Sahara Dune Camps Enter Peak Season as Autumn Draws Desert Travelers to Morocco

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Morocco Countryside Tours reports rising demand for private desert expeditions through Erg Chebbi as cooler temperatures expand the Sahara camping season.

Morocco?s tourism sector continued its record-breaking trajectory in 2026, welcoming over 14 million visitors in the first eight months of the year with August reaching a record single-month high, according to Morocco World News. Morocco Countryside Tours, a Marrakech-based company led by native Berber guides, is among the local operators reporting increased interest in autumn Sahara experiences. Cooler temperatures and stable weather patterns create ideal conditions for desert camping through October and November, drawing interest from travelers who may not have considered a dune-camp stay during the hotter months.

The Erg Chebbi dunes near Merzouga, a stretch of sand ridges reaching heights of up to 150 meters along the Algerian border, represent one of Morocco?s most recognizable desert landscapes. The area draws visitors for overnight camp stays in traditional Berber tents, camel treks across the golden dunes, and evening dining under open night skies. Autumn conditions bring daytime temperatures in the mid-20s Celsius and evenings that settle around 15 degrees, a significant improvement over the summer months when

daytime heat can exceed 45 degrees in the open dunes with no shade cover. This shoulder-season window has become increasingly popular among travelers who want the full Sahara camp experience including camel rides across the dunes and traditional tagine dinners without extreme heat exposure during daytime excursions.

Morocco?s Sahara has always been year-round destination material, but the autumn months are when the desert truly opens up for a broader range of visitors,? said Said, Head Guide and Founder of Morocco Countryside Tours. ?October and November bring mild days, cool nights that make sleeping in a traditional camp comfortable, and stable weather patterns that allow us to plan multi-night itineraries through Erg Chebbi without the unpredictability of summer heat or winter rain. We are seeing more travelers specifically requesting multi-night desert-focused itineraries during this window rather than the standard summer circuit that passes through the dunes on a single sunset visit.

Morocco Countryside Tours offers private multi-day itineraries that combine Sahara desert camping with visits to imperial cities such as Marrakech and Fes, Atlas Mountain trekking routes, and coastal excursions along the Atlantic near Essaouira. The company?s Berber guides lead small-group expeditions from departure points across Morocco including Marrakech, Fes, and Erg Chebbi itself. Each itinerary is tailored to individual pacing and interests, with accommodations ranging from traditional Berber goat-hair tents at desert camps to boutique riads in the imperial cities. The company has operated for over a decade as a family-owned enterprise focused on private rather than group tours, allowing for flexible scheduling and personalized route planning for each booking.

With Morocco targeting 26 million annual visitors by 2030 as the country prepares to co-host the FIFA World Cup alongside Spain and Portugal, the growth in diversified tourism across desert, mountain and coastal regions reflects an industry broadening beyond its traditional city-focused circuits. The expanding range of accessible seasonal travel options positions smaller operators and regional destinations to benefit from the ongoing surge in visitor numbers. For operators such as Morocco Countryside Tours, the autumn season offers a sustained window of high-quality travel conditions that extends well beyond the peak summer months and into early winter, supporting the sector?s push toward year-round destination appeal ahead of the 2030 World Cup hosting year.

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For more information about Morocco Countryside Tours, contact the company here:Morocco Countryside ToursContact Details:+212 672 184 628info@moroccocountrysidetours.comBab El Ksour, Marrakech, Morocco

Morocco Countryside Tours

Morocco Countryside Tours is a Moroccan travel company specializing in private, custom tours across the country. Led by experienced local guides, they offer cultural, desert, mountain, coastal, and city tours designed to provide authentic experiences

Website: https://moroccocountrysidetours.com/

Email: info@moroccocountrysidetours.com

Phone: +212 672 184 628