

Camels, Souks & Kasbahs

15 Days | Starts/Ends: Marrakech



With an expert local guide by your side, uncover the Imperial Cities, Roman ruins, dramatic landscapes and coastal delights of Morocco on a 15 day group tour. With plenty of guided sightseeing by day, comfortable accommodation by night, some included meals and key sights such as the charming blue city of Chefchaouen, rural Midelt and delightful Essaouira on the Atlantic – this tour has got Morocco covered.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Marrakech – Stroll through UNESCO-listed Medina and discover mosques, palaces and souks (explored independently)
- Midelt - Immerse yourself in the Berber way of life with a visit to a Berber family home
- Casablanca - Enjoy a guided tour of the city and visit the incredible Hassan II mosque
- Rabat - Explore Morocco's lively capital
- Meknes - Wander through this Imperial City

- Chefchaouen – Uncover the beautiful blue city nestled in the Rif mountains
- Volubilis – Marvel at the UNESCO-listed Roman ruins
- Fes – Take a leisurely tour through the world's oldest medieval city
- The Sahara Desert - Sleep beneath the stars in the Sahara
- The Atlas Mountains - Admire the natural beauty of the mountains
- Todra Gorge – Admire Morocco's towering Grand Canyon
- Ouarzazate - Roam the city, home to Morocco's film industry
- Ait Benhaddou - Discover the UNESCO-listed fortified kasbah city
- Essaouira - Enjoy some free time in this ancient medina with its wind-swept beaches and charming cafes

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 6 dinners inclusive of a Berber camp dinner (2021 inclusions: 14 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 6 dinners inclusive of a Berber camp dinner)
- 13 nights 3 star hotels and 1 night camping at a Berber camp in the Sahara
- Guided sightseeing - Chefchaouen, Volubilis, Fes, Rabat and Ait Benhaddou
- Camel trek into the mesmerising Sahara Desert
- Entrance fees for all included sites (excl Hassan II Mosque - budget 120DH)

- Escorted by an English speaking tour leader
- Transportation and transfers in private 4x4 or mini van/touring vehicle, public bus Essaouira to Marrakech day 13
- Specialist local guides at some sites
- Arrival transfer from Marrakech Airport on day 1
- All road taxes and tolls

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$65pp, paid in USD or local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour leader. We recommend you allow USD\$2-3 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Marrakech

Saturday. Welcome to Morocco! You'll be met at Marrakech Airport and transferred to your hotel. Be sure to arrive in time for our welcome meeting and dinner at 18:00. **Overnight - Marrakech (D)**

Day 2 : Casablanca

Marrakech - Casablanca. Today we travel up to Casablanca. Made famous by Humphrey Bogart in the film 'Casablanca'. We then have the option of visiting the stunning Hassan II

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mosque, which has the tallest minaret and the third largest mosque in the world, it can hold 25,000 worshippers at any one time.

Overnight - Casablanca (B, D)

Day 3 : Rabat & Meknes



Casablanca - Rabat - Meknes. This morning we drive to Rabat, Morocco's capital city to visit Oudaia Kasbah, Hassan tower, and the Royal Palace. After lunch we will move on to the third of our Imperial cities Meknes to enjoy some free time. **Overnight - Meknes** (B)

Day 4 : Chefchaouen

Meknes - Chefchaouen. After breakfast, we'll embark on a tour of the Roman ruins at Volubilis, the largest ancient site of Morocco. UNESCO-listed, the site dates back to AD40 and once ruled the entire Roman province of Mauritania. We'll then head on to Chefchaouen for a guided tour this afternoon. High up in the Rif mountains, Chefchaouen boasts a beautiful blue door and white-walled medina that was originally a Berber post. The main square is the heart of Chefchaouen, with the Kasbah (built back in the 18th century), central mosque and cafes with authentic menus. The busy market is a mix of traditional Moroccan and tourist fare.

Overnight - Chefchaouen (B)

Days 5-6 : Fes



Chefchaouen - Fes. Enjoy some free time in Chefchaouen this morning - relax at the hotel

or spend your time exploring this beautiful city. We travel on to Fes in the afternoon. Fes is the oldest and largest medieval city in the world, and its medina is a heady mix of aromas, sounds and sights. To navigate, follow one of the five, themed tourist circuits. There are plenty of mosques and palaces to visit, but be aware that only Muslims can enter Mosques in Morocco.

On day 6 we embark on a fully guided tour of the city of Fes. Explore the tanneries, souks, potteries, and the Medina, and learn the fascinating history of the city. We'll later return to the hotel to get ready for an optional night of Moroccan entertainment and food at a restaurant in town.

Overnight - Fes (B:2)

Day 7 : Midelt



Fes - Midelt. This morning we journey over the Moyen Atlas to stop at Midelt. This is a beautiful alpine area. Surrounded by huge pine trees and a tranquil mountain setting, this is a great spot to cool down and relax after the hustle and bustle of Fes. We will enjoy a small hike in the afternoon and a visit to a local Berber family home where we catch a glimpse of their way of life before returning to our hotel for the evening in this mountain location. **Overnight - Midelt** (B, L, D)

Day 8 : Sahara Berber Camp



Midelt - Erg Chebbi. Today we embark on a scenic drive followed by a tasty optional Moroccan lunch and an afternoon relaxing and swimming. Then we head out towards the Erg Chebbi dunes located near the remote frontier town of Merzouga. The dunes are renowned for their incredible height and size. In parts the vast sand pile reaches skyward to heights of 150 metres! Transferring to our camels we trek into the Sahara for a night at our Berber Camp. Tonight enjoy a local meal, music and an amazing night out under the Saharan stars. **Overnight - Merzouga** (B, D)

Day 9 : Todra Gorge



Erg Chebbi - Todra Gorge. Leaving the desert, we move on to Todra Gorge. This 1000ft gorge is hemmed in on all sides by vertical limestone cliffs and is also called Morocco's Grand Canyon. We will have an early lunch at the village co-operative where you can see and buy authentic, Berber, handmade rugs, kilims and carpets. The afternoon can be spent exploring the Gorge, walking through the palmerie or if you're feeling adventurous, there is the option to rock climb.

Overnight - Todra Gorge (B, L, D)

Day 10 : Ait Benhaddou



Todra Gorge - Ait Benhaddou. Leaving the impressive Todra Gorge we continue our journey to Ait Benhaddou, stopping en route in Ouarzazate for lunch and the opportunity to tour its famous film studio (book/pay locally).

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After lunch we tour the famous Ait Benhaddou Kasbah, where Lawrence of Arabia was once filmed. **Overnight - Ait Benhaddou** (B, D)

Days 11-12 : Essaouira



Ait Benhaddou - Essaouira. Today's drive offers panoramic views as we traverse the high Atlas Mountains on our way to Essaouira. A colourful old city and fishing village is located within 15th century Portuguese fortifications. Just outside the town great beaches and an Atlantic surf beckon.

Relax on the beach or alternatively explore the UNESCO-listed medina with its various souks and woodcarving workshops. Any city gate leads to the Medina, so you're unlikely to get lost. The beach is in front of the Medina and there are plenty of cafés with terraces, both ideal for relaxing for a few hours. Blue doors and window frames abound as do the artists shops – buy a carpet or Thuya wood carving or sit on the beach sipping a mint tea as the sun sets, an antidote to the bustle of the Imperial Cities. During our time here there's the option to take part in horse trekking or quad biking or a cooking class. **Overnight - Essaouira** (B:2)

Days 13-14 : Djemaa el Fna



Essaouira - Marrakech - breakfast. We take a supratours public bus from Essaouira back to Marrakech this morning, to explore the last of Morocco's four Imperial cities we visit on

this tour. Marrakech set against the snow-capped Atlas Mountains. Its great pride and landmark is the Koutoubia Tower, sister to the Tower of Hassan in Rabat and the Giralda Tower in Seville. It is said that after the third of these was completed, the sultan had the eyes of his architect put out, lest he should build another more beautiful tower elsewhere. No visit to the city is complete without a visit to the city's UNESCO-listed medina and Djemaa-el-Fna, an extraordinary gathering and market place. An optional guided tour of Marrakech is offered with a local payment of 100 Dirhams, alternatively you can explore the city yourself or relax by the pool. **Overnight - Marrakech** (B:2)

Day 15 : Marrakech



Marrakech. Our tour concludes after breakfast and hotel check out this morning, should you wish to extend your stay in Morocco please do let us know! **Overnight - Marrakech** (B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

El Andalous Hotel & Spa

Just 10 minutes from the airport, the El Andalous Hotel and Spa offers a welcome respite from the hubub of the city. Evoking the golden age of Arab-Andalusian culture; exotic and romantically rich. Guest rooms are well furnished with excellent en suite facilities as well as private balconies. The hotel pool is great place to relax by and enjoy a tasty beverage or two. The medina is just a 20

minute walk from here or a cab can get you there in a few minutes!



Moroccan House Hotel

In the centre of Casablanca, Moroccan house is a charming hotel. Designed similar to a traditional Riad, this quirky residence offers delicious Moroccan food as well as getting the chance to prepare it yourself. Guest rooms include comfortable beds, complete with frilly lace canopies and all the modern conveniences you could ask for. Located a few steps away from the port and a short drive to the Hassan II mosque.



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.



Hotel Akouas

The Akouas is a comfortable and modern hotel, with traditional Moroccan architecture and comfortable rooms.

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Hotel Madrid

Hotel Madrid offers a fantastic location in the centre of Chefchaouen, just 300 metres from the blue streets of the old town and a short stroll from the bustling Place Outa el Hammam and Kasbah. Its standout feature is its traditional décor, with the hotel's Moroccan lounges and guestrooms all painted in bright colours and patterns, giving the property a very authentic feel. Some of the rooms also feature four-poster beds and the patio is a great spot to unwind after a day of sightseeing.



Hotel Arena

Boasting a garden, outdoor pool and mountain views, Hotel Arena offers a great location for visiting the Royal Palace and the bustling medina of Fes. Each of the rooms is fitted with a balcony allowing for city or pool views, alongside modern amenities such as air conditioning and WiFi. Guests can enjoy a continental breakfast in the onsite restaurant and take advantage of the hotel's spa facilities. Alongside a sauna and massage treatments, guests can unwind with a traditional hammam steam bath complete with a facial scrub and body masks.



Kasbah Asmaa

The Kasbah Asmaa Midelt is a traditional style hotel with spacious and comfortable

rooms. The hotel is surrounded by gardens and mountains.

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.



Kasbah Amazir

Nestled in a small oasis surrounded by palm trees, the traditional-style Kasbah Amazir is the perfect haven for those looking to relax. Guestrooms feature Berber carpets and bamboo furniture, with some also offering a private terrace. Enjoy a dip in the swimming pool or take a stroll in the gardens. For those looking to fill their holiday with a spot of adrenaline, hikes and climbs can be arranged nearby. After a long day you can enjoy a drink and traditional Moroccan dishes in the on-site restaurant.



La Rose Du Sable

La Rose Du Sable is a Kasbah-style property located within minutes of the fortified town of Air Benhaddou. Each traditionally decorated guestroom is ensuite and boasts spectacular views of the surrounding landscape. Guests can relax by the pool or on the Berber lounge terrace, while enjoying delicious local specialties such as tagine and couscous.



Hotel Miramar

Enjoying an enviable location just a 15-minute walk from the beach and some of the city's key sights, Hotel Miramar combines 4-star comfort with local convenience. Each of the 45 guest rooms' benefit from a separate sitting area, room service and satellite television, there's also free WiFi throughout the property. After a day of sightseeing guests can unwind in the on-site spa, which offers a variety of treatments, or those that prefer to relax during the day can opt to head to the hotel's private sand beach.



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 when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same gender, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
16 May	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
30 May	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
13 Jun	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
27 Jun	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645

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Date	Twin Share	Single
11 Jul	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
25 Jul	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
08 Aug	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
22 Aug	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
05 Sep	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
19 Sep	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
03 Oct	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
17 Oct	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
31 Oct	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
14 Nov	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
28 Nov	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
06 Dec	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
22 Dec	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
16 Jan	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
30 Jan	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
13 Feb	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
27 Feb	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
13 Mar	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
27 Mar	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
10 Apr	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
24 Apr	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
08 May	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
22 May	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
05 Jun	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
19 Jun	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
03 Jul	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
17 Jul	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
31 Jul	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
14 Aug	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
28 Aug	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
11 Sep	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
25 Sep	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
09 Oct	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
23 Oct	CAD 2,295	CAD 2,795
06 Nov	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
20 Nov	CAD 2,145	CAD 2,645
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