

Morocco Generic Risk Assessment

This risk assessment is designed to highlight some of the potential hazards involved in a trip to Morocco, how Discover Ltd has attempted to reduce these risks and how individuals can reduce the risk to themselves. Any activity represents a level of risk and this is often increased when people move away from their normal environment. Travel around Morocco is not in itself dangerous but conditions found will for example be different to Europe or North America. Statutory standards of safety are normally lower than in Western Countries and travellers need to understand this when visiting Morocco. Travellers also need to understand that all activities are run by locals and local standards and practices will apply. As the world over, rural and remote area will typically mean that you are further away from medical services, doctors hospitals etc.

We hope you find these risk assessments useful, they are not an exhaustive list. Typically protective head gear is not provided for mule or camel riding, so you need to understand that should you fall you will be at greater risk of injury than if you were wearing protective head gear. One also needs to understand that unexpected events can happen this is particularly so where animals are involved. Clients need to understand the risks involved and accept the responsibilities and implications associated with any activity they undertake.

It is your responsibility to decide if you want to do a particular activity and you should be aware that walking and mule riding (and camels and horses) in a mountainous area such as the High Atlas is likely to have a greater element of risk than these activities on the flat.

All persons have a duty to do all they can to avoid harm to themselves or others

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Hazard	Potential Level of Harm	Chance of event occurring	Current Control Measures	Recommended Individual Actions
Fire	High	Low	All accommodation should comply with local regulations. Fire procedures should be posted on door.	Emergency lighting and signs are often less than in Europe so guests should check escape routes and keep a torch by the bed at night. Inform reception of any condition that may hinder your escape.
Injury from falling	Medium	Medium		Take care of uneven steps and low railings on roof terraces.
Injury due to Alcohol	Low	Low	Alcohol is not available to purchase on Discover sites.	Aware of hazards and causing upset to locals through excessive use of alcohol.

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Electrical Storms	High	Low		Check local weather forecasts and if possible stay indoors or seek shelter. Do not operate electrical items or telephones during storms.
Road Injury	High	Medium		Take care when crossing roads especially in urban areas. Use crossing points where possible.
Vehicle Accident	High	Medium	Discover will only use companies whose vehicles comply with local standards. Any failing in vehicles or drivers should be reported to a Discover member of staff.	Use safety belts where fitted. Ensure luggage is stowed safely. Take particular care if using local taxis. Morocco has a poor road safety record.
Injury from riding animals	High	Medium	Uses camel operators known to the Kasbah. Mules are typically hired in a rota system from the "chef du mulet" in the villages . See additional information about horse/camel riding on last page	<i>Helmets are not normally available.</i> Consider the risks before mounting an animal especially on steep mountain trails. Follow any instructions

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Injury from proximity to animals	Medium	Low		Pass animals on the uphill side of any trail. Avoid the rear of mules and camels. Wash hands after exposure to animals. Care with animals used for photographs.
Heat/Sun stroke/ dehydration	Medium	Medium		Have plenty of water available (do not drink from streams). Where hat and sun screen. Avoid alcohol.
Hypothermia	Medium	Low	Equipment is available for hire at the Kasbah.	Ensure sufficient, good quality clothing is available. Check weather forecast before trekking in mountains. Avoid alcohol.
Altitude sickness	Medium	Medium	Only qualified mountain guides will accompany guests on trips up Mount Toubkal.	Be aware of symptoms and lose altitude if affected. Young people are considered to be more vulnerable to effects. Avoid alcohol.

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General health and hygiene	Medium	Medium	Discover sites are regularly inspected and staff are first aid trained. Many hotels and restaurants display food hygiene certificates	Wash hands regularly, drink plenty of safe water (bottled or known safe supply). Do not share water bottles. Avoid ice in drinks.
Hammams	Medium	Low	Signage read	Take care on wet floors. Be aware the hot water can be boiling. Young people should not be exposed to high temperature environments for long periods (more than 20 minutes)
Intruders	High	Low	Most hotels have night staff on site.	Check doors and windows before sleeping.
Terrorist Incident	High	Low	Discover monitors level of risk through local contacts and UK FCO website.	Aware of avoiding any civil disturbance or inciting an incident, use qualified guides where appropriate.
Drowning or swimming pool injury	High	Low	Swimming pools should comply with local regulations.	Pools rarely have lifeguards, depth signs or illumination at night. Care, especially with young people should be taken.

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Crime, theft and harassment	Low	Low	Discover uses official guides in urban areas.	Keep valuable items and money safe. Use hotel safes. Avoid poorly lit areas at night. If in doubt, stay out. Do not give gifts to children (will encourage more to ask and create dependency culture).
Poisonous animals	Medium	Low		Snakes, scorpions and spiders are all present in Morocco. Take care especially in desert environments.
Rabies	High	Low		Avoid bites from animals. Seek medical assistance.
Natural Disasters, earthquake, floods, avalanches, landslides etc	High	Low		Do not camp, sleep in dry river beds. In the event of an earthquake, avoid glass windows and seek a close safe area.

Horse/camel riding in our opinion is a riskier activity than mule riding and will obviously depend upon the skill of the individual rider and the personality of the animal being ridden. It is important that clients understand and accept this risk and realise that an accident can be serious/very serious and can even be fatal.