

MOROCCAN ESCAPES

MAGICAL MOROCCO



22 October – 8 November 2027

18 days/ 17 nights, Casablanca to Casablanca

Small group – just eight guests

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Tour the spectacular Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca*
- *Visit Morocco's often overlooked capital city, Rabat*
- *Wander the streets of the blue-painted town of Chefchaouen, known as 'The Blue Pearl'*
- *Immerse yourself in the history and culture of the ancient medina of Fes*
- *Stay in a luxury camp in the Sahara, ride a camel and enjoy African drumming around the fire*
- *Learn how to make Moroccan bread, using a traditional wood-fired oven*
- *Explore the ancient kasbah of Ait Benhaddou, a UNESCO site and location of the Gladiator movie*
- *Shop for textiles, jewellery and other handicrafts in the many souks of Fes and Marrakech*

** Terms and conditions apply – see website for details. Cost €5280. Tour is priced in Euros and can be paid in Euros or total Euro cost will be converted to Australian dollars, or other major currency, at time of final payment. Price is per person, double or twin share, based on a minimum of six and maximum of eight guests travelling. Single supplement on request. Non-refundable deposit of Euros €\$700 (AU\$1150) will secure your booking.*

Contact Heather + 61 448 739946 or heather@moroccanescapes.com.au

<http://www.moroccanescapes.com.au/>

MAGICAL MOROCCO

22 OCTOBER 2027



Inclusions

- *All land-based travel in Morocco*
- *Accommodation in carefully chosen boutique riads and hotels, on a bed and breakfast basis, including a night in a desert camp on a fully inclusive basis*
- *Two lunches, six dinners – shown on the itinerary*
- *Local guides in Volubilis and Fes*
- *Entry to Hassan II Mosque, Volubilis Roman ruins and Le Jardin Majorelle*
- *Tea with Berber owners of a cave house; goat's cheese tasting; bread-making workshop; Marrakech evening food tour*
- *Private transport with a local English-speaking driver*
- *Airport pick up and drop off at scheduled arrival and departure times on days 1 and 18*
- *Transfers between Merzouga and desert camp by camel or 4x4*
- *Group tips (widely expected in Morocco)*
- *Accompanied by Heather*

Exclusions

- *International flights*
- *Transfers to and from your local home airport in your home country*
- *Travel insurance – mandatory*
- *Meals, entry fees and activities, other than those specified in the itinerary as included*
- *Personal items such as drinks, laundry, spa treatments*
- *City tax, where charged separately by hotels/riads*

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Casablanca – Rabat – Chefchaouen – Fes – Erfoud – Merzouga – Dades Gorge – Ait Benhaddou – Marrakech – Casablanca

Day 1: 22 October 2027, Casablanca

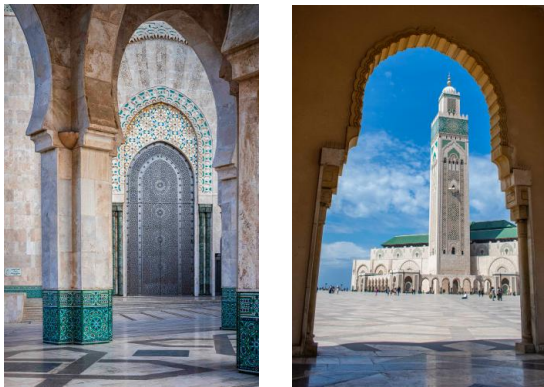
Arrive into Casablanca international airport, where you'll be met by our local driver for the transfer to our hotel in the city. Take time to relax at the hotel before we meet tonight for a welcome dinner. (B, D)



o/n Casablanca

Day 2: 23 October 2027, Rabat

We begin this morning with a visit to the Hassan II Mosque, one of the largest mosques in the world and the only mosque in Morocco open to non-Muslims.



Then, from Casablanca, it's about an hour's drive to Rabat, the capital of Morocco. The afternoon is free to explore the city at your leisure.



Or join us to see some of Rabat's key sights, including the Hassan II tower, the Kasbah of the Udayas and Mohamed V Mausoleum. (B, D)



o/n Rabat

Day 3: 24 October 2027, Asilah and Tangier

This morning, we drive north to Asilah, a small coastal town with a pretty medina. We'll wander through the whitewashed buildings of the medina, many of which have been painted with colourful murals during Asilah's annual street art festival. We'll have lunch here before continuing to Tangier – the afternoon drive is a little under an hour. (B)



o/n Tangier

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Day 4: 25 October 2027, Tangier

This morning we drive the short distance outside Tangier to see the lighthouse at Cap Spartel, on a rocky headland overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the sign nearby, marking the place where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Mediterranean Sea.



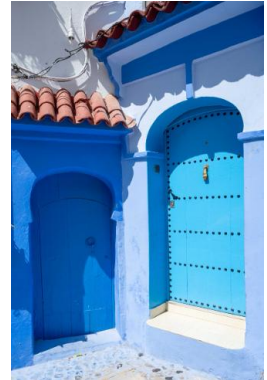
The afternoon is free to explore Tangier at your leisure.



o/n Tangier

Day 5: 26 October 2027, Chefchaouen

From Tangier, we drive through the Rif Mountains to Chefchaouen, known as ‘the Blue Pearl.’ It’s a small, friendly town, famous for its blue painted buildings. After an introductory walk in the medina, you are free to explore. (B)



o/n Chefchaouen

Day 6: 27 October 2027, Chefchaouen

Today is a free day in Chefchaouen with its many cafes and shops. Visit Place el Haouta, the main square, the kasbah and several viewpoints above the town. This evening, before dinner, an optional 30-minute walk takes us to the Spanish mosque outside Chefchaouen, to watch the sunset over the town. (B)



o/n Chefchaouen

Day 7: 28 October 2027, Volubilis and Fes

Our destination today is Fes, known as the cultural capital of Morocco. On the way, we’ll visit the Roman ruins at Volubilis, Morocco’s most significant Roman site, where a local guide will take us on a tour of the ruins, to learn about the history of the Romans in Morocco.



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After exploring Volubilis, we'll continue to Fes and our home for the next three nights. (B)
o/n Fes

Day 8: 29 October 2027, Fes

We begin with a visit to a ceramics workshop and the famous leather tanneries to watch traditional artisans at work.



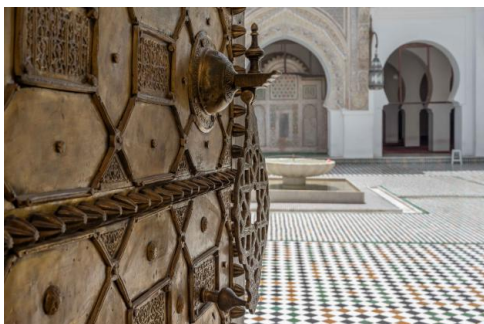
From the tannery, we begin a walking tour with a local guide, through the labyrinth of lanes and alleyways – there are over 9000 in the medina. Our guide will explain how to tell if an alley is a through street or a dead end and show us some of the highlights of the medina. (B)



o/n Fes

Day 9: 30 October 2027, Fes

Today is a free day in Fes. You might like to take a cooking class to learn the secrets of Moroccan cuisine, continue exploring the medina, or indulge in a hamman, a traditional Moroccan spa. Optional activities are at extra cost. (B)



o/n Fes

Day 10: 31 October 2027, Erfoud

We leave Fes this morning for the drive south towards the Sahara, with several stops to break the journey. Near the village of Imouzzer Kandar, we'll visit an organic goat's cheese farm for a tour of the farm and cheese tasting. Next, we'll have Moroccan mint tea with the Berber owner of a traditional cave house in the nearby village.



Near Ifrane, look out for the barbary apes that live in the cedar forests here.



After an interesting morning, we continue the drive south via the town of Midelt, famous for the apple orchards that surround it. Forested hills gradually give way to an arid, landscape before we reach the oasis town of Erfoud, famous for its date palms and the many fossils found in this area. This is our overnight stop on the way to the Sahara. (B)



o/n Erfoud

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Day 11: 1 November 2027, Sahara

We begin the day with a visit to a fossil workshop in Erfoud, before continuing to the town of Rissani, known for its authentic spice market. From Rissani, it's less than an hour's drive to Merzouga and the gateway to the Sahara.



Today, we'll have the local speciality 'Berber pizza' for lunch, before meeting our camels on the edge of the dunes for the 45-minute camel ride to go to the desert camp. Or, if you prefer, you can go in a 4x4. And, in case you're wondering, the camp tents have aircon overnight and en suite bathrooms.



After dinner in the camp dining tent, enjoy a performance of African drumming around the campfire. (B, L, D)



o/n Sahara Camp

Day 12: 2 November 2027, Dades Gorge

Wake early this morning for sunrise over the vast expanse of Erg Chebbi, the 'Sea of Dunes'.



After breakfast, we transfer back to Merzouga by 4x4 to meet our driver for the drive along the 'Road of a Thousand Kasbahs.' Near Jorf, we'll stop to see a khattara, an ancient irrigation system, thought to have originated in Iran.



In Tinghir, we will visit a Berber carpet weaving co-operative before continuing to Boumalne Dades, the town at the entrance to Dades Gorge. As we drive along the gorge, there are spectacular views at every turn. Our hotel for the next two nights is in the gorge. (B, D)

Day 13: 3 November 2027, Dades Gorge

Today, we have an optional hike through the community gardens alongside the Dades River and through Monkey Fingers Canyon, with its spectacular rock formations. (B, D)



o/n Dades Gorge

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Day 14: 4 November 2027, Ait Benhaddou

Leaving Dades Gorge, we continue our journey west to Ouarzazate, via the oasis of Skoura. On the way, we'll visit a rose co-operative, where you can appreciate the vast quantity of rose petals needed to produce rose oil products. Then in Skoura, we'll join a local family for a bread-making workshop and a light lunch. Just an hour from Skoura brings us to Ait Benhaddou, an 11th century ksar (fortified village), UNESCO World Heritage Site and filming location for many movies, including *Gladiator* and *Games of Thrones*. We'll explore the village, with its cute cafes and souvenir shops and a viewpoint at the top. (B, L)



o/n Ait Benhaddou or Ouarzazate

Day 15: 5 November 2027, Marrakech

From Ait Benhaddou, we take the road over the High Atlas Mountains to the bustling 'red city' of Marrakech. The afternoon is free to explore before we meet our guide this evening for a 'Ten Tastings of Marrakech' food tour. We'll visit the main square, Jemaa el Fnaa, with snake charmers, entertainers and musicians - it truly comes alive after dusk (B).



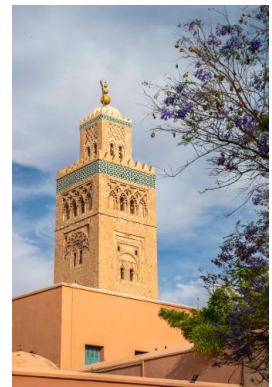
o/n Marrakech

Day 16: 6 November 2027, Marrakech

This morning we'll visit the Jardin Majorelle in the Ville Nouvelle before returning to the medina by lunchtime.



This afternoon, you have time to visit some of the city's key historical landmarks including the Bahia Palace, Ben Youssef Madrasa and Dar El Bacha Palace. (B)



o/n Marrakech

Day 17: 7 November 2027, Marrakech

A free day in Marrakech. You might like to start the day with a hot-air balloon ride over the Marrakech Valley, before returning to the medina for a hamman or any last minute shopping.



Tonight, we'll have a farewell dinner together. (B, D)

o/n Marrakech

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Day 18: 8 November 2026, departure

All good things must come to an end and today is departure day. It's a three hour transfer back to Casablanca airport so if you're flying from Casablanca, please don't book a flight before 3pm to allow time for the transfer and three hours at the airport. Or, you may prefer to fly from Marrakech airport, a short fifteen minute taxi ride from the medina (small extra cost applies). Safe onward travels!



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