



Treasures of Travel

Treasures of Morocco, 2023 *~ 19 days/17 nights*

This tour gives you the opportunity to explore and take with you the unforgettable memories of the country, beautifully located at the meeting point of Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, home to the world famous, incredible Sahara desert and its oases, the Atlas mountains and its settlements, the imperial cities renowned for their Moorish architecture, fascinating and romantic coastal towns, as well as charming bazaars and friendly people.

Day 1 ~ Depart the USA

Day 2 ~ Casablanca

Upon your arrival in Casablanca, at Mohammed V airport, after going through the passport and security formalities, you will be met and **transferred** to the hotel in downtown Casablanca. Overnight in Casablanca. /Palace Anfa, www.lepalacedanfa.com

Day 3 ~ Chefchaouen

We will head to **Rabat**, the administrative capital and one of the four imperial cities; other three are Fes, Marrakech, and Meknes. We will walk through the imperial quarter to see beautiful gardens and many interesting Moorish royal buildings, including the Royal Palace. We will drive by impressive necropolis going back to the Roman times and visit the complex of **Hassan Tower and Mosque**, as well as the famous **Mohammed V Mausoleum**, the masterpiece of modern architecture in Morocco. We will end our sightseeing with the visit to the walled village, so called **Oudaya Kasbah** overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Our final destination is Chefchaouen.

Overnight in Chefchaouen /Dar Chaouen, www.darechchaouen.com

Day 4 ~ Chefchaouen

Chefchaouen is certainly one of Morocco's most delightful spots. The blue and white town appears at a turn on the road, with its two-story houses and round roof tiles, as well as twenty odd mosques and sanctuaries. The holy town of Chefchaouen breathes an atmosphere of profound serenity. It is a delight to stroll through these cobblestone streets and idly dream in a peaceful, shaded square as you sip your coffee in a Moorish café! The old city is one of the loveliest in Morocco, it would be a shame to visit this charming city in a rush; it needs to be experienced and enjoyed. If time permits and you wish to visit, there is a lovely fishing village north of Chefchaouen called Oued Laou as an option. Overnight in Chefchaouen /Dar Chaouen, www.darechchaouen.com

Day 5 ~ Fes

Our final destination today is Fes with some stops on the way. First we will reach **Volubilis**, site of the most important and extensive Roman ruins in Morocco, which was annexed by Rome in 45 AD. Next we will head to **Meknes**, another one of the four imperial cities, famous for its beautiful gates. We will visit the palace of the ancient **Ismailian rulers and Royal Granaries**, and **Museum Dar Jamai**. In the evening we will arrive in Fes for overnight /Riad Arabesque, www.riadarabesque.com

Day 6 ~ Fes

Fes is the spiritual and cultural center of the country; besides being the most prestigious of all imperial cities, it also is the first founded one in Morocco's history. We will drive to the **citadel** for a magnificent panoramic view of the old and new city followed by fascinating **Tanneries**. Our next stop is **Mellah**, Jewish quarter with Jewish Cemetery and Synagogue.

Overnight in Fes. /Riad Arabesque, www.riadarabesque.com

Day 7 ~ Fes

We will be exploring this world-famous, fascinating ancient city (medieval Medina) with its over a million alleys, number of madrassas, mausoleums, residential and handicraft quarters. In the old city of Fes we will visit **Kairaouine Mosque** built in 859 which probably is the most spiritual mosque in Morocco, followed by **Medersa Bou Inania**, **Medersa el-Attarine**, **Nejjarine Museum of Wood & Art Craft**, **Dar Batha Mueseum** and **Belghazi Museum**.

Overnight in Fes. /Riad Arabesque, www.riadarabesque.com

Day 8 ~ Erfoud

Today we will have one of the most interesting and scenic drives through the Atlas Mountains. We will pass by the Berber villages and towns to see their pasture animals and colorful costumes. We will make a short stop to enjoy **Ifran** which is an Alpine little town in the middle of cedar trees. Our next stop is **Midelt**, which is famous for its fossils and local Berber handicrafts. Next we will continue to drive along Ziz River and its oasis where more than a million date palm trees are growing. Our final destination is Erfoud, the capital of dates in Morocco.

Overnight in Arfoud. /Xaluca Dades, www.xaluca.com

Day 9 ~ Merzouga-Desert

We will visit the souk in Erfoud before we drive with **4WD** to spend the entire day in the **Sahara** taking a **camel ride** to the desert camp, climbing the sand dunes for a spectacular sunset. Afterwards we will have a special dinner with local entertainment. We will overnight in tents to experience a beautiful sunrise over the sand dunes in the morning, and then go back to civilization.

Overnight in Merzouga. /Night under tent bivouac [Ali El Cojo](#)

Day 10 ~ Boumalen Dates

After breakfast we will **ride a camel** back to Merzouga to join our **4WD vehicle** for **Rissani**, a former major caravan center which remains most important commercial hub in the region up to this day; its extensive souk is noted for leather and goat skin trade. While in Rissani, we will see the mausoleum of Moulay Ali ash-Sherif, the ancestor of the Alaouite dynasty which still rules today. Passing through Tinejdad we will stop at **Todgha Gorge** for a spectacular view and continue to Dades Gorge, one of the highlights in south Morocco. At both Gorges we have the option to walk as much as we want or just view the spectacular natural wonders created by water over millenniums, we'll pass numerous Berber villages on the way, so we could stop in any of those villages to experience Berber life, maybe we'll visit their local markets.

Overnight in Boumalen Dates /Xaluca Dades, www.xaluca.com

Day 11 ~ Quarzazate

From Boumalen we'll leave for Ouarzazate through Kelaa Mgon, famous for its roses and the Skoura palm grove where we'll visit the beautiful Kasbah **Amridil & Kasbah Taourirt**. **Quarzazate** area is a noted film-making location, with Morocco's biggest studios inviting many international companies to work here. Films such as *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962), *The Living Daylights* (1987), *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1988), *The Mummy* (1999), *Gladiator* (2000), *Kingdom of*

Heaven (2005), *Kundun* (1997), *Legionnaire* (1998), *Hanna* (2011), and *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* (2011) were shot here. We will have the tour including a beautifully walled city called Kasbah and cinema museum. Overnight in Quarzazate. /Ksar Ighnda, www.ksar.ighnda.net

Day 12 ~ Imlil

On the way to Imlil we will visit Kasbah **Ait Benhaddou**, the most spectacular fortified city in Morocco, which was an important stop along the former caravan route between the Sahara and Marrakech. Via Taddert village we'll take Tizi n'Tichka mountain pass (6,800 ft) offering a wonderful view of the Atlas range. We will arrive in Imlil at an altitude of 1,700meters (5,577ft) which is a spectacular spot for mountain climbers.

Overnight in Imlil. /Kasbah du Toubkal, www.kasbahdutoubkal.com

Day 13 ~ Marrakech

In the morning we'll explore the beautiful village of Imlil on foot, which offers spectacular view of the surrounding Atlas Mountains. In the evening we'll arrive in Marrakech for overnight.

Overnight in Marrakech /Essadi Garden, www.essaadi.com

Day 14 ~ Marrakech

Marrakech, the second oldest imperial city and definitely the "Pearl of the South", was founded by the Almoravids at the end of the 11th century. Marrakech is home to the most famous square in Morocco- the Jemaa el-Fna Square, mosques, madrassas, palaces and gardens.

We will start our sightseeing with perhaps the most entertaining place in all Morocco, **Jemaa el-Fna Square** where the magicians train cobras, besides many other fascinating things happening as you walk through.

Next we will tour **medina**- the old city offers many interesting shops and craftsmen's diverse creations. We'll stop at **Koutoubia Mosque** which has 210ft tall minaret, visible from miles away, and also visit **Ali ben Youssef Mosque and Madrassa**.

Overnight in Marrakech /Essadi Garden, www.essaadi.com

Day 15 ~ Marrakech

We will start our day by visiting **Majorelle garden and museum, Marrakech museum**, followed by famous **Saadian Tombs, Menara Gardens, and Bahia Palace**. There will be time for exploring more shops and/or Hammam option!

Overnight in Marrakech /Essadi Garden, www.essaadi.com

Day 16 ~ Essaouira

After a relaxed breakfast, this morning we'll head to **Essaouira** (pronounced Esa-weera), the most popular of the coastal towns, with magnificent beaches and relaxed atmosphere. The fortifications of the old city are a mixture of Portuguese, French, and Berber military architecture, and their massiveness lends a powerful mystique. On the way to Essaouira we will visit the famous Argan oil factory. Overnight in Essaouira. /Medina M'Gallery, www.mgallery.com

Day 17 ~ Essaouira

We will spend the day exploring this delightful place, taking time to absorb the unique flavor of the old town, the harbor, and the friendly people. You'll see narrow lanes, whitewashed houses with painted blue doors, tranquil squares, pleasant cafes, and artisans in tiny workshops carving on fragrant thuya (thuja) a dense hardwood, renown in the area. Essaouira is full of the irresistible angles and picturesque sights that are attractive to photographers.

Overnight in Essaouira. /Medina M'Gallery, www.mgallery.com

Day 18 ~ Casablanca

After a leisurely breakfast we will leave the beautiful Essaouira for Casablanca. Upon arrival, once we check in at our hotel we will have a **city orientation** tour known for its unique architecture.

Overnight in Casablanca. /Palace Anfa, www.lepalacedanfa.com

Day 19 ~ Home

We'll **transfer** you to the airport for the flight home.

Departure Time: based on 19 days/17 nights

March 1 ~ 19

October 18 ~ November 5

Tour Price:

\$3,800 per person in double room and 10 ~ 12 guests traveling together

\$1,100 single supplement

Services Included:

- Accommodation for 16 nights at a mixture of selected 4/5* hotels or riads as indicated in the itinerary.
- 1 night at desert camp
- Breakfast daily at hotels
- Dinners daily at hotels/riad
- Two small bottles of water per day/per guest
- Taxes
- Daily private sightseeing by comfortable air-conditioned van for 2-5 guests, minibus for 5-12 guests
- English speaking professional driver and his expenses with van for 2-5 guests, with minibus for 5-12 guests. Up to 5 guests English speaking driver also will act as a guide; from 6 guests on an escorted professional guide is required for additional supplement per day
- Local guides provided as follows: (only in case of a group of 2-5 guests, as larger group will have escorted guide at all times everywhere)
 - *Rabat ½ day
 - *Chefchaouen ½ day
 - *Meknes and Volubilis
 - *Fes 2 days
 - *During the visit of Kasbah Taourirt in Ouarzazate
 - *Marrakech 2 days
 - *Essaouira ½ day
- Entrance fees to the sites indicated in bold on the itinerary
- Excursion with 4 WD land cruise in desert
- All arrival and departure transfers
- Baggage handling
- Complete information package with itineraries, travel and visa information, and luggage tags

Services Included:

- Accommodation for 16 nights at a mixture of selected 4/5* hotels and riad Arabesque in Fes as indicated in the itinerary.

- 1 night at desert camp
- Breakfast daily at hotels
- Dinners daily at hotels/riad
- Two small bottles of water per day/per guest
- Taxes
- Daily private sightseeing by comfortable air-conditioned van for 2-5 guests, minibus for 5-12 guests
- English speaking professional driver and his expenses with van for 2-5 guests, with minibus for 5-12 guests. Up to 5 guests English speaking driver also will act as a guide; from 6 guests on an escorted professional guide is required, for additional \$160 a day
- Local guides provided as follows: (only in case of a group of 2-5 guests, as larger group will have escorted guide at all times everywhere)
 - *Rabat ½ day
 - *Chefchaouen ½ day
 - *Meknes and Volubilis
 - *Fes 2 days
 - *During the visit of Kasbah Taourirt in Ouarzazate
 - *Marrakech 2 days
 - *Essaouira ½ day
- Entrance fees to the sites indicated in bold on the itinerary
- Excursion with 4 WD land cruise in desert
- All arrival and departure transfers
- Baggage handling
- Complete information package with itineraries, travel and visa information, and luggage tags