

MOROCCAN ESCAPES

MAGICAL MOROCCO



12 - 30 October 2026

19 days/ 18 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*
- *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*
- *Relax in the pretty fishing post of Essaouira*

** Terms and conditions apply – see website for details. Cost €4890. 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 eight guests travelling. Single supplement on request. Non-refundable deposit of Euros €\$450 (AU\$900) will secure your booking.*

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

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

MAGICAL MOROCCO

OCTOBER 2026



Inclusions

- *All land-based travel in Morocco*
- *Accommodation in carefully chosen boutique riads and hotels, on a bed and breakfast basis, including two nights 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 Jardin Majorelle and YSL Museum*
- *Tea with Berber owners of a cave house; goat's cheese tasting; 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 19*
- *Transfers between Merzouga and desert camp by camel or 4x4*
- *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*

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

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

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

Day 1: 12 October 2026, 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 get together tonight for a welcome dinner. (B, D)



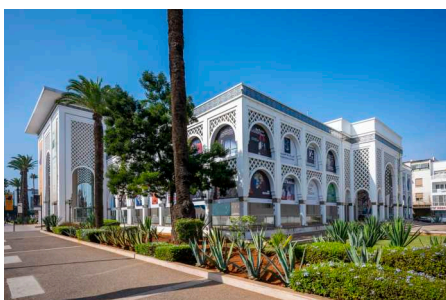
o/n Casablanca

Day 2: 13 October 2026, Rabat

We begin this morning with a visit to the Hassan II Mosque, one of the largest mosques in the world.



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, perhaps visiting the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art.



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)



o/n Rabat

Day 3: 14 October 2026, 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

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

Day 4: 15 October 2026, Tangier

Join us for the short drive this morning 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 rest of the day in Tangier is free to explore the kasbah, the medina or visit a museum. (B)



o/n Tangier

Day 5: 16 October 2026, Chefchaouen

We leave Tangier this morning to drive through the Rif Mountains to Chefchaouen. Chefchaouen, known as 'the Blue Pearl,' is a small, friendly town, famous for its blue painted buildings. After an introductory walk, you are free to explore. (B)



o/n Chefchaouen



Day 6: 17 October 2026, 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, a 30-minute walk takes us to the Spanish mosque on a hill outside Chefchaouen to watch the sunset over the town. (B)



o/n Chefchaouen

Day 7: 18 October 2026, Volubilis and Fes

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



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

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

o/n Fes

Day 8: 19 October 2026, Fes

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



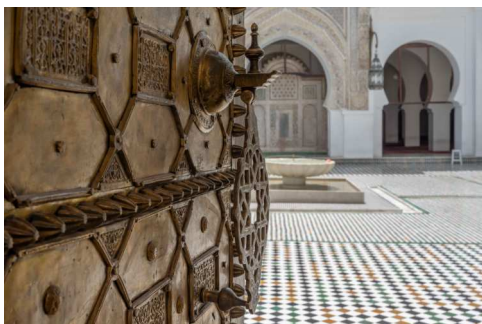
Return to the medina for lunch and a walking tour with a local guide, through the labyrinth of lanes and alleyways – there are over 9000 in the medina. Our guide will explain how to tell if an alley is a through street or a dead end and show us some of the highlights of the medina. (B)



o/n Fes

Day 9: 20 October 2026, 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. Optional activities are at extra cost. (B)



o/n Fes

Day 10: 21 October 2026, Erfoud

We leave Fes this morning for the drive south towards the Sahara, with several stops to break the journey. Near the village of Imouzzzer, 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

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

Day 11: 22 October 2026, Sahara

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



This afternoon, we'll meet 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 and en suite bathrooms.



Tonight, after dinner, enjoy a performance of African drumming around the campfire. (B, L, D)



o/n Sahara Camp

Day 12: 23 October 2026, Sahara

Wake early this morning to watch the sunrise over the vast expanse of Erg Chebbi, the 'Sea of Dunes'. Spend the day relaxing in the camp, walk in the dunes, hire quad bikes, try sandboarding or visit a family of desert nomads (optional activities are at extra cost). (B, L, D)



o/n Sahara Camp

Day 13: 24 October 2026, Dades Gorge

This morning, we transfer back to Merzouga in a 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 night is in the gorge. (B, D)



o/n Dades Gorge

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

Day 14: 25 October 2026, Ait Benhaddou

Leaving Dades Gorge, we continue our journey west to Ouarzazate. 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. Just half an hour from Ouarzazate 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)



o/n Ait Benhaddou or Ouarzazate

Day 15: 26 October 2026, 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).



Day 16: 27 October 2026, Marrakech

This morning we'll visit the Jardin Majorelle and the YSL Museum 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, Dar El Bacha Palace, wander in the medina, or enjoy a spa treatment. (B)



o/n Marrakech

Day 17: 28 October 2026, Essaouira

Leaving Marrakech behind this morning, we drive (3 hours) to the coast and the laidback fishing port of Essaouira: the perfect place to relax at the end of the trip. On the way, we'll visit an argan oil co-operative, arriving in Essaouira in time for lunch. If you enjoy fish and seafood, there's plenty to choose from in Essaouira.



Spend the rest of the afternoon exploring Essaouira's pretty medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B)

o/n Essaouira

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

Day 18: 29 October 2026, Essaouira

The last full day of the tour is a free day to relax in Essaouira. Walk along the beachside promenade, have a hamman or take the opportunity for any last-minute shopping in the many shops and galleries of Essaouira's medina. Tonight, we'll have a farewell dinner together. (B, D)



o/n Essaouira

Day 19: 30 October 2026, Return to Casablanca and depart

We'll set off after breakfast this morning to drive to Casablanca (4.5 hours) for an evening flight. Or, if you prefer to depart from Marrakech, it's a three-hour transfer back to Marrakech (at extra cost). Please allow three hours at the airport before an international flight.



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

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