

Road to Casablanca

9 Days | Starts/Ends: Casablanca



Depart from Casablanca, explore the capital Rabat, fascinating Fes, impressive Ait Benhaddou and spend the night in the beautiful Sahara and explore the marvels of Marrakech - all in 9 intoxicating days!

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Marrakech – Wander around the UNESCO-listed medina, mosque, palaces and souks
- Casablanca - Explore Morocco's largest city and visit the famous Hassan II mosque
- Rabat - Enjoy a guided tour of the capital of Morocco
- Meknes - Discover this great Imperial city
- Volubilis – Marvel at UNESCO-listed Roman ruins
- Fes – Discover the oldest medieval city in the world and visit its dye pits and tanneries
- Erg Chebbi sand dunes - Spend a night camping under the stars in the Sahara
- Todra Gorge - Admire the towering red canyon
- Ait Benhaddou -Encounter the UNESCO Listed ancient kasbah

What's Included

- 8 Breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners including a traditional Berber meal in our Sahara camp
- 7 nights 3 - 4 star hotels and riad, and 1 night camping - Berber desert camp in the Sahara Desert (Hotel upgrade available)
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 9
- Guided sightseeing of Casablanca, Rabat, Volubilis, Fes, Merzouga, Todra Gorge, Ait Benhaddou and Marrakech
- Specialist local guides at some sites
- Camel trek into the Sahara Desert
- Escorted by a licensed English speaking Moroccan tour guide
- All transportation and transfers in private air-conditioned tourism vehicles
- All road taxes and tolls

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$40-50pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$70-90pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Gratuity for your tour guide & driver. Budget approx USD\$2 - 3 per person per day. Tipping your tour guide and driver is an entirely personal gesture

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Casablanca



Saturday. Upon arrival at Casablanca airport you'll be met and transferred to our hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. **Overnight - Casablanca**

Day 2 : Marrakech City Tour



Casablanca - Marrakech. This morning after breakfast we head to Marrakech to meet the rest of the group before embarking on a guided city tour of Marrakech. Inside the rose coloured medina walls is a tangle of winding streets and alleys that open onto verdant gardens and bustling souks. At the

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heart of the medina is Djemaa El Fna, the city's exuberant market place and towering over it, is the famous Koutoubia Mosque, the tallest building in the city. **Overnight - Marrakech (B, D)**

Day 3 : Ait Benhaddou - UNESCO World Heritage Listed



Marrakech - Ait Benhaddou - Ouarzazate. Departing the city this morning we travel across the plains of haouz and reach the great High Atlas mountains. Climbing over the pass of Tizi n Tichka, we stop for lunch and then continue onwards with great views over the Mountains and valleys to Ait Benhaddou. This incredible ancient fortified Kasbah was built for defence purposes high on a hill and is a stunningly well preserved medieval city which has famously featured in many blockbuster movies, including Gladiator and Laurence of Arabia as its beauty is unequal to any other fortified kasbah in south Morocco. Carrying on we continue south to the Hollywood of North Africa – Ouarzazate (pronounced war-zazat). Ouarzazate is famous for being the filming location for many other Hollywood blockbusters and famous TV shows including James Bond – The Living Daylights, The Mummy and more recently Game of Thrones. **Overnight - Ouarzazate (B, L, D)**

Day 4 : Camel trek into the Sahara



Ouarzazate - Todra Gorge - Merzouga (Sahara). This morning we begin our journey into the Sahara with a medley of palm trees, rose fields and magnificent gorges. Travelling from Ouarzazate, there is a possibility of visiting the kasbah Amherdhil in Skoura before seeing the rose fields and reaching scenic Todra Gorge. Surrounded by towering vertical limestone cliffs reaching heights of 1000ft, it is known as Morocco's Grand Canyon. The charm of Todra lies in its changing colours as the sun slowly moves from east to west. After time to wander through Todra we hit the road again for Merzouga – our base before we head into the Sahara. Depending on the time of year, spend the afternoon relaxing and swimming before climbing aboard our camels for an incredible trek into the Sahara Desert to watch a beautiful sunset and spend the night at our remote Berber Camp, nestled amongst the towering dunes of Erg Chebbi. We enjoy local food, music and an amazing night camping in the Sahara.

If you would prefer the comfort of a hotel with en-suite facilities this evening, opt for our Sahara hotel alternative at no additional cost. Please do let us know your preferred option at the time of booking. **Overnight - Berber Camp (B, L, D)**

Day 5 : Fes



Merzouga (Sahara) - Fes. Departing early, we climb back on our camels disembarking for a truly stunning sunrise. After freshening up and breakfast in Merzouga we're back on the road heading for Fes. It's a long drive today however there is a lot to see on the way. We'll pass through cedar forests full of Barbary Macaque monkeys on our way through the Moyen Atlas mountains. Just before Fes we stop at Ifrane – a beautiful town often likened to a Swiss Alpine resort. Along the way we also start to see our first glimpse of Morocco's nomadic Berbers – travelling across the mountains and often staying in make shift tents as they head to their next destination. We arrive into Fes in the early evening. **Overnight - Fes (B, L)**

Day 6 : UNESCO listed Fes el Bali, dye-pits & tanneries



Fes is the oldest and largest medieval city in the world and its medina is a cacophony of aromas, sights and sounds. This morning we enjoy a guided tour of Fes el Bali - the old walled city. This fascinating medina is a veritable rabbit warren of 9400 alleys that often finish with dead ends – so be sure to stay close to the group! We also visit the dye-pits and tanneries before lunch in the medina. The remainder of the day is at leisure – why not take part in an optional Tagine Making Class or a night of Moroccan entertainment

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and food at a restaurant in town (both payable locally). **Overnight - Fes (B)**

Day 7 : Volubilis & Meknes



Fes - Volubilis - Meknes - Rabat. Departing Fes this morning we visit the fascinating UNESCO listed Roman ruins of Volubilis, which date back to AD40. Continuing on we stop at the Imperial City of Meknes, which became known as the Versailles of Morocco due to its impressive buildings and elaborate monuments. After lunch and some free time our final stop of the day is Rabat – Morocco's capital where we overnight. **Overnight - Rabat (B)**

Day 8 : Rabat & Casablanca



Rabat - Casablanca. This morning we take a guided tour of Rabat and visit some of the capital's highlights, including the impressive Chellah - a necropolis and complex of ancient, medieval ruins, the Royal Palace and the Mausoleum of Mohammed V. After lunch we continue to Casablanca where we visit the Hassan II Mosque, which has the tallest minaret and is the third largest mosque in the world - it can hold 25,000 worshippers at any one time. After our visit to the mosque we say goodbye to our fellow passengers continuing on to Marrakech and check in to our hotel in Casablanca.

Overnight - Casablanca (B)

Day 9 : Our amazing tour ends



Sunday. Casablanca - Our amazing tour of Morocco ends today after hotel check out. An included onward departure transfer to airport will be provided.(B)

HOTELS

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

Hotel Diwan

Located close to the city centre, Hotel Diwan is a contemporary hotel just a short walk from the main train station. The modern guest rooms are air conditioned with flat screen TVs and en suite facilities. The onsite restaurant offers a buffet breakfast every morning as well as an array of international cuisine in the evenings for dinner. The hotel also has an on site gym, spa and complimentary wi-fi is available.



Riad dar Chamaa

In the classic kasbah style, Riad dar Chamaa is set within the Ouarzazate palm grove with fantastic views of the surrounding Atlas mountains. All guest rooms are air conditioned with en suite facilities. They are designed in a classic Moroccan riad style with marble floors. The riad boasts a beautiful central courtyard and a refreshing outdoor pool complete with sun loungers for

relaxing. The riad also boasts a tea lounge, restaurant and pool bar.



Desert Camp

Set amongst the towering dunes of Erg Chebbi, the Berber camp is designed with a traditional Moroccan theme. The permanent tents include multiple beds and electricity (after night fall) Camping out in the desert is a wonderful experience, due to the lack of light pollution, the stars come out in abundance and really are a sight to behold.



Riad Al Makan

Situated inside the Fes medina, Riad Al Makan is designed in a beautiful Moroccan style. All of the en suite guest rooms are individually designed with beautiful mosaic patterns and marble floors. the riad also benefits from complimentary wi-fi, an onsite restaurant, 24 hour front desk assistance and a gift shop. There is also an outside terrace perfect for enjoying a cup of Moroccan tea on.



Hotel des Oudaïas

On the edge of the medina in Rabat, Hotel des Oudaïas is a beautiful riad style property. Guest rooms are spacious and beautifully furnished in a typical Moroccan style with wooden furnishings, marble floors and en-suite bathrooms. Rooms are air-conditioned and have flat screen TVs. The property also

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boasts complimentary wi-fi throughout and an on site restaurant.



Hotel Club Val D'Anfa

Located between the sea and Anfa mount, Hotel Club Val d'Anfa is in one of the most prestigious residential districts of Casablanca. Combining warm colours, ceramic tiles and fine wood, the interior decor was inspired by Amazigh art. The attractive guest rooms contain all the modern amenities needed for your stay and face either the sea, hotel gardens or the Casablanca Corniche. Boasting three restaurants, two bars, a fitness centre, spa and pool - there's certainly plenty to keep guests entertained.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who would like their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement. Departure dates noted with a 'S' allow Solo travellers the

comfort of a single room on this tour at no additional cost.

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
18 May	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
01 Jun	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
15 Jun	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
29 Jun	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
13 Jul	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
27 Jul	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
03 Aug	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
10 Aug	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
17 Aug	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
24 Aug	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
07 Sep	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
14 Sep	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
21 Sep	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
05 Oct	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
19 Oct	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
26 Oct	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
09 Nov	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
23 Nov	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
30 Nov	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
10 Dec	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
28 Dec	USD 1,545	USD 1,925

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
04 Jan	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
18 Jan	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
08 Feb	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
22 Feb	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
07 Mar	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
21 Mar	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
04 Apr	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
11 Apr	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
25 Apr	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
02 May	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
16 May	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
23 May	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
06 Jun	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
20 Jun	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
04 Jul	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
18 Jul	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
25 Jul	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
01 Aug	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
08 Aug	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
15 Aug	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
22 Aug	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
05 Sep	USD 1,545	USD 1,925

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
12 Sep	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
19 Sep	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
26 Sep	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
03 Oct	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
10 Oct	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
17 Oct	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
24 Oct	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
31 Oct	USD 1,545	USD 1,925
07 Nov	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
14 Nov	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
28 Nov	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
10 Dec	USD 1,445	USD 1,825
19 Dec	USD 1,545	USD 1,925

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
02 Jan	USD 1,445	USD 1,825

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