



MOROCCO EXPLORED TOURS

Private Guided Morocco Tours

14 Days - Casablanca to Marrakech

From Casablanca transport to Chefchaouen, the blue city in the Rif mountains of North Morocco. Fez awaits next, where you'll stay in the heart of a storybook medina. Roman ruins, Barbary apes, a Swiss style alpine village, and the Atlas mountain gateway to the desert takes you to another world all together. From here date palm oasis, gorges, and huge orange sand dunes immerse you into the Sahara experience on an overnight camel trek. Next enter into the land of kasbahs, Berber culture, desert tribes and nomads. This sets the stage for your journey to the world heritage site of Ait Benhaddou. Historic kasbahs and finally, Marrakech where the 1000 year old square make this a journey you will never forget. But it's not over yet! Before your final departure from Marrakech, chill out in the coastal town of Essaouira, once the haunt of pirates. You can decompress at the seaside village of Oualidia if departing from Casablanca.

Our tours include off road routes, visits nomads, tea with local families, and hiking with a local guide if extra days are added to your itinerary.

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14 Day Tour



Day 1 (B) Casablanca - Rabat - Chefchaouen

Your driver will meet you in your hotel reception and take you to the waiting car. Visit the magnificent King Hassan II Mosque before leaving the city for Rabat, the newly built capital of Morocco. Settlements from the 3rd century BC were located near the ancient Chellah. The Romans abandoned this site around 1150 to build Volubilis, where it was more profitable for olive oil production. The Chellah became a cemetery for royalty and the Sultans added gardens to the outer walls and inner sanctum, still looked after 800 years later. Mystical ruins and springs overlook the broad river plain where herds of elephants once roamed during Roman times. Back on the road drive to Chefchaouen to check in to your hotel near the central square in the heart of the old town.

Hotel includes breakfast.



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Day 2 Chefchaouen

100 years ago Chefchaouen was forbidden to non-Muslims and if one did manage to enter, it was risking their life to do so. Today the walkable medina is welcoming to anyone who wanders the narrow passages throughout this charming town, known as the Blue City. The houses and mosques are painted blue to mirror the sky and remind of god. Photographic opportunities are endless, especially in the mid day sunlight. Chefchaouen or Chaouen as it's called locally, is known to have 100 weavers workshops where fine woolens are made. Visit the 15th C kasbah and museum in the heart of the old town. Fine views of the lush Rif mountains can be seen from the high ramparts. And don't miss the dungeon. Stay in hotel as above.



Day 3 (C) Fez

Transfer to Fez after breakfast. Along the way you can visit the ancient city of Volubilis, the furthest outpost of the Roman Empire used as a trading doorway into Africa for 200 years in the 2nd and 3rdC. It's beautiful mosaics and carved columns are notable, and an olive press can be seen operating exactly the way it did in Roman times.



Nearby is the town named after Moulay Idriss I who arrived here in 789 with the teachings of Islam, creating a dynasty that changed Morocco forever. In addition to founding the town, he also initiated construction of Fez as a unprecedented learning center devoted to the study of Islam and the Koran.

Hotel includes breakfast.

Day 4 Fez

With your local Fez specialist guide you'll explore this fascinating storybook medina to learn about her secrets and charms. The endless labyrinth of narrow streets is like no



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other, with hundreds of tiny shops, a dyers souk, and craft manufacturers who ply their trade in narrow medieval grottoes. Visit the famous leather tanneries, still using techniques from ancient times to produce fine leather in beautiful colours. Fez is also famous for its robust and beautiful pottery, brass and copper trays and tea services, regional cuisine and ancient medersas (schools of Islam). Stay in hotel as above.

Day 5 (D) Midelt

Today you'll travel into the Middle Atlas mountains to visit Azrou where there are opportunities to see wild Barbary apes in the native cedar forests. After leaving the green forests the landscape changes dramatically crossing over the Atlas passes. Midelt on the edge of Sahara is another world in contrast. This bustling desert town has interesting shops that sell carpets with striking abstract designs woven by the women in the region. Here is a Sunday market where desert dwellers and nomads travel from the surrounding hills and desert villages to sell their goods and resupply. Hotel includes breakfast and dinner.

Day 6 (E) Sahara Camel Trek

Today you will arrive in the Sahara desert. Travel south until the red Erg Chebbi dunes appear on the horizon. Along the route the Ziz date palm oasis stretches all the way to Erfoud. In Erfoud you'll have time to stop to visit the (Saturday) date market, and resupply for anything you need at the local super market. Your destination is the desert camp beyond the town of Merzouga, far from hotels lining the dunes. Have tea or a drink by the pool in the desert inn before meeting your camel guides to ride to the camp. Dinner is served (vegetarians welcome) under the evening stars. Climb the massive dunes and



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watch the moon rise in the star filled sky before retiring to your bed.
Hotel includes breakfast and dinner.

Day 7 (F) Tinehir

Leaving the desert dunes you'll travel through the remote volcanic Saghro Massif to Tinehir. Along the way you can visit fossil workshops for a closer look at Sahara's amazing variety of ancient sea life. Stop to hunt for fossils, explore any local markets at your leisure and visit a small museum about Berber life in an ancient mud walled village. Rissani has a lively thrice weekly souk selling many goods, spices, and animals brought in from the surrounding villages. It's fun to explore, buy camel milk, see the world's largest donkey parking lot, and people watch. Arrive in Tinehir and settle into your room in a 100 years old kasbah. Hotel includes breakfast and dinner.



Day 8 (G) Dades Valley

A short drive from Tinehir takes you to Todra gorge to walk through this massive fault dividing the High Atlas mountains. The sheer rock walls rise to 300 m in the narrowest part. Wander with a Berber guide through desert gardens for a close look at Berber ways of life. Back in the car you'll drive to the Dades valley of a thousand kasbahs. You will pass through many villages, riverside gardens and barren hillsides clustered with fortified mud dwellings that house families and their livestock. Aside from the many large kasbahs in this valley, Dades is noted for the Tamnalt hill formations called the Monkey Fingers. Hotel includes breakfast and dinner.



Day 9 (H) Ait Benhaddou UNESCO site

Your destination today is Ait Benhaddou Unesco world heritage site. Along the way you'll drive off road, (weather permitting) across the mountains to the remote village of



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Boutaghrach and visit nomads in the area, then pass through the Skoura oasis and Valley of the Rose, famous for elegant Persian rose oil. Back on the main road to Ouarzazate you'll have time to stop at the kasbah museum and explore around the inner sanctum of a sultan's private home. Next is the magnificent Ait Benhaddou casbahs. Arrive to an overlook view before settling in to your riad with views of the kasbah fortress. Hotel includes breakfast and dinner.

Day 10 (I) Marrakech

This morning you can take time to explore the World Heritage Site of Ait Benhaddou before the crowds from Marrakech arrive. The village of clustered Berber Kasbahs has been used as a backdrop for countless adventure films. In its prime it was one of the most powerful fortress strongholds on the Salt Road protecting camel caravans plagued by thieves and raiders in the High Atlas mountains. You'll follow the old salt trade camel caravan route to Telouet and explore the old Glaoui kasbah. This once beautiful palace now stands crumbling to ruins because no one wants to remember "the vulture" sultan and his son who lived, played and schemed here until the 1950's. After lunch descend the High Atlas mountains Tichka pass (2260m) to the lowlands of Marrakech with time to stop and enjoy impressive landscapes over coffee or fresh-squeezed orange juice.

Hotel includes breakfast.

Days 11 and 12 Marrakech

Explore the back street maze of Marrakech with your guide. Visit Ben Youssef Medersa, the Koutoubia mosque, and the Marrakech Museum or the Saadian tombs. You'll have free time to explore the many restaurants and shops in this most iconic city. The vast souk (market) is comprised of many specialist areas



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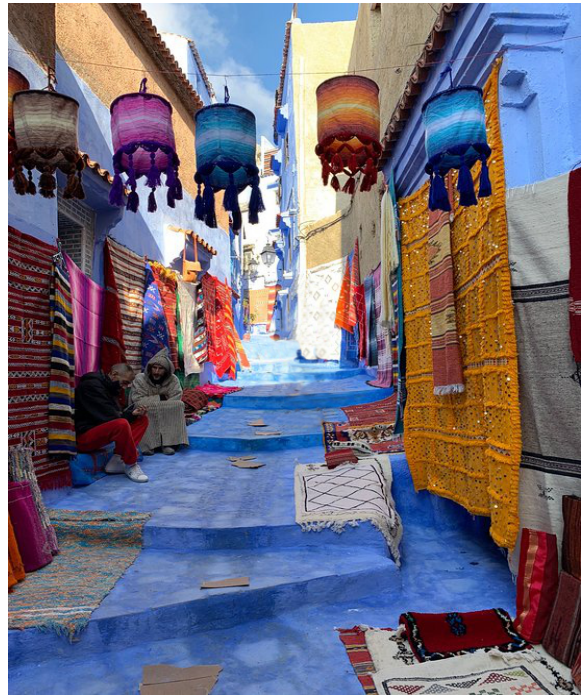
e.g. metalwork, carvers, dyers souk, weavers: where you can watch crafters ply their trade. Carpets and carpet sellers entice you into their shop with a glass of sweet of mint tea. Search hidden shops for treasure, selling Berber jewelry, old silver and African beads; or spices, olives, fresh herbs; or traditional apothecaries where you can buy all manner of potions to heal or cast spells of love or revenge. Marrakech is also called the Paris of Africa for her flower lined boulevards and gardens. Most notable is the Majorelle estate gardens and museum, previously owned by Yves Saint Laurent. Stay in hotel as above.

Day 13 (J) Essaouira

Transfer to Essaouira, a laid back town west of Marrakech set on the Atlantic coast peppered with Argan trees (yes - there are goats in the trees). Staying in Essaouira on the Atlantic coast is a perfect way to finish a tour of Morocco. The expansive beach is great for long walks. The town is famous for fresh seafood, thuja wood crafts and artists colony. Old Portuguese ramparts guard the walled city where you can watch silver crafters and wood carvers at work in one of the most charming medinas in all of Morocco. Visit a traditional pharmacy and learn about natural medicines and cures, and a Women's cooperative where Argan nuts are processed by hand into healthful oils. In winter Essaouira is generally warmer and wetter than Marrakech, and in summer pleasantly cool and breezy, rarely going beyond high 20's (78 F). Celcius. Hotel includes breakfast.

Day 14 Essaouira

Wander around the old grotto shops and markets filled with spices, African trade goods, wooden carvings and masks, colorful textiles



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and carpets, and discover unique artists galleries. Essaouira is also an active fishing port where fish is bought and sold right on the docks. Fresh seafood is served in the simple beachside cafes and market lanes in this most fascinating medina. Swim, kite sail, ride horses or camels or just relax on the golden seaside sands. A perfect finish to your Morocco experience. Depart the tour from Marrakech.

What's Included

- taxes
- private transport
- experienced driver guide
- door to door service
- breakfasts (vegetarians welcome)
- en suite unique hotels with heating and air conditioning
- English speaking walking tours in Marrakech and Fez
- overnight camp in the sand dunes
- mattresses, blankets, sheets and pillows are provided in desert camp
- camp also has solar lighting and toilets, kitchen and dining tent
- camel guides and friendly camels... and lots of sand.

We use small hotels and riads that are of interest because of location, good food, and unique traditional architecture.

Options to upgrade to luxury desert camp and hotels.

What's Not Included

- cost of lunches - this leaves you free to be anywhere along your route for lunch every



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- day
- personal purchases
 - tips
 - camel guides and drivers are paid but also welcome tips
 - other optional guides (beyond what we include) at sites (100 dirhams per hour)
 - optional museum entrance fees (may range from 10 dirhams = \$1.25 to 60 dirhams = \$7.50 each person)
 - for lunch, snacks and drinks budget to spend about 150 dirhams (\$20.) or more on average each day, for each person.

How Do I Create a Custom Private Tour?

Contact us with what you might like to do in Morocco (we can help with lots of advice), how many days you'd want to tour, as well as how many explorers will be in your group.

We'll send a sample tour itinerary with trip ideas that match your requests and a price. When you have decided, we will confirm the tour and the price.



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QUESTIONS?

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