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Issued: Mon, 5th November 2018

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# Moroccan Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to Morocco

### Tourist Visa and Passport Conditions

Australian ordinary passport holders generally do not require a visa to enter Morocco as a tourist for a period of up to 90 days. It is recommended that passports are valid for at least 6 months beyond the period of intended stay.

Travellers are recommended to contact a Moroccan mission on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eliqible to enter Morocco without a visa.

#### Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise a high degree of caution in Morocco because of the threat of terrorist attacks. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times. Do not travel within 30 kilometres of the northern and western sides of the Berm (a militarised boundary) in the Western Sahara region because of the risk of armed conflict. Do not travel to areas south and east of the Berm in the Western Sahara region because of the risk of armed conflict. Western Sahara's status as part of Morocco is disputed. An active, militarised independence movement operates to the east of the Berm. A ceasefire is currently in place. See Safety and security.

There is a high risk of unexploded landmines in remote areas, particularly within 30 kilometres of the Berm. See <u>Local travel</u>. Protests are common in Moroccan cities. Avoid protests and other large gatherings – they could turn violent. See <u>Safety and security</u>. Terrorism is a threat throughout Morocco. Terrorist attacks have occurred in places popular with tourists. See <u>Safety and security</u>. There is a general threat of kidnapping against Westerners in North Africa. Be alert to possible threats at all times, especially when travelling in southern and border areas of Morocco. See <u>Safety and security</u>.

The Australian Embassy in Rabat provides a limited range passport and consular services to Australians in Morocco. The Australian Embassy in Paris can also assist Australians in Morocco with notarial services. See Where to get help.

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Morocco at <a href="https://www.smartraveller.gov.au">www.smartraveller.gov.au</a>.

#### Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Morocco. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B. Vaccination against rabies (particularly if working with animals) and typhoid (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene) should be considered by travellers to Morocco. Care with food and beverage selection is recommended. There is a low risk of malaria in Morocco, as such insect avoidance measures and anti malarial medication may be necessary depending on your itinerary.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including for influenza. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures.

Australians travelling to Morocco should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit <a href="https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips">www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips</a>.

## Moroccan Representation in Australia

Embassy of Morocco, Canberra

9 Terrigal Crescent Tel: (02) 6290 0755 O'MALLEY ACT 2606 Fax: (02) 6290 0744

Web: www.moroccoembassy.org.au

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Important Information while Travelling Morocco

#### Time Differences between Morocco and Australia

Morocco is Greenwich Mean Time +/- 0 hours (+1 during daylight saving). The applicable time zone is Western European Time (WET) or Western European Summer Time (WEST). Daylight saving is observed from the last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in September. During the month of Ramadan, daylight saving is suspended and Morocco returns to standard time.

- Morocco, 12 noon, December = Perth 8pm; Darwin 9:30pm; Brisbane 10pm; Adelaide 10:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 11pm.
- Morocco, 12 noon, June = Perth 7pm; Darwin, Adelaide 8:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 9pm.

#### Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Morocco: +212

To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services: Call the US on +1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assistance: 002 11 0011 (wait for tone) 866 654 0163

MasterCard:

Call the US on +1 636 722 7111

American Express Travellers Cheques: 00211 0011, then 888 937 2639

**Emergency Services:** 

Ambulance - 15 (or 150) - 15 (or 150) Fire Police - 19 (or 190)

These emergency services numbers may not be reliable in rural areas. The emergency services may not have English speaking staff. To avoid delay it may be best to seek the assistance of an Arabic speaker to call the emergency services.

#### Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports	
Name:	Passport #:
Name:	Passport #:
Credit Cards Name:	Institution:
Card Number:	
Name:	Institution:
Card Number:	
Travel Insurance	
Name:	Institution:
Policy #:	_ Emergency #:
Name:	Institution:
Policy #:	Emergency #:

### Australian Representation in Morocco

Australian Embassy, Morocco

28 Avenue S.A.R. Sidi Mohammed Souissi 10105 (BP 45)

**RABAT** 

Tel: +212 (0) 5376 33 333

Web: www.morocco.embassy.gov.au Australian Embassy, France

4 Rue Jean Rey 75724 Cedex 15 **PARIS** 

Fax:

Tel: (+33 1) 4059 3300

(+33 1) 4059 3315 Web: www.france.embassy.gov.au The Embassy in Morocco only provides limited services. The Australian Embassy in France can provide full consular assistance to Australians in Morocco.

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61 2) 6261 3305. Australians in Morocco are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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# Moroccan Country Guide

General Destination Information Morocco

### Duty Free Allowances for Morocco and Australia

Duty Free limits when entering Morocco:

Alcohol: 1 litre of spirits or liqueur and 1 litre of wine. Tobacco: 200 grams of tobacco (approx. 200 cigarettes).

Perfume: 150ml of perfume and 250ml of eau de toilette. Other Goods:

Up to the value of 2,000 Moroccan dirhams.

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 litres of alcoholic beverages.

Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.

Other Goods: Up to \$900 (\$450 for minors)

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Morocco and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on Moroccan customs please visit www.douane.gov.ma or for information regarding Australian customs please visit www.border.gov.au.

#### **Electrical and Telephone Adaptors**

Electrical Socket type: European.

Voltage: 220-240 volts (same as Australia, no voltage/frequency converter required). The old system of 127 volts may still be used in some areas.

Modem type: French.

To purchase electrical adapters, or for further information on this matter, please view the Korjo adapter guide at www.korjo.com.au.



### Moroccan Holidays 2018

01 Jan: New Year's Day

11 Jan: Independence Manifesto Day 01 May: Labour Day

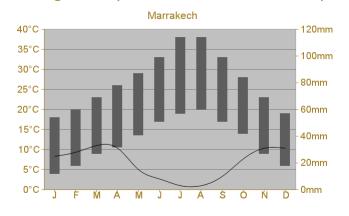
15 - 16 Jun: Eid ul-Fitr (end of Ramadan)

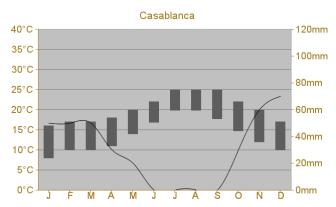
29 Jul: Throne Day

14 Aug: Zikra Oued Ed-Dahab (Allegiance Day) 20 - 21 Aug: Revolution Day and Youth Day 22 - 23 Aug: Eid ul-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) 11 Sep: Fatih Muharram (Islamic New Year) 06 Nov: Anniversary of the Green March 18 Nov: Eid Al Istigulal (Independence Day) 20 Nov: Eid El-Mawlid (Birth of Mohamed)

As many Islamic holidays are timed according to the sighting of phases of the moon, the above dates are approximate only.

## Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Morocco





Source: National Meteorological Direction, Morocco. For forecasts please go to www.bbc.co.uk/weather.

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## Moroccan Country Guide

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#### Exchange Rate with Morocco

Interbank Rate

- 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 6.85 Moroccan Dirhams
- 1 Moroccan Dirham (MAD) = 0.1460 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

- 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 6.59 Moroccan Dirhams
- 1 Moroccan Dirham (MAD) will cost 0.1518 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

#### **Currency Cheat Sheet**

	_							
5dh	n =	\$0.76 AUD		-	This cheat sheet u	ses the "With 4% Margin"	of e	xchange listed above.
10d	h =	\$1.52 AUD	1000	lh =	\$15.18 AUD	1,000dh		\$151.85 AUD
20d	h =	\$3.04 AUD	2000	lh =	\$30.37 AUD	2,000dh	=	\$303.70 AUD
30d	h =	\$4.56 AUD	3000	lh =	\$45.55 AUD	3,000dh		\$455.54 AUD
40d	h =	\$6.07 AUD	4000	lh =	\$60.74 AUD	4,000dh	=	\$607.39 AUD
50d	h =	\$7.59 AUD	5000	lh =	\$75.92 AUD	5,000dh	=	\$759.24 AUD
60d	h =	\$9.11 AUD	6000	lh =	\$91.11 AUD	6,000dh	=	\$911.09 AUD
70d	h =	\$10.63 AUD	7000	lh =	\$106.29 AUD	7,000dh		\$1,062.94 AUD
80d	h =	\$12.15 AUD	8000	lh =	\$121.48 AUD	8,000dh	=	\$1,214.79 AUD
90d	h =	\$13.67 AUD	9000	lh =	\$136.66 AUD	9,000dh	=	\$1,366.63 AUD
						10,000dh	=	\$1,518.48 AUD

#### Banknotes of Morocco

The currency of Morocco is the Moroccan Dirham which has the currency code "MAD" and is abbreviated using the symbol  $^{-1}$  or the Latin version "dh". The subunit of the dirham is called the santim, of which there are 100 in every dirham. The following banknotes are the most common in Morocco however other versions and denominations are in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images before travelling.



















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Page About Morocco

#### About Morocco

Full Name: Al Mamlakah al Maghribiyah (Kingdom of

Morocco).

Independence: 2 March 1956 (from France).

446,550 sq km (55% the size of NSW).

Population: 33 million (40% larger than Australia).

> Casablanca 3.3 mil.; Rabat (capital) 1.8 mil.; Fes 1 mil.; Marrakech 900,000; Tangier 770,000.

Arabic and Tamazight are the official languages.

Language: Business and government generally use French.

Religion Muslim 99% (mostly Sunni).

GDP Per Capita: US\$5,300 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:

Pre 1000<sub>BC</sub> - Berber people inhabit the area of modern Morocco. 1100-150<sub>BC</sub> - Phoenicians and Carthaginians settle the area. 146BC-429AD - Roman Empire rules and Christianises Morocco. 685AD - Arabs invade North Africa, bringing Islam.

788 - Moroccan Muslim dynasties began to rule.

- Alaouite dynasty begins to rule, still in power today. 1669 1884-1912 - France and Spain divide Morocco into protectorates.

1956 - Morocco gains independence. 1963 - First general elections held.

1975 - Spain leaves Western Sahara after the Green March sees 300,000 Moroccans march south.

1976-91 - Morocco & Algeria battle for Western Sahara.

- Following protests a reform constitution is approved.

