



## GRAND TOUR OF MOROCCO 11 DAYS - 10 NIGHTS

CASABLANCA, MOULAY IDRIS, MEKNES, FEZ, MARRAKESH...



### ITINERARY

**DAY 1 – NEW YORK / MOROCCO:** Depart for Morocco.

**DAY 2 – CASABLANCA / RABAT:** Upon arrival at Casablanca International Airport, you will be met and assisted. Begin with the sightseeing tour of Casablanca, the Business Capital of Morocco. Visit the exterior of the great Hassan II mosque; an optional interior tour may be offered. From the coach you will see the Medina, Mohammed V Square, the United Nations Place, the Central Market, the Habbous Sector, the residential area of Anfa and the magnificent Ain Diab Coast, dotted with swimming pools and gourmet restaurants. Proceed to Rabat, the White Imperial City, neatly laid out and covered in flowers. Your tour of the Administrative Capital begins with the Medina, teeming with life, the Kasbah of Oudayas, the Hassan Tower and the splendid Mohammed V Mausoleum. Overnight in Rabat. (D)

**DAY 3 – RABAT / FEZ:** Your visit this morning begins with the Roman Ruins of Volubilis, then the sacred town of Moulay Idriss Holy City where the founder of Islam in Morocco, is buried. Continue to Meknes, enclosed in a triple thickness of 40KM walls and bastions, formed of two conglomerates. On one side of the Medina is Bab el Mansour, the most beautiful preserved gate in Morocco. On the other side is the modern city. The sightseeing will also include a visit to Hari Souani and the old Medina. Overnight in Fez. (B, D)

**DAY 4 – FEZ:** The entire day will be spent visiting Fez, the most ancient of the Imperial Cities, founded in 790 B.C. by Moulay Idriss II, becoming the religious center of Morocco. Visit the Medieval Medina the Medersas (Islamic Religious Universities), Bou Anania and Attarine, the Karouine Mosque and the famous Nejjarine Fountain. Visit a private building, which gathers different craftsmen still operating in the old tradition. You may want to buy some of their items displayed at reduced rates. Overnight in Fez. (B, D)

**DAY 5 – FEZ / AZROU / ERFOUD:** Depart through the Middle Atlas Region to Azrou, an important handicraft center. After the Zad pass, you will arrive in Midelt, an important mining center. Continue to Erfoud. Crossing the Ziz River, located between two rows of tall palm trees, you will pass a series of fortified villages with outstanding pre-Saharan architecture. Overnight in Erfoud. (B, D) Optional tenting in the Merzouga Dunes is available tonight.

**DAY 6 – ERFOUD / RISSANI / OUARZAZATE:** Depart to the Holy City of Rissani, where ancestors of the Alouite Dynasty are buried in the Mausoleum of Moulay Ali Sherif. You may visit a real seventeenth century Kasbah and the impressive ruins of Ksar Abbar. Continue to Tineghir via the Tinejdad Road, which reveals magnificent Kasbahs and palm groves. You will have an excursion to the famous Todra Gorges with its bare escarpments, which change color and mood according to the time of the day. Depart to Ouarzazate via Kelaa De M'Gouna and Dades Valley. Overnight in Ouarzazate. (B, D)

## IMPERIAL CITIES CONTINUED

**DAY 7 – OUARZAZATE / MARRAKESH:** Your visit of Ouarzazate today will include the Tifoultout and Taourirt Kasbahs. Continue to Ait Ben Haddou Village and visit of the ruins of this ancient kasbah. Travel to Marrakech via the Tiz-In-Tichka pass and Taddert. Overnight in Marrakech. (B, D)

**DAY 8 – MARRAKESH:** The entire day will be spent visiting Marrakech, the second oldest Imperial City. It was founded in the eleventh century by the Almoravides. Left behind in Marrakech by the founders, are palaces, gardens and more. You'll visit the Saadiens Tombs, the Menara Gardens, the Koutoubia and the Bahia Palace. Visit the souks and the winding little streets whose décor will fascinate you. Also tour the famous Place Djemma el Fna with its nonstop entertainment. You'll find storytellers, snake charmers, fire-eaters and more. Overnight in Marrakech. (B, D)

**DAY 9 – MARRAKESH / ESSAOUIRA:** Depart to Essaouira, the living memory of the pirate days when Spain, Portugal, and England competed with the Moroccans to control its coasts. Slightly over 200 years old, the city still shows Iberian influence in its forts and towers. Visit the fishing harbor and the Skala (the Battery) left by the pirates. Overnight in Essaouira. (B, D)

**DAY 10 – ESSAOUIRA / CASABLANCA:** Depart to Casablanca via El Jadida. Stop at Oualidia for a bit of relaxation. Continue along the coast of El Jadida. Visit the vestige of the Portuguese occupation during the eleventh century: the "Bastion De L'ange." Overnight in Casablanca. (B, D)

**DAY 11 – CASABLANCA:** You will be transferred to Casablanca Airport for your return flight. (B)

## FEATURES

- Breakfast and dinner daily.
- Comprehensive sightseeing including entrance fees and guidance.
- 9 night accommodation in 4 star hotels: 1 night in Rabat (Chellah Hotel); 2 nights in Fez (Menzeh Zalagh Hotel); 1 night in Erfoud (Palm's Club Hotel); 1 night in Ouarzazate (Berbere Palace Hotel); 2 nights in Marrakech (Atlas Asni Hotel); 1 night in Essaouira (Riad Mogador Hotel); 1 night in Casablanca (Idou Anfa Hotel).
- Transportation provided by deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach.
- Services of a qualified English-speaking guide.
- Tours conducted in English or English and other languages.

## DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

**DEPARTURE DAYS:** MARCH 7, 21 / APRIL 4, 18, 25 / MAY 2, 16

**PRICES:** LAND ONLY: \$1,990 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$499

**DEPARTURE DAYS:** MAY 30 / JUNE 13, 27 / JULY 11, 25

**PRICES:** LAND ONLY: \$1,780 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$399

**DEPARTURE DAYS:** AUGUST 8, 22 / SEPTEMBER 5, 19 / OCTOBER 3, 17

**PRICES:** LAND ONLY: \$1,900 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$499