Welcome to Magical Morocco - Nov 2024

An incredible destination! The beautiful mountains, Gorgeous beaches along stretching coastlines, the vast Sahara, the lively Medinas (old cities with their original architecture, gardens and fountains) Morocco offers great beauty at every turn. The main Berber and Arab cultures of Morocco are complemented by elements of French, Roman, Jewish, Spanish - an eclectic mix! Crossing Morocco for more than 1000 kms, the Atlas mountains act as a powerful barrier in between Morocco's coastal areas and the immense stretch of the Sahara Desert.



Day 1: - 15 Nov FRI Arrive at Casablanca airport

Transfer to Marriott Casablanca. Welcome dinner at Hotel marriott.com/en-us/hotels/cmnmc-casablanca-marriott-hotel/overview/

Day 2: - 16 Nov SAT - Casablanca

After Breakfast, Casablanca - City tour of the Mohammed V Square, the city's administrative seat, the Hassan II Mosque, dramatically perched on a promontory on the Atlantic. The architectural marvel of the Mosque is iconic. Enjoy the charming corniche by the Atlantic. Marriott

Day 3: - 17 Nov SUN - Casablanca - Rabat - Chefchaouen

After breakfast, head to **Rabat, the capital of Morocco**. Visit the **Hassan Tower**, the unfinished mosque. At the preserved Kasbah explore the fortress and the French-colonial **Andalusian gardens**. Enjoy Lunch at a Tagine. Drive through Asilah, a beautiful Atlantic coastal town, **over the Rif Mountains** to the "blue pearl city" **Chefchaouen Da Vincci** https://vanciihotel.com/



Chefchaouen

Day 4 - 18 Nov MON Chefchaouen - Fes

The 'blue city', is one of the prettiest places in Morocco. A stroll through the ancient medina is a must for shopping. After Lunch, drive towards Fes. Enroute, stop for a panoramic view of this medieval city. On arrival, enjoy the Jewish quarter or mellah built in 1438. Marriott Jnan Palace https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/fezmc-fes-marriott-hotel-jnan-palace/overview/



Fes - LeatherTannery

<u>Day 5 - 19 Nov TUE Fes Historical and cultural sightseeing:</u>

Fes is the spiritual and cultural heart of Morocco with a well-preserved medieval old city that's the mother of all medinas. Explore the sprawling Medina of Fes, the world's largest car-free urban area. Founded in the 9th century, the principal monuments in the medina are *madrasas* (*educational institutions*), palaces, residences, mosques and fountains .In 1981, the old city, consisting of Fes el-Bali and Fes Jdid, was classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Fes, particularly famous for its tanneries, will be one of the highlights. Dinner at Marriott Jnan Palace

<u>Day 6 - 20 Nov WED Fes Irfane Midelt Erfoud Merzouga Camp Erg</u> <u>Chebbi and experience at a Beber home</u>

After breakfast depart at 8am. Travel towards **Merzouga**. Experience glimpses of the **Middle Atlas** with a stop at **Ifrane**, referred to as little Switzerland of Africa. En route, a stop at the **Cedar forest**, where you may well see Barbarian apes.

Climb the cedar covered slopes of the Middle Atlas Mountains through the hill station of Ifrane, over the pass of Zad (2178 meters), descending to Midelt, center of the lead mining center. From here, start to dot the countryside alongside the River Ziz, to reach the majestic canyon of the Ziz Gorges. Drive through the valley crossing an arid desert to drop suddenly into the valley, Tizimi Palmeraie (Oasis). Arrive in Erfoud around 5pm. Kasbah Xaluca https://xaluca.com/kasbahhotelxaluca

Day 7- 21 Nov THU Erfoud Merzouga Deluxe tent

Switch to air conditioned 4WD vehicles. After 45 kms arrive at the town of Merzouga with the view of the incredible panorama of the sea of sand dunes of the Erg Chebbi, the highest and longest stretch of dunes in the Moroccan Sahara. Enjoy some traditional mint tea at the Auberge, while your bags are being loaded onto the camels.. Around 6pm we depart across this sea of golden dunes into the only 'true' desert area of the kingdom of Morocco. We stop in the middle of nowhere to marvel on the high dunes. We get our first glimpse of the carpeted Berber tents and enjoy a glass of mint tea while our bags are being unloaded. Clamber up to the top of the dunes to enjoy a magnificent view. After dinner, enjoy a campfire with singing & dancing.

Deluxe tent - https://orientdesertcamp.com/



The greatest desert on Earth - The Sahara

<u>Day 8: 22 Nov FRI Merzouga - Todra Gorges Meghouna Valley - Ouarzazate</u>

Bedouin Breakfast at the camp. Depart to Erfoud. Visit the oasis town of Tinjdad into the Valley of 1000 Kasbahs (fortiied cities) located at the Todra Gorges, which overlooks a Glaoua Kasbah and has the oldest Jewish cemetery. Have lunch at the mouth of the Gorge, before going to the small town of Boumalne Du Dadès situated at the mouth of the Dadès Gorge. Continue via Qlâa't Des M'Gouna (Citadel of the M'Gouna Tribe) where Thousands of small, pink Damascene roses were planted by French settlers, and are used to make the rose oil essence "Eau de Rose" so beloved of the Berber people. Arrive at Ouarzazate for dinner. Ksar Ighenda https://ksarighnda.com/en/



Ouarzazate

<u>Day 9: 23 NOV SAT Ouarzazate - Marrakech - Experience at a Berber home</u> Berber people are an ethnic group indigenous to North Africa.

Breakfast - 7 am , Visit the 18th century **Kasbah of Taourirt in Ouarzazate,** via the Asif Ounila Valley to the Kasbah at Tifoultoute. View the magnificently **exotic Kasbah and Ksour of Aït Ben Haddou, a World Heritage Site**.

One of the more spectacular sights in the Atlas ranges is a kasbah once home to the Pasha's employees. This kasbah controlled the route to Marrakech until the French blasted a road through the Tizi 'Tichka in the late 1920s.

Travel through the High Atlas Mountains, around hairpin turns, before descending across the Glaoua Plains to Marrakech. **Kenzi Rose Garden** https://www.kenzi-hotels.com/en/kenzi-rose-garden/



Berber village

Day 10: 24 NOV SUN Marrakech historical and cultural sightseeing -

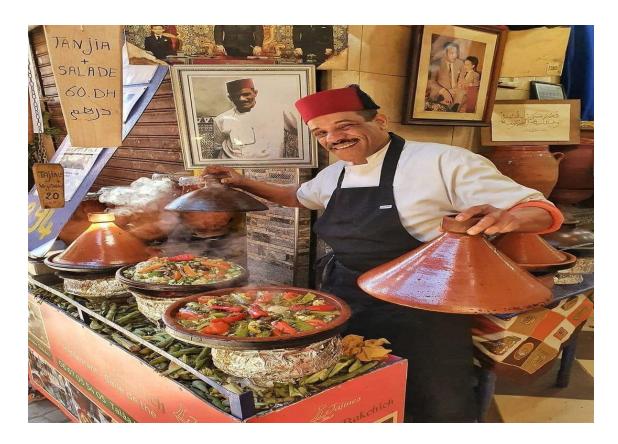
After breakfast, explore the historic sites - the lavish **Saâdien Tombs**, the remnants of the vast and magnificent **El Badii Palace that was built in the late 1500s** and the **Dar Si Saïd Museum**, an 18 th century palace. Today it houses both traditional and contemporary exhibitions of Moroccan arts and sculpture.

Visit **Ali Ben Youssef Medersa**, built in the 14th century as an Islamic school made of cedar wood. A visit to the **Le Jardin Secret Garden** and to the **Souk**. Special Moroccan Dinner from Kenzi Rose Garden Hotel on Horse drawn carriage to a traditional Moroccan restaurant.

Day 11: 25 Nov MON After a Breakfast, its time to say goodbye from Marrakech.

OR

<u>Day 12: 26 Nov TUE</u> Go to Casablanca to take the flight. Overnight in Casablanca with breakfast (see NOTE below on the extra cost).



Tajine experience!

Price per person in USD in Twin or double sharing:

USD 2285 per person . A deposit of USD 250 pp is required to secure space

If paying by Visa credit please add 3.5%, Amex 4%

Included services are:

- -Accommodation as listed above or similar.
- -Breakfast, Lunch and dinners including mineral water and soft drinks.
- -2 special dinners
- -Transport by Deluxe motor coach throughout the program.

- -English speaking expert guide throughout the program.
- -In/out transfers from airport to hotel
- -Transfers By 4x4 Land Cruisers to the dunes
- Camel Ride on the Sahara between the dunes on sundown
- Entrance fees to monuments.
- Portages in/out the hotels and the airports.
- Bottled mineral water in the motor coach

Not Included:

- International flights
- -Travel and Medical Insurance Important
- -Tips

*NOTE At the end of the tour, If going to Casablanca, CMN Mohammed V International to take your flight back home, extra night will be USD 250 with breakfast and transportation from Marrakech to Casablanca.