

# Northern Morocco Explorer

## 7 Days | Marrakech/Casablanca to Tangier



Explore the highlights of northern Morocco departing from vibrant Marrakech. Take in the Atlantic coast, the famous Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca and discover ancient Roman ruins in Volubilis. Continue to Fes to immerse yourself in the hustle and bustle of the city's souks and tanneries before travelling to Tangier, the gateway between Europe and Africa.

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Marrakech - independently explore the UNESCO-listed Medina, mosques, palaces & souks
- Chefchaouen - uncover Morocco's 'blue city' nestled in the Rif mountains
- Volubilis - marvel at the UNESCO listed Roman ruins
- Moulay Idriss - pass through Morocco's holiest city
- Fes - discover the intoxicating mix of aromas, sights and sounds in Morocco's oldest medieval city
- Casablanca - enjoy free time to discover the Moorish style architecture and famous Hassan II Mosque

- Tangier - discover the gateway to Africa

#### What's Included

- Arrival transfer from Marrakech airport - on day 1
- 6 nights 2 - 4 star hotels
- 6 breakfasts and 2 dinners
- Entrance fees for all included sites (excl Hassan II Mosque - budget 120DH)
- Guided sightseeing in Meknes, Volubilis and Fes
- Transportation and transfers in private 4x4 or mini van/touring vehicle
- Escorted by an English speaking tour leader
- All road taxes and tolls

#### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$45pp, paid in USD or local currency
- Gratuity for your tour guide. Budget approx USD\$2 - 3 per person per day. Tipping your tour guide is an entirely personal gesture
- International flights and visa

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 : Marrakech

Saturday. Welcome to Morocco! On arrival to Marrakech airport you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to relax at the hotel pool or explore

the city. This evening, meet your guide and fellow travellers for a welcome meeting and dinner at 18:00. **Overnight - Marrakech (D)**

#### Day 2 : Casablanca

Marrakech - Casablanca. This morning we journey to Casablanca, famous for the Humphrey Bogart film of the same name. On arrival we have some free time to wander through the old Medina, or perhaps travel beyond the Medina to the quaint new town and stroll down the palm-lined boulevards witnessing the small markets selling food and handicrafts. For those looking to delve into the city's culture, there is the option of visiting the world-renowned Hassan II mosque, the third largest mosque in the world. **Overnight - Casablanca (B, D)**

#### Day 3 : Fes

Casablanca - Fes. Departing early, we continue our journey to Fes, the largest and oldest medieval city in the world. En route, we stop at the imperial city of Meknes where stop for a visit to the 12th Century Grande Mosque and Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail, the final resting place of sultan Moulay Ismail.

This afternoon, we move on to the Roman settlement of Volubilis, the largest ancient site of Morocco, for a guided tour. This well preserved UNESCO-listed site dates back to AD40 and once ruled the entire Roman province of Mauritania. Onwards to

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picturesque Moulay Idriss - Morocco's holiest city. This white washed town was opened to non-muslims in 2005, and we have some time to wander around before continuing to Fes, our home for the next two nights.

## Overnight - Fes (B)

### Day 4 : Fes

Fes, the oldest and largest of Morocco's imperial cities, is ours to explore today. Home to 400,000 inhabitants, with only bikes and donkeys as a means of transportation, the city is an intoxicating mix of aromas, sights and sounds. We'll learn the fascinating history as we explore the tanneries, dye-pits, souks, potteries and famous Medina - said to be the best preserved Medina in the Arab world. 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)**

### Day 5 : Chefchaouen

Fes - Ouazzane - Chefchaouen. After breakfast we depart Fes and continue our journey off-the-beaten track to the small town of Ouazzane, situated on the edge of the Rif mountains. This spiritual capital and famous pilgrimage site attracts Moroccan Jews who come to pay respects to the tombs of several Moroccan saints.

We'll then head high up in the Rif Mountains to Chefchaouen, a former berber post which boasts a beautiful blue door and white-walled medina. The main square is the heart of Chefchaouen, with the Kasbah (built back in the 18th century), central mosque and cafes with authentic menus. Enjoy some free time to explore busy market which is a mix of traditional Moroccan and tourist fare.

## Overnight - Chefchaouen (B)

### Day 6 : Chefchaouen

Today is ours to explore Chefchaouen at leisure. Spend your time uncovering the city's delights - The Plaza Ura el-Hammam is the perfect spot to sip on mint tea and watch the world go by, or perhaps enjoy a spot of lunch in one of the restaurants of cafes scattered in the Medina. For the more adventurous, leave the city and discover the incredible

landscapes of the Rif Mountains on one of the wonderful day hikes.

## Overnight - Chefchaouen (B)

### Day 7 : Tangier

We enjoy one final breakfast together before leaving the 'Blue City' behind and making our way to our final port of call - Tangier. Located on the Maghred Coast, where the Mediterranean Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean, is the gateway between Africa and Europe. We have time to explore the beautiful port, where we have the opportunity to visit the Dar el Makhzen, a former sultans palace that is now a museum of Moroccan artefacts, the old and new Medina's or just relax and enjoy some people watching. Our tour concludes after lunch at approximately 1pm. (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 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.



### 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.

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## 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.

## PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
17 Aug	GBP 675	GBP 800
14 Sep	GBP 675	GBP 800
12 Oct	GBP 675	GBP 800
09 Nov	GBP 675	GBP 800
21 Dec	GBP 675	GBP 800

## PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
08 Feb	GBP 675	GBP 800
14 Mar	GBP 730	GBP 855
11 Apr	GBP 730	GBP 855
16 May	GBP 675	GBP 800
13 Jun	GBP 675	GBP 800
11 Jul	GBP 730	GBP 855
08 Aug	GBP 730	GBP 855
12 Sep	GBP 730	GBP 855
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