

Episode 48 Discovering Morocco: A Journey Through Culture, Cuisine, and Color with Doug and Tracy

This episode features Doug and Tracy discussing their Morocco adventure

Tracy: Thinking about visiting Morocco. In this episode, Doug and I recap our, Northern Morocco Adventure with Intrepid Travel, covering the highlights of our itinerary, must visit destinations, unforgettable experiences, and, of course, the amazing food. From Marrakech to Chefchaouen and beyond, we'll share what we loved, what surprised us, and whether we'd recommend a group tour for exploring Morocco. Hi, and welcome to the Global Travel Planning Podcast. I'm your host, Tracy Collins, who, with my expert guests, will take you on a weekly journey to destinations around the globe, providing travel inspiration, itinerary ideas, practical tips, and more to help you plan your next travel adventure.

Global Travel Planning podcast features interview with Doug and Tracy about Morocco trip

Hi, and welcome to episode 48 of the Global Travel Planning Podcast. Now, this week, Doug and I are here to chat about our recent trip to Morocco. So if you've been following us on social media or a member of our Global Travel Planning Facebook group, you'll know that Doug and I spent 10 fantastic days touring Morocco. Now, rather than us just talking away, we decided that the best way to do this was to be interviewed.

So our friend Melissa. Now, Melissa is from. You'll recognize Melissa's voice if you listen to our, podcast regularly because she is the Aussie in our Brit, Aussie and Yank episodes at the end of every month. So. Hi, Melissa. You've come on to ask us lots of questions about our Morocco trip. So would you like to introduce yourself today?

Melissa Kailey: Yes. Hello, I'm Melissa on the Aussie.

Tracy: Ah.

Melissa Kailey: As, Tracy said, from the Brute, Aussie and Yank. And I so want to go to Morocco, so I thought why not interview Tracy and Doug, who have just been to Morocco and get excited about it.

Tracy: Oh, yeah. Honestly, it was an amazing trip. We loved it. So we're really looking forward to, sharing all about it with you guys.

Tracy and Doug chose Morocco because they've never been before

Melissa Kailey: Awesome. Let's get started. Okay, guys, Tracy and Doug, just. Let's do a quick overview first. So, like, how long was your trip and why did you choose this trip? Let's start there.

Tracy: Well, we were there for 10 days.

Tracy: Yeah, we chose it because we've never been before.

Tracy: Yeah, we. We, we were. Yeah. So we flew the 18th of February to the 28th of February. So they're 10 days. And. And when we were chatting about where to go, we were kind of. I don't know, we just went, well, where haven't we been? That is fairly easy to go to. And also there was an Intrepid sale on. So that kind of. We looked at Intrepid because we knew we'd probably want to do a Tour. so we kind of looked and went, ah, there's a tour in Morocco. Perfect.

Tracy: And we noticed on part of the tour included a train journey, so that had me sold straight away.

Tracy: It did, in fact, had two train journeys. So you are once. I said to Doug, has got two train journeys. We're going to Morocco. It's a place neither of us have been to, but we really want to go to it. Cana. It just went from there, didn't it?

Tracy: Place, yeah.

You arrived in Morocco on the 18th of February and the tour started on 20th

Melissa Kailey: All right. So before you guys started the trip, I understand that you arrived in Marrakech a little bit early. So tell us about that.

Tracy: Okay, so we flew in on the 18th of February, and the tour didn't start until the 20th in Casablanca. But because the tour was ending again in Marrakech and we have quite a lot of luggage, because obviously, we were now making our way back to Australia from the uk, so we're doing that over a few months. So we have a little bit more luggage

than we would generally. We didn't want to take that all around Morocco. So we decided to fly into Marrakech, stay in the hotel that we were ending the tour in in Marrakech, leave our luggage there, and then transfer to Casablanca to start the tour in Casablanca on the 20th. But we decided to go on the 19th. So we flew on on the 18th and then had a morning in Marrakech and then took a transfer to Casablanca, which meant that we had time before the tour started to actually see Casablanca, otherwise we wouldn't have been able to do that. So it worked out best for us. And leaving the luggage was a really good idea.

Tracy: Yeah, that was very good idea. It means we could streamline what we actually carried with us. Yeah.

Melissa Kailey: So you'd recommend that, like, arriving early in Casablanca. So what, you're saying that otherwise the tour didn't really see Casablanca?

Tracy: Yeah, didn't really. You didn't see anything in Casablanca if you on the tour, because though it started there, the meeting was at 6pm on the 20th, and then we left the next morning to transfer on by train to Tangier. So if you didn't see Casablanca that day or come early, you weren't going to get opportunity to do it. So it worked really well for us because actually we. We had most of a day in Marrakech, on the 19th, which meant we could do a tour which actually worked really well at the end. and then it meant that we also had the time to see Casablanca without feeling, like, too rushed or, you know, we saw the highlights of Casablanca, basically, which worked for us.

Melissa Kailey: Yeah. Cool, Cool.

Let's talk about Intrepid. I mean, there's just an outstanding company

Let's talk about Intrepid. Like, you know, Tracy, you and I, I mean, we've both been on tripad before. so how was your experience with Intrepid in, Morocco?

Tracy: Excellent. Excellent. I mean, there's just an outstanding

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Tracy: company, and obviously, we know we traveled. We did two Intrepid tours last year in India, which we must talk about on the podcast. I keep saying that. We really must. that were amazing. They're very good company. They're very conscious about making sure that they give back into the community. They look for authentic experiences. You have tour guides from each of the local areas that will take you around. So that, again, puts the money into the community and, employs local people. They're very conscious about things like plastic.

Tracy: Yeah, they're very conscious of that. They encourage you to bring your own bottles, and they have large bottles of water which you can fill up at any time. They carry them around with them. So that makes it, so much easier. So you haven't got to think where. Where I'm gonna buy a bottle of water from, because it's all been sorted.

Tracy: Yeah. So that was good. Yeah. So found them really good. Very well organized and approachable. And very approachable. And. And, you know, Fuet, who took Arto, was just amazing.

Tracy: He was an outstanding guy.

Tracy: Yeah, he was really, what a fantastic guide. It just brilliant. And we had two trainee guys with us as well. Yeah. So because there was only eight of us on the tour altogether, so we. We were really spoiled. I think that, we had Fred and. And the other two.

Tracy: Yeah, I mean, they joined us for some meals, but they're approachable at all times. And Fred got the. The. The two trainees involved as well. They weren't just in the background. They're actually up front. They're involved with. He had them doing sort of day introductions and tour introductions as well. So it really was a. A little community, a little family.

Tracy: Yeah, it was. It was very good.

Melissa Kailey: Nice. And what about the group, like, dynamics? Like, where is everyone from? How did that go?

Tracy: Well, most were from. So there was. There was eight of us. So, three couples and, then two single lady, travelers who came for solo. I should say two solo female travelers. One from England and one from Dubai, but Australian. and hopefully Donna will be coming on the podcast to talk all about the fact that she's now visited 145 countries. Wow. So she was amazing to talk to. But generally, yeah, we all got on really well. No, no problems. Because, you know, you're traveling a lot together, but you also had a lot of free time on this trip to go and do your own thing. so it worked really well, but no issues.

Tracy: Yeah. And the free time we had quite often we all stayed together anyway.

Tracy: Yes.

Melissa Kailey: Very nice. Nice, nice. That's nice.

Tracy: Together. Particularly in Medinas, to sort of stay together.

Tracy: Yeah.

Tracy: So made the guide Fred's job even easier and the fact he didn't have to go looking for one person.

Melissa Kailey: Yeah.

Tracy: So we're all going to be there or all lost at the same time.

Melissa Kailey: That's nice. Hey.

All right, let's get into some of the destinations that you guys visited on tour

All right, let's get into some of the destinations that you guys visited. Like, what were your favorite places that you went to on the tour?

Tracy: well, I have to say Marrakesh. Marrakesh is one, interesting city to. To visit. And, very lively, just colorful and. Yeah, a bit like. It reminded me, I guess, of the. The same experience I had in India where it's that just all your senses, you know, the smells, the

sprouts, the sounds, everything just kind of. Yeah. It's not overwhelming. It's just amazing. You can immerse yourself in it. so I think for you, Marrakesh as well.

Melissa Kailey: Yeah.

Tracy: We both enjoy Marrakesh, whether it's because the. It's the first place we visited in Morocco, so it sort of sticks in your mind. But to me, it just seemed a little bit more low key and a little bit more relaxed than some of the other places we visited with a bit more hustle and bustle.

Tracy: That's true. But I would say, I mean, the Medina in Marrakesh is pretty.

Tracy: Yeah.

Tracy: Pretty busy.

Tracy: Yeah.

Tracy: But, and then I think the. The next obvious place to mention has got to be Chef showing. Which is the blue city. Yeah. Which is just, if you've seen my photos on Instagram or in the Facebook group, I, I, can't even. You know, I'm very proud of my photos because they are very beautiful, but honestly, being there as well, it's just. You can't repl. Just. It's just the most beautiful place. And we were actually lucky the first morning that we walked around because it was actually torrential rain. So we got umbrellas. But what it meant was. And the rain eased off. But what it meant off is that we were the only people on the streets. So later in the afternoon. So I have, I have tons of photos with nobody else in them. There's just amazing later on in the day. So the rain

completely eased off. The rain eased off as we walked as well. But it didn't get busy until later in the afternoon. And then we were walking and we saw just how difficult it was to get any photo without a million people in the picture.

Melissa Kailey: Okay.

Tracy: So actually, even though we were kind of like, oh, it's pouring down the rain, do we want to do this? Actually worked out to be the best thing possible.

Tracy: It really did. Yeah. Yeah.

Melissa Kailey: Very, very cool.

I think I felt a lot safer in Morocco than I thought I would

what about, any surprises? Like maybe negative, positive? What are some surprises for you guys?

Tracy: I think I felt a lot safer than I thought it was going to be. And I think, yeah, I just didn't feel at any time unsafe.

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Tracy: you know, I mean, we use the usual precautions, like, you know, I had my theft proof crossbody bag. I always have that. I'm always careful. but I don't think anybody at any point felt unsafe or, you know, you know, and I guess I. I don't know why I'd had. I

guess it's a bit like India as well. Some countries just have it or maybe it's going to be a bit more intimidating. but it wasn't. I felt really safe. I think it was a bit colder than I expected.

Melissa Kailey: Okay.

Tracy: and I think that caught quite a few members of the group out as well, because I think we were kind of expecting it was going to be early 20s, but it wasn't. I mean, some days it was down to like 10 or 11, really. And especially like chef showing, which is between two mountain, kind of two big hills in the north in a valley.

Tracy: Riff mountain.

Tracy: Yeah, that it. It was a lot colder than we had anticipated. But, I mean, we did all right. Everybody had enough jumpers and jackets and, you know, you just wear the same clothes three days on a row. Nobody cares.

Melissa Kailey: Yeah. Who cares? Yeah.

Tracy: Right.

Melissa Kailey: Yeah.

Tracy: There's two things I will sort of mention. And not that it was a surprise, it's just how friendly the people are.

Melissa Kailey: Oh.

Tracy: Everybody was just so kind and friendly and positive, and happy to talk about the history of the country, which was far more in depth and varied than I. I realized.

Melissa Kailey: Oh, that's nice. That's. That's awesome.

Tracy: Yeah. As well as people being friendly, I think they were also really. We had quite a few people saying thank you for choosing Morocco to visit.

Tracy: Yeah. Oh, yes, yes, that's him a few times.

Tracy: Yeah, A few people said that thank you for coming and visiting our country, which is really, it. Really lovely and it's, I think Morocco really should be more visited than it is, if that makes sense.

Tracy: Yeah.

Melissa Kailey: Wow. Okay. That's really nice to hear.

How did you guys get around between cities during your Morocco trip

And what about, like, the, How are you guys getting around, like, between cities? Like, what was the transportation like?

Tracy: So how did we get around? Well, we got around in different ways. We had two train journeys, which of course Doug absolutely loved. we did. We went to local taxis as well. And for part of the time we also had a private, small minibus. so it was pretty easy

to get around. We organized our own transfer from Marrakesh to Casablanca, but the hotel did that for us, so we had a private driver. Now, we could have done that by train, but we wanted to try because we knew we were coming back that way by train. Anyway, we decided we'd try. Well, how easy was it to do a kind of private transfer? And it was really. It was about two and a half hours to Casablanca, I reckon. Two, three hours. So that was really easy. No problem. and not massive. I think it was about €130. So it wasn't hugely expensive. More obviously more expensive than the train. but we did that. we found it fairly comfortable. I mean, you, ah, get motion sickness, so you had to sit at the front.

Tracy: Yeah. And a few times the, Fred would say to me, you know, how I. If you want to stop, but didn't have to stop, but it's nice to be asked, yeah, your needs as a tour guide. Because obviously he's dealing with everybody else at the same time. Yeah, there's lots of questions, so that was nice to be considered. And you know, at the end of the trip, I did actually think to one side and say, you know, thank you very much. You know, you've been very attentive and very kind and considerate. So.

Tracy: And I have to say I found the, the driving far, far less, intimidating than I did in India.

Melissa Kailey: Yes, it was a bit crazy in India.

Tracy: Honestly, it was nothing like that. Fel safe 100% of the time. I did not feel at, at any point that we were driving crazily or, you know, a bit bit. I just think of when we're in India, when we at the tea plantation. Going up there was a little bit scary, but it was fine.

Tracy: If I. And to be honest, I would say there were very steady drivers.

Melissa Kailey: Oh, awesome.

Tracy: I mean, I'm sure they were just doing that for my benefit. I am very grateful. The. There was. There was no rushing. We weren't hassled. It was just all very relaxed.

Tracy: Yeah, it was very relaxed. Actually was a very relaxed tour. And everybody was on Time nobody, you know. Yeah. So, And that always makes things so much easier when everybody's considerate of everybody else.

Tracy: Yeah, that's true.

Melissa Kailey: Absolutely. Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

What about the accommodation? Like, tell us about that. Probably my least favorite was Casablanca hotel

What about the accommodation? Like, tell us about that. How is that?

Tracy: so the accommodation in Marrakesh was. Was really lovely. And we stayed at that hotel on the way back. Probably my least favorite was the hotel in Casablanca. We'd booked our own night before the interpreter. And it. It just, it didn't. It wasn't my favorite, put it that way. yeah, it just didn't. I didn't kind of tick a lot of boxes. For me, I mean, the best thing was it was opposite the train station.

Tracy: It was, to say the hotel was a little bit Spartan. It was a little bit unexciting. Yeah, it was functional. That. That was probably the term I'm looking for. It's functional. It did.

There was a bed and there was a. There was. Yeah, as a bathroom, but there wasn't much,

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Tracy: anything Moroccan character, I guess that's the thing.

Tracy: And it. But I mean, you know, it was very functional and it did what it do. But obviously then we stayed at Riyaads, which were far more what you expect in Morocco. So, you know, then you have that. That more of a kind of Moroccan experience rather than staying in a hotel. So they were better. And, we stayed like a home stay. so again. And that. I think that was in fares. Yes, and chef showing as well. We stayed in nice accommodation that was the Riyadh. So they were definitely, I guess, what people expect more of with Morocco. Whereas, Casablanca was saying more functional. The Hotel Marrakesh was really nice. outside into the. In the new city part, not in the Medina. But, to be honest, we did look at booking a Riyadh for the first night and then move into the hotel, and leaving our luggage there because they agreed to do that. but to be honest, we were a bit intimidated about getting from the airport into arrear because we'd heard that you're trying to get through. And afterwards when we saw what it was like in the Medina, we were like, oh, we would have got lost. So we didn't do it. So we're a bit chicken with that one.

Tracy: But we stayed in the home state in mule Idris. Yeah, we climbed. Yes, we had to the. The coast. The minimal stopped and then the. All the luggage was taken up on the back of donkeys or mules up the backside streets and we stayed in the homestay there.

Tracy: Yeah, that's true. Yeah. So it was good, the accommodation, nothing to complain

about at all. you know, it was, it was absolutely, perfectly fine.

Tracy: yeah, yeah, I know that, you know, we, A few of the places, including the home stays, we all had a meal together on one table. So there's an engagement there. There was no little cliques sort of thing. So everybody sort of mixed up the seating. You know, there wasn't those. Always sat with those. And it was very, very social.

Melissa Kailey: Nice.

Ishmael describes Morocco's colorful markets and language

Now when I think of Morocco, I think of all those amazing, colorful markets. So tell us about that. Is that reality?

Tracy: Oh, honestly, yes. Again, if you haven't seen my photos on, on Instagram and our Facebook group, check those out. I'll put them in the show notes as well. Colorful. I mean, I love color anyway. I love to dress in colorful clothes. and I just. Yeah, it's a feast for the eyes. It really is. It was fantastic. And the senses, the smell, the spice. Yeah, the spice market. So, yeah, it just. The different souks, it was great. And we, the first day that we're in Marrakesh, we had had a private driver, a private guide, I should say. Hi, Ishmael. He's on my, on my Instagram. He was brilliant. So he showed us around, the different, throughout. Around the medina and the different souks in the medina in Marrakech. And honestly, it was great. We did go, we did buy some bits and bobs. I bought a scarf. You know, I'm gonna buy a scarf. And, and I did get my own on a very nice, rug, which I didn't buy. but you know, it, it just. And we found people were keen obviously to sell, but they weren't, weren't pushy. so again we, we went back to

Marrakesh the last, the last afternoon and the day after when when we arrived back from the tour and we, we just walked through on that with that particular tour guide with Intrepid. There's a lot of people who are staying on. and I'm glad that we did the private tour on the first day because we wouldn't have had the in depth experience that we had of the Marrakech, Medina because we spent far longer in there and actually meeting different shop owners and trying, trying different things, trying to think of the oil, the name of the oil. I did buy some beautiful oil and it's really famous and I've completely gone out my head. but I did buy some really lovely, rose scented oil which, is very Good for your hair. Argan oil. That's argan oil. so bought that and I bought. We didn't. We didn't buy a huge amount, in fact. because. Because we're traveling a lot, we have to be very conscious about what bought. But I did buy some argan oil and a scarf. I think that was about it. Really?

Tracy: Yeah.

Tracy: yeah.

Melissa Kailey: And how about language? How did you go with that?

Tracy: no problem at all because I do speak French, so it did help. though my French is very rusty. but obviously we had the guides with us who spoke English. But, I did use French a few times when I needed to. But I say I'm not. I used to be fluent and it's nowhere near that anymore. but it does help because I understand and I can converse a little bit in French, which again, does help. Yeah. So if you have a little bit of French, that will help you because that's the second language. And obviously English. There are a few other languages as well, which I. I'm going to get wrong. So I'm not going to say what they are. But English and French are spoken, Arabic spoken. There's a Berber

language as well. So, But most people will speak French if they don't speak. Well, they all speak French and they will have some English as well, but we didn't have a problem with that.

Tracy: No, no, no, no. Not at all. No.

Melissa Kailey: Awesome.

You had your birthday in Morocco with a surprise dinner

Let's talk about food. Tell us about Morocco. What's that like?

Tracy: Oh,

Tracy: Don't know where to start. Well, I will start because they grow a lot.

Melissa Kailey: You had your birthday in Morocco? I did.

Tracy: You know what? I'd forgotten.

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Tracy: I thought the Mars will fly under the radar with that one. No, celebrate your 21st birthday. I do know that.

Melissa Kailey: Birthday dog in Morocco. How was that?

Tracy: Yeah, that was. That was incredible. Yeah, I don't like to be center of attention, but this sort of made me center of attention in the evening with candles and things and cake. Cake. Yeah.

Tracy: That was really nice.

Tracy: Wish I did share. Obviously I did eat the whole cake.

Tracy: And that was lovely because that's how I'd organized all of that.

Tracy: Yes, it was a lovely surprise. Does anybody listen? It wasn't my 21st birthday.

Melissa Kailey: I thought you were serious.

Tracy: Seriously, the food was really good. I mean, I love Moroccan food is one of my favorite type foods anyway. I used to live in France and I. I remember in the 80s being taught to make couscous royale and. And always loving it. And when we go to Paris, we always go to the same Moroccan Restaurant, there. And, So. But I have to say, even. Even I, by the end of it, had probably eaten as much couscous, and as much tagine as I could possibly ever eat. So we're having a little bit of a break from it now. But I tell you what, I think it's probably because I'm notoriously not a good eater. I mean, I. I'm probably the only person in the world who goes to Japan and loses weight, because I don't like. But you know what Moroccan food, it's. It's vegetable. It's so vegetable heavy, which I love. So, you know, I could just have a vegetable couscous and. And eat that. And the tagines with the chicken, the lamb so well cooked. It's so moist and tender. so just really tasty.

Tracy: It is one in particular, we. We had, a group evening meal. It was in a riad. That had been, turned into a restaurant. And that was an exceptional meal.

Tracy: That was in fairs. Yeah. That was fabulous.

Tracy: Yeah, that was special.

Tracy: We had the. I think it's called pasty, which is, It's like a chicken pie. That's a, Which something that I hadn't tried before, and that's a specialty of that. That area. So we, enjoyed that. So it was just really. It was really good just trying different foods. The. The best thing for me is that there's olives all the time.

Melissa Kailey: Yes.

Tracy: Who doesn't like olives?

Tracy: You know what they always say. If you eat so many olives, you'll suddenly like them. Well, after, what, 45 plus a lot more years of trying them, I still don't like them. It's not gonna happen.

Melissa Kailey: Just more for us olive lovers. That's, all.

Tracy: That's what I said to everybody else. Just more to share out.

Melissa Kailey: Yeah.

Talking of food and drink, I have to say I really, really like the mint tea

Tracy: Talking of food and drink, I have to say I really, really like the mint tea.

Melissa Kailey: Okay. All right.

Tracy: It was lovely. It was really lovely.

Tracy: Yeah. I mean, as you know, we're tea lovers anyway, but to try the tea specialty from another country was particularly special.

Melissa Kailey: Sorry, I was just gonna say I was traveling with Tracy a lot. She always has her own little special tea. So I'm quite intrigued to hear that Tracy's drinking other people's tea.

Tracy: I know I am. I know. I'm gonna say I'm fussy about tea as well. But, I did try it, and I was like, okay, I'll give it a go. and some places we had that mint tea. It was outstanding, and it really Helped with digestion. I honestly had no problem. Like, my God, everything was really healthy because you just. It feels like probably one of the most healthiest cuisines I've had anywhere. Now, I know they eat a lot of sugar, so I will say that I didn't have. We didn't go overboard with the sugary kind of biscuits and treats and things that they have, which I know are very, very popular in Morocco.

Tracy: Well, with the mint tea, after I tried the first one, which was particularly sweet because obviously we've got Fred with us who could speak, you know, speak the language. He did actually ask for ones with little or no sugar added.

Melissa Kailey: Okay.

Tracy: And that's when it sort of stuck with me. Think that that's just how I like it. That is just perfect for me. Yeah.

Melissa Kailey: Yeah. Cool, Cool.

Were there any challenges while you were traveling? I don't think so

What about, you know, it sounds amazing, but I'm guessing there might. Were there any challenges while you were traveling?

Tracy: I don't think so. Nothing. Nothing that I can think of. It's actually really smooth. Easy trip.

Tracy: Yeah. Fred was very good at anticipating anything that potentially could have been an obstacle. And he kept us well informed about foods and drinks and things to do, not to do. So things. Very, very attentive. So, no, I don't think we.

Tracy: I honestly can't think of anything. It was. All really went really smoothly. The only one thing that was a bit difficult was actually, we would booked a tour in Casablanca and we had, we had two other guests on that chair who did not behave particularly well. And we're very. Oh, yeah, yeah. So that. And. And our guide, Eunice was amazing. So. Hi, Eunice. Because he dealt with it, he tried to deal with it as best he could. but they. They were just being extremely difficult and they

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Tracy: weren't. They were spending, you know, a long time out the vehicle go to the toilet for half an hour. Yeah. They were on the phone when he was trying to talk to us about Casablanca. Playing music, play music. So that was really. I've never been on a tour like that. It was a. It was a couple of hour tour of Casablanca. I've never, ever had that happen again or happen before, and I hope it never happens again where we have two incredibly selfish girls that did that.

Tracy: To make that clear, that was not part of the Intrepid tour.

Tracy: No, that was separate. That was a separate tour that we had booked. but Eunice was amazing, the tour guide who took us, and he gets a five stars from us.

Tracy: His patience. We were getting irritated. but he was very calm. And collected and, you know, very patient.

Melissa Kailey: Awesome.

We used cash. Um, mostly cash. Probably less so than when we were in India

How about money and stuff? Like, what was that?

Tracy: Like.

Melissa Kailey: Like the money and paying for stuff.

Tracy: mostly cash. We used cash. Just got out of the cash point. because you can't get money before, after. I think Morocco, it's one of those countries like India, you can't take it in or out, I think. yeah, so we just got out the atm, and we didn't spend a massive amount, really, did we?

Tracy: No. The group together for tipping, that was. And then that was done as a group.

Tracy: Yeah. Like putting into that tip that tipping kitty, which is always worth doing. So that's good.

Tracy: Yeah. But what. What Fred did, he had us, you know, he handed us some cash each time, you know, asked one of us to go, then go and hand the cash over. So he was not the one passing.

Tracy: It all the time.

Tracy: So we were engaged with hotels.

Tracy: Yeah. So that was really good. I, don't think, you know, it's. Morocco was not expensive, so meals were. Were cheap. We didn't have all the meals included. Probably less so than when we were in India. Melissa, actually. But it. It was not expensive to. To buy, you know, really not expensive to have a meal out. And, you know, the couscous or having a tagine were really accessible. Really. Not just cheap.

Tracy: No, it's just ship.

Tracy: Yeah.

Tracy: Yeah.

Melissa Kailey: Awesome.

Nobody got sick at all during Intrepid trip to Morocco

And what about, like, health issues or, you know, like.

Tracy: No, it was all good. I mean, you have to have travel insurance when you go out with Intrepid anyway. But nobody got sick. Nobody. There's no upset stomachs because I know obviously when we're in India, a couple of people did get sick. but that did not happen in Morocco at all. I mean, we did get, you know, told not to eat food from any of the markets because they don't necessarily use the clean water. And also, you can't water or have water. Is that we. Because of. We're not used to the minerals that are in the water in Morocco. Well, Moroccan people can drink the water there. It's not advisable if you visit to the country to drink the water. So it's too. Too mineral rich and it can upset your stomach. But nobody got sick at all the entire time? No.

Melissa Kailey: Well, that's great.

I would still recommend taking a tour. Not saying that you couldn't do it yourself

Okay, now a couple of general questions. what do you think? Do you think Morocco is a good destination for, like, solo travels, couples, group friends? Like, what do you reckon who should go to Morocco?

Tracy: I think. I think it's a great destination for everybody. I mean, I think, I would still recommend taking a tour. I mean, we're, you know, we're independent travelers, as you are, Melissa. And we. 99% of the time, we would never do a tour. We'd always organize ourselves. However, I genuinely feel, and it's the same for India, that you have a far richer, experience doing a tour than you would have if you did it yourself. Not saying that you couldn't do it yourself because I'm sure plenty of people have. And once you plan to get from destination, destination, you know, it, you probably. Those are the things you'd have to start planning. It's not so difficult. But I would always encourage people if they're going to do it on their own or if they're going to do it, you know, even in a couple or whatever that they make sure that they use the local guides, make sure that you book locals to take you around these places because you're not going to learn or experience it or really fully get it unless you do that.

Tracy: And also, don't forget the, the passion that the locals have talking about their own town, their own cities, their own country's history, you know, for the good and the bad, because it's still history.

Melissa Kailey: Yeah.

Tracy: you know, and I think the shared experience sometimes in a group is, you know, enriches you travel experience.

Tracy: Yeah. I was going to say normally, as I say, you know, we wouldn't do an

organized tour, but I think there are some times where you have to look at and go, actually this is the best option.

Melissa Kailey: Yeah.

Tracy: and you know, I didn't a bit like India. You know, I think when it can feel a bit overwhelming then planning for a destination like that and actually, even if, you know, even going back to Morocco and we plan to go back to Morocco and in fact I'm trying to get up off the ground a women ah, only tour next year. I know, let me know because that's something I'd like to get organized and sorted. So, you know, I still would say recommend do a tour. It's like India went back to India. I'd do a tour again because I just think that's the best way to actually experience those sort of countries. And and also we, we just didn't have time to sit and organize another itinerary.

Melissa Kailey: Yeah. Cool. Cool.

What one big tip would you give to anybody traveling to Morocco for the first time

One last

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question. What one big tip would you give to anybody traveling to Morocco for the very first time?

Tracy: Oh, what would you say, Doug?

Tracy: I think what we did, ah, as regards the luggage. Arrive a day earlier and look to see where the tour is going to end and consider your onward journey from there. And what fits best, logistically, yeah.

Tracy: I think that's a good idea. And I think one tip for me is go, just go. Don't, don't, you know, just get yourself, go to Morocco. If you, if you have any thoughts about, oh, maybe I should definitely go. So that's my, that's my big tip. And do it, you know, get involved with the locals. That's what I'm saying. Rather than doing a large group tour, just do a smaller tour if that's what you want to do. Or make sure if you're doing it independently that you are still looking at getting those, those guides to show you the places. Because you will get lost. You will 100 get lost. Those medinas are like crazy, crazy, honestly, like mazes, and, you know, local. The only people who grew up in those medinas will know the way around.

Melissa Kailey: Yeah. Yeah. Well, I've always wanted to go to Barocco, but after interviewing you two, now I want to go even more.

Melissa, thanks so much for chatting with us about Morocco

But as the special, interviewer guest, I am now going to hand it back to the professional. So, Tracy, thank you very much for having me.

Tracy: Oh, honestly, Melissa, thanks so much for agreeing to come and chat with us about Morocco. I've got your name down for the tour for next year already. it's always

great to chat with you and, and it's been so, so much fun to chat about our experiences in Morocco. And if you're listening to this episode and you're thinking, yeah, I really fancy a trip to Morocco, check out the show notes, let me know. You can leave us a message on Speak Pipe. If you're interested in joining an all women tour to Morocco next year, get in touch and let me know because if I get the right numbers, we can get it off the ground. But otherwise, if you want to see the photos from the trip, Doug's also going to put some videos together. Check out our Instagram Global Travel Planning and our website, globaltravelplanning.com. this will be forward slash episode, ah, 48. And also join our Facebook group community as well where we share destinations around the world. but again, thanks so much, Melissa.

Melissa Kailey: No worries. My pleasure.

Tracy: Thank you for joining us on this episode of the Global Travel planning podcast. For more details and links to everything we discussed today, check out the show notes@globaltravelplanning.com Remember, if you enjoyed the show, please consider leaving us a review on your favorite podcast app because your feedback helps us reach more travel enthusiasts just like you. Anyway, that leaves me to say, as always, happy global travel planning.

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