

11-Day Morocco Grand Tour



Morocco is an exotic gateway to Africa, a land of dreams, myths, and legends. Morocco's mountains, deserts and coast are populated by Berber people, called "Amazigh" (free people). Follow the winding ancient medina lanes which lead to souks and riads, and follow us for **a trip of a lifetime**.

Culture

Morocco is the home of Berbers; they represent 70% of the population, while Arabs represents 28% and the remaining 2% are a mixed group of ethnicities. Morocco also considered by some a berber-arab country, while others back the african-berber identity, as the majority of people practice Islam. Morocco is an open-minded and modern yet traditional country and enjoys religious diversity as Christianity and Judaism are also practiced within the country, though mainly in Casablanca.

Bordered by 3,500 kilometers of coastline and crossed by various mountain ranges, Morocco is characterized by an incredible diversity of people and landscapes. Tucked caddy-cornered between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea in North Africa, Morocco is cut by the various fingers of the Atlas Mountains and lone range of Rif Mountains in the north. These characteristics give Morocco an aerial fingerprint unlike any other in Africa.

Morocco is quickly becoming one of the world's most sought-after tourist destinations. From Casablanca through Rabat and to Tangier at the tip of the continent;

from the infinite blue labyrinth streets of Chefchaouen, and down to Fez, and still further south to the ever-spreading dunes of Erg Chebbi in the Sahara Desert; over to Marrakesh, and the laid-back coastal town of Essaouira, Morocco has an abundance of important natural and historical assets, not to mention a rich and diverse cultural heritage.

The spirit of Morocco finds full expression in art. A country of artisans, even everyday objects are rendered with extraordinary craftsmanship. Markets are full of brass wares, leather goods, exquisite carpets and embroidery work of fine quality and beauty. On a larger scale, this national artistic inclination is expressed in buildings, gardens and fountains. Owing to the various tribal, dynastic, and colonial influences, in Moroccan architecture one finds seemingly opposing expressions of rapture, ostentation and formidable might. As in the country, the result is a distinct and cohesive character, greater than the sum of its many influences. Arabesque tracery, geometric design, stylized vegetation and multicolored mosaic may cover entire structures or contribute just a hint of detail in otherwise featureless stone.

The face of Morocco is a shifting tableau. The landscape itself varies dramatically throughout the country. Broad peaceful beaches give way to lively gem like cities perched around and among rolling green hills and ragged peaks which then descend into the heaving expanse of the Sahara Desert. Historically, such variation fostered strong tribal affiliations over national unity.

Morocco has been greatly influenced by the traditions and passage of time, that's reflected in their traditional dress and way of living. Even though modern life is making it's way into Morocco there are still parts of tradition deeply woven into the fabric of the country, and arranged marriages even exist in many parts of the kingdom.

Arrive in the modern city of Casablanca, known as Morocco's economic capital, maybe tour the Hassan II mosque. It is one of North Africa's most elaborate mosques, a stylish example of architecture that should be at the top of your list. If the mood strikes, take a peek inside Rick's Café, to feel like you've really just been swept into a famous movie scene.

Visit Morocco's spiritual capital of Fes. This walled-in city is one of the world's largest, complete with narrow streets of unique spices, fresh fruit, genuine Moroccan artwork and exquisite Berber carpets for sale. Along with shopping for some of these traditional specialties, take a royal visit to the King's Palace, experience the local potters at work, or take in the interesting tanneries, original to this region of Morocco. It is one thing to sample Moroccan food, but yet another to learn the secrets behind the ancient preparation and secret ingredients that make it so unforgettable.

Head off on an adventurous trek through the Middle Atlas Mountains, view the breathtaking scenery as you traverse among jagged rocks, forests and Berber villages. As you head down to the Sahara Desert, take a break for lunch in the unique town of Midelt. Once you arrive at the Kasbah in Erfoud, treat yourself to a cooling dip in the swimming pool. Ride by camel, just in time to catch an awe-inspiring sunset. This is the

time of adventure, as you spend the rest of the night in one of the deluxe Berber tents for an unforgettable experience.

Head to Marrakech, by way of Ouarzazate and Kasbah Ait Ben Haddou. This jewel of Morocco proves that the most treasured of all do not come on the well-traveled path. If you've ever dreamed about walking on to a movie set, this is one of the most filmed areas in all of Morocco. Such films as Jesus of Nazareth, Lawrence of Arabia, and even The Gladiator were all set here, so be on the lookout for familiar landmarks. Set out on a morning trek with your mountain guide! You will explore the beautiful setting of the High Atlas Mountain and visit several villages along the way!

In Marrakech head to the Djemaa el-Fna. This is the medina's center square and one of the main attractions for any visitor trying to get a true sense of life in Marrakech. Rich with entertainment, native storytellers, and local delicacies, this square should not be missed. If you are in search of a relaxing cup of tea to top off your adventures, you can get one while sitting on the café terrace, looking down into the bustling square below. Experience centuries old history at the Saadian Tombs, the Palace of the Bahia, or one of the other hidden treasures of this region. Enjoy a traditional lunch, and then continue on to Koutoubia Mosque. Cap off your adventure-filled afternoon by searching for some authentic souvenirs within the souk (market). Expect to find countless unique spices, original Berber carpets, traditional Moroccan artwork and fresh fruit.

PROPOSED ITINERARY

Day 01: Arrival / Casablanca

- Arrival at Casablanca Mohamed V airport. Transfer to your airport via the hotel shuttle.

Day 02 Casablanca / Rabat (100 KM) Welcome and assistance by the driver and a Representative from your hotel.

- Orientation tour of Casablanca with the visit of Hassan II Mosque **(if time permits)**.
- Transfer to Rabat
- Check-in, dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 03: Rabat / (city tour) / Meknes / Fes (250 KM)

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit of Rabat, the white imperial city. Visit of the administrative capital of Morocco with the Hassan Tower, the splendid Mohamed V Mausoleum and the Kasbah of Oudayas.
- Departure to Meknes known as «the Moroccan Versailles» which was founded at the end of the 17th Century by Moulay Ismail.
- Independent Lunch.
- City tour of Meknes including Bab Mansour, the most preserved gate in Morocco, Hari Souani and the old medina.
- Continuation to Fes via the sacred town of Moulay Idriss Ist.
- Check-in, dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 04: Fes (city tour)

- Breakfast at the hotel.

- The whole day is devoted to the sightseeing of Fez; the most ancient cultural and spiritual city of Morocco. Visit of the medieval medina, the Medersas, the Karaouine Mosque and the famous Nejjarine fountain.
- Independent Lunch.
- Continuation of the visit through the old medina where the clients will see different craftsmen still operating in the old oriental tradition.
- Independent Dinner
- Check-in and overnight at the hotel.

*** Day 05 : Fes / Ifrane / Midelt / Erfoud (490 KM)**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Departure to Midelt via Ifran, a charming Ski resort in the middle of a magnificent Cedar forest.
- Independent lunch.
- Continuation to Erfoud through Ziz Valley and series of fortified villages.
- Arrival to Erfoud.
- Check-in, dinner & overnight at the hotel.

Optional (not included): Camel Ride to assist the 'Sunset' OR 'Sunrise' 1 November

*** Day 06: Erfoud / Tinghir / Kalaa M'Gouna / Ouarzazate (360 KM)**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Departure to Tinghir via Rissani for visit.
- Visit of the ruins of Ksar Abbar and through the Tinjdad road to Tinghir.
- Visit of Todra Gorges.
- Independent Lunch.
- Continuation to Ouarzazate via El Kelâa M'gouna, known by roses, and the Dades valley.
- Check-in, dinner and overnight at the hotel.

*** Day 07: Ouarzazate / Aït Ben Haddou / Marrakech (210 KM)**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- City tour of Ouarzazate including Kasbahs : Taourirt & Tifoultout.
- Departure to Aït Ben Haddou and visit of the Ruins of this ancient Kasbah.
- Independent lunch.
- Continuation to Marrakech via tiz-in-tichka pass.
- Check-in, dinner & overnight at the hotel.

Day 08: Marrakech (city tour)

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- The entire day will be spent visiting Marrakesh, the second oldest imperial city known as the « Pearl of the South» with the Saadian tombs, the Koutoubia, the Bahia Palace, the Menara & Majorelle gardens.
- Independent lunch
- In the afternoon, visit of the souks, the winding little streets and the Djemaâ El Fna place with its various and non-stop entertainment: storytellers, snake charmers, fire-eaters and more.

- Dinner & overnight at the hotel.

Day 09: Marrakech (excursion to Ourika Valley)

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Departure for an excursion to Ourika Valley located at the foot of the ski-station ukaimeden (2,600m).
- The guests will have the opportunity to shop traditional crafts along the road leading to the Ourika valley, offering numerous picturesque Berber villages.
- Tea Stop at a Berber house.
- Continuation to the lake 'Lalla Takerkouste'
- Independent Lunch.
- Return back to Marrakech.
- Dinner & Overnight at the hotel. **5 November 2018**

Day10: Marrakech (excursion to Imlil)

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Departure to Imlil Village which is about 70KM from Marrakech (around 1H30 drive) set in the upper level foothills of the Western High Atlas Mountains.
- Independent lunch.
- Visit of a women cooperative.
- Here you shall leave the vehicle to take a ride on a mule to experience the authentic life style of the inhabitants.
- Return back to Marrakech.
- Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



Day 11: Marrakech / Casablanca / departure (250 KM)

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Direct transfer to Mohamed V Casablanca airport for return flight.
- Assistance to the boarding formalities.

Price based on minimum of 0 passengers

- **AUD\$4950 per person based on TWIN SHARE**

Optional service:

- Internal Visit of Hassan II Mosque: **USD \$25 per person**
- 4x4 with drivers for an excursion to the Dunes: **USD \$120** (per vehicle max 5 pax)
- Camel ride in the dunes: **USD \$60 per person (1 hour)**
(Sunset OR Sunrise excursion)

Our price for the package tour includes:

- Accommodation on half board for 9 nights inside Riad hotels.
- A Deluxe air-conditioned (15 seats) minibus with a driver & including gasoline at disposal according to the suggested itinerary.
- A Qualified English speaking guide from arrival till departure.
- Entrance fees to monuments (external visit of Hassan II Mosque).
- Portage of luggage at airport and hotels.
- All taxes and services.
- Our full assistance.

**Hotels used during the
tour or similar :**

Rabat	Riad Dar El Kebira (1 night)
Fes	Riad Ibn Battouta (2 nights)
Erfoud	Kasbah Xaluca (1 night)
Ouarzazate	Dar Chamaa (1 night)
Rak	Riad Africa (4 nights)