

Morocco: Basic Facts & Figures

- Morocco is situated in Northern Africa. It is home to the Atlas Mountains and Jebel Toubkal – the highest mountain in Northern Africa.
- Morocco gained independence from France in 1956
- Currency: Moroccan Dirham – this is a closed currency – you can get them in the UK but you cannot convert them back into GBP. Make sure you spend all your Dirhams before you leave, or convert them before departure.

Culture

When **invited to a home**, you normally take your shoes off before entering the reception rooms – follow your host's lead. It is customary to take a gift: sweet pastries or tea and sugar are always acceptable.

Be respectful when taking photographs: if you are obviously taking a photo of someone, always ask their permission first (in rural regions not doing so could cause genuine offence).

Religion

Morocco is a Muslim country, with more than 99% of the population being Sunni Muslims. Only Muslims are permitted to enter holy sites in Morocco, including mosques and shrines.

Recommended Reading, History and Culture

As well as taking care of practicalities such as vaccination & insurance, it's also important to prepare for the **cultural aspect** of your time in Morocco. We've put together a brief history of Morocco and its culture, as well as some **recommended reading** on Africa more generally. Whilst this reading list is not compulsory, we do recommend reading at least 1 or 2 as they will give you a **more informed view of Africa**, as well as helping you to better understand Anza's work with rural communities and the holistic approach we use.

1) Books on Morocco:

Valley of the Kasbahs – A Journey across the Moroccan Sahara by Jeffrey Tayler

The Mountains look on Morocco by Hamish Brown

Marrakech through Writers Eyes by Barnaby Rogerson and Rose Baring

Books on Africa

- *A Continent for the Taking: The Tragedy & Hope of Africa*, by Howard French

- *The Village of Waiting* by George Packer

- *White Man's Burden* by William Easterly

- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba & Bryan Mealer

- *The Trouble With Africa* by Robert Calderisi

- *In The Land Of The Magic Soldiers: a Story of White and Black in West Africa* by Daniel Bergner

2) Blogs

- Think Africa Press www.thinkafricapress.com

- Africa is a Country www.africasacountry.com

- The Africa Report www.theafricareport.com

- Guardian Africa @GuardianAfrica

-The Guardian Global Development @GdnDevelopment

- See Africa Differently www.seeafricadifferently.com

Introduction to Arabic

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- To help you prepare for your Charity Challenge in Morocco we've put together a quick guide to basic Arabic. This is by no means compulsory. Arabic is the official language of Morocco; having basic access to language skills will really benefit you in adapting and settling into your new environment.

Greetings

- Hello Ssalam
- Good morning Sa-bah Al Kh-ir
- Good evening Ma-saa Al Kh-ir
- Goodbye Bes-lama
-
- Yes Na-am
- No L-a
-
- How are you? Kayfa Halouk
- How old are you? Shehale Fe Omerek
- What is your name? Ashnou Moses
- My Name is Sam Esemi Sam
-
- Please Min Fadlek
- Thank you Shoukran
-
- 0 zero orsifr
- 1 wah-ed
- 2 jou-j
- 3 t-laata
- 4 re-baa
- 5 kh-emsaa
- 6 si-tta
- 7 se-baa
- 8 temi-nya
- 9 te-ss-eud
- 10 aa-shra
- 11 hed-ash
- 12 ten-ash
- 13 telt-ash
- 14 rbaa-t-ash
- 15 khem-st-ash
- 16 sett-ash
- 17 sbaat-ash
- 18 tment-ash
- 19 ts-aat-ash
- 20 aa-shrin
-
- 100 mee-ya
- 1000 al-ef
- 2000 al-ef-ayen

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- I am sick Ana Meridd
- I am tired Yeane
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- Is the location far? Wash Iblassa beaida
- How much? Beshehale
- What time is it? Shehale Fe Saea
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- Where is the police station? Fenn station dial police
- Where is the train station? Fen a Howa Tran
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- Lunch Ghda
- Market Souk
- Money Flooss
- Food Ta'aam
-
- Tea Atay
- Water Lmaa
-
- Soup shurba
- Bread khubz
- Fruit faakiha
- Sugar sukkar
- Salad salaTa
- Rice aruzz
-
- Beef lahm al-baqr
- Chicken dajaaja
- Meat lahm
-
- Cake/pastries Ka'k
- Sweets Halwayaat