

Highlights of Morocco Tour



12 DAYS HIGHLIGHTS OF MOROCCO TOUR

Valid Till : Oct 2018

Day 1 : Casablanca – Rabat

Upon arrival at Casablanca airport, your first treat is a panoramic drive through the city of Casablanca to view the Royal Palace, the architecture of Place Mohamed V, Anfa, the residential area and the Marabout of Sidi Abderrahman (a holy shrine built on a rocky outcropping in the Atlantic ocean to which women travel from all over Morocco in search of miracles) and explore the romantic beachfront with its world famous shops, restaurants and nightclubs. We will visit the famous Hassan II Mosque, the largest in the world outside Mecca. Next we depart to Rabat, the capital of Morocco. Experience walking to the bustling Medina, followed by a visit to the Kasbah of the Oudayas, the Great Mosque, the unfinished Hassan Tower; it is the counterpart of Marrakech's Koutoubia Mosque and the Giralda Cathedral in Seville, Spain, all of which were built by the Almohad Dynasty and the magnificent Mohammed V Mausoleum. Overnight

Day 2 : Rabat – Volubilis – Meknes – Fez

After breakfast, we depart Rabat and journey to two important and sites nearby Fes. Arriving in Meknes we explore the old UNESCO World Heritage listed city, the magnificent Bab Mansour Gates and the mausoleum of Moulay Ismael, the second ruler of the Moroccan Alouite dynasty, whose vision had such a lasting impact on this Imperial City. Possibly the most striking feature of Meknes is the 40km of fortifications that create a city within a city. Also, we'll make time to visit the Sahrij Swani. Believed to be constructed in the 17th century and enclosed within its own walls, the basin served as a huge reservoir to supply water to houses, mosques, Hammams and for irrigation using an ingenious system of canals and waterwheels. We break for lunch and then continue our tour of the fascinating nearby ruins of this former Roman outpost that date back to the 3rd century BC. Although largely destroyed by an earthquake, many of the columns, ceramics and floor plans of once magnificent buildings remain to provide a lasting reminder of what life might have been like in this opulent city. After your visit to Volubilis, you will continue to Fez via the Rif Mountains, you will be in Fez in the afternoon. Overnight

Day 3: Fez City Tour

Breakfast at your hotel, the whole day will be devoted to the sightseeing of Fez, the oldest cultural and spiritual imperial city of Morocco, which was founded in 790 B.C by Moulay Idriss II. You can start exploring the spiritual capital of Morocco. The old Medina of Fes el Bali – one of the largest medieval cities of its type in the world - offers a true appreciation of the diversity of Moroccan culture. During the morning, our experienced guide will share many of the city's hidden treasures and architecture with you as your gaze is pulled left and right with the movement and sounds of this piece of living history. You'll see the Royal Palace gate and the walled Jewish quarter dating from the 14th century. Before lunch there will be time to see the Attarine Museum, Najjarine fountain and the Mausoleum of Moulay Idriss after which we visit a local tile-making cooperative before ascending to a superb vantage point to enjoy a wonderful panoramic view of the old Medina of Fes. Overnight

Day 4: Fez – Ifran – Midelt – Erfoud – Merzouga

After an early breakfast, we head south towards the Middle Atlas Mountains with the summer retreat and winter resort of Ifrane and the town of Azrou which takes its name from the large volcanic outcrop in the centre of the town. As our journey continues, we pass through a forest of mighty cedar trees. You'll get to take photographs of the Cedar Gourand, reputed to be around 800 years old. We

break through the mountains at the Tizi Ntalghamt Pass and follow the magnificent Ziz Gorges, carved through volcanic rock, as we head towards Midelt where we pause for lunch. The scenery is changing constantly and you'll start to see hints of the desert landscape as we approach the city of Er-Rachidia. We pause for lunch at Midelt then continue through the verdant Ziz Valley, peppered with Berber villages – and on to Erfoud and then Rissani, the birthplace of the Alaouite dynasty and ancestral home of Morocco's current royal family. Next, we cross a lunar-like landscape with the majestic Saharan dunes on the horizon before arriving at an auberge on the edge of the desert at Merzouga. Here, you can check your main luggage in to your room and, with an overnight bag containing your basic essentials, begin the 1.5 hour camel trek which takes you to a Berber camp in the middle of the Erg Chebbi dunes enjoying a spectacular Saharan sunset on the way. Our Berber guides will not only prepare a sumptuous, traditional meal but also invite you to join in with their special brand of music and entertainment, until the final embers of the campfire fade away under a canopy of stars. Overnight (under Nomadic tents)

Day 5: Merzouga – Erfoud – Tinghir – Mgouna – Ouarzazate

After an early start to catch the sunrise over the dunes, your camels will be waiting to help you return to the auberge at Merzouga where you can shower, change and take breakfast. We depart for the Todra Gorge, en route passing the most sought after dates in Morocco, which are grown between Rissani and Erfoud. As we climb into the High Atlas Mountains and through Tinghir we begin our approach to the highest and narrowest gorges in Morocco. There will be ample time to explore and take photographs, as well as enjoying a drink or lunch at one of the restaurants in the adjacent valley. There is the option of a hike through the patchwork of fields where you will discover an old mud village and meet some of the locals who will welcome you and help you learn more about their culture and their lifestyles. Refreshed and inspired, we set off for more of nature's wonders in the Dades Gorge, including the mind-boggling rock creations of the Tamnalt Hills. We proceed to the Valley of the Roses and the town of Kella M'Gouna, an important centre for the rose growing cooperatives throughout the valley. We continue our journey through the Dades Valley, also known as the Road of One Thousand Kasbahs – and you'll soon discover why. There are numerous opportunities to stop en route to capture some amazing photography. We break for lunch with a chance for a refreshing hike in the valley before we continue to Ouarzazate – the "Hollywood of Africa". Overnight

Day 6: Ouarzazate – Ait-Ben Haddou – Marrakech

Depart for Marrakech and on your way, you will visit the "seat" of Glaoui tribal power, Kasbah Taourirt, considered as one of the most beautiful kasbahs in Morocco. Continue the trip to the wonderful fortified village of Ait Ben Haddou, the most spectacular fortress village in the south of Morocco and the film making village where many great films were shot. Continue to Marrakech through the Tizi-n-Tichka pass (2260m) the highest pass over the Atlas Mountains. Overnight

Day 7: Marrakech City Tour

After breakfast, you can start exploring the "Red City of Morocco". Our professional guide will ensure that you visit the major sites of cultural and historic interest and accompany you throughout the morning as we explore the magic and mystique of Marrakech. We begin at the Medina, contained within the city's giant 12th century sandstone walls and visit the Saadian Tombs that remained undiscovered and preserved for hundreds of years. Nearby, is the Badi Palace - now largely in ruins but still worth a stroll around – and the Bahia Palace, dating from the 1800s. As we make our way towards the Jemaa El-Fna square, we visit Ben Youssef Koranic School and the Dar Si Saïd Museum which offers an inspiring glimpse into Moroccan history with its collection of artifacts including woodcarvings, musical instruments, weapons, carpets, clothing, pottery and ceramics. Approaching Jemaa El-Fna square, it soon becomes obvious why this unusual location has been a UNESCO World Heritage. With its origins as a trading post and the town's public arena for beheadings – and adjoining the largest traditional Berber market in Morocco - you can still feel the history and the rhythm of this melting pot of cultural diversity. Impromptu market stalls compete with storytellers, snake charmers, monkey trainers, acrobats, magicians and musicians for your attention. We enjoy lunch with a panoramic vista of the Square beneath and in front of us. Overnight

Day 8: Marrakech

Day at leisure, enjoy it on your own... (Optional Excursion to Ourika valley & Fantasia dinner show)

Overnight

Day 9: Marrakech – Essaouira

The route from Marrakech to Essaouira will take you through a region whose main industry is the cultivation of Argan trees. Local cooperatives produce oil from the trees, and the oil is used both in beauty products and in cooking. Once in Essaouira, you will see a well-preserved Portuguese fort dating from the 17th century and the large fishing fleet. Essaouira is known for its annual festival of "Gnaoua music". The city is a very welcoming and attractive city with a beautiful old Medina which is listed as a UNESCO world heritage site that never ceases to seduce its visitors. The attractiveness of Essaouira is reflected in its beautiful architecture, cultural treasures, curving sandy beaches, and stunning combination of ocean view, Essaouira's highlights include: Place Moulay El Hassan, The Skala, the old Portuguese harbour, the ramparts, the Jewish district and the old Medina. Overnight

Day 10: Essaouira

Day at leisure, enjoy it on your own... (Optional cooking class or spa & Hammam)

Overnight

Day 11: Essaouira – Casablanca

From Essaouira you will drive along the coast to Casablanca through scenic ocean side villages, including a number of resort towns such as Walidia, which is known for its oysters, and El Jadida, where many Moroccans come to enjoy the beautiful beaches in summer. At the end the day we will arrive in Casablanca at your hotel. In the evening enjoy restaurants near the port or have a nice walk in the old souk to find something to take home with you. Overnight

Day 12: Casablanca – Airport

After breakfast, private transfer to Casablanca airport for your departing flight

Notes

- You can modify the itinerary according to your specific budget, dates, interests or cities of arrival or departure
- The tour can be shortened, extended or modified to end wherever as the guests wish

Included Services

- Private air-conditioned vehicle
- Private English speaking driver for the entire trip
- First class accommodation
- Daily breakfasts & some dinners
- Certified tour guide in Rabat, Fez, Marrakech, Essaouira
- 4 wheels drive to Merzouga dunes
- Camel trek
- Entrance fees to historical sites / museums
- Departure transfer

Encluded Services

- International air fare
- Travel Insurance
- Lunches / drinks
- Personal spending



2 HOTELS OR SIMILAR

CITIES	HOTELS 4*	HOTELS 5*
- FEZ	- MENZAH ZALAGH	- LES MERINDES
- RABAT	- MERCUR	- SOFITEL JARDIN DES ROSES
- MARRAKECH	- RYAD MOGADOR OPERA	- ROYAL MIRAGE DE LUX
- OUARZAZATE	- BERBER PALACE	- LES TOURMALINES
- CASABLANCA	- NOVOTEL	-KENZI TOWER
- MERZOUGA	- XALUCA	- XALUCA

3/ INCLUDES SERVICES

- Accommodation at 4* & 5* Hotels on BB
- Luxury private A/C car at disposal
- Private English speaking driver/guide
- Daily breakfast at your hotel
- Government-certified tour guides in Fez and Marrakech
- Monuments / Museums entrance fees
- 4WD Excursion to Merzouga dunes
- Airport transfers
- Taxes
- Our complete assistance

4/ EXCLUDED SERVICES & SUPPLEMENTS

- Tips for porters at Airport and Hotels
- Entrance fees to monuments as per the program except Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca
- Entrance Hassan II Mosque : **120 DH/pax**
- Lunches / dinner / Drinks during meals
- Tips for the Guide/Escort, the driver and his helper
- International round-trip airfare

Children Fare

- Child below 12 years old sharing room with two (2) adults without extra bed: 65% of package cost.
- Child below 12 years old sharing room with two (2) adults with extra bed: 90% of package cost.
- Child below 12 years old sharing room with one (1) adult: 100% of package cost.
- Child 12 years old and above: 100% of adult cost.

Accommodation

In the event that the accommodation stipulated in the tour itinerary or special

Accommodation arrangements as requested for are not available; every effort will be made by the Company for alternative accommodations of similar standard.

- Single Supplement: if you wish to occupy a single room, you are required to pay a single supplement amount.

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

(TMT-041217)