



Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca

EXPERIENCE MOROCCO. TRULY.



Welcome to Morocco! Thank you for choosing to travel with us. We are delighted to show you our beautiful country and share our traditions and culture with you. Our aim is for your holiday to be fun, safe, and memorable and we will do everything to ensure a comfortable journey. In the following pages you will find a detailed itinerary of your trip including travel dates, hotels, and guided tours plus contact info for your reference.





Day 1:

Arrive Casablanca

Air Canada Flight #808

7:10 am

Pick up at Mohammed V International Airport. I will be holding a signboard JUDY WHITE **4 GUESTS** for you to recognize me on arrival. This morning will be at your leisure. Today you will visit Hassan II Mosque. You may wish to enjoy the evening at Rick's cafe (from the movie Casablanca) after a rest. Please let me know if you would like me to make an advance reservation for you. Overnight at **Hotel le Doge**.

Day 2:

Depart for Marrakech. The drive will take approximately 3 hours and we will arrive before lunch. This afternoon you will enjoy the galleries and Museum of African Contemporary Art. Three nights at **Maison l'Arabe**. Your hotel offers cooking classes if you are interested in learning the delicacies of Moroccan cuisine. Friday is traditionally a day for Moroccans to enjoy a savory couscous. Marrakech has some of the finest restaurants.

Day 3:

Pick up at 9:30 am for your guided tour of Marrakech with Jouad. Today you will enjoy important historic sights and landmarks including the Saadian Tombs, Bahia Palace, Koutoubia Mosque, the old Medina and Jewish Quarter.

◆ Koutoubia Mosque

The mosque's minaret is considered an important landmark of Marrakech. It towers 253 ft in height and includes a spire and orbs. The mosque was completed under the reign of the Berber Almohad Caliph Yaqub al-Mansur period (1184-1199).



◆ Saadian Tombs

The mausoleum dates to the time of the Saadian dynasty sultan Ahmad al-Mansur (1578-1603) and comprises the interments of about sixty members of the Saadi Dynasty that originated in the valley of the Draa river. The tombs were rediscovered and renovated a century ago to their stunning decorative beauty made of Italian Carrera marble and finely worked local cedar wood and stucco.



◆ Bahia Palace

The former palace of Grand Vizier Si Moussa, Bahia Palace housed his wives and concubines. Courtyards and gardens engulf the palace built in the late 19th century intended to be the greatest palace of its time. It captures the quintessential Moroccan style, a mix of Moorish and Andalusian art. It is a masterpiece of mosaics and arabesques.

◆ Medina

Marrakech Medina, with its maze of lanes, old houses, souks, fondouks, craft and commercial activities, is an eminent example of a living historical city where treasure hunting is a must.



◆ Jemaa el F'na



The infamous open air public market and main square. Part carnival, part souk it is a spectacle unlike any other. Most popular after dark when musicians and other traditional Moroccan entertainers delight visitors.

◆ Jardin Majorelle

The garden is a 40 year love affair created by its namesake and French painter, Jacques Majorelle, and a true oasis in the middle of Marrakech - a cool and quiet place to stroll, sit and reflect and take in the natural sites and sounds inherent



in its own eco-system. Yves St Laurent purchased the property, saved it from ruin and lovingly restored it to its intended glory.

Day 4:

At your leisure you will visit Jardin Majorelle, Villa Oasis (if possible), and any museums, galleries, the King's palace and other architectural highlights you wish. We are at your service for as much or little activity as you desire. A favorite Moroccan pastime is to sit and enjoy an afternoon cafe noir (espresso) or mint tea (the a la menthe) - also known as Berber whiskey!



Day 5:

Morning departure for the seaside town of Essaouira. The drive will take approximately 3 hours and you may have a chance to spot goats foraging for nuts in, on, and among the prolific argan trees along the route. Morocco is famous for the highest quality argan oil and there are several area cooperatives if you wish to purchase products. The seafood in Essaouira is especially fresh and delicious on this beautiful Atlantic coastline. Among the specialities are snails served in broth or fresh sea urchin. Of course you will have the option to choose whatever you like but the aforementioned is Moroccan style. Two nights accommodation at **Villa Quieta**.



Day 6:



Essaouira is a quaint, old Portuguese fishing village; the harbor, ramparts and the old Medina being the highlights. A soft, sandy beach with sparkling clean water offers opportunity for horseback, camel or ATV riding, surfing or kite surfing or simply taking a promenade and photographing these delights as you enjoy the salt air. The town is an enclave for local artisans and European expatriates.

Day 7:

This morning we depart for the High Atlas Mountains. It is a stunning drive through lush mountains and valleys, including the second highest peak in Africa. The landscapes are dotted with wild poppy fields and fruit and nut orchards. Arrive in the afternoon at **Kasbah Bab Ouirika** for 2 overnights.



Day 8:

Exploring the Berber culture of the High Atlas mountains is the order of the day. You will take part in local life and experience how the nomads and farmers have lived and worked in these environs for centuries. You may have the opportunity to visit a souk and enjoy lunch with a Berber family. There will be occasion to enjoy some of the local traditions in food, music, craft and farming.



Day 9:



Head back to Marrakech for your 4:10 pm departure for Fes. Here you will spend three nights at the **Palais Faraj**. I will rejoin you the next morning for your guided cultural tour of Fes.

Day 10:

Today you will immerse in cultural activities with an official local guide in Fes. Your visit to Fes el Bali, the Unesco World Heritage pronounced Medina, includes the Zaouia of Moulay Idriss II, the Karouine Mosque, the al-Attarine Madrasa, Bab Boujloud (Blue Gate), the Jewish quarter, the Chouara tannery, and the souk. In the evening, an option could be to enjoy the full Moroccan experience with a dinner show at Palais la Medina theater. Albeit a bit touristy, the food is good and the show includes traditional music, belly dancing, and other spectacular entertainment.

◆ Bab Boujloud

The Blue Gate marks the entrance to the Medina. The structure is a beautiful example of Moorish architecture. Its angled positioning was deliberate so as to aid in defense of the city during the 12th century and sits on the main street giving access to the University and mosque.



◆ Zaouia of Moulay Idriss II

A religious complex and shrine to Idriss II, descendant of the prophet Muhammad and ruler of Morocco from 807-828 a.d. Idriss is credited as the founder of Fes and was of central importance in expanding control over territory mostly known as Morocco today, as well as the Islamization of Morocco.

◆ Karaouine Mosque



Referred to by scholars as the oldest University in the world, the most illustrious spiritual and intellectual centers comprising a University, Madrasa, and Mosque were built by Fatima al-Firhi in 859 using all her worldly riches. Religion and law are the primary disciplines taught here. Students must memorize the full text of the Qur'an. Girls have been allowed to attend just since the 1940's.

◆ al-Attarine Madrasa

Built by the Marinid Sultan Uthman II Abu Said in the early 14th century, the madrasa was once an important center for learning and spirituality. It is a wondrous illustration of ornately decorated Moorish architecture and design.

◆ Chouara Tannery

Using tanning methods unchanged since medieval times, the tannery operates without the use of machinery.

It's an amalgam of stone vessels, some filled with white liquids made from various mixtures of cow urine, pigeon feces, quicklime, salt, and water in order to clean and soften tough animal skins, and others filled with natural dyes like poppy, indigo and henna used to color the hides before being laid to dry under the sun and sold and reworked into fine leather products.



Day 11:

If you mastered the labyrinth of the famous Medina souk you may wish to treasure hunt on your own today. Fes is known for local pottery, leather goods, and metal works. There are



several artisanal arts and craft workshops where you can observe local craftsman (and women) and even participate in creating beautiful pieces of art. Or, perhaps, you'd rather view ancient artifacts from the Dar el-Batha Museum. Mount Zalagh is a short drive from Fes with beautiful city views if

getting away from the hustle of the city is more your preference. Or you could simply relax and enjoy a hammam today.

Day 12:

Onward to Rabat with a splendid side trip to Meknes and the ancient Roman ruins of Volubilis (tickets included). We will spend a bit of time in the Imperial city before arriving for an overnight in Rabat at **Riad Kalaa**. You may wish to visit the Tour Hassan, Mausoleum of Mohammed V and the enchanting Chellah.



Day 13:

Return to Casablanca at your leisure and drop off for one overnight at **Atlas Sky Airport Hotel**.

Day 14:

Depart Casablanca Air Canada Flight #809, 10:10 am

*Shuttle transportation arranged by Sky Atlas Hotel - departures every 15-20 minutes

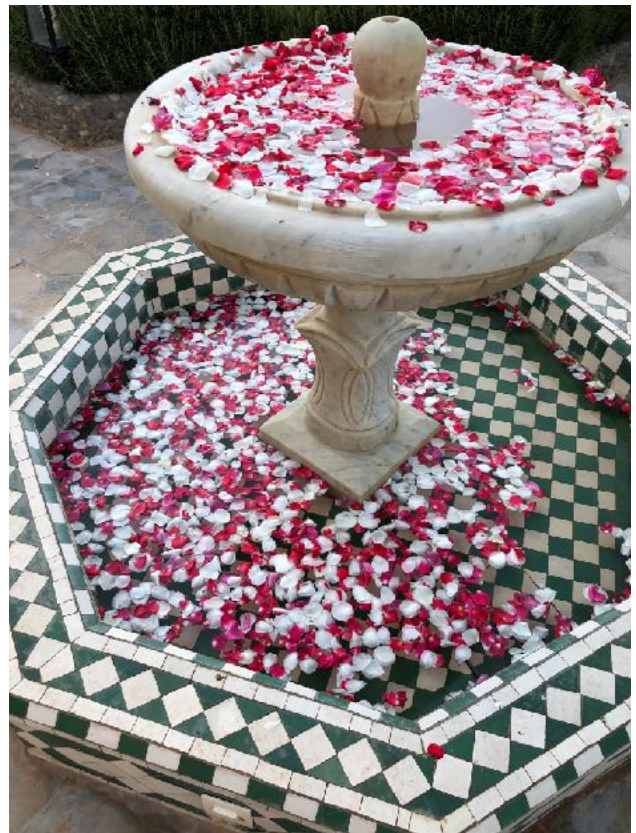


We hope you have enjoyed your time with us and will remember Morocco fondly. It has been our pleasure to travel with you and we thank you for your business. We love it when you include us in your social media posts on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter and would appreciate your feedback on Trip Advisor. Stay in touch with Omar on WhatsApp.

Truly Morocco

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