



FITS MOROCCO 2020

PRACTICAL INFORMATION SHEET

A sober tourism for a sustainable development

What intention for the FITS?

The eighth International Forum Fair and Responsible Tourism and Sustainable Development will take place in Morocco on January 2020. Its focus will be “*Climate resilience, sustainable development and fair tourism in the oases of the world*”. It will concern in particular the 25 oasis countries of the planet, but representative people from all over the world will of course be able to take part if they wish to.

Unlike the other FITS, this eighth edition has a specific format. Actually, it is more a medium-term project than a specific event, a forum that will only last for a few days. The project FITS MOROCCO began on January 2019 with several preparatory actions and after the key moment of the forum itself it will carry on for several years (probably 3), with the implementation of the actions recommended.

Where will the FITS take place?

[Ouarzazate, a oasis-town](#)

The forum will take place in Ouarzazate, a city of 70 000 inhabitants, situated 200 km South East of Marrakech, at an altitude of 1150m. Located in the south of the south of the High Atlas mountains, Ouarzazate is the starting point of the huge pal grove of the Drâa valley and it is known as the gateway to Sahara.

Ouarzazate is a very nice ochre color town. Its kasbah of Taourirt that shelters a palace of the nineteenth century, offers a view of the rocky landscape of the surrounding area. To the Northwest is the fortified red-earth city of Ait Ben Haddou. To the East is the world’s largest solar power station, whereas the rocky gorges of the Toudra extend to the northeast. A road winds southeast, across the luxuriant palm groves of the Drâa valley, in the direction of the desert.

What format?

[Several preparatory actions](#)

Several actions will precede the forum during the year 2019: 1) expeditions in the the Drâa Tafilalet region for the organisers, 2) visits in France for the Moroccan organisers about rural tourism and ecotourism, 3) information and awareness sessions from professionals of tourism from the 5 oases provinces of the region, 4) an overview of the situation of the oases and oases tourism in each oasis country, 5) a study-diagnostic in the Drâa Tafilalet region in order to prepare the Action Plan that will be submitted to the participants in the forum.

[Fair caravans in the oases](#)

The Ouarzazate forum will be preceded by *solidarity caravans*, sorts of travelling universities on the theme of fair and responsible tourism and sustainable development.

They will gather development practitioners, experts, tour operators, and representatives of the media. They will play an essential role in the media coverage of the situation of the oases.

There will be 5 *Small caravans*. Reserved for the foreign guests, they will last for three days from the 25th to the 27th of January. Their route will be limited to the territory of the provinces of Drâa Tafilalet area.

The forum in Ouarzazate

The *forum itself* in Ouarzazate in the Congress palace will gather about 400 participants. It will include plenary lectures, debates, thematic workshops, two cultural evenings, an exhibition-sale of artisanal and agricultural products from the oases and a photographic exhibition *Oasis of the world, Oasis in danger*.

The implementation of the Action Plan

The 3 years period following the forum should be devoted to the concrete implementation of the actions identified and prepared in the preparatory phase and ratified during the forum.

How to register?

A obligatory pre-registration

If you are interested, you have to register to take part in the FITS. Doing your preliminary registration on the website www.fits-tourismesolidaire.org is compulsory.

The pre-registrations will be opened until *December 31st 2019*. In order to participate your pre-registration has to be validated by the FITS' organization and you have to pay the *registration fees*.

Once your pre-registration is ratified, you will receive a notification by email. The same will apply once your registration will have been accepted after the payment.

The number of places being limited, all interested person won't be able to take part in the forum. Only people most directly concerned by the subject of the alternative tourism and sustainable development will be accepted with a priority for participants from one of the 25 oasis countries.

What dates of arrival and departure?

The foreign guests who participate in the small caravans will have to arrive on Friday 24th January at one of the 3 towns, Errachidia, Ouarzazate or Zagora according to the chosen caravan. They will reach Ouarzazate on Monday 27th January in the afternoon.

The forum will start on Tuesday 28th January at 8.30am in the palace of Congress. Except from the guests, all the participants, duly registered, must arrive directly to Ouarzazate either the day before the forum itself on the 27th January, or present themselves the same morning at 8 am at the Palace of Congress in order to sign in and be given the forum's file and insigne that will allow you to the different events.

Moroccan participants and some foreign guests will leave from Ouarzazate on the 30th January after the forum finishes (2pm). The other foreign guests will leave the day after, on *Tuesday 31st*, with a special flight Ouarzazate-Casablanca chartered by the organizers.

How to go to and leave Ouarzazate?

Ouarzazate has a international airport. Some companies have direct flights to Ouarzazate. The Royal Air Maroc provides two flights per day from Casablanca. So usually you have to transit by this city and change flight.

It is also possible to get to Ouarzazate by private car or by bus from Marrakech or Agadir but the journeys are really long.

In order to limit the fees and the carbon emission, it is possible to organize car-sharing between the participants coming from the same areas of Morocco. If you are interested, either because you own a car or because you wish to use this opportunity, please contact the Moroccan FITS secretariat.

The Organizing National Committee will support all local transportation (arrivals and departures, caravans and forum). Personal expenses incurred for travelling will not be paid back.

What formalities to enter Morocco?

A *valid* passport (6 months) is required to enter Morocco. A passport is also necessary to change money or fill in hotels police forms.

The visa is not necessary for the citizens of the European Union as well as for most African countries, but everyone should check this on-line or from the Moroccan embassy of the country of residence.

Those who need a visa can ask the FITS secretariat in Ouarzazate (see address at the end of the sheet) an invitation letter signed by the President of the Drâa-Tafilalet regional Council.

Be careful, those who have to go through France and get out of the airport, may need a French visa. They will have to check with the consular authorities of their country of residence.

What about airfares?

The national company Morocco Royal Air will provide with most air travels. The Company serves many countries and these flights will be preferred.

In January, fares coincide with *low season*. Moreover the Organizing National Committee is negotiating preferential prices for the participation at the FITS. Additional information will be provided on the website.

What about accommodation?

During the small caravans that precede the forum, accommodation and meals are organized by the Organizing National Committee in the city-stages. Therefore the participants and all the foreign guests needn't worry about that. For the forum itself, the city of Ouarzazate offers a large hotel capacity. However it is recommended to reserve soon. If you wish, the FITS secretariat in Ouarzazate can do it for you. You just have to ask by email.

Foreigners and officials who have the status of guests are taken in charge directly by the national Committee that will book rooms for them. So they don't have to worry about their accommodation.

For the other participants it is possible to find accommodation in hotels of different categories, but also in hostels or guesthouses in private homes. See above a few guide- prices:

		Night and breakfast (€)	half-board (€)
Hotel 4*	Single	45	55
	Double	70	90
	Triple	85	105
Hotel 3*	Single	35	43
	Double	48	56
	Triple	75	83
Hotel standing	Single	between 19/29 €	between 31/46 €

	Double	between 36/41 €	between 43/63 €
	Triple	between 45/55 €	between 45/72 €
Guestroom	between 13 / 27€ per person		

What about restoration?

Lunches of the three days of the forum will be taken in charge by the Organizing national Committee for all the participants registered at the forum. They will be served on site, as a buffet, under tents, near the Congress Centre of Ouarzazate.

The welcome diner organized by the Committee on the 24th of January is reserved for the participants of the caravans.

Dress code : what to wear?

The city of Ouarzazate is situated in an arid zone and the climate is really continental. The average annual temperature there is 28°C but as it may be a little cold in January especially in the mountains of Midelt. SOo bring warm clothing.

The managers of each caravan will give specific advice to participants once they have validated your application. But with regards to field -visits, please note that you must plan for appropriate clothing (walking shoes or sneakers, cap, sunglasses, warm jacket and so on).

Which languages will be used?

During the forum itself, the plenary conferences and debates will be held in 5 languages with simultaneous translation into French, English, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese. It will not be possible to have a systematic translation for the workshops but some of them can be organized in a different language from French. It will be the same for caravans.

How to communicate?

Mobile phones work perfectly well in Morocco. In the main Ouarzazate hotels, it is possible to access the wifi.

How to change or withdraw money?

The exchange rate varies regularly. It is about 11 Moroccan Dirhams (DM) for 1 €.

It is possible to withdraw / change money on the arrival of Casablanca, Marrakech, Agadir or Ouarzazate airport, and / or to change it in bank agencies. There are ATMs (Automated Teller machines) in most cities.

What is the registration fee?

Registration fee allowing to participate to all the activities (caravans, lectures, workshops, visits, cultural evenings) and to get the documentation when you register, must be pay by all the participants, including guests. It will benefit a *fair found*.

These fees will benefit on one side to some representatives of based organizations that do not have the means to participate and on the other side to a *carbon compensation found* in order to co-finance reforestation and local material construction projects in the Drâa Tafilalet region.

The fees have been set up by the International Committee at:

Northern countries

- 50 € per natural person
- 100 € per legal entity

Southern countries:

- 35 € per natural person
- 70 € per legal entity
- 15 € or 150 Dhs for Moroccans and based organizations

For Northern citizens, registration fees should be paid by bank check or transfer addressed to Touiza Solidarité in Marseille.

For Moroccans, the bank transfer has to be done in Dirhams in Morocco.

Touiza solidarité (FITS) 16 rue Beauvau 13001 – Marseille Tel (33) 4 91 33 15 02.

[Account of Touiza Solidarité \(payment in euros\)](#)

Account at the name of Touiza solidarité/FITS Maroc 19, bank Crédit coopératif à Marseille, France

RIB : 42559 10000 08023583150 43

IBAN : FR76 4255 9100 0008 0235 8315 043 Code BIC : CCOPFRPPXXX

Who can you contact to more information?

The easiest way is to regularly visit the FITS website : **fits-tourismesolidaire.org**

New information will be added regularly.

You can also contact the General Coordination secretariat in France or the FITS technical local team in Morocco:

France (33) 4 91 33 15 02 fits2019france@gmail.com

Morocco (212) 5 24 88 24 85 fitsmorocco2020@gmail.com

Information and registration: fits-tourismesolidaire.org