

MOROCCO TREASURES



Day 1 : Arrive Casablanca

Upon arrival at Casablanca airport transfer to your hotel with time to relax from the flight.

Day 2 : Casablanca - Rabat - Chefchaouen

After breakfast make your way to Rabat, the capital of Morocco. Here visit the Royal Gates built in 1864 and enjoy the charming garden of Challa. Later stop at Mohamed V Museum and visit the tombs of the Moroccan kings and the Hassan Tower built in 12th century. Before heading to Chefchaouen explore Oudaya Kasbah, an old military base from the 12th century. Next you see the Abi-Regrag river located between Rabat and Sala on your way to Chafchaouen.

Day 3 : Chefchaouen - Volubilis - Fes

After breakfast travel south through the centre of the peninsula towards the sacred pilgrimage town of Moulay Idriss. From here it is a short journey out to the World Heritage site of Volubilis. The remains of this Roman city make an impressive sight. Take a tour around the arches, basilicas, and superb mosaics along the Decumanus Maximus. Enjoy a memorable lunch of traditional Roman recipes in the shadow of the ancient ruins. Afterwards continue to Fes.

Day 4 : Fes Tour

Today enjoy a guided city tour of Fes. Start with the entrance to the Royal Palace before getting a panoramic view of the ancient medina. Later see the authentic traditional ceramic crafts village. Next is Fes El Bali, the ancient town or Medina. This medieval part of Fes has not changed for centuries. Continue with a visit to the famous Al-Karaouine mosque, built by Fatima Al Fihria in 857 and the leather Souq, the oldest Leather Tannery in the world. The splendid Funduk Nejjarine, a beautifully restored 18th century Inn is also on the tour. In the evening enjoy a special dinner of one of the city's signature dishes, the salty and sweet pastille.

Day 5 : Fes - Midelt - Ziz Valley - Erfoud - Merzouga

After breakfast drive to Merzouga. On the way pass through Ifran, nicknamed little Switzerland being a ski resort in the Middle Atlas region of Morocco because of its high altitude. Then make your way to the Pre-Saharan zone passing by Errachidia and Erfoud, which is famous for its pottery and the interesting fossil quarries. Drive to Rissani, the hometown of the Alaouist dynasty. From here you see the huge sand dune of Merzouga appearing at the horizon.

Day 6 : Merzouga - Erg Chebbi Dunes Sahara Desert

After breakfast enjoy a drive in a 4x4 on the edge of the Erg Chebbi, the largest sand dunes in Morocco. Stop by a nomadic family to have tea and see what their life looks like. Continue on and visit Alkhamliya, a village where nothing has been changed through centuries. Later have a camel ride to experience one of the most fascinating sights, the superb sunset in the middle of the high sand dunes of Merzouga. Tonight stay in a Berber tented desert camp and enjoy the wonderful views at the star filled sky.

Day 7 : Merzouga - Rissani - Todgha Gorges

After breakfast today visit Rissani and the Mausoleum of the founder of the Alaouite Dynasty. This silent town was the ancient capital of Tafilalet. It was noted for its leather and goat skin trading in ancient ages. Later make your way to the great canyons of the Todgha Gorges. Here you see contrasting landscapes with high plateaus and canyons. Enjoy a walk among those fabulous canyons and peaks

Day 8 : Todgha Gorges - Dades Valley - Boutaghrare

After breakfast start your journey from the great canyons of Todgha along the road of 1000 kasbahs, named so because of the enormous Kasbahs on both sides of the road. Drive up to the Dades Valley where you visit a berber family for a typical lunch and cooking demonstration. Enjoy a walk around the valley before leaving for Boutaghrare.

Day 9 : Atlas Mountains

After breakfast meet your mountain guide for a memorable day in the Central High Atlas Mountains. You can enjoy a soft hike or ride on a mule to one of the highest and most picturesque berber villages. Here meet the local berber people, the earliest inhabitants of Morocco and see their way of life and culture. During the journey you have breathtaking mountain sceneries.

Day 10 : Boutaghrare Valley - Ouarzazate - Marrakech

After breakfast make your way through the Valley of Roses so named after the roses growing here which are used to produce cosmetic products like soap, perfumes and skin creams. Later get to Ouarzazate, the so called Hollywood of Africa being a famous location for many Hollywood movies. Enjoy a visit of the fortified city of Ait Benhaddou, built in the 11th century before continuing the drive to Marrakech across the Atlas mountains.

Day 11 : Marrakech Tour

This morning enjoy a guided city tour of Marrakech "Paris of the Sahara" as Winston Churchill once described it. Stop first at the Koutoubia Mosque, an old monument built under the reign of the Almohad Caliph Yaqub al-Mansur (1184 to 1199). Stop next at the Bahia Palace built in the late 19th century. Then visit Madrasa Ben Youssef Coranic school. Later see the Saadian tombs, a site dating back to the time of the sultan Ahmad al-Mansur (1578-1603). Continue the tour with the world famous Jema El Fna Square where you can experience the traditional activities by storytellers, snake charmers, peddlers of traditional medicines. Last is the bustling souks in the Medina, the ideal place for some local souvenir shopping.

Lodging: Mandarin Oriental

Day 12 : Marrakech - Essaouira

After breakfast leave for Essaouira, a city where the medina brushes up against the Atlantic Ocean. The narrow streets of the city are ideal for casual exploration. A walk through the town feels as though little has changed since the days of sea pirates. Sandstone walkways contrast with whitewashed houses, bright blue sky and the sand of the surrounding beaches and dunes. You soon find yourself slipping into its easy-going rhythm with numerous shops, several fine art galleries and a wide variety of restaurants.

Day 13 : Essaouira

After breakfast this free day you can visit the harbour filled with colourful boats and explore the fish souk or spend time in the less hectic medina. The Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdallah Museum is interesting too with its collection of artefacts, woodwork and carpets or just enjoy a cafe on the main square.

Day 14 : Essaouira - Casablanca Departure

After breakfast transfer to the Casablanca airport for your international return flight.

