

Trip Snapshot

Experience Morocco on a private itinerary from Marrakesh to Casablanca, traveling through imperial cities, the Sahara Desert, and the blue streets of Chefchaouen. This trip blends cultural exploration, desert adventure, and relaxation for travelers seeking a comprehensive Morocco experience.

Trip Type: Independent

Flexible solo travel with pre-planned routes and local activities.

Travel Theme: Culture & Heritage

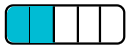
Uncover the stories and traditions that shape each destination.

Departure City: Marrakesh

End City: Casablanca

Group Size: 2 - 30 travellers

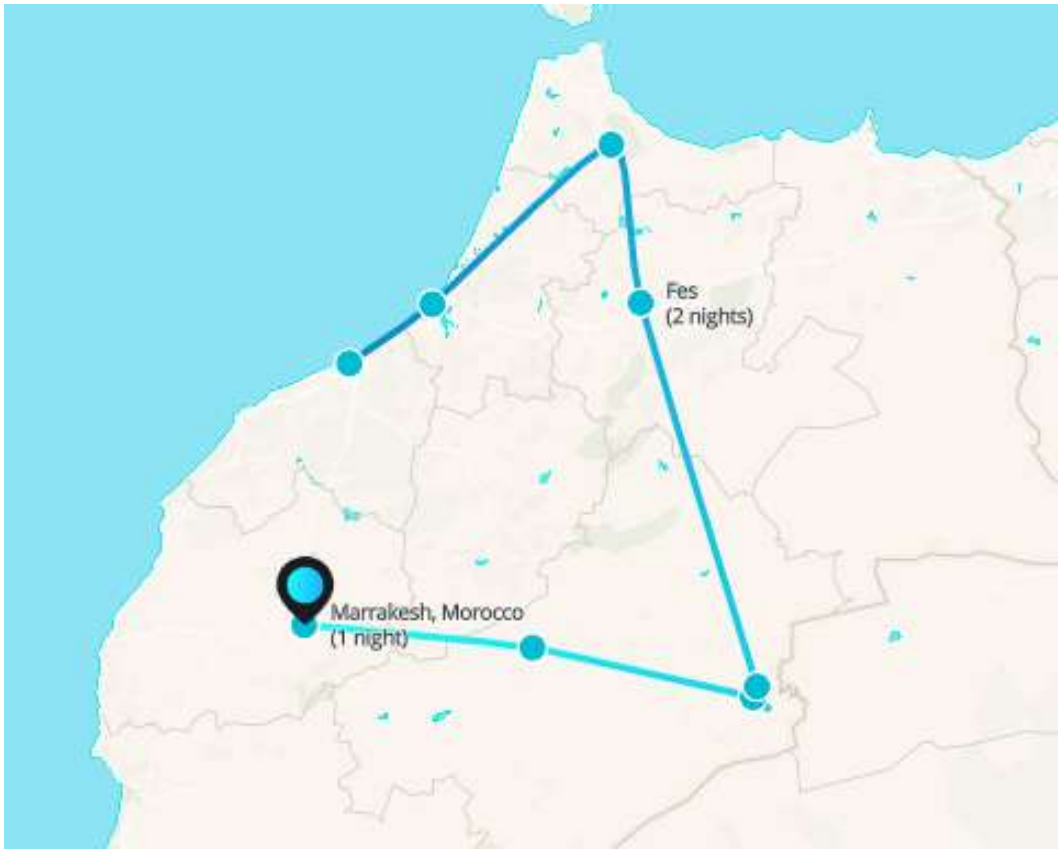
Operated in: English / Spanish

Physical Difficulty: Light 

Travel Styles: Walking tour · Rural home stays · Cultural · Indigenous culture · Visit markets · Culture & History · Meet local people.

Things you will do

- Explore Marrakesh's souks, palaces, and historic mosques
- Ride camels and sleep in a Sahara desert camp
- Discover Fez's ancient medina, tanneries, and artisan workshops
- Wander the blue-painted alleys of Chefchaouen



Itinerary

Morocco (Day 1 - 10)

Day 1: Day 1: Arrival in Marrakesh | Warm Welcome and City Introduction



Meals
None

Accommodation

Riad Morroco Sky, Riad Palais des Princesses & SPA, Riad Idra

Arrive at Marrakesh Menara Airport, where you are greeted by your driver holding a personalized signboard in the arrivals area. Receive a warm welcome and an introduction to Moroccan hospitality as you begin your journey. Enjoy a private transfer from the airport to your accommodation, located in the center of Marrakesh. Along the route, take in your first glimpses of the city's vibrant streets, ancient ramparts, and palm tree silhouettes.

As you travel through Marrakesh, notice the vivid colors and lively atmosphere that hint at the experiences ahead. The evening is unstructured, giving you time to relax and recover from your journey. Settle into your traditional riad or hotel, unwind, and absorb the ambiance of Marrakesh, marked by the scent of spices and the sounds of the city in the distance.

Marrakesh was established in 1070 and became a significant imperial city at the crossroads of ancient Saharan trade routes.

Day 2: Day 2: Marrakesh Sightseeing | Palaces, Tombs, and Souks



Meals

Breakfast

Accommodation

Riad Morroco Sky, Riad Palais des Princesses & SPA, Riad Idra

Begin the day with breakfast before meeting your guide for a three-hour walking tour focused on Marrakesh's cultural landmarks. Your first stop is Bahia Palace in the southern Mellah district. Walk through its 8,000 square meters of painted and gilded ceilings, wooden marquetry, intricate stucco, and zellige tilework. Explore the palace's tranquil fountains and orange blossom-filled gardens, learning that it was built between 1894 and 1900 by architect El Mekki for Grand Vizier Ba Ahmed ben Moussa.

Continue to the Saadian Tombs, located next to the Kasbah Mosque. Enter this royal necropolis, in use since the 14th century and renowned for its 16th-century expansion under Sultan Ahmed El Mansour. See the elaborate tiles and ornate koubba, which houses the tomb of Lalla Messaouda and several Saadian rulers. The tombs were hidden for centuries after being sealed in the 18th century and were rediscovered in 1917.

Next, visit the Koutoubia Mosque, Marrakesh's largest and most recognized mosque, known for its Almohad-style minaret that dominates the skyline. Walk through the nearby souks, where the aroma of spices and the energy of daily life surround you, providing a sensory introduction to Marrakesh's historic center.

Bahia Palace is considered a pinnacle of 19th-century Moroccan luxury, showcasing the finest artisanship of its era.

Day 3: Day 3: Marrakesh to Dades Valley | Atlas Mountains and Kasbahs



🍴 Meals

Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation
kasbah didis, Riad Dades Paradise, Eden Boutique Hotel

After breakfast, depart Marrakesh and travel through the High Atlas Mountains. Watch as the city gives way to dramatic mountain peaks, a route once used by ancient caravans transporting gold, salt, and other goods from the Sahara. Pass villages set among oak trees, walnut groves, and areas with lingering snow until you reach the Tizi n'Tichka Pass at 2,260 meters elevation.

Descend from the pass and detour to visit Ksar Ait Benhaddou, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Walk the narrow alleys of this adobe citadel above the Ounila Valley, observing centuries-old mud-and-straw walls. Climb to the summit for panoramic views of the Atlas Mountains and learn that seven families still live within the ksar, while others reside in the modern section of the valley. Take a lunch break in the village and hear about Ait Benhaddou's history as a caravan stop for salt, silver, and slaves, and as a filming location for several major movies.

Continue the drive past Ouarzazate and through Skoura, a region known for its palm groves, before reaching the Dades Valley. The landscape shifts to lush greenery between rugged desert formations, dotted with ksars. Settle into your accommodation in the Dades Valley for the evening, surrounded by dramatic scenery and deep cultural heritage.

Ksar Ait Benhaddou is one of Morocco's best-preserved fortified villages, recognized for its earthen clay architecture and its role in trans-Saharan trade.

Day 4: Day 4: Dades Valley to Merzouga | Gorges, Oases, and Sahara Arrival



Meals
Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation
Azawad Luxury Camp, Sahara Desert Luxury Camp, Sahara Stars Camp

Travel through the Dades Valley, passing green palm groves and striking rock formations. Stop in Tinerhir, a town known for its expansive palm oasis and ksours, fortified Berber villages set on rocky hills. Explore the old Jewish quarter, reflecting Tinerhir's multicultural past and its historical role as a winter stop for nomadic Berber tribes heading south.

Continue to Todra Gorge, located 15 kilometers from Tinerhir. Stand at the base of 300-meter limestone cliffs and listen to the river flowing through the gorge. Watch as sunlight changes the color of the rock walls and see climbers scaling the cliffs, drawn by the area's reputation for excellent climbing routes.

After experiencing the gorge, drive through Erfoud, a town noted for its fossil-rich land, and approach Merzouga as the landscape transitions to the golden dunes of Erg Chebbi. Pause at a local kasbah for a short rest before mounting a camel for a ride into the Sahara. Travel across the dunes at sunset, climb the highest dune for wide views, and arrive at your private desert camp.

Spend the evening dining on traditional Moroccan food under the stars. Listen to local musicians around the campfire and enjoy the quiet of the Sahara before retiring to your tent, which includes an en suite bathroom and toilet for comfort.

Todra Gorge is renowned as one of Morocco's top destinations for climbing and hiking, attracting adventurers with its dramatic canyon walls and clear river.

Day 5: Day 5: Merzouga and Erg Chebbi | Desert Adventure and Village Life



Meals
Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation
Hotel Café du Sud, Riad Serai- Merzouga Erg Chebbi- Sahara Desert Hotel Morocco-Lodge Désert Maroc -Alojamiento Desierto Marruecos -, Sunrise Palace Merzouga

Begin your day with breakfast in the desert, surrounded by the quiet expanse of the Erg Chebbi dunes. Travel deeper into the Merzouga region, where you experience the dramatic landscape and the distinct culture of southern Morocco. Visit a lush oasis and nearby villages, encountering the local hospitality and hearing traditional music echoing across the sands.

After a period of rest and refreshment at a local auberge, set out once again for a camel ride. The camels carry you across the dunes to a vantage point where you can watch the sunset. Observe as the sky shifts from gold to deep crimson, casting silhouettes over the sand.

Enjoy dinner outdoors, accompanied by Berber folklore performed by local musicians. Spend the night in a traditional Berber tent, fully immersed in the desert's stillness and starlit atmosphere.

Merzouga's proximity to the Erg Chebbi dunes makes it a renowned destination for those seeking an authentic Moroccan desert experience, while its villages maintain longstanding Berber traditions.

Day 6: Day 6: Merzouga to Fez | Sunrise, Ziz Valley, and Mountain Forests



Meals
Breakfast

Accommodation
Riad Sara, Riad Al Makan, Riad Fes - Relais & Châteaux

Wake before dawn as your desert camp hosts offer to rouse you for sunrise over the Sahara. Step outside to watch the dunes change color in the early light, creating memorable photo opportunities. After sunrise, return to a local hotel for a hot shower and breakfast to prepare for the day's travel.

Begin your journey along the Ziz River, passing through a lush oasis lined with tall palm trees and historic fortified ksours. The green valley stands in contrast to the surrounding arid landscape. Continue to Midelt, a town in the Atlas Mountains, where you stop for lunch and a chance to stretch after the morning drive.

In the afternoon, travel through the Middle Atlas Mountains toward Fez. The scenery shifts from rocky slopes to snow-capped peaks, dense cedar forests, and flourishing vegetation unique to the region. Watch for Barbary macaques in the cedar forests near Azrou, a rare primate species native to North Africa.

Arrive in Fez by early evening and transfer to your riad or hotel. Settle in and take in the atmosphere of this historic imperial city, preparing for further exploration the next day.

The cedar forests near Azrou are among the oldest in Morocco and provide a habitat for the endangered Barbary macaque, a distinctive species found only in North Africa.

Day 7: Day 7: Exploring Fez | Medina, History, and Artisan Traditions



Meals
Breakfast

Accommodation
Riad Sara, Riad Al Makan, Riad Fes - Relais & Châteaux

Begin your day in Fez by visiting the Royal Palace gate, where you can admire its imposing architecture and connection to Morocco's dynastic history. Continue to the Jewish quarter, or Mellah, which was established in the 16th century as the country's first Mellah and served as a vibrant center of Jewish life.

Move on to significant cultural and spiritual landmarks, including Al Qaraouine University, recognized as the oldest operating university in the world. Walk through the city's traditional tanneries, where leather is still produced using centuries-old methods in colorful dye vats. Visit the Attarine museum and the Moulay Idriss mausoleum, both important to Fez's spiritual and cultural heritage.

After a lunch break, explore the medina's artisan cooperatives, where craftsmen create pottery, textiles, and metalwork using traditional techniques. End your day with a visit to a panoramic viewpoint, offering sweeping views across the extensive and bustling medina of Fez.

Fez's ancient medina is a UNESCO World Heritage site and is the world's largest car-free urban area, maintaining its medieval layout and daily routines.

Day 8: Day 8: Fez to Chefchaouen | Blue Medina and Mountain Scenery



Meals
Breakfast

Accommodation
Hôtel Alkhalifa, Riad Tassili Chaouen, Lina Ryad & Spa

Your driver collects you from your accommodation at 8:30 AM to begin the journey to Chefchaouen. Travel through the Rif Mountains, observing the changing landscape as you approach this

northern Moroccan city known for its blue-and-white-painted buildings and welcoming atmosphere. Chefchaouen is set just south of the Mediterranean coastline and is famous for its unique mountain setting.

Upon arrival, enter the heart of Chefchaouen and explore its traditional streets and vibrant architecture. Visit the kasbah museum located in the center of the medina, where a restored fortress houses a garden and a small ethnographic museum. Here, you can view historical artifacts and enjoy panoramic views from the kasbah tower. Chefchaouen is recognized for its hand-made wool garments and distinctive woven blankets, which are characteristic of the region.

Stroll through the blue-painted alleys and active markets, taking in the sights and sounds of local life. The contrast of blue buildings against the mountain backdrop provides many opportunities for memorable photographs. Spend the day hiking through the town, exploring the Rif Mountains, and experiencing the tranquil and creative atmosphere that defines Chefchaouen.

The blue color throughout Chefchaouen is believed to symbolize the sky and heaven, a tradition started by Jewish refugees in the 1930s that continues to shape the town's peaceful character.

Day 9: Day 9: Chefchaouen to Rabat | Mountain Drive and Capital Landmarks



🍴 Meals

Breakfast

Accommodation

Malak Hôtel, Riad Zyo, Riad Rabat l'Alcazar

After breakfast, depart Chefchaouen and travel through the Rif Mountains toward Rabat. The route takes you past green valleys, olive groves, and small rural villages. You may make an optional stop in Ouazzane for a short break and a glimpse into local life. Upon arrival in Rabat, Morocco's capital, begin your exploration with a visit to the Hassan Tower, an unfinished 12th-century minaret that stands as a symbol of the Almohad dynasty. The tower is surrounded by rows of stone columns that were once part of a grand mosque.

Continue to the Mausoleum of Mohammed V, an example of Moroccan architecture featuring white marble, green tiled roofs, intricate zellij, and ceremonial royal guards. The mausoleum houses the tombs of King Mohammed V and his sons. Next, visit the Kasbah of the Udayas, a fortress overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Walk through its narrow blue-and-white streets, enjoy panoramic views of the ocean and river, and relax in the Andalusian Garden. End the day with a stroll along the Bouregreg River or the coastal promenade.

Rabat's Hassan Tower was intended to be the world's largest minaret, but construction stopped in 1199, leaving it as an iconic unfinished landmark.

Day 10: Day 10: Rabat to Casablanca | Mosque Visit and Departure



Meals

Breakfast

Travel from Rabat along the Atlantic coast to Casablanca, Morocco's largest city. Upon arrival, visit the Hassan II Mosque, a major architectural landmark built partly over the ocean. Admire its 210-meter minaret, marble floors, hand-carved cedar wood ceilings, and detailed zellij tilework. Non-Muslim visitors can join guided tours to view the mosque's interior and learn about its design and symbolism.

After your mosque visit, take a short walk along the Corniche, enjoying views of the Atlantic Ocean and the lively coastal atmosphere. Your journey concludes with a transfer to Mohammed V International Airport for your departure, offering a final perspective on Morocco's blend of modernity and tradition.

The Hassan II Mosque is one of the few mosques in Morocco open to non-Muslim visitors, reflecting the country's architectural ambition and cultural openness.

What's Included

Transportation

- Private air-conditioned vehicle for all transfers and intercity travel
- 4WD Toyota Prado or Mercedes Vito for varied terrain
- Airport transfers at arrival and departure

Meals

- Breakfast (9)
- Dinner (3)

Activities

- Guided walking tours in Marrakesh, Fez, and Chefchaouen
- High Atlas Mountain drive and village visits for scenic and cultural immersion

- Ample free time for photography, market exploration, and cultural encounters
- Exploration of the UNESCO-listed Kasbah Aït Benhaddou
- Camel rides over the golden dunes of Erg Chebbi
- Overnight experience in a traditional desert camp and a local auberge
- Guided medina and market tours in Fez, including historic tanneries and museums
- Visit to the kasbah museum in Chefchaouen with time in the ethnographic garden

Additional Inclusions

- Comfortable accommodation in charming riads, auberges, and a desert camp

Tips and gratuities for guides, drivers, and staff

Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

Entrance fees to attractions and museums not mentioned as included

International and domestic flight tickets to and from Morocco

Personal expenses, such as souvenirs, laundry, and snacks

Lunches and drinks not specifically included in the itinerary

Optional activities and any services not detailed in the inclusions

Anything not expressly stated as included in the tour program

Good to know

Know before you go

Your driver will greet you in the arrivals area at the airport, holding a signboard with your name for a smooth and stress-free start to your Morocco tour. When exploring the markets, always ask permission before taking photos of people or shops—vendors may feel uncomfortable or could ask for payment if you photograph them without making a purchase.

Important notes

- Travel insurance is highly recommended, as it is not included in your tour package. - Travelers from List A countries must provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination. - Travelers from List B must provide both proof of full vaccination and a negative PCR test taken within 48 hours prior to arrival. - Masks are mandatory in all public indoor spaces, and social distancing is recommended throughout your journey in Morocco.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation policy