

# **HIGHLIGHTS OF MOROCCO**

#### Guided tour 10 Days / 9 Nights departs Sundays

Morocco is unique and fascinating. See a real oasis in the desert and experience the chaotic and sometimes overwhelming souks and markets where you can buy anything from a camel's head to a brass door knocker. Locally produced crafts include hand woven carpets, fabric, leather, silver, gold, Aragon oil and rose water. A camel ride at sunset in the Sahara is a highlight and there's an option to stay overnight in a tent amongst the Berbers. There are Roman ruins at Volubilis and Jewish heritage in the 'Mellah' quarters in most large cities. Splendid imperial palaces and mausoleums, stunning mosques and ancient city walls are common place. Slip back more than a few centuries when you see the Berber tribes people of Morocco going about their business of tending their sheep and goats as they have done for centuries living the nomadic way of life. Their flat topped simple dwellings and camel skin tents are a world away from the high rise of Casablanca and even the ancient medinas in Fez and Marrakech.



### Day 1- Sunday : Casablanca / Arrival & Rabat (100 Kms )

- Arrive Casablanca Airport International.
- Assistance and transfer.
- Visit of "The White City": drive through the wide avenues and walk through the narrow streets of the Medina. The tour also features visits to United Nations Square, Habous district. Hassan II Mosque (Outside) and Corniche Boulevard.
- Optional fish lunch. Departure to Rabat (1 Hour).
- Dinner & Overnight at hotel.



Day 2- Monday :Rabat-Volubilis-Meknes-Fès (220Km)

- Breakfast, and sightseeing of the "Imperial garden city" : The Hassan Tower, the minaret of the great mosque, Mohammed V Mausoleum, the Kasbah of Oudaya, the Medina, the Royal Palace, the city gates and Chellah necropolis.
- Continue to Meknes, (1 Hour)
- Before getting to Meknes, a brief visit of Moulay Idriss, a sacred Islamic town, followed by the Roman ruins of Volubilis.
- Sightseeing of the city which is called "Moroccan Versailles".
- Optional lunch in a traditional Moroccan restaurant
- Continue to Fez (1 Hour)
- Dinner and overnight in Fes.



#### <u>Day 3 – Tuesday : Fes</u>

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Sightseeing all day of Fes ; the oldest imperial city : visit the medieval Medina, religious Islamic centres and university namely the Medersa, the Karaouine Mosque and University
- Nejjarin Fountain.
- Optional lunch in a restaurant in the Medina
- PM : Sightseeing of the famous souks of Fes.
- Dinner and overnight hotel .



## Day 4 – Wednesday : Fes – Midelt - Erfoud ( 500 Kms )

- Breakfast at the hotel. Today is going to be a long drive (about 6 hours), so dress comfortably and warmly.
- Depart by way of Atlas Mountain Berber villages and the ski towns of Ifrane and Azrou(which look more like Switzerland then Morocco!) to Erfoud, with a stop in Midelt (for an optional lunch) and Errachidia along the way.
- Visit of the Blue Meski and arrive in Erfoud
- Dinner and overnight at your hotel



# Day 5 - Thursday : Erfoud - Rissani- Erfoud + Optional visit of Merzouga

• Morning at leisure: Erfoud doesn't have a lot to offer a tourist. It's really close to the desert and sand blasts are regularly experienced through the streets. It has two main attractions: the Date Festival and Erfoud's marble industry.

DESERT CAMP EXCURSION TO MERZOUGA DUNES.

Drive by 4x4 from Erfoud, 55 km . On route you would stop at a fossil quarry and visit the lake. If there is water, you may witness a spectacular cluster of wild birds.

Proceed to the golden sand dunes of Merzouga, one of the unforgettable sights in Morocco (where Lawrence of Arabia was filmed). Switching to camels, trek into the vast and silent Sahara, to a Berber camp for overnight



#### THE CAMP

On arrival at the Camp, you would be greeted in a big nomadic tent (made with camel hair) with Berber capets on the floor, tables and traditional chairs and lamps. Light: Burning wood fire, storm lanterns and a light generator for the whole camp. Table set up (minimum basis): White or coloured napkins, tables and traditional chairs Dinner: Meals are served on a round table for 6 to 8 pax. Sample of menu served during a seated camp dinner: \*Variety of Moroccan salads \*Tagine with chicken, lemon and olives \*Tagine with beef and prunes \*Kebab \*Seasonal fruits\* Mint tea and Moroccan pastries

Sanitary: Chemical toilets, toilets paper and soap, hot water, mirrors.



# Day 6- Friday : MERZOUGA - Erfoud -Ouarzazate ( 350 Kms )

- To see the dunes at Merzouga, no one ever regretted getting up at 5 am to witness the amazing sunrise : admire and watch the pink disc of the sun appearing over the gigantic dunes of Merzouga.
- After breakfast return by your camel then depart to Tinghir via Tinejdad road with its magnificent Kasbahs.
- Optional lunch. Visit the Todra Gorge and canyons. Continue to El Kelaa through the Dades Valley. Short sightseeing of El Kelaa (roses Festival in May).
- Departure to Ouarzazate through the Road Of A Thousand Kasbahs. Dinner and overnight





# <u>Day 7 -Saturday : Ouarzazate OR Optional excursion to Zagora -</u> <u>M'Hamid & at Tinfou (included)</u>

- Day at leisure on half board
- The sight of the red earthen city of Ait-Ben-Haddou (UNESCO World Heritage) is magnificent. It has been a set for so many films. On a hill opposite Ouarzazate, it was built in 757 as a stop on the caravan route from the Sahara to Marrakech.
- <u>OR</u> whole day excursion to Zagora, Draa Valley and the village of Amzrou (an old Jewish village). Visit of M'hamid, the last settlement before the Sahara.
- Return to Ouarzazate with a stop at Tinfou for a relaxing walk in the sand dunes before sunset.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel.



### Day- 8 Sunday : Ouarzazate-Marrakech (210 km)

- Breakfast and visit of Ouarzazate including Tiffeltout and Taourirt Kasbahs.
- Departure to the fortified village of Ait Ben Haddou, the most spectacular fortress in the south of Morocco.
- Optional lunch.
- Continue to Marrakech through the Tichka pass (2260m).
- Dinner and overnight.



# Day 9- Monday : Marrakech

- After breakfast, a whole day sightseeing tour around the city. Marrakech is the "pearl of the south" founded by the Almoravides Dynasty at the end of the 12 th Century. Explore the souks of Marrakech and the Djemaa El Fna Square.
- Return to your hotel at lunch time.
- PM visit to Saadyines Tombs, Dar Si Said Museum , Menara , Agdal gardens, and the Bahia Palace.
- Optional dinner in a typical Moroccan restaurant with folklore show.



### Day 10 Tuesday: Depart Marrakech

- Breakfast.
- Transfer to Marrakech Airport. A supplement is charged should you request a transfer to Casablanca Airport

#### • End of arrangements.

## Marrakech – Essaouira Extension 2 Nights/ 3 Days (175 km)

If you wish to extend your tour of Morocco you can visit the seaside city of Essaouira. with its purple ramparts. Inside its whitewashed medina with blue doors, lies a city that has been influenced by various cultures (Berber, Carthaginian, Portuguese, Arabs, others). Tour the medina, the ramparts, the Skala, the marquetry craftsmen carving thuja wood inlaid with ivory; the fishermen's port, the silver jewellers, the Mellah Jewish quarter, the art galleries, Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdullah museum. Enjoy some time in the golden beach.
At the end, transfer to Marrakech Airport to depart.





#### SCHEDULE 2017 / 2018:

Departures every Sunday Guaranteed departures minimum 2 participants

COST 2017 / 18: In Euros per person Casablanca/MarrakechShare twin€1495Single room supplement€296High season supplement:add €40\*High season:Dec – May, Aug – OctTransfer cost Marrakech to Casablanca Airport€200 up to 3 people in an airconditioned car.

### **COST INCLUDES:**

- 9 nights accommodation in 4\* hotels and guesthouse + 1 night in luxury desert tented camp
- Breakfast daily and 7 dinners
- Transfers at Casablanca Airport on arrival and departure from Marrakech Airport
- English speaking guide and local guides
- Air-conditioned car, minibus or coach
- Came ride in the desert
- Sightseeing and entrance fees when accompanied by guide

#### **COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- Lunches
- Tipping and gratuities
- Items of a personal nature

#### ESSAOUIRA EXTENSION 3 Days / 2 Nights

One night in Essaouira and one night in Casablanca with transfers included Marrakech/ Essaouira/Casablanca/hotel – Casablanca Airport. Breakfast is included both days

Share twin	€313
Single room supplement	€55

Book through:



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