

THE KITTY: ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMMODATION



Trip Name: Dakar to Marrakech

Trip Length: 28 nights

Kitty Price: Approximately €440 Euros

What is the 'kitty'?

The kitty is a group fund paid in addition to the trip price at the start of your trip. The kitty is managed by the crew and the passengers and is used to pay for accommodation for each trip night (be it camping or hotels/hostels), meals whilst camping and all activities listed as included (see below).

The kitty system is unique to overlanding – it's flexible and you can see exactly how your money is being spent. The crew will manage the kitty, but the kitty expense sheets will be open to inspection by everybody at all times so that the whole process remains transparent. If there is money left over at the end of the trip, then you will receive a refund.

The kitty figure detailed above is an estimated price. We will inform you of any changes closer to departure.

Your kitty payment will be collected when you arrive for your trip, usually on the first day at the joining meeting, **and must be paid in cash**. We ask that at least 50% of the kitty price is paid in Euros cash. We can accept the remaining 50% of the kitty price in American dollars. This is because nearly all major currencies in West Africa are tied to the Euro, and trying to change any currency other than Euros or US Dollars can be time consuming and problematic.

Please note that if you are on a combination trip made up of more than one single trip your kitty will be collected in stages and not in its entirety at the start of the first section.

What's included?

All accommodation costs included. Approximately 4 nights in a hostel/hotel, the rest mixed between campsites/campements (with basic facilities) and bush camping (no facilities). The longest stretch without facilities should be 3 nights in a row. There are numerous options on this trip to upgrade from camping to a basic room along the way if you want to pay extra.

All food whilst camping is included in the kitty, though occasionally we might want to put a lunch or dinner on hold whilst camping if we find somewhere funky en route or are invited to eat in a local village.

THE KITTY: ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMMODATION



Activities paid for by the kitty include:

- Guided visit to the koranic library and pottery workshop in Tamegroute, Morocco
- Guided 3 day adventure tour in the Sahara Desert south of Zagora, Morocco, involving trekking and sleeping amongst the sand dunes of the Sahara Desert. All luggage is carried by camel support. There is the option to travel by camel if you prefer not to walk, **but this will be at your own cost**
- Berber cooking lessons around the sahara camp in the evenings

With such an array of different things to see and do we think it's best to leave it up to you to decide how to spend your free time. Some activities are more strenuous than others, and you might just want a bit of down time, so we will leave it for you to decide what to do with your free time.

As a rough guide, optional extras include:

- Visit Goree Island and/or the African renaissance monument whilst in Dakar
- Various museum entrance fees in Dakar and Marrakech
- Entrance fee to the great mosque in Touba, Senegal
- Boat trips to spot wildlife in the Langue de Barbarie National Park, Senegal
- 4x4 trips into the desert to visit Mount Gara, the Sebkhah of Oum Dba and the Sebkhah of Tah, some of the most spectacular landscapes in Western Sahara
- Quad bike trip on the Dakhla peninsula, Western Sahara
- Trekking guide fees in Tafraoute (for the longer more challenging treks), Morocco
- Guided city tours in Marrakech, Morocco

**** All in all approx €150 Euros should be sufficient to cover these optional extra activities ****

N.B: On leaving the trip in Marrakech, you could arrange to climb up North Africa's highest mountain, Jebel Toubkal. This can be arranged through local operators in Marrakech and should cost between \$100-\$150 US Dollars per person.

How much spending money should I bring?

In a lot of the countries we travel through the tourist industry is in its infancy so there isn't too much to spend your money on. Saying that though, we try to make our trips flexible to allow people to do what they want to do when we visit places rather than making it too restrictive – so there will be opportunities for optional excursions/trips at most places we stop at along the way.

Based upon passenger feedback we suggest that €10 - €20 Euros a day should be sufficient as an approximate 'spending money in addition to kitty' figure. But obviously personal

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spending can vary a lot depending on the individual and how much you want to eat out in restaurants, drink alcohol, buy souvenirs, upgrade to rooms and use the internet etc. It's always better to over-budget than under-budget!

You may well spend more than this figure when we are in the cities, but remember there will be parts of the trip where we go quite remote and at these times there will be hardly anything to spend your money on, so you will find it balances out accordingly.

Please note that on occasions we will eat out in restaurants when we are camping in towns and cities to break up cooking off the truck, so please bear that in mind when planning your budget.

With regards to what form of money to bring – it is best to bring a mixture of forms of payment. Certainly you do not want to totally rely upon ATM's – they often don't accept foreign bank cards. Paying with a credit/debit card is also very unreliable. We advise you to bring a VISA card if you do want to withdraw cash, as Cirrus/Maestro/MasterCard/American Express are often totally useless in the region.

As a general guide you should bring plenty of cash, predominantly in Euros but also some US Dollars. Traveller's cheques are now almost impossible to change so not worth bothering with.

