

MOROCCAN ESCAPES

AMAZING MOROCCO



3 -19 October 2027

17 days/16 nights, Casablanca to Casablanca €5565*

Ladies only - just four guests – solo rooms

HIGHLIGHTS

- See the highlights of Rabat, the often overlooked capital of Morocco
- 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
- Have tea with the owner of a traditional Berber cave house
- Learn about Moroccan spices in the local market in Rissani
- Relax in a luxury camp in the Sahara, ride a camel and enjoy African drumming around the fire
- Catch a glimpse of rural life in the southern oasis of Skoura
- 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. Tour is priced in Euros and converted to Australian dollars, or other major currency, at time of final payment. Price is per person, based on four guests travelling, in solo occupancy rooms. Non-refundable deposit of 600 Euros (AU\$990) will secure your booking.*

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

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

AMAZING MOROCCO

3 –19 OCTOBER 2027



Inclusions

- All land-based travel in Morocco
- 16 nights' accommodation in carefully chosen boutique riads and hotels, including a night 'glamping' in a Sahara Desert camp
- 16 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners (including evening food tour in Marrakech)
- Local guides in Volubilis, Fes, Dades Gorge, Kasbah Amridil
- Entry to Hassan II Mosque, Volubilis Roman site, Kasbah Amridil, Le Jardin Majorelle and YSL Museum
- Tea in Berber cave house, bread-making workshop with local family
- Private transport with a local English-speaking driver in Mercedes Vito or similar (7 seats)
- Casablanca airport pick up and drop off at scheduled arrival and departure times

Exclusions

- International flights
- Transfers to and from your local airport in Australia or home country
- Travel insurance – mandatory
- Tips (widely expected in Morocco) – we will organise a group kitty for tips
- Meals and activities, other than those specified in the itinerary as included
- Personal items such as drinks, laundry, spa treatments etc
- City tax, if charged separately by hotels/riads

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

Day 1: 3 October 2027, Casablanca

Arrive into Casablanca international airport early afternoon, where you'll be met by our local driver for transfer to the hotel.



Take time to relax before our welcome dinner tonight. (D)

o/n Casablanca

Day 2: 4 October 2027, Rabat

We start our tour with a visit to the spectacular Hassan II Mosque, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. This is one of the largest mosques in the world and the only functioning mosque in Morocco open to non-Muslims.



From Casablanca, we drive north to Rabat, the capital of Morocco, where we'll visit the city's key sights, including the Hassan II tower, Mohamed V Mausoleum, and the Kasbah of the Udayas, with its blue and white buildings and Andalusian Garden. (B)



o/n Rabat

Day 3: 5 October 2027, Chefchaouen

Today, we leave the coast behind and head into the Rif Mountains on our way to Chefchaouen, 'the Blue Pearl', famous for its beautiful, blue-painted buildings in the medina. It's a small, friendly town, easy to explore: the perfect place to wander the photogenic streets of the medina. (B)

o/n Chefchaouen



Day 4: 6 October 2027, Chefchaouen

A relaxed day in Chefchaouen with its many cafes and quirky shops. Visit Place el Haouta, the main square, the kasbah and several viewpoints above the town. This evening, before dinner, join us for a 30-minute walk to the Spanish mosque outside Chefchaouen, a popular spot to watch sunset over the town. (B)



o/n Chefchaouen

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

Day 5: 7 October 2027, Volubilis, Fes



Morocco was at the outer edge of the Roman Empire and today, on our drive south to Fes, we'll visit the Roman city of Volubilis, where a local guide will explain the history of the Romans in Morocco and bring to life the ancient ruins and wonderful mosaics. We'll have lunch nearby before continuing to Fes, our home for the next three nights. (B)

o/n Fes

Day 6: 8 October 2027, Fes

Fes is famous for ceramics and leather, so we start the day with a visit to a ceramics workshop and the famous Chouara tanneries, which are quite a sight (and smell!). Then a guided walking tour of the medina, with its labyrinth of over 9000 lanes and alleyways, the world's oldest university, stunning architecture and, of course, the souks, jam-packed with anything you might want to buy. (B)



o/n Fes

Day 7: 9 October 2027, Fes

Enjoy a free day in Fes – there are lots of options today: learn how to prepare a classic Moroccan meal in a cooking class; have a hamman (traditional Moroccan spa); join a weaving class, do a photography walk with a street photographer (activities subject to availability and at extra cost); go shopping in the many souks, wander in the medina where there is something new around every corner or take time to relax at the riad. (B)



o/n Fes

Day 8: 10 October 2027, Erfoud

South towards the Sahara! Our first stop is tea with the Berber owner of a traditional cave house, in the village of Imouzzer Kandar. Then a goat's cheese farm visit and tasting before we reach the forests near Ifrane, where we'll be on the lookout for the barbary apes that live here.



Forested hills gradually give way to an arid, more barren landscape before we come to the oasis town of Erfoud, famous for its date palms and the many fossils found in this area. Our overnight stop before the desert. (B)

o/n Erfoud

Day 9: 11 October 2027, Sahara

As we pass through the rural town of Rissani, we'll stop to see the local spice market. After trying the local speciality of 'Berber pizza' for lunch, we'll meet our camels on the edge of the dunes for the transfer to the desert camp. Or, if you prefer, you can go in a 4x4. And, in case you're wondering, the desert camp tents have en suite bathrooms and air-con/heating overnight.



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

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



o/n Sahara Desert Camp

Day 10: 12 October 2027, Dades Gorge

The early risers this morning can climb a nearby dune to watch the sunrise over the vast expanse of Erg Chebbi, the 'Sea of Dunes'.



Then it's back to Merzouga by 4x4, to meet our transport for the drive along the 'Road of a Thousand Kasbahs'. We'll visit a Berber weaving co-operative before continuing to Boumalne Dades, at the end of Dades Gorge. From there, we'll make our way along the gorge, with spectacular views at every turn, to our hotel for the night in the gorge. (B, D)



o/n Dades Gorge

Day 11: 13 October 2027, Skoura

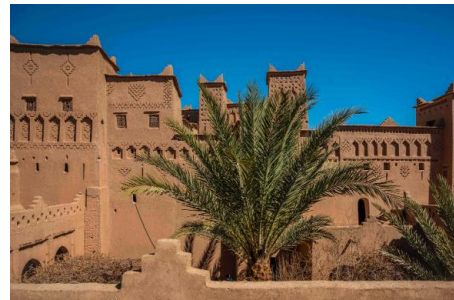
This morning, we'll meet our local guide for a walk through the community gardens next to the Dades River.

A short drive this afternoon brings us to the oasis of Skoura and our accommodation for the next two nights. (B)

o/n Skoura

Day 12: 14 October 2027, Skoura

Today we're making bread, Berber style, with a local family in Skoura, which we'll enjoy with a light lunch. Later this afternoon, we'll visit one of the best preserved kasbahs in the area, Kasbah Amidril and a local pottery workshop. (B, L)



o/n Skoura

Day 13: 15 October 2027, Ait Benhaddou

A drive of about an hour and a half today brings us to Ait Benhaddou, an 11th century ksar (fortified village), UNESCO World Heritage Site and filming location for many famous movies, including Gladiator and Games of Thrones. We'll spend the afternoon exploring the kasbah, with its cute shops, art studios and cafes and a viewpoint at the top, overlooking the Atlas Mountains. (B)



o/n Ait Benhaddou

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

Day 14: 16 October 2027, Marrakech

After breakfast this morning, we have a scenic drive over the High Atlas Mountains to the 'red city' of Marrakech. The rest of the afternoon is free to explore. This evening, we'll visit the main square, Jemaa el Fnaa, with snake charmers, entertainers and musicians and enjoy an evening food tour with a local guide (B, D).



o/n Marrakech

Day 15: 17 October 2027, Marrakech

We begin the day with a visit to Le Jardin Majorelle, a beautiful garden in the Ville Nouvelle that was bought and restored by Yves Saint Laurent and the nearby YSL Museum.



Back in the medina, the afternoon and evening are free. (B)

o/n Marrakech

Day 16: 18 October 2027, Marrakech

Our last full day in Marrakech is a free day. You may want to do an early-morning hot-air balloon ride, take the opportunity for any last-minute shopping or perhaps visit some of the city's landmarks, including the Bahia Palace, Sadian Tombs or Ben Youssef Madrasa. Tonight, we will have a farewell dinner together. (B, D)



o/n Marrakech

Day 17: 19 October 2027, Depart

All good things must come to an end and this morning we transfer back to Casablanca (3 hours) for a late afternoon flight home. Or, if you prefer to depart from Marrakech, it's a short taxi ride to Marrakech Menara Airport (at your own expense). Safe travels!



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