

Morocco in depth

12 days, 11 nights

Casablanca, Rabat, Fes, Volubilis, Moulay Idris, Meknes, Ifrane, Beni Mellal, Marrakech, Skoura, Ouarzazate, Dades, Tinghir, Merzouga, Alnif, Tazarine, Zagora, Agdez, Ouarzazate, Ait Ben Haddou
Discovery, Culture, History

Day 1: Casablanca

Meet and greet at Casablanca airport, then transfer to your hotel in Casablanca, the best modern representation of the kingdom of Morocco. for dinner and overnight. [D]

Day 2: Casablanca, Rabat, Fes

After breakfast, start the tour of Casablanca by visit of Casablanca with it beautiful Mauresque buildings, which meld French-colonial design and traditional Moroccan style. You will sure get into the local swing of things by visiting the Quartier Habous and in the beachside suburb of Ain Diab, then Hassan II mosque (a supplement charge for inside visit). Transfer to Rabat Morocco's political and administrative capital, a city with lot of charming; a brief sightseeing of the Oudaya Kasbah, Mohammed V Mausoleum, Hassan Tower before we continue to Fez for dinner and overnight. [B/D]

Note: Casablanca visit can be run the day before for early arrivals

Day 3: Fes

After break, we dedicated the whole day to tour of Fes with a local guide. Fes a deep ground for ancient history that beguiles visitors and a place for scholars and artisans, it is also considered the capital of gastronomy in Morocco. By foot you will walk through its seemingly blind alleys lead to squares with exquisite fountains and streets bursting with aromatic food stands, rooftops unveil a sea of minarets, and stooped doorways reveal the workshops of tireless artisans. Your visit will include; Jamaa Al-Karaouine, the world's first established university and the Medersa Bouanania, the tanneries, clay workshops, artisan quarters, and souks can seem like it's in a state of perpetual pandemonium considered the largest and oldest medina in Morocco. Dinner overnight in Fes. [B/D]

Day 4: Fes (Volubilis, Moulay Idris, Meknes)

After breakfast departure to the whitewashed town of Moulay Idriss, the holy town is one of the country's most important pilgrimage sites. Then the city of Volubilis the best-preserved archaeological site in Morocco and was declared a Unesco World Heritage site in 1997. Its most amazing features are its many beautiful mosaics preserved in situ. The third place to visit is Meknes, an imperial city and onetime home of the Moroccan kingdom founded by Moulay Ismail. The king's tomb sits at the heart of what remains of the original imperial city, the magnificent Bab el-Mansour, Pl el-Hedim. Return to Fes for dinner and overnight. [B/D]

Day 5: Fes, Ifrane, Beni Mellal, Marrakech

Transfer to Marrakech, Today's journey will take you towards the Middle Atlas Mountains through Imouzzer, the first village between Fez and Ifrane, then Azrou, an authentic Berber village where the locals still live and work like their ancestors, Next, stop in Ifrane enjoy the flower-lined paths and the French-style architecture of this quaint little ski resort. Drive through the cedar forest and maybe see some of the Barbary apes leaping from the higher branches. Continue through the Holm Oak and Cedar forest, then into the limestone area of the Middle Atlas then south west towards Beni Mellal for a lunch break (lunch on your own) before heading west to Marrakech for dinner and overnight. [B/D]

Day 6: Marrakech

Full day guided city tour. Marrakech powder-pink city enveloped within its ochre-dusted ramparts, the medina is Marrakesh's show-stopping sight of crowded souqs. The main artery into this mazy muddle is the vast square of Djemaa El Fna, where it's carnival night every night. Stroll between snail vendors, soothsayers, acrobats and conjurers, musicians and slapstick acting troupes to discover the old city's frenetic pulse. Places to visit: Bahia Palace and the Dar Si Said are a riot of tile work and intricate floral painted-wood ceilings, the Saadian Tombs are enriched by an opulent bounty of

marble, the Ben Youssef Medersa and the Koutoubia minaret, the old Jewish district of the mellahto visit the Lazama Synagogue and the Miaâra Jewish cemetery to gain a greater understanding of Marrakesh's cosmopolitan past. Dinner at a local restaurant and overnight in Marrakech. [B/D]

Day 7: Marrakech, Skoura, Dades

As you leave Marrakech, the distant haze begins to resolve itself into a jagged mountain range - the High Atlas Mountains, jutting abruptly from the plain. Our route follows the same one caravans used centuries ago, to bring into Marrakech gold and precious wood from the other side of the ocean of sand, the Sahara. Beautiful scenery and small villages built in tiers succeed among oak trees, walnut groves and snow patches before arriving at the Tizi n Tichka pass, at 2260 meters high. Once over the pass a totally different picture is unveiled: the lunar landscape of the Anti-Atlas. Later, skirt past Ouarzazate and stop for a lunch (own expense). Past Ouarzazate, our trip tour reaches yet another lush area, nestled between the deserted crest and the desolate plateaus: Skoura palm grove. Then, our trip reaches Kelaa des Mgouna, famous for the nearby Valley of Roses and 'Rose Festival', where at the end of a 3 days celebration usually held in May, a local girl is crowned 'Rose Queen'. The most looked after product is eau-de-rose and two factories in the area distil and export the product. The process uses approximately three thousand kilograms of rose petals to extract a liter of rose oil. Further on, Boulmane Dades follows, the starting point to explore the spectacular Dades Gorge, a lush carpet set against the massive rocks and quite popular among those interested to trek. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. [B/D]

Day 8: Dades, Tinghir, Merzouga

Back on the road, our first stop is Tinerhir (Tinghir), with its extensive palm grove, the ksours built into the rocky hills above it and its mysterious decaying Jewish quarter. Tinerir has been for generations a stop for nomadic Berber tribes travelling from the mountains north of it towards the desert during the winter months. A rather inconspicuous hidden gem is the 19th century adobe mosque nestled within the old crumbling ksour, a heaven for photography enthusiasts. Todra Gorges, lie only 15 km from Tinghir, presenting an arresting spectacle with its crystal-clear river emerging from it, its huge walls changing color to magical effect as the day unfolds. Its 300 meters (1000 feet) high walls are home to more than 150 bolted routes and at any time of day you can catch a glimpse of someone rock climbing his way up the gigantic walls. Before reaching Merzouga where the tarmac ends, we pass Erfoud and Rissani. In Erfoud we may stop for a visit at Musee des Oasis if time allows. Rissani used to serve as last stop on the great caravan routes south and gold and slave auctions were taking place here as late as 1800's. Before it, the caravan trade and the most important city in Morocco was Sijilmassa, the ruins of which lie opposite Rissani. From its gates, Ibn Battuta and Leo Africanus left Morocco to embark on their illustrious journeys across the Sahara into African countries. Soon after we reach Merzouga and in the distance you glimpse the first leviathans of sand forming the Sahara: the dunes of Erg Chebbi. Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

Note: you can stay in a desert camp with round trip 4x4 transfers from Erfoud. **Note:** you can stay in a desert camp with round trip 4x4 transfers from Erfoud.

Day 9: Merzouga, Alnif, Tazarine, Zagora

Enjoy an optional sunrise camel ride along the golden sand dunes in Merzouga. Return to your Riad for breakfast before transferring to Zagora via the Amazigh villages of Alnif and Tazarine. The road to Tazarine sees almost no traffic, providing a scenic link between Tafilalet and Draa Valley. Aside from the landscape, fossils and prehistoric rock carvings are this region's main attraction. The scenery grows wilder as you approach Tazarine, set in a grassy oasis surrounded by bare mountains. Continue to Zagora. Famous for its largest palm valley in Morocco. Dinner and overnight in your hotel [B/D]

Day 10: Zagora, Agdez, Ouarzazate

After breakfast, enjoy the tour of Zagora including some of the oldest villages in Morocco. Stop by Tamegroute to visit the village's famous library, which houses ancient Koranic scripts dating back to the 12th century. Visit the pottery section of Tamgroute then transfer to Ouarzazate along the Draa

valley. Optional lunch-stop at Agdez then continue the trip to Ouarzazate for dinner and overnight. [B/D]

Day 11: Ouarzazate, Ait Ben Haddou, Marrakech

Begin the day by exploring Ouarzazate, a city originally built as a French garrison in the 1920s. Today, the city is a regional trade center, known for its pottery and carpets. See the Taourirt Kasbah, which now consists of simple clay houses and crenellated towers that are beautifully decorated with geometric motifs. On the way, optional visit of the Film studios. Continue to elaborate Ait Benhaddou, dubbed a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home of the region's most exotic kasbahs, where structures all but defy the laws of gravity as they perch upon the steep slope. Some of these buildings have been featured in films, including Lawrence of Arabia and Gladiator. You journey over the High Atlas Mountains, observing everyday life in remote rural towns, to the fascinating city of Marrakech. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. [B/D]



Day 12: Marrakech

After breakfast, we will assist you to Casablanca airport for your return flight. [B]

[B] = Breakfast | [D] = Dinner | [B/D] = Lunch and Dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Round trip airport transfers
- 7 nights at hotel categories of your choice
 - Casablanca 1 night
 - Fes 3 nights
 - Marrakech 3 nights
 - Dades 1 night
 - Merzouga 1 night
 - Zagara 1 night
 - Ouarzazate 1 nights
- Meals:
 - Daily breakfast
 - Daily dinner (including farewell dinner)
- Visits of:
 - Casablanca
 - Fes
 - Volubilis
 - Moulay Idris
 - Marrakech
 - Route of 1001 Kasbahs
 - Todra Gorge
 - Erfoud

- Rissani
- Amazigh villages
- Tamegroute Library
- Zagara
- Draa Valley
- Ouarzazate
- Taourirt and Tifoultout Kasbahs
- Fortress of Ait Ben Haddou
- Modern A/C vehicle
- English-speaking driver/guide
- Guided city tour of Marrakech
- Entrance fees for sites visited
- All taxes

Tour does not include:

- International airline tickets
- Taxes or surcharges related to airline tickets
- Travel insurance
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Other meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Extras and gratuities
- Early check-in, late check-out

Hotels in your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
First Class		
Casablanca	Odyssee Center	4.5
Fes	Riad Salam	4.5
Marrakech	Riad Slitine	4.5
Dades	Xaluca	4.5
Merzouga	Riad Madu	5
Zagora	Riad Lamane	4
Ouarzazate	Dar Chamaa	4.5
Deluxe		
Casablanca	Palace d'Anfa	3
Fes	Marriott	4
Marrakech	Adam Park	3.5
Dades	Xaluca	4.5
Merzouga	Merzuga Luxe Camp	5
Zagora	Riad Lamane	4
Ouarzazate	Temple des Arts	4.5
Super Deluxe		
Casablanca	Sofitel Tour Blanche	4.5
Fes	Sahrai	4.5
Marrakech	Villa des Orangers	5
Dades	Xaluca	4.5
Merzouga	Merzuga Luxe Camp	5
Zagora	Riad Lamane	4
Ouarzazate	Berber Palace	4

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Options:

Description	Price
Central Morocco	
Inside tour of Hassan II Mosque	\$23
Majorelle Garden & Museums entrances fees	\$29
Day trip to Essaouira	\$121
Cooking Class with Chef Azzeddine	\$87
Cooking Class at La Maison Arabe	\$87
Atlas Mountains & valleys	
Excursions including lunch with a Berber family	\$149
Traditional Hammam & Massage (1 h 30)	\$115
Camp supplement in Merzouga with camel ride and 4/4	\$183
Camel ride	\$49

Excursion rates are based on 2 persons minimum

Prices are per person and may change anytime

Tour Prices:

No. of Pax	First Class				Deluxe				Superior Deluxe			
	Low		High		Low		High		Low		High	
	Double	Single	Double	Single	Double	Single	Double	Single	Double	Single	Double	Single
2	\$ 3,195	\$ 4,099	\$ 3,279	\$ 4,099	\$ 3,359	\$ 4,375	\$ 3,459	\$ 4,099	\$ 5,155	\$ 7,445	\$ 5,245	\$ 4,099
3	\$ 2,659	\$ 3,565	\$ 2,745	\$ 3,565	\$ 2,825	\$ 3,839	\$ 2,919	\$ 3,565	\$ 4,639	\$ 6,929	\$ 4,729	\$ 3,565
4	\$ 2,385	\$ 3,289	\$ 2,479	\$ 3,289	\$ 2,555	\$ 3,569	\$ 2,649	\$ 3,289	\$ 4,385	\$ 6,679	\$ 4,479	\$ 3,289
5	\$ 2,569	\$ 3,479	\$ 2,665	\$ 3,479	\$ 2,739	\$ 3,759	\$ 2,839	\$ 3,479	\$ 4,559	\$ 6,849	\$ 4,649	\$ 3,479
6	\$ 2,505	\$ 3,409	\$ 2,595	\$ 3,409	\$ 2,675	\$ 3,689	\$ 2,769	\$ 3,409	\$ 4,489	\$ 6,785	\$ 4,595	\$ 3,409
7	\$ 2,369	\$ 3,279	\$ 2,465	\$ 3,279	\$ 2,539	\$ 3,559	\$ 2,639	\$ 3,279	\$ 4,369	\$ 6,665	\$ 4,465	\$ 3,279
8	\$ 2,279	\$ 3,185	\$ 2,365	\$ 3,185	\$ 2,445	\$ 3,465	\$ 2,545	\$ 3,185	\$ 4,279	\$ 6,569	\$ 4,369	\$ 3,185
9	\$ 2,199	\$ 3,105	\$ 2,285	\$ 3,105	\$ 2,365	\$ 3,385	\$ 2,465	\$ 3,105	\$ 4,199	\$ 6,489	\$ 4,299	\$ 3,105
10	\$ 2,139	\$ 3,045	\$ 2,225	\$ 3,045	\$ 2,305	\$ 3,319	\$ 2,405	\$ 3,045	\$ 4,145	\$ 6,439	\$ 4,239	\$ 3,045

Prices are per person and may change without notice

Minimum 2 people

Tour Code: MA05RAK20CV