



# The Wonders of Morocco

November 10-22, 2024



## Day 1 | Sunday, November 10

### Welcome to Casablanca



Welcome to Morocco! Your adventure begins in Casablanca, where you will be met at the airport (based on a group arrival) and transferred to your hotel. Later this evening attend a welcome meeting where you will meet your local leader and your new travel companions. Celebrate the beginning of a new adventure with a wonderful banquet-style dinner with the group, set in the courtyard of a beautiful riad. Nowhere is Morocco's cultural heritage more evident than in its food, and

tonight you'll have the chance to try classic dishes like tagine and couscous.

Meals included: *Dinner*

Accommodation: [Idou Anfa Hotel & Spa](#) (standard room) or similar

## Day 2 | Monday, November 11

### Journey to Rabat



After breakfast, Casablanca exploration beckons. Tour the Hassan II Mosque, one of the only religious sites open to non-Muslims and can accommodate 25,000 worshippers. Next, drive to the capital of Rabat where you'll meet an expert local guide. Rabat's history is long and colorful, having been host to Roman settlements, pirates, and more recently the Moroccan parliament. It contains numerous fine Arab monuments, some dating from the 10th to 15th century Almohad and Merenid

dynasties, and others that are far older. Enjoy lunch at one of the local restaurants then discover the city's medina and souks, exploring the lovely walled quarter known as the Kasbah des Oudaias and enjoy a glass of mint tea and some local sweets. Afterward, continue the walk to visit Mohamed the 5th Mausoleum and the vast minaret of the Hassan Mosque. Later head to your accommodation in Rabat.

Meals included: *Breakfast, lunch*

Accommodation: [Hotel Gardenia](#) (standard room) or similar

## Day 3 | Tuesday, November 12

### Discover Vibrant Fez

Say goodbye to Rabat and make the journey to Fes. Stop first in Meknes for a guided tour. Join your local guide and explore the charming streets of Meknes's medina – the old walled section of the city. There's something particularly special about exploring this lesser-known medina as the locals go about their daily lives. Walk to the shrine of Moulay Ismail, visit the granaries, and stop by a local market selling vegetables, olives, and sweets. Later continue to Fes the spiritual and cultural heart of Morocco; a vibrant, noisy, and fascinating feast for the senses. This evening you'll have the unique opportunity to see a different side of Moroccan life as you are warmly welcomed into the home-

turned-restaurant of a local family for a pastilla dinner in a private after-hours experience. One of the country's most celebrated dishes, this sweet and savory delight is made with layered pastry and meat, cooked with eggs, caramelized onions, lemon, and sugared almonds.

Learn how the iconic Moroccan pie is made as you chat with your friendly hosts about life in Fes, then end the night with a traditional sweet treat.

Meals included: *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Accommodation: [Riad Salam Fes](#) or similar

#### Day 4 | Wednesday, November 13

##### Fes

This morning head into the Old Town, known locally as Fes el Bali. Your leader will share stories of the city's history as you walk through labyrinthine streets and alleyways, passing donkeys piled high with goods and eye-catching specialty sections. Walking by historic khans, dye-pits, and stalls loaded with fragrant herbs and spices, with the sounds of copper craftsmen at work filling the air, it's easy to imagine yourself back in the Middle Ages. Medieval Fes was one of the world's great centers of education and culture, both Islamic and Jewish. Its religious institutions and libraries are legendary, and its mosques are of great renown. Get a closer look at some of this history with visits to the ornate inner courtyards of centuries-old Islamic school El-Attarine Madrasa and Funduq al-Najjarin, a splendid 18th-century inn.

Meals included: *Breakfast, lunch*

#### Day 5 | Thursday, November 14

##### Onwards to Erfoud

Today, leave the intensity of the city behind for the desert oasis town of Erfoud. Prepare for a long driving day and have your camera ready as there will be plenty of stops to appreciate the ever-changing Moroccan landscape along the way. Wind past olive groves, shepherds tending to their flocks, forests of cedar, pine, and oak, and valleys filled with date palms – all with views of the High Atlas Mountains in the distance.



Arrive in Erfoud, your gateway to the Sahara Desert. Built by the French in the early 1900s, the town features tightly packed red sand buildings that blend seamlessly into the desert surroundings. While here, be sure to try some dates fresh from the local market – the dates in Erfoud are so delicious they celebrate them with a festival every year.

Meals included: *Breakfast, dinner*

Accommodation: [Hotel Xaluca Erfoud](#)

#### Day 6 | Friday, November 15

##### Sahara Desert

Spend the morning exploring Khemliya, a village on the fringe of the orange-colored Erg Chebbi sand dunes. This traditional Saharan village is known for its distinctive style of music and dance. For lunch today you will get to see how the local specialty dish of medfouna is made, and then sample some yourself. This afternoon ride a camel

through the desert towards to your accommodation – a spectacular camp hidden away in the sand dunes of the Sahara. Here in this magical escape from the modern world, you'll experience the true essence of desert life. But the remote location doesn't mean skimping on amenities – permanent tents feature large beds, ensuite bathrooms, and delightful, authentic décor. Tonight, embrace your extraordinary surroundings and enjoy a traditional feast beneath a sky jeweled with thousands of stars, followed by live Gnaoua music around an open fire.

Meals included: *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Accommodation: [Sahara Sunny Luxury Camp](#)

## Day 7 | Saturday, November 16



### Skoura

Start the day with a truly unforgettable experience – walk with a camel across the desert during sunrise, watching the landscape turn remarkable shades of orange.

After breakfast drive to Todra Gorge, a massive trench that rises over 250 meters to form one of the most dramatic and spectacular natural sights in Morocco. You'll stop for lunch with a local family living within an old kasbah. Here you'll enjoy some regional dishes and another look inside a typical Moroccan home. Continue to Skoura, home to a historic oasis, sprawling palm plantations, and a town dotted with mudbrick castles.

Your accommodation for the evening is an excellent eco-lodge, with charming rammed earth bungalows, water conservation systems, and a sweep of organic gardens – produce from which is used to create the wonderful meals served on site.

Meals included: *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Accommodation: [Kasbah Sawadi](#)

## Day 8 | Sunday, November 17

### Skoura

Today you will take a beautiful walk-through shady palm grove. It will be over gentle terrain. During your walk, your leader will explain the importance of date farming in Morocco, and you'll see examples of the agricultural practices of the area.



Afterward, visit the Kasbah Amridil, a 17th-century fortified residence that serves as a living museum. The kasbah is well preserved and maintained by the same family who built it, giving you a look at what life here was like 300 years ago – with goats wandering the courtyards and a traditional olive oil press. The rest of the afternoon is yours to spend relaxing at the lodge.

Meals included: *Breakfast, dinner*

## Day 9 | Monday, November 18

### Imlil



Depart Skoura and travel to Ait Benhaddou – a hilltop site almost unchanged since the 11th century. Its kasbah is one of the most beautiful in Morocco and the fortified village is a fine example of clay architecture. You may recognize the site from films and TV shows such as *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Game of Thrones*, and *Gladiator*. Explore the Old Town, heading up to the top of the hill for some scenic views. Afterwards, visit Tawesna – a riverside teahouse – for a tasty lunch including freshly made Amazigh bread, soup, Moroccan sweets, and mint tea. This community-run establishment provides women with a small income to support themselves and their children. They use

natural ingredients sourced from local cooperatives to prepare tea and pastries, taking great pride in sharing their stories and giving visitors an authentic Amazigh experience. Afterward, traverse the winding mountain pass of Tizi Ni Tichka to reach Imlil, a small village at the base of Mount Toubkal - the highest peak in North Africa.

Meals included: *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Accommodations: [Riad Oussagou](#)

## Day 10 | Tuesday, November 19

### Imlil

After breakfast, set off to explore the quaint village of Imlil and the surrounding area on a pleasant walk. During the walk, you'll enjoy more insight into everyday life as the locals go about their mornings. Once you've worked up an appetite, you will be met by a local from the village who will invite you into their home to join in a bread-making workshop, teaching you about this important staple. The fresh bread will then be enjoyed as part of your homemade lunch, including olives sourced from the area, couscous or tagine, and seasonal fruits.

Meals included: *Breakfast, lunch, dinner*

## Day 11 | Wednesday, November 20

### Marrakech

This morning travel to Marrakech, your final destination, and home for the next two nights. Today a local guide will bring the magic of Marrakech to life as you tour the medina and the bustling souks that are the lifeblood of the city. Explore tranquil orange blossom-scented courtyards and the extravagant Bahia Palace. Stop by the Koutoubia Mosque: the inside is for Muslims only, but the famous minaret is a sight to behold. Make your way to Djemaa el-Fna, stopping off to taste some of the marvelous freshly squeezed orange juice from a local stall – sure to be one of the most delicious glasses of OJ you ever have. Later, visit a high-walled garden called 'le Jardins Secret'. What was formerly a palace dates to the mid-19th century now a dazzlingly beautiful little corner of a garden. Unwind in the shaded trees and make your way under a wooden archway middled with a basin to find some worldwide exotic plants occupying rectangular waterbeds

Meals included: *Breakfast, lunch*

Accommodation: [Riad Nesma Suites & Spa](#)

**Day 12 | Thursday, November 21**

**Marrakech**

On your last day start out with a visit to Le Jardin Secret, a traditional garden with a magnificent Courtyard. Tonight, join the group for a farewell dinner.

Meals included: *Breakfast, dinner*

**Day 13 | Friday, November 22**

**Departure**

**Rates:**

Based on a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 24 travelers: \$5,895

Single supplement: \$600

**Included:** Accommodations (Hotel 5 Nights, Riad 6 Nights, Camp 1 Night); 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 9 dinners; transportation through Morocco; a local English-speaking tour leader; a representative from Winding Way Travel; local city guides; all entrance fees for included activities; arrival and departure transfers.

**Exclusions:** International Flights; Airport departure tax; Any visas required; Services not mentioned in the itinerary; Meals not mentioned in the itinerary; Tips for tour leader; Expenditure of personal nature; Travel Insurance (offered through Winding Way Travel).