

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

6th to 13th September 2026 (1 week)

MOROCCO

autumn wildlife of the mountains and coast

"hotel was ideal... traditional feel and excellent staff"

"leaders and guides all excellent: expert and patient"

Morocco Oct 2022

We return to explore the landscapes, autumn bulbs and south-bound migrants of southern Morocco, from the ancient Anti-Atlas mountains to the Atlantic coast, enjoying a great introduction to the natural history of southern Morocco.

With Mediterranean, Macaronesian and African influences, this area has a **fascinating mix of plants** including succulent *Euphorbias*, highly restricted autumn-flowering bulbs, fragrant lavenders and interesting shrubs, including the endemic Argan tree, a keystone of the local culture.

The autumn is a great time to experience the interesting birdlife of the area, with local North African specialities alongside passage migrants from across Europe. We can expect to find all the local specialties, including House Bunting, Moussier's Redstart, Black-crowned Tchagra and the endangered **Northern Bald Ibis**. At wetlands along the coast we will look for Osprey and various terns and waders heading southwards, while flycatchers and warblers flit past and south-bound raptors pass overhead.

We will visit Sous Massa National Park where we will learn about the 're-wilding' project taking place here for some of the country's most iconic megafauna: Ostrich, Addax, Dorcas Gazelle and the graceful Scimitar-horned Oryx.

Based for the week at a wonderful hotel on the outskirts of Agadir, this holiday is intended to give an introduction to the plants, birds and other wildlife of this corner of southern Morocco, as well as an insight into the local Berber culture, at a relaxed pace.

An ideal trip for anyone wanting a taste of Morocco in the company of expert leaders whilst enjoying a high standard of accommodation and easy, comfortable travel.



Price
£2,350

Single Room Supplement
£220

Full board

Day 1 flight to Agadir
Day 2 Tighanimine El Baz
Day 3 Cap Rhir, Oued Tamri
Day 4 Taroudant, Tioute
Day 5 Souss-Massa NP
Day 6 Anti Atlas
Day 7 Oued Souss/Massa
Day 8 return to UK

Leaders
Philip Precey
and Sarah Lambert

Group size
min 4, max 14

natural history,
autumn migration,
culture



ITINERARY

Please note that the itinerary may be changed to suit the weather or other practicalities or at the discretion of the leaders.

Day 1 Flight to Agadir and transfer to our hotel (c30 minutes). After an early arrival in Agadir, we will explore the lanes and hillsides around the hotel. We walk from the hotel through the sparse **Argan forest** and discover why the tree is so valuable to the local economy. Colourful annuals and autumn bulbs can be a feature of the field edges, depending on the rains. The local birdlife includes Common Bulbul, Moussier's Redstart and Black-crowned Tchagra, species we will become familiar with over the week.

Day 2 The Atlantic coast is well known for its unique communities of succulents *Euphorbia officinarum*, *Euphorbia regis-jubae* and *Kleinia anteuphorbia* mixed with shrubs such as *Asteriscus imbricatus*, *Searsia pentaphylla* and the desert-dwelling *Warionia saharae*. We will visit **Cap Rhir** to explore these communities and visit nearby Oued Tamri, where we hope to find the endangered **Northern Bald Ibis**: the total world population is fewer than 1000 birds, with one of the main breeding sites nearby.

Day 3 Today we head to the attractive town of **Taroudant** where we will explore the labyrinthine souk - full of spices and herbs and traditional furnishings such as rugs and teapots, House Buntings twittering from the buildings overhead. We also visit a women's **Argan oil co-operative** and walk through the oasis at Tioute, the natural habitat of the Date Palm *Phoenix dactylifera*, where North African Water Frogs and the dashing Ringed Cascader dragonfly live along the irrigation channels that run through the palmery.

Day 4 We head to the coast, and the famous **Souss-Massa National Park**. We will learn about the conservation of the area, and the reintroduction of a variety of **Saharan 'megafauna'** to the reserve; antelopes including Dorcas Gazelle, Scimitar-horned Oryx and Addax, and the Red-necked Ostrich, all of which have become extinct across much of their range due to overhunting. We visit the area where these animals have been reintroduced in a convoy of very comfortable four-wheel-drive vehicles. Along with the 'big beasts', we will look for wintering Bonelli's Eagle, while Barbary Partridge, Stone Curlew and (with some luck) Cream-coloured Courser feed on the sandy ground.

Day 5 This morning we head south to the **Anti Atlas**, a low range of very old mountains, which form much of the landscape in the south east of the country. We will travel to Ait Baha and beyond, to visit an ancient 'agadir', a fascinating fortified grain store typical of the Berber villages in the area. Barbary Ground Squirrel, Black Wheatear and the large Bibron's Agama may appear along the roadside.

Day 6 We start today with a visit to the river-mouth at **Oued Souss**, where Greater Flamingos gather on the estuary, while (tide permitting) various waders, gulls and terns gather on the exposed shore and Osprey, heading south from northern Europe to their wintering grounds in West Africa, stop off to fish.



We will then continue south to **Oued Massa** to search for birds and other wildlife around the river banks and among the sand dunes.

Day 7 Today we head in the opposite direction, for the lower slopes of the **High Atlas**, making a scenic circuit via Paradise Valley and the Cascades du Immuouzer. We will find the Berber Thuya *Tetraclinis articulata*, an interesting conifer, as well as hillsides covered in Dwarf Fan Palm mixed in with *Lavandula dentata*.

Day 8 Alas, our time in Morocco must come to an end, and we head back to the airport for our morning flights back to the UK.

Accommodation, meals and transport

We will stay for the whole week at the wonderful, award-winning **Atlas Kasbah**, set in lush grounds amongst the Argan trees in the Arganeraie Biosphere Reserve.

Opened in 2009, the Kasbah was built using traditional techniques and local craftsmen, with a view to promoting ecotourism in Morocco and sharing the local Berber heritage. The rooms are spacious, the local culture reflected in the furnishings, with lovely views from the roof terrace and patio. The hotel is the first accommodation in North Africa to be granted the prestigious **World Responsible Tourism Award** (Gold winner, 2015) as a recognition of its ecotourism practices. In 2016 it won the COP22 Tourism and Climate Award.

All meals are included, from dinner on day 1 to a picnic dinner to take with us to the airport on day 8. Evening meals will be at the hotel and we will have picnic lunches on most days.

We will travel by minibus for our excursions. Our visit to Sous Massa will be in high clearance 4WD vehicles.

Leaders and guides

Our leader for this holiday will be **Philip Precey**, an all-round naturalist and Director of Wildlife Travel, who has led 100 previous Wildlife Travel holidays, including 12 previous visits to Morocco.

Depending on final group size, Philip will be joined by **Sarah Lambert**, an expert botanist and keen photographer with a good knowledge of other wildlife, who has led for Wildlife Travel since 2019.

Between them, our leaders will ensure you get the most out of your time in Morocco. We will be accompanied by Mohammed Belfakir, our local **Moroccan guide**, together with the assistance of Hassan and Helene, the owners of the Atlas Kasbah.



Flights

Group flights are with easyJet from London Gatwick to Agadir.

6th September depart London Gatwick 05.55, arrive Agadir 09.45
13th September depart Agadir 10.35, arrive London Gatwick 14.25

It is also possible to fly from Manchester or Birmingham: contact us for details.

Entry Requirements: Passports and Visas

Please note that travel rules may be changed at any time. For up to date information, please check www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/morocco. Holders of non-UK passports should check with the relevant embassy.

If you hold a British passport, you do not need a visa to travel to Morocco. Your passport should be valid for at least 3 months on your date of entry to Morocco.

Health and fitness

This is not a strenuous holiday but on some days we will be walking for much of the day, sometimes gently uphill. All excursions are optional and you can choose to spend more time in the pleasant grounds and rooms of the hotel if you wish. The hotel rooms are on the first or second floor, reached by stairs.

Travellers should arrange an appointment with their health professional at least four to six weeks before travel to assess health risks. Vaccines against Hepatitis A, Tetanus and Typhoid are recommended for most travellers. Up-to-date information on travel health can be found at travelhealthpro.org.uk

Weather

In September, the weather is usually sunny and warm (18°C to 27°C). If we do get hotter weather we will adapt the itinerary as much as possible. There may be some cooler weather, particularly near the coast, and a small chance of some rain.

TO BOOK

Contact us to check availability and reserve a place. Complete the Booking Form and send to Sunvil Holidays (CAA-ATOL Licence 808, ABTA V6218), our tour operator, with your deposit. All details about booking are given in the Booking Pack.

**DEPOSIT £350 PER PERSON, SECOND INSTALMENT ON
CONFIRMATION OF HOLIDAY £500 (to cover committed costs)
BALANCE DUE BY 07/06/2026**

INCLUDED: Return flight from London (Gatwick) to Agadir as above. Local transport as specified in itinerary. 7 nights accommodation, all meals from dinner day 1 to dinner day 8. Services of leaders. **NOT INCLUDED:** Drinks with evening meal and refreshments. Gratuities. Travel insurance.

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

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Photos: front (clockwise from top): Northern Bald Ibis, Moussier's Redstart, Dorcas Gazelle, *Vagaria ollivieri*, Atlas Kasbah eco-lodge. **Page 2** (from left): *Euphorbia officinarum*, Cream-coloured Courser, ancient Agadir *Hannonia hesperidum* **Page 3** (from top): Greenish Black-tip, Black-crowned Tchagra, Scimitar-horned Oryx, Osprey

All photos taken on previous Wildlife Travel visits to Morocco. Trip reports can be found on our website.