

TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

# Morocco: Imperial Cities & Desert

## 8-Day, 7-Night Journey

*Marrakech, Ouarzazate, Merzouga, Midelt, Fez, Rabat, Casablanca*

Embark on a vibrant Moroccan journey! Dive into Marrakech's lively traditional souks. Traverse through Ouarzazate's cinematic landscapes and Merzouga's tall Saharan dunes. Explore Fez's ancient medina, the regal capital city of Rabat and conclude in the romantic Casablanca.

This tour offers a rich tapestry of Berber, Arab, African, and European cultures and history, together with breathtaking scenery. Experience Morocco's rich culture through its intricate tilework, hand-woven carpets, and aromatic cuisine, including flavorful tagines and couscous.



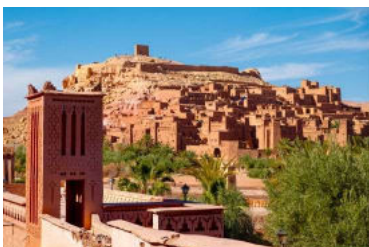
Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca



Evening food stalls at Jemaa el-Fnaa, Marrakech



Rich textures and intricate patterns of Moroccan Interior



Ait Ben Haddou (ancient fortress) near Ouarzazate



Majestic medieval architecture, Merzouga



Fez, Morocco's cultural and spiritual capital

## Inclusions

- Hotel Accommodations
- Daily Breakfast
- Airport Transfers
- Local guide and driver per itinerary
- Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per itinerary

## Exclusions

- International Airfare
- Government Tourism Fee
- Travel Insurance
- Medical Expenses
- Visa Fee
- Gratuities
- Personal Expenses

## Nearby Airport

Casablanca - Casablanca Mohammed V International Airport (CMN)

# Itinerary

## 2 NIGHTS IN MARRAKECH

### DAY 1: ARRIVE CASABLANCA

Upon arriving at Casablanca airport (CMN), you'll be met and transferred to your hotel in **Marrakech**. (3 hour drive).

The rest of the day is free.

Winston Churchill once described **Marrakech** as the "Paris of the Sahara".

[Meals: None]



### DAY 2: MARRAKECH CITY TOUR

Breakfast in the hotel then enjoy the guided city tour of **Marrakech** (6 hours @9am). Explore the vibrant blend of history, culture, and modernity in this captivating city.

Wander through the lively streets of the **Medina** and experience the sensory overload of **Jemaa el-Fna square**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. You will enjoy amazing street performances of traditional activities by storytellers, snake charmers and peddlers of traditional medicines. It is also filled with food vendors and local merchants. Enjoy free time to explore more of Marrakech at your leisure.

[Meals: Breakfast]

## 1 NIGHT IN OUARZAZATE

### DAY 3: MARRAKECH – KASBAH AIT BEN HADDOU – OUARZAZATE

Breakfast in the hotel then depart Marrakech through the spectacular **High Atlas Mountains** to **Ouarzazate**, often called the “Gateway to the Sahara” (4.5 hour drive @9am).

Along the way, we pass through the high-altitude mountain pass of **Tizi n'Tichka**, which offers spectacular views of the rugged landscape, valleys and Berber villages.

Enroute we visit the spectacular **fortress of Ait Ben Haddou**. The village is a great example of earthen clay architecture and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was also used in the Gladiator and Game of Thrones movies. Explore the mud-brick kasbahs (fortress), narrow alleys and traditional Berber architecture.

Continue to your **Ouarzazate** excursion, Ouarzazate is also known as “Morocco’s Hollywood”.

[Meals: Breakfast]

### 1 NIGHT IN MERZOUGA

#### DAY 4: OUARZAZATE – DADES VALLEY – TODRA GORGES – MERZOUGA

Breakfast in the hotel then depart Ouarzazate to **Merzouga**, a town at the edge of the Sahara Desert (6 hour drive @9am).

Enroute we explore Dades Valley and Todra Gorges. The drive is spectacular, with numerous of Kasbahs (fortresses) lining the route.

You’ll pass through **Dades Valley**, famous for its stunning landscapes of deep gorges, lush valleys and dramatic cliffs.

Stop at the famous **Todra Gorge**, a series of towering cliffs and narrow canyons carved deep into the High Atlas Mountains.

Arrive at **Merzouga**, which is the heart of the desert. Overnight in the Desert Camp.

[Meals: Breakfast]

### 1 NIGHTS IN MIDELT

#### DAY 5: MERZOUGA – MIDELT

Breakfast in the hotel then transfer to **Midelt** (5 hour drive @2pm). **Midelt** is a Berber town located between the Atlas Mountains and the Sahara Desert. Enjoy stunning views of the apple orchards and the surrounding peaks.

[Meals: Breakfast]

### 1 NIGHT IN FEZ

#### DAY 6: MIDELT – IFRANE – FEZ

After breakfast, depart to **Fez**. (4 hour drive @9am).

Pass through the picturesque town of **Ifrane** which is famous for its Alpine climate, European-style houses and its 1,665 meter (5,460 ft) elevation. The town experiences snow during winter months and has a cool climate during summer.

Continue to **Fez** which is the spiritual capital of Morocco. There are 4 imperial capital cities in Morocco - Fez, Marrakesh, Meknes and Rabat.

Enjoy the guided **city tour of Fez**.

Explore the mesmerizing **medina**, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Visit the famous **al-Qarawiyyin University (Al-Karaouine University)**, the oldest continuously operating university in the world.

Visit the **Mausoleum of Moulay Idriss**.

Complete the tour with a visit to a traditional silver workshop and the bustling leather tanneries. The local tannery dates back at least nine centuries.

Overnight in Fez.

[Meals: Breakfast]

## **1 NIGHT IN CASABLANCA**

### **DAY 7: FES – RABAT - CASABLANCA**

Breakfast in the hotel. Depart to Casablanca. (4.5 hour drive @9am)

Enroute we visit **Rabat**, Morocco's elegant capital. Enjoy a captivating panoramic tour of Rabat. City.

See **Mohammed V Mausoleum**, **Hassan Tower** (a minaret built in 1195), the peaceful **Kasbah of the Udayas** (a 12<sup>th</sup> century hilltop fortress offering stunning views over the Atlantic Ocean).

Continue to **Casablanca** for a panoramic city tour; pass by the vibrant **Mohammed V Square**, the upscale **Anfa** residential district and the impressive **Hassan II Mosque** (exterior), one of the largest mosques in the world; stroll along the beautiful **Ain Diab Corniche**, a lively seaside boulevard.

Overnight in Casablanca.

[Meals: Breakfast]

### **DAY 8: CASABLANCA AIRPORT**

After breakfast, hotel check-out and transfer to Casablanca airport (CMN) for your flight home.

[Meals: Breakfast]

\*Hotel check-out time is generally around 11 am. If your flight departs in the evening or past midnight, we suggest you consider adding a post-tour hotel night during booking, to be comfortable and well rested before your flight home.

\*The duration and start time of excursions are subject to change without prior notice.