

MYSTICAL MOROCCO SITE INSPECTION TRIP



**SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR SHARED
ADVENTURE TOURS
13 DAYS/11 NIGHTS**



Day 1 – Wednesday - September 5 - Departure

Depart New York this evening for Casablanca, Morocco.

Day 2 – Thursday - September 6 - Casablanca/Rabat

Welcome to Morocco.

Upon your early morning arrival, you will be met and assisted with your luggage. As you drive along the Corniche, stop at a café that sits on the Atlantic for a light breakfast (pastry and coffee/tea).

Continue to Rabat, the capital of Morocco.

Visit the Medina, Kasbah of the Oudayas, the Hassan Tower and Mosque, the splendid Mohammed V Mausoleum and the ramparts and walls of the Mechouar which surround the Royal Palace.

ACCOMMODATIONS: VILLA MANDARINE OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 3 – Friday – September 7 - Rabat/Meknes/Fes

Depart Rabat, stopping en-route at the UNESCO site of Volubilis where ancient ruins dating back to the first century BC still stand. The Romans developed Volubilis from approximately 25 BC, during the reign of Juba II, a Berber prince appointed as the ruler of the region by the Emperor Augustus. Juba II was married to the daughter of Anthony and Cleopatra. A highlight of the visit is seeing the colorful mosaic floors of some of the residences.

After lunch continue to Meknes to visit Bab el Mansour, the Royal Palaces, the Royal Stables, the Tomb of Moulay Idris and visit the shrine dedicated to the founder of the first Arab Dynasty.

Drive to Fes where you will overnight.

ACCOMMODATIONS: RIAD MAISON OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 4 – Saturday – September 8 - Fes

Explore Fes today including the Medina, the Medras (religious Islamic University), the Karaounie Mosque and the Nejjarine Fountain.

Many shopping opportunities await you as you visit local shops where craftsman still labor in the old age tradition of leather making, ceramic design and wood design.

Have your camera at the ready to take pictures of some of Fes most interesting sights.

Enjoy some time strolling through the Medina.

Tonight you will have an opportunity to meet with a local family at their home within the Medina and have a tasty dinner.

ACCOMMODATIONS: RIAD MAISON OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)



Day 5 – Sunday – September 9 - Fes/Midlet/Merzouga

A full day's drive through magnificent, ever changing scenery takes us over the middle Atlas Mountains to Midlet, an important mining center.

Drive south through the Ziz Valley into Erfoud, the gateway to the Sahara. Transfer to a land rover going from the rocky desert into wondrous and magnificent dunes.

Settle in at your tent on the Sahara and then camels await you for a trek up into the dunes. As you settle down into the pink sands of the Sahara with your camel and your guide watch for a beautiful sunset descending into the gigantic dunes of Merzouga while you sip mint tea.

This evening enjoy a Bedouin dinner and show.

ACCOMMODATIONS: UNDER THE STARS (TENT) (B, L, D)

Day 6 – Monday – September 10 - Merzouga/Erfoud/Ouarzazate

Before sunrise climb atop of your camel and make a last trek up the sand dunes to watch as the sun rises on a new day! Be sure to have your camera, as the sun rising over the dunes is a spectacular and unforgettable sight!

After breakfast say good bye to your new Bedouin friends.

Visit the fossil fields and drive to Ouarzazate. Stop in Tinghir, for mint tea and a demonstration at a rug shop.

Continue along the "Valley of a Thousand Kasbahs" and into the dramatic red Dades Gorge for lunch. The rock formations here are incredible.

Later today arrive in Ouarzazate. Time permitting visit the magnificent UNESCO site of Ait Ben Haddou. You will hold your breath as you stand before one of the most beautiful Kasbahs in the country, surrounded by fragrant almond trees. (Kasbahs were originally built as a fortified village or fortress). Many movies have been filmed here. If you have a chance you may meet some of the local people who still live in the Kasbah. They are friendly, sharing tea and a smile with you!

ACCOMMODATIONS: LE BERBERE PALACE OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 7 – Tuesday – September 11 – Ouarzazate

The day is at your leisure to relax!

ACCOMMODATIONS: LE BERBERE PALACE OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 8 – Wednesday – September 12 -Ouarzazate/Marrakesh

Leave Ouarzazate this morning and visit the fortified city of Tiffoultoute. (If the visit to Ait Ben Haddou was not done on the previous day you will visit the Kasbah this morning)



Then you are on the “Road to Marrakesh”. Drive via the Tiz-in Tichka Pass and cross through the Atlas Mountains to Marrakesh the "Pearl of the South".

Later, this afternoon you will have an orientation tour of the city including the mystical Djemma El Fna Square. Here you will see whirling dervishes, snake charmers, fortune tellers, magicians and more. You will feel as if you stepped back to days of "Ali Baba and his Forty Thieves".

Visit a local pharmacy where you will see a demonstration of local herbs and their daily uses.

ACCOMMODATIONS: RIAD KNIZA OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 9 – Thursday – September 13 - Marrakesh

The day is full of surprises as you explore the city.

Visit the famous Sedan Tombs, Oar Is Said Museum, the Agdal and Menara Gardens, Jardin Majorelle (home of Yves St. Laurent), the famous Koutobia and the Bahia Palaces.

Lunch will be in the Medina.

Enjoy the afternoon and evening at your leisure. Shop at the local shops for high quality leather goods, jewelry, textiles and more, relax poolside with a drink and a light snack or have dinner at a local restaurant.

ACCOMMODATIONS: RIAD KNIZA OR SIMILAR (B, L)

Day 10 – Friday – September 14 - Marrakesh

Today you will have some time to relax and explore Marrakesh on your own. You will have the car and driver available between 9:00am – 4:00pm to take you where you may want to go (entrance fees not included to siets). Your guide can make recommendations for additional shopping experiences outside of the bazaar. Be sure to visit the La Mamounia Hotel, a Leading Hotel of the World and a famous hotel for many dignitaries. The gardens are beautiful and lush.

Tonight, drive into the mountains to Chez Ali where you will enjoy a dinner and show including folklore music, skilled horsemen and fireworks.

ACCOMMODATIONS: RIAD KNIZA OR SIMILAR (B, D)

Day 11 – Saturday – September 15 - Marrakesh/Essaouira

Depart this morning for Essaouira, a picturesque Portuguese port city over 800-years old. Essaouira shows traces of Iberian influence in its forts and towers.



While driving you will visit the women's associations Argana where you will meet with the women of the area and see how they work together to earn money for their families by making baskets, sewing and other handicrafts.

Lunch will be at one of the local outdoor seafood restaurants.

After an orientation tour of the city enjoy some time at your leisure. Roam the alleyways that are filled with artist galleries, wood and jewelry shops and cafes.

ACCOMMODATIONS: VILLA DE L'O OR SIMILAR (B, L, D)

Day 12 – Sunday – September 16 – Essaouira/Casablanca

Depart this morning, to Casablanca.

An orientation tour will include a visit to the Hassan II Mosque. The bright blue sky and the stark white building is an architectural marvel. The second largest mosque in the world you will be amazed of the grandness, yet peacefulness of the building.

See United Nations Square, the Royal Palace, Central Market and Anfa Residential area. If time permits, enjoy your last opportunity to shop at one of the local markets.

This evening you will have a farewell dinner at Ricks Café.

ACCOMMODATIONS: SOFITEL TOUR BLANCHE OR SIMILAR (B, D)

Day 13 – Monday – September 17 - Casablanca/New York

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to New York. **(B)**