

Magical Morocco

13 Days | Casablanca to Marrakech



Discover Morocco's highlights and hidden gems on this 13 day tour. Wander through the labyrinth like medinas and souks of Marrakech & Fes, discover the imperial city of Rabat and the charming blue city Chefchaouen, soak up the dramatic landscapes of the Rif & Atlas Mountains and sleep under the stars in the Sahara.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Marrakech - see the UNESCO-listed Djemaa el Fna, medina and market place
- Casablanca - independently explore the city and visit the famous Hassan II mosque
- Rabat - take a stroll through the lively capital city
- Chefchaouen - wander around the beautiful blue city nestled in the Rif Mountains
- Talasemtane National Park - soak up the relaxing scenery of the waterfalls and God's Bridge
- Fes - get lost in the world's oldest city's maze-like medina
- Ifrane - independently visit the observation deck carved into the

mountains for incredible views of the ravines and valleys

- Sahara Desert - spend a night camping under the stars in the Sahara
- Todra Gorge - admire the towering red canyon
- Valley of Roses - take in the intoxicating aroma and vibrant colours of the valleys and visit a local womens cooperative
- Ouarzazate - follow the footsteps of famous stars at the world's largest film studio
- Telouet - marvel at the intricate zellige tiled interior and panoramic views of the mountains at Kasbah Telouet
- Ait Benhaddou - discover the UNESCO listed fortified village

What's Included

- 11 nights 3 - 4 star accommodation and 1 night camping - Berber desert camp in the Sahara Desert (Hotel upgrade available)
- Breakfast daily, 1 picnic lunch & 1 dinner
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 13
- Guided sightseeing in Volubilis, Fes, Ait Benhaddou & Marrakech
- Escorted by a licensed English speaking Moroccan tour guide
- All transportation and transfers in private air-conditioned tourism vehicles
- Camel trek into the Sahara
- Visit to local women's cooperative in Rose Valley

- 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 : Welcome to Morocco!

Sunday. Welcome to Morocco! Upon arrival at Casablanca airport, you'll be met and transferred to our hotel where you have the remainder of the day at leisure. Perhaps visit the old medina or sit back and watch the world go by with a pot of tea at Rick's cafe.

Overnight - Casablanca

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Day 2 : Casablanca & Rabat



Casablanca - Rabat. This morning after breakfast, we visit the incredible Hassan II Mosque, rising 210 meters into the air, the third largest mosque in the world is covered in ornate traditional tile work.

After exploring we make our way to Rabat, Morocco's charming capital is ours to explore this afternoon. Take a stroll along the long stretch of beach that starts behind the medina, or just up the hill from the medina is the well-preserved Kasbah of the Udayas, dating back to the 12th century.

Please note: For those who have opted to start in Marrakech you will be transferred to Casablanca on the morning of day 2 to meet the rest of the group. **Overnight - Rabat (B)**

Day 3 : Volubilis & The Blue City

Rabat - Chefchaouen. Departing Rabat this morning we visit the Roman ruins of Volubilis. Dating back to 40AD we take time to explore the triple arched Tingis gate, the columns of the Capitoline temple, the Basilica, the courthouse and much more. We'll then continue to Chefchaouen, nestled in the heart of the Rif Mountains, the city boasts incredible blue-washed buildings and majestic views of the surrounding landscape. The rest of the afternoon is ours to independently wander round the Plaza Uta el-Hammam in the heart of the Medina, or perhaps try some of the local street food and watch the sun set. **Overnight - Chefchaouen (B)**

Day 4 : Rif Mountains & Talassemtane National Park

After some free time to relax or continue exploring the city this morning, we make

our way to Talassemtane National Park. Located on the eastern side of the Rif Mountains, Talassemtane boasts a wide range of landscapes, as well as housing a number of plant species and mammals including the Barbary macaques and the otter. We make our way to the Akchour Falls and God's Bridge where we relax with a picnic lunch while soaking up the breath-taking views. Return to Chefchaouen for an evening at leisure.

Overnight - Chefchaouen (B, L)

Day 5 : Chefchaouen



Today is yours to enjoy some free time exploring Morocco's Blue City. The medina is the heart of the city and never disappoints, with souks selling everything from leather bags to spices - be prepared to haggle!

For anyone looking to explore the Rif mountains, there are several guided excursions that can be arranged, perhaps plan a hike to the abandoned Spanish mosque which offers great views of the landscape.

Overnight - Chefchaouen (B)

Day 6 : Fes el Bali medina



Chefchaouen - Fes. Bordered on the foothills of the Atlas Mountains lies the imperial city of Fes, the oldest and largest medieval city in the world. On arrival we enjoy a guided tour

of Fes el Bali - the old walled city, absorbing the chaos of the souks and getting lost in the medina's labyrinth layout. The remainder of the day is at leisure - why not take part in an optional Tagine Making Class or a night of Moroccan entertainment and food at a restaurant in town (both payable locally).

Overnight - Fes (B)

Day 7 : Atlas Mountains & Ifrane

Fes - Ifrane. After breakfast, we have the morning at leisure to relax at the hotel or further explore Fes. We then make our way through the cedar forests full of Barbary Macaque monkeys on our way through the Atlas Mountains to the French built "swiss" village of Ifrane, our home for the night. We have free time here to enjoy the tranquility of the lakes and waterfalls that flow into the valleys that surround the world's biggest cedar forest in the Mediterranean. **Overnight - Ifrane (B)**

Day 8 : Camel trek in the Sahara

Ifrane - Merzouga (Sahara). Departing early, we leave the cool air of the mountains and make our way to the Sahara Desert. It's a long drive, however there's a lot to see on the way. We'll travel through the Middle Atlas Mountains to the plateau that lies between the Sahara and Tell Atlas range. We'll soak up the spectacular and dramatic scenery of the Gorges du Ziz as we make our way onwards through the High Atlas, stopping to have tea with a berber family en route. We'll continue to 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

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at the time of booking. **Overnight - Merzouga** (B, D)

Day 9 : Sunrise camel trek & Valley of Roses

Merzouga (Sahara) - Todra Gorge - Dades Gorge. 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 Todra Gorge. Known as Morocco's Grand Canyon, the charm of Todra lies in its changing colours as the sun slowly moves from east to west over the towering vertical limestone cliffs that reach heights of 1000ft.

We continue to the perfumed Valley of Roses, famous for the miles and miles of rose hedgerows that colour the landscape pink. As we travel through the valley, we stop at the women's cooperative where we learn how the rose products are made. Continue to Tinghir, home to the largest silver mine in Africa, and our final stop of the day, where we have the evening at leisure to relax and unwind in our former kasbah hotel. **Overnight - Dades Gorge** (B)

Day 10 : UNESCO World Heritage Listed Ouarzazate

Dades Gorge - Skoura - Ouarzazate. Leaving the rose fields behind, our morning begins with a visit to the 300 year old Kasbah Amherdhil in Skoura where we gain a fascinating insight into the ancient traditions of kasbah life. We then continue along the Road of 1000 Kasbahs to Ouarzazate.

Famous for being a prime filming location for many Hollywood TV shows and Blockbusters, we have the opportunity to explore the World's largest film studio. Be sure to explore the iconic Colosseum used in 'Gladiator' and the prop jet used in 'Jewel of the Nile'. Evening at leisure. **Overnight - Ouarzazate** (B)

Day 11 : Ait Benhaddou & Marrakech

Ouarzazate - Ait Benhaddou - Marrakech. Travelling over the High Atlas Mountains we stop along the old caravan route where to explore 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 to Kasbah Telouet. Built in 1860 this kasbah was once home to the very wealthy Thami El Glaoui until he conspired with French Colonialists to delay Morocco's fight for independence.

Descending into the city of Marrakech, Morocco's pink city. We have the rest of the day at leisure to explore the Medina and the delights of Djemaa el Fna, the exuberant market place, which is a hive of activity, sights and smells at both day and night. **Overnight - Marrakech** (B)

Day 12 : Djemaa El Fna

After breakfast, we set out to explore this fascinating city on a guided tour. Inside the rose coloured medina walls is a tangle of winding streets and alleys that open onto verdant gardens and bustling souks. At the 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. We have the afternoon at leisure to purchase any last minute souvenirs or get lost in the medina and see where it takes you. **Overnight - Marrakech** (B)

Day 13 : Goodbye Morocco!

Our amazing tour of Morocco ends today after hotel check out. An included onward departure transfer to airport will be provided. Passengers who have opted to end their tour in Casablanca will depart early this morning.(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.

Kenzi Basma Hotel

Offering an excellent location right in the heart of the city, this recently-renovated hotel is nestled between Casablanca's cosmopolitan business district and the amazing architecture of the Art Deco neighborhood. You'll find the guestrooms to be spacious and fully-equipped with modern amenities including high-speed WiFi. The hotel's on-site restaurant, Bloom, offers tasty Moroccan and international cuisine, whereas in the Torero bar you can enjoy a buzzing atmosphere with live music and delicious Spanish tapas.



Riad Dar Alia

Boasting a fantastic location, just a short walk from the entrance to the Kasbah of the Udayas, Riad Dar Alia is wonderful choice for a stay in the capital. It offers a number of uniquely decorated rooms in a traditional Moroccan style. Free WiFi is provided throughout the property and a restaurant serves a variety of Moroccan specialities.



Riad Sidi Fateh

The beautiful Riad Sidi Fateh offers guests a very comfortable stay in the heart of the Moroccan capital. Located in the heart of the bustling medina, you'll have no shortage of choices for your evening meal. All rooms are equipped with free WiFi and air conditioning.



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Dar Ba Sidi & Spa

Surrounded by nature, with a large swimming pool, Dar Ba Sidi offers a quiet oasis for guests to relax. Bright spacious rooms are decorated in the traditional Riad style with ornate architecture and mosaics. You can also sample some Moroccan cuisine at the Moulay Ismail restaurant.



Riad Al Pacha

Just a stones throw away from the bustling Medina, Riad Al Pacha is a fantastic example of Moroccan architecture and hospitality. Centred around a beautiful mosaic courtyard, all rooms have air conditioning and WiFi. A rooftop terrace offers panoramic views across the city, whilst the restaurant serves up delicious Moroccan fare at dinner time.



L'empreinte D'ifrane

L'empreinte D'ifrane belies it's Moroccan location with it's European chalet style wooden architecture. The spacious rooms are decorated in the same style, with warming wooden interiors, and private bathrooms. Free WiFi is offered throughout the hotel.



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 Tizzaourine

Overlooking Oued Dades, Kasbah Tizzarouine offers rustic Moroccan accommodation. Guest rooms vary from the quirky cave rooms to the more palatial Berber suites. The hotel also includes an outdoor pool and seating on a beautiful terrace giving great panoramic views of the surrounding hills and valley. Staff at the Kasbah are very helpful and the restaurant comes with great recommendations. Those who are in to local music can enjoy and join in with drumming sessions that take place each night.



Ksar Sultan Dades

Hotel La Perle Du Sud

A comfortable hotel emanating authenticity from it's show of modern art to traditional features and furniture. La Perle Du Sud is located in the heart of the city, close to a number of local restaurants and bars. Bright guest rooms offer air-conditioning and free WiFi access throughout. A swimming pool allows guests to relax and bask in the Moroccan sunshine.



Adam Park Hotel & Spa

Guests can expect a very comfortable stay at the Adam Park Hotel & Spa. Each of the elegant rooms feature a patio or balcony with views of the surrounding area. Guests are spoilt for choice when it comes to dining. Several restaurants offer a variety of options including Italian specialities, Moroccan favourites and international cuisine. There are also plenty of ways to unwind after a day exploring Marrakech, with an outdoor pool, fitness centre and a spa offering rejuvenating massage treatments.



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 on your tour, this can be arranged provided there is another single traveller booked on the tour date of your choosing. If a roommate cannot be found the single room supplement will apply.

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PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
11 Aug	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
25 Aug	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
08 Sep	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
22 Sep	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
13 Oct	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
27 Oct	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
17 Nov	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,695
29 Dec	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
12 Jan	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,695
02 Feb	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,695
01 Mar	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,695
15 Mar	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,695
29 Mar	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
12 Apr	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
26 Apr	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
17 May	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
31 May	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
14 Jun	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
28 Jun	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
12 Jul	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
26 Jul	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
09 Aug	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
23 Aug	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
06 Sep	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
20 Sep	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
04 Oct	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
18 Oct	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750
01 Nov	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,695
15 Nov	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,695
06 Dec	GBP 1,305	GBP 1,695
27 Dec	GBP 1,360	GBP 1,750

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