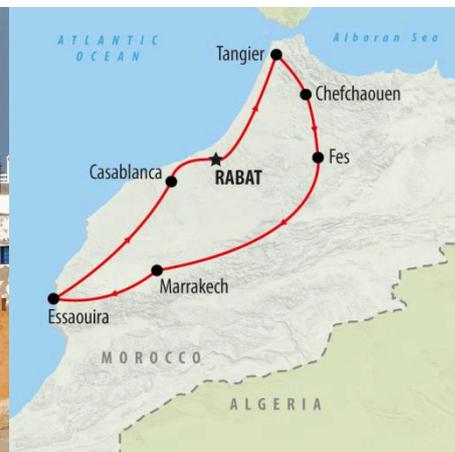


Classical Morocco

14 days | Starts/Ends: Marrakech



PRIVATE TOUR: The ultimate Moroccan adventure! Wander through the souks of Fes and Marrakech, soak up the sun on the beach in Essaouira and explore Casablanca, Chefchaouen and the capital, Rabat. Enjoy 14 colourful days of culture, beaches and bustling bazaars!

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Marrakech - UNESCO-listed Place Djemaa el Fna, souks and Koutoubia Mosque
- Fez - The oldest medieval city in the world
- Casablanca - The largest city in Morocco
- Rabat - Imperial City
- Hercules Caves
- Chefchaouen – 'The blue city' overlooked by the Goat Horns Mountains
- Tangiers and the Mediterranean Coast
- Essaouira and the Atlantic Coast

What's Included

- Breakfast daily
- 13 nights SUPERIOR hotels and riads. STANDARD and DELUXE hotel options are also available upon request.

Accommodation rating – See Trip Notes for details

- Guided sightseeing of Fes and Marrakech
- Services of a licensed English speaking tour guide at all included sites
- Entrance fees to all included sightseeing
- Driver, all transfers and transportation in private modern A/C tourism vehicles
- An airport arrival transfer day 1 and a departure transfer day 14 (Marrakech Airport)
- All road taxes and tolls

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tipping - An entirely personal gesture

COVID SAFE GUIDE

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Magical Marrakech

Arrive Marrakech and transfer to your centrally located hotel or riad where you will be briefed about your holiday. This evening, consider heading to Djemaa el Fna - the cities UNESCO listed bustling medina. Best seen at night, this central square is an absolute feast for the senses, overflowing with stalls, fortune tellers, snake charmers and musicians. It's like stepping into another world! **Overnight - Marrakech**

Day 2 : Medieval souks & ancient medinas

This morning enjoy a guided tour of Marrakech, taking in all of the main attractions including the palace and Koutoubia Mosque. This afternoon, is free for you to wander around the bustling souks or simply relax.

Overnight - Marrakech (B)

Day 3 : New Marrakech

Spend the day at leisure in Marrakech. Perhaps visit the Jardin Majorelle or maybe take a caleche ride out into the new town to see the Gueliz District and the Mohamed VI Avenue with its luxury cafes and theatre.

Overnight - Marrakech (B)

Day 4 : Coastal Essaouira



Marrakech - Essaouira. Leaving this morning, we drive for the 2.5 hours across the plains surrounding Marrakech to the argan orchards and scrub maquis-type vegetation around Essaouira. The colourful fishing town of Essaouira is perfect for some beachside fun

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and relaxation. Spend the afternoon exploring the charming medina or simply lazing on the beach. **Overnight - Essaouira (B)**

Days 5-6 : Essaouira

The coming two days are spent at leisure. Relax by the beach or discover the old medina and the ramparts of the town. We recommend the tasty sea food restaurants around the harbour for a spot of evening dining in beautiful surroundings. **Overnight - Essaouira (B:2)**

Day 7 : Charming Casablanca



Essaouira - Casablanca. This morning you'll be transferred to Casablanca, along the Atlantic coast passing long beaches, small fishing villages, Safi and Al Jadida. Upon arrival in Casablanca there is a chance to see the Hassan II Mosque and explore the city in the evening. **Overnight - Casablanca (B)**

Day 8 : Ancient medina in Rabat

Casablanca - Rabat. The sightseeing continues today as we take the short journey to Rabat, the capital of Morocco and the second largest city after Casablanca. Spend the afternoon exploring this peaceful city and the ancient medina, with its pretty white and stone washed buildings. **Overnight - Rabat (B)**

Day 9 : The Hercules Caves



Rabat - Tangiers. Travelling up the coast this morning, the road goes past some of the newer developments along the coastline, and veers inland through the forests of Eucalyptus. En route to Tangier we visit the famous Hercules Caves which are dug into a cliff. According to legend Hercules rested in these caves after having dug the straights between Europe and Africa with his club! The Hercules Caves were used for shelter by Neolithic man and in the 20th century they became the setting for sumptuous parties by Tangiers jet setting crowd. The caves offer splendid views over the ocean. **Overnight - Tangier (B)**

Day 10 : Photographic Chefchaouen

Tangiers - Chefchaouen. Spend the morning in Tangiers, exploring the souks and beaches. In the afternoon, we head off along the Mediterranean Coast to Chefchaouen, the "blue" city in the Rif Mountains - a haven of tranquillity and peace and a photographers dream setting. Chefchaouen is a beautiful blue door and white walled medina that was originally a Berber post. **Overnight - Chefchaouen (B)**

Day 11 : UNESCO listed Fes



Chefchaouen - Fes. This morning we take the road through the mountains, to UNESCO listed Fes - the world's oldest medieval city. Enjoy a guided tour around the fascinating old city, visiting the ancient medina, tanneries, palaces, gardens and bustling souks. **Overnight - Fes (B)**

Day 12 : Day at leisure in Fes

Spend a day at leisure in Fes exploring the souks and sights of the city. There are plenty of mosques and palaces to visit and looking

down on the old quarter from the surrounding hills is quite an experience. **Overnight - Fes (B)**

Day 13 : Djemaa el Fna by night



Fes - Marrakech. This morning we depart Fes and transfer back to Marrakech, arriving late this afternoon. Time for some last minute souvenir shopping in the bustling souks! **Overnight - Marrakech (B)**

Day 14 : Marrakech

Your holiday concludes after breakfast and included onward departure transfer to the airport.(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.

Dellarosa Hotel Suites & Spa

Just a short walk from the medina, Dellarosa Hotel Suites & Spa tastefully blends modern architecture with Moroccan authenticity. Guest rooms are tastefully decorated with comfortable beds and excellent en suite facilities. The hotel also has a restaurant Organza serving up a delicious array of Moroccan and International dishes as well as a bar for a tasty beverage or two. Those looking for some pampering should head to the onsite spa and wellness centre.

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Hotel Cote Ocean Mogador

Perfectly located on the beach of Essaouira, with wonderful sea views. This hotel is just a 10 minute walk from the Othello Garden and offers a private beach area, onsite restaurant, sun terrace, outdoor swimming pool and a bar. Car rental and bike hire is available for those that would like to get out and explore this picturesque area. The rooms feature air conditioning, Wi-Fi, TV and a private bathroom. Sea view rooms are available, please enquire.



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.



Riad Dar el Kebira

Dar El Kebira is a splendid Riad beautifully designed around two courtyards with fountains. It offers the charm of a guest

house and the comfort of a luxury hotel. The restaurant is decorated with Moroccan divans and a monumental fireplace with ancient Moroccan pottery.



Le Dawliz

The Le Dawliz Hotel offers beautiful and comfortable rooms. Some rooms enjoy a panoramic view over the sea and the Tanger's kasbah. The Le Dawliz Hotel is located in the city centre of Tanger, within walking distance from the beach, the harbour and the golf course.



Dar el Moualim

Dar el Moualim was built in three phases, with an original ground floor, the first floor was built approximately 50 years ago and the second floor was added in the year 2007. The air-conditioned studios and apartments have satellite TV and a seating area. Some feature locally handcrafted furniture and ceramics. The house is located in the "Al-andalus" area, five minutes from Uta Hammam Square and close to one of the entrances to the medina, Bab El Souk.



Riad Al Bartal

Riad al Bartal, which means the house of Fez, is a beautiful, tranquil riad inspired by the architecture of Arabia and Andalusia. The stunning courtyard and the striking, spacious rooms decorated in typical Moroccan style

all provide guests with the ultimate sense of calm. Materials such as marble, mosaic and cedar wood add to the charm of the property. In keeping with its appearance, guests can enjoy fine Moroccan cuisine prepared with seasonal produce on the flower-filled terrace. The riad is just one block from the main entrance of the medina.



Accommodation ratings

On our Private trips, you can often choose your style of accommodation. The price quoted on our website is reflective of the included accommodation, please see the "included" section on the first page of this document for details. Should you opt for an alternative hotel category, this will be confirmed in writing with the respective price on your invoice.

For further details about the indicative hotels, please see the "hotels" tab on our website. Here we rank hotel's in their respective country (REGIONAL CATEGORY) - but we also tell you how it ranks by Western standards (OUR CATEGORY).

STANDARD - Equates to a Western 3-star standard, always featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant.

SUPERIOR - Equates to a Western 4-star standard, featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant and often a swimming pool and/or a fitness centre.

DELUXE - Equates to a Western 5-star standard, usually featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, excellent service and customer care.

LUXURY - Equates to a Western 5-star plus standard - the creme de la creme. Featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, this accommodation is a cut above the rest. Sheer opulence!

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Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for your tour guide: USD\$5-6 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing.

For your driver and On The Go Representative we'd recommend USD\$2-3 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Morocco Country Guide

Welcome to Morocco - Arrival transfer

We provide a complimentary airport arrival transfer on day 1 of your tour or if you arrive early and have booked pre tour accommodation with us. Please proceed to the arrivals hall and look for our representative holding an On The Go Tours sign. Pre and post tour accommodation can be arranged upon request, please contact us for rates.

If you are arriving earlier and you have booked your accommodation independently, you will need to make your own way to our start hotel, which will be centrally located. The hotel name and address can be found on your Tour Voucher.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight to Morocco is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Morocco.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to

book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/Morocco/Visas

Shopping

Morocco is a shoppers' paradise. The souks of Fes, Marrakech and Meknes are full of pottery, carpets and kilims, leather goods, spices and cloth. Keep space in your backpack for your purchases! Best buys are: carpets – from the High Atlas mountains or a woven and embroidered Kilim; the burnoose, an elegant hooded cape; spices; or traditional pottery and leathers from Fes.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling. While tap water in Morocco is generally considered safe to drink in main cities, it is not advisable in smaller towns and remote areas. Drink bottled mineral water,

which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants.

Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- Lightweight cotton garments in summer, warm clothing for winter (temperatures can get quite low at night)
- Comfortable walking shoes or hiking shoes
- Universal travel adaptor
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- First aid kit including Dioralyte
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swim costume, torch and money belt
- Either a rucksack or suitcase is suitable. A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- A towel for swimming
- A torch for your night in the Sahara Desert
- If travelling on our Essential (Budget) group tour range, a sleeping bag for the Sahara Desert camp is required if travelling between Oct - Apr, a cotton sleep sheet will be adequate if travelling from May to September (Signature group tour travellers do not need this, as bedding is provided)

Drones are not permitted

It is forbidden to bring drones into Morocco (even small ones that might fit in hand luggage), a special permit has to be arranged with the appropriate department in Rabat and this can take months to arrange.

Hotels

The hotels in Morocco are simple, clean, comfortable and centrally located. We try to utilise local and traditional hotels with plenty of character wherever possible. In smaller towns, the choice of accommodation is often limited, but we will always book the best accommodation available for our travellers. Please be aware that hotels in Morocco are not of the same standard as Western hotels and facilities can be more basic.

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It's not like home, what to expect & Ramadan

Travel to far-flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Morocco/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, etiquette, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare for your holiday.

RAMADAN

Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world and adherents of the Muslim faith fast during daylight hours and break their fast with lavish meals and lively celebrations in the evening. Ramadan culminates a month later in a 3 day celebration called Eid al - Fitr. Many shops (excluding those which cater mainly to tourists) and attractions close earlier during Ramadan. As such we will start our tour earlier during this period to make the best use of time and itineraries will be slightly altered to ensure we visit all attractions, leisure time will be offered in the late afternoon. Non-Muslims are not expected to fast over Ramadan, but it is considered impolite to eat food or drink on the street. NOTE: Traffic is exceptionally heavy during Ramadan, especially toward the time of breaking the fast. Forthcoming Ramadan dates are as follows, (approximate) 12 April – 11 May 2021

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