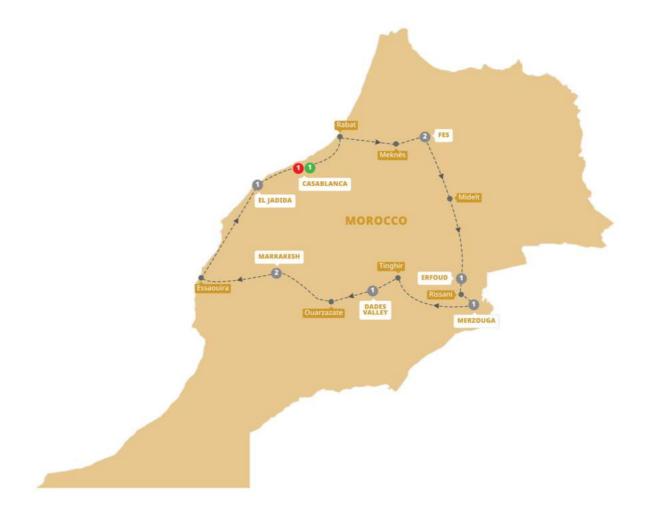


# Best of Morocco



# **Best of Morocco**





Over night



TRAFALGAR | 2

#### Day 1 | Welcome to Casablanca



The intoxicating sights and sounds of Morocco are revealed on this epic adventure through an ancient land. Delve into the intrigue and romance of Casablanca, immortalised by Hollywood, before meeting your travel companions and Travel Director for dinner.

Meals: Dinner Hotel: Gray

#### Day 2 | Journey to Rabat, Meknès and on to Fes



Continue along the coast to the capital, Rabat. Here you'll embark on an orientation tour of the city which includes views of the grand 17-century Palace and Mausoleum of Mohammed V. Travelling to the imperial city of Meknès, you'll see the grand gate of Bab elMansour, one of the most impressive monumental gateways in North Africa, adorned by green and white zeillij tiles. Arrive in Fes later today where you can choose to spend the evening at leisure in the country's oldest imperial city or enjoy a local meal of fine food, and traditional entertainment on our evening optional experience.

#### Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Marriott Jnan Palace

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

**Arabian Dinner and Entertainment in a Riad -** Enjoy a local meal of fine food, live bands and traditional entertainment including belly dancing, in a spectacular Moroccan setting. Adult: 560.00 MAD

#### Day 3 | Discover Vibrant Fes



Join a Local Specialist today to explore the Medina, one of the largest thriving medieval centres in the world. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® experience to the non-profit American Fondouk, speak with the volunteer veterinarians who care so passionately for the welfare of the animals. See the Royal Palace and Dive Into Culture during a visit to the round dye-pits and tanneries, revealing Morocco's ancient leathercraft. Later, you can admire traditional Moroccan handiwork during a visit to a carpet cooperative. Join your companions this evening for a special opportunity to Connect With Locals over dinner for a Be My Guest experience, featuring Moroccan specialties served with wine in a traditional riad.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner **Hotel:** Marriott Jnan Palace

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

**Bhalil Revealed -** Explore Bhalil village, where local people live in dwellings carved from the rock face. Warm in winter but cool in summer, they are perfect for the local climate. You'll also visit local craftsmen at a traditional ceramic tile factory. Adult: 290.00 MAD

## Day 4 | Onwards to Erfoud



Follow the old caravan trail south, stopping for a lunch in Midelt, a market town set within the high plains between the Middle and High Atlas mountain ranges. Continuing along the palm-fringed Ziz Valley and past the Tafilalt oasis, you'll arrive in the oasis town of Erfoud, regarded as the 'Gateway to the Sahara'. Its golden façades and towering dunes have made it a popular location for filmmakers for decades. This evening we dine at our hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Hotel:** Kasbah Xaluca

## Day 5 | Sahara Experience in Merzouga



Relax with a leisurely morning, or you may prefer to explore the desert town of Rissani. This afternoon we experience a traditional lunch of Madfouna, also known as 'Berber Pizza'. This dish is a delight for the senses with seasonal fillings and spices. Later, continue to Great Erg Chebbi where we are transported into the heart of the dunes to your authentic Nomad-style accommodation for the night. This evening witness the most unforgettable sunset before dining with local music and dancers. The night sky of the Sahara offers a magical view of the stars, planets and constellations, discover how the Nomads used these for navigation.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Hotel:** Auberge Bivouacs La Belle Etoile

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

**Rissani Desert Village** - Visit the authentic desert town of Rissani, see the Tomb of Moulay Ali Cherif, one of the founders of the Alaouite family who reigned during the second half of the 17th century. Visit the local Rissani *souk* where locals come from all over to trade, followed by a visit at the quarries of marine fossils with an antiquity of 360 million years. Adult: 620.00 MAD



# Day 6 | Off to Tinghir Oasis and the Stunning Dades Valley

Journeying west, stop at Todra Gorge before continuing to Tinghir, one of the most beautiful oases in southern Morocco and home to the ruins of the ancient Glaoui palace. Wander the Kasbahs and discover the city as you enjoy some free time after lunch. Enjoy a Stays with Stories experience as you overnight at Xaluca Dades, surrounded by panoramic views of the Atlas Mountains.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Hotel:** Dades Xaluca

# Day 7 | Venture through the High Atlas Mountains to Marrakesh



Blending effortlessly into the arid landscape, Ouarzazate has provided a backdrop for such famous movies as 'Lawrence of Arabia', 'Cleopatra' and 'Gladiator'. See the UNESCO-listed fortified village of Aït Ben Haddou in the High Atlas Mountains. Meet a local Imam and his family to learn about living in the region before continuing through the Tizi-n-Tichka Pass to Marrakesh - the 'Red City'. Like many other former imperial cities in Morocco, Marrakesh comprises an old fortified city the Medina - and an adjacent modern city. Marrakesh is home to Morocco's largest traditional *souk* (market).

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Ryad Mogador Menara



Visit the ornate Dar El Bacha during a city orientation with your Local Specialist and spend some time soaking up the energy of Djemaa el Fna Square in the Old Quarter with its palm readers, storytellers and snake charmers. Spend the rest of the afternoon lingering in one of the city's beautiful gardens, discover the vibrant arts and culture scene or consider indulging in a traditional Hammam.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Ryad Mogador Menara

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

**Majorelle Gardens And The Berber Museum -** No visit to Marrakesh is complete without some time in the lovely Majorelle Gardens, bought and restored by the late Yves St Laurent. You'll also visit the Berber Museum where you will have the opportunity to view artefacts created by the ancient Berber people. Adult: 340.00 MAD

**The Square at Night and Traditional Dinner -** You will visit the magical Jemaa el Fna Square and enjoy the exotic sights and sounds of Marrakesh by night. Then we'll have dinner in a typical Moroccan restaurant, with music and entertainment. Adult: 695.00 MAD

#### Day 8 | Explore Marrakesh

# Day 9 | Continue to Coastal Essaouira



Travel to the laid-back shores of Essaouira this morning. Consider a delicious seafood lunch and enjoy some free time before joining an orientation with your Travel Director. Journey to the port city of El Jadida with its unique architectural mixture of Moorish-Portuguese-French influence.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Pullman Mazagan Royal Golf and Spa

## Day 10 | Return to Casablanca



This morning, journey north to Casablanca where you may choose to visit the magnificent Hassan II Mosque famous for its intricate Islamic architecture, built for the late King's 60th birthday celebrations. Later, join your Travel Director and companions for dinner to celebrate an unforgettable voyage of discovery.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Gray

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

**Hassan II Mosque -** The Hassan II Mosque famous for its exquisite and intricate Islamic architecture and one of the largest in the world. Located on a platform over the Atlantic Ocean with a 210m-tall minaret that's a city landmark. Adult: 395.00 MAD

#### Day 11 | Farewell Morocco

Say goodbye to your newfound friends at the end of your Moroccan holiday.

Meals: Breakfast