Morocco may not be taken to another country.

CRIME & SECURITY

- Crime rates are moderately high in cities. Criminals target tourists for robbery, assault, mugging, petty theft and scams. Most petty crime occurs in transportation centers, markets/Medinas, parks and beaches.

- Aggressive panhandling is a problem.
- Travelers, who accept food, drink, or cigarettes from friendly residents, may be drugged and robbed.
- Bandits riding mopeds may steal items stored on vehicle roof racks.
- Many residents pose as tour guides. Hire an official tour guide through hotel or travel agency.
- Crime is a problem on buses. Taxis and trains are generally crime-free.
- "Bump and rob" scam: Thieves may bump cars from behind and rob the occupants when they get out to check for damage.
- Demonstrations are frequent and are generally based on domestic issues. Avoid large crowds in city centers. When a demonstration erupts, go into a store, government building, police station, hospital until it subsides.
- Exercise caution due to Middle East conflicts. Report any problems or suspicious incidents to Moroccan authorities and the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.
- Travel conditions in the Western Sahara region:
 - Population is sparse.
 - Due to long-standing conflict between the Polisario Front and Moroccan government forces, travel is restricted. If planning to travel there, contact the Moroccan Embassy for clearance requirements.
 - Groups may be permitted to enter the area south of Tan-Tan, Morocco; but individual travelers will usually be turned back at the border.
 - Tourism is not encouraged.
 - Unexploded landmines are common. Avoid driving or walking off-road.
- Traveling alone in the Rif mountain area is not recommended. Tourists have been victims of schemes involving trafficking and/or purchase of hashish.
- Ask permission from Moroccan authorities before photographing diplomatic missions, government buildings or facilities related to the military or security.



EMERGENCY INFORMATION

TOURIST ASSISTANCE

- Availability of roadside assistance is poor.
- Emergency numbers are as follows:
 - Police-19
 - Fire and Ambulance-15
 - Roadside assistance-177
- Emergency information for Casablanca: Police/First Aid (Police Station) is located on the boulevard Brahim Roudani. Phone: 19. Fire station is located on rue Alaymouna. Phone: 15. Highway emergencies, Phone: 177. All-night pharmacy, Phone: 269491.
- Hitchhiking is not customary in Morocco and is definitely not advisable for women. Picking up hitchhikers, especially on the road between Tetouan and Tangier, is not recommended.
- Tourist facilities and modern transportation services are widely available, but vary in quality depending on location and cost.
- For information in Morocco, the Office National Marocain de Tourisme, Angle 31 rue Oued Fès et avenue Abtal, Agdal, Rabat, Morocco. Phone: (7) 681 531 or 681 532, fax: (7) 777 437, email: visitemorocco@mbox.azure.net; website: www.tourism-in-morocco.com.
- In the US, contact the Moroccan National Tourist Office. Mailing address is P.O. Box 22663, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830. Phone: 407-827-5337, fax: 407-827-0146; website: www.tourism-in-morocco.com.
- Few ticket agents, information clerks or public utility workers speak or understand English.
- Fuel and service
 - Service stations are abundant in major cities, but scarce in the Western Sahara.
 - Unleaded fuel may be available in larger cities or at service stations on main highways, but is rarely found in rural areas.
 - Diesel fuel is available throughout Morocco and is less expensive than gasoline.
 - Liquid petrol gas (LPG) is not available.

- Spare parts for American-made cars are expensive and often not available. Parts for European-made cars are more readily available. Repair costs are reasonable.
- A map of inter-city roads is provided by Trio Tours. Website is <http://www.com/faq/ma/travel-around-car.htm>.

MEDICAL CARE

- Medical facilities in major cities of the Western Sahara territory are generally adequate for non-emergency situations. More specialized treatment may only be available in Agadir, Rabat, and Casablanca.
- Not all medical facilities meet high quality standards. Medical staff may not speak English.
- Emergency ambulance service may not be available.
- Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment for medical services.
- Most common over-the-counter prescription medicines are widely available. More specialized medications may be more difficult to find. Availability of medications is limited in rural areas. Medications may have different names and/or contain different dosages than in the U.S. Newer medications may not be available at all.
- Emergency pharmacies are open after hours. They may be located in Town Halls.
- Pharmacists can usually recommend an English-speaking doctor.
- Medical care in rural and remote areas:
 - Emergency and specialized care is far below U.S. standards and may not be available at all.
 - Medical facilities of any kind are very rare in the desert areas of the Western Sahara territory.
 - When traveling in mountainous areas, take a first aid kit and Moroccan phone card for emergencies.
- U.S. medical insurance is not always valid in other countries. Medicare and Medicaid do not cover medical expenses rendered outside the U.S. Medigap policies (plans C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J) cover 80 percent of what Medicare would cover in the U.S. for the first 60



days of each trip; a \$250 deductible and maximum \$500,000 lifetime limit apply. Medicare Advantage may offer coverage for care abroad. (Phone: 800-633-4227; website: www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/11037.pdf).

EMBASSY INFORMATION

- Embassy of Morocco, 1601 21st St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Phone: (202) 462-7979 to 82, fax: 202-462-7643; website: www.mtmm.gov.ma.
- Moroccan Consulate General, 10 E. 40th St., New York, NY 10016. Phone: (212) 758-2625.
- U.S. Embassy, 2 Avenue de Marrakech in Rabat. Phone: (212) (7) 76-22-65; website: www.usembassy-morocco.org.ma/.

- All Consular matters are handled by the U.S. Consulate General in Casablanca, 8 Boulevard Moulay Youssef. Phone: (212) (22) 26-45-50. American Citizens Services hotline: (212) (22) 43-05-78; fax: (212) (22) 20-41-27.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the Association for Safe International Road Travel
11769 Gainsborough Road, Potomac MD 20854, USA

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ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey. © ASIRT 2006

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