

Morocco EXPLORED tours

Sample Itinerary Marrakech to Marrakech

info@moroccoexplored.com
moroccoexplored@gmail.com

WHATSAPP: 212 661 498 177
 Telephone: +212 667 705 212 / +212 661 498 177
 Office: LOT SAADA, IMM SAADA 155
 #13 AIN MEZOUAR MENARA
 MARRAKECH 40000, MOROCCO

Hello,
 thank you for your interest in our tours. This is Salah Chabaoui from Morocco Explored here to help with your plans. When you know your flights I can pin down your tour. All are custom made and can start any day. We can add or reduce the number of days to match your budget or flights. Please don't hesitate if you have any questions.

I have a sample itinerary below. You'll stay in uniquely different imperial cities of Fez and Marrakech, discover Roman ruins at Volubilis, overnight in the Sahara Erg Chebbi dunes on camel trek, experience the unearthly blue light of Chefchaouen, visit Morocco's largest city - Casablanca, and learn about Berber and Saharan tribal history. Depart from Casablanca or Tangier, or return to Marrakech. Alternately you can do the tour in reverse.

We suggest adding Essaouira and the Cascades at Ouzoud to make a longer tour.

You'll be on guided walking tours in Fez and Marrakech medinas with no vehicle travel on these days. You will also have free time to explore on your own. On travel days you'll be out of the vehicle walking the sites. Many places do not allow vehicles to enter. There's a lot to see!

While on the road you may stop to visit regional markets; drive off road, walk in the Todra gorge, Ait Benhaddou kasbahs and much more. You can discuss with your driver what's possible each day. We explain a lot more about how this all works in our TRAVEL GUIDE sent with each booking.

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

MARRAKECH TO MARRAKECH 10 DAYS

Options to upgrade to 4* hotels and luxury desert camp.

HOW TO BOOK THIS TOUR

What's Included

- all taxes,
- private transport and fuel,
- experienced Moroccan driver,
- door to door service,
- breakfasts (vegetarians welcome),
- en suite 3*/4* 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.

What's Not included

- free to have lunch where and when you like,
- dinners
- personal purchases,
- tips,
- camel guides and drivers are paid, but also welcome tips.

10 DAYS ITINERARY

Day 1 Marrakech

Your driver will meet you at the Marrakech Menara airport, take you to your medina riad, and check in. The riad (old house) is in the old medina part of the city, a world heritage site. Breakfast is served everyday with coffee and tea, freshly baked bread, an omelette and orange juice. Evening drums will draw you to the Djemaa El Fna (main city square) where a festival atmosphere awaits. Plunge past the snake charmers and have your fortune told, listen to Berber and Gnawa musicians, or storytellers, or watch the "exotic" dancers illuminated by lamplight and wreathed in smoke. Food stall meals range from a bevy of fresh salads, harrira (lentil and bean soups) fried fish and chips (Moroccan style) to kebabs and even sheep's head (a specialty that has its own dedicated stalls). Stay Marrakech medina riad in the heart of the old city. Includes breakfast.

A walking tour is included either today or Day 8/9 depending upon your flight arrival time.

Day 2 Ait Benhaddou - Todra Gorge - Tinehir

After breakfast depart Marrakech crossing the Tichka pass of the High Atlas mountains. Have lunch before visiting the World Heritage Site of Ait Benhaddou. This ancient village of clustered Berber Kasbahs has been used as a backdrop for more than 20 films and was one of the most important fortress strongholds on the old Salt Road where caravans as brought slaves, gold, ivory and salt from Saharan Africa to Marrakech and beyond. Passing through Ouarzazate, your journey continues through Skoura and the Rose Valley, to arrive in Tinehir. Stay in an historic kasbah. Includes dinner and breakfast.

Day 3 Sahara desert camp

After breakfast and a short drive take a walk through the massive fault dividing the High Atlas mountains. Sheer red rock walls rise in Todra gorge to 300 m in the narrowest part. Back in the car you'll drive to Morocco's sand sea called the Erg Chebbi. You can stop to visit the fossil sites along the way. After lunch in Rissani your destination is the desert camp beyond the town of Merzouga, far from the many 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 dunes and watch the moon rise before retiring to your bed in your tent. Includes breakfast and dinner. Luxury options are available.

Day 4 Fez

Take a walk on the dunes at sunrise before returning to your camp for breakfast and a shower. Ride the camels back to the desert riad where your driver will be waiting. Depart for long days drive (8 hours with lots of stops) to Fez, traveling from the desert through Midelt and the Ziz gorges of the Atlas mountains. The Ziz valley is a date palm oasis that stretches all the way to Erfoud, containing hundreds of kasbahs and ksar (a group of kasbahs). In Erfoud you'll have time to resupply for anything you need at the local super market. Onward to your destination, the bustling desert town of Midelt has an interesting shop that sells carpets made with striking abstract designs by the women of the region and a regional market on Sundays. The alpine Swiss styled town of Ifrane is a nice contrast from the desert. Stop to see Barbary apes in the cedar forests of Azrou before descending to the hilly lowlands where the ancient city of Fez is situated. Arrive about 6 or 7pm. Stay in a medina riad in the heart of the Fez. Includes breakfast.

Day 5 Fez

After breakfast meet your guide* and explore this fascinating storybook medina. The endless labyrinth of narrow streets is like no 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 medersa (schools of Islam). Stay riad as above.

*Includes a private walking tour of Fez.

Day 6 Chefchaouen

Transfer from Fez to Chefchaouen. Along the way stop and visit the 3rd Century ruins of Volubilis. The Romans built this city as a trading doorway into Africa and it was the furthest outpost of the Roman Empire. Its beautiful mosaic floors and columns in the private houses can still be seen. The surrounding land is prized for its olive trees. Nearby town was where Moulay Idriss started a new dynasty. In addition to founding the town, he also initiated construction of Fez. In Meknes visit the 17th-century imperial city-within-a-city of Moulay Ismael, palaces, mosques, dungeons and gardens. The highlights are the dungeons; the royal stables containing grain silos that used to hold enough food for the city residents for a year, as well as a stable big enough for 12,000 horses; and the Moulay Ismael Mausoleum.

Continue north into the Rif mountains until reaching Chefchaouen. Hotel includes breakfast.

Day 7 Casablanca

Explore the hillside town of Chefchaouen. This medina is small enough to wander freely and explore on foot through the narrow streets that wind throughout this charming blue and white town, known as the Blue City. Chefchaouen or Chaouen for short is famous for its electric blue that covers its houses and mosques. The custom dates back to the 15th century when Jewish refugees settled here and brought their tradition of painting things blue to mirror the sky and remind them of god. The photographic opportunities are endless, especially fascinating in the mid day sunlight. When you are ready you will transfer to Casablanca, a large modern city and the former French colonial past shows in its architecture and city plan. Stay in modern hotel in the heart of Casa. Includes breakfast.

Day 8 Marrakech

Visit the magnificent King Hassan II mosque by the ocean, a must see. The Derb Ghallef (Joutya) is a market where you can buy almost anything. Rick's Cafe replicates the scene from the movie and shows *Casablanca* on a continuous loop. Transfer to Marrakech after finishing your visit in Casablanca. Rest of the day is free time in Marrakech. Stay in medina riad, includes breakfast.

Day 9 Marrakech

Explore the back street maze of Marrakech with your guide, visit Ben Youssef Medersa, the Koutoubia mosque, or the Saadian Tombs. Afternoon free to explore the vast souk (market). The Souk is comprised of many specialist areas e.g. metalwork, where crafters ply their trade; dyers workshops are strung with colourful skeins of wool; carpets, and carpet sellers entice you into their shops with a cup of mint tea; search tiny shops 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. Stay Marrakech riad as above.

Day 10 Depart

Transfer to depart Marrakech.

A FINAL WORD ABOUT OUR TOURS

Please know that Morocco is still developing; things change, roads are winding and rough, activities and things stop running or change, and weather can send the best laid plans out the door. We will do our best to provide what is planned and offer alternatives but please take into consideration the nature of the journey that you are embarking on and understand that a certain degree of flexibility is necessary. If you have a problem please inform us immediately and we will do our best to make the necessary changes to keep you happy on tour.