



BEST OF MOROCCO

NOV 17, 2017 – 11 DAYS (OTHER DATES MAY BE AVAILABLE)



Morocco is a colourful mix of Islamic, Arabic and African influences. Spain and France have left their mark too. This unique travel experience includes a stay in Essaouira and at the amazing Berbère Palace Hotel in Ouarzate. Rick's Café, The Casbah – What are you waiting for?.

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DAY 1 YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS

Board your overnight flight to Europe (please ask about our great deals).

DAY 2 WELCOME TO CASABLANCA

On arrival at Casablanca Airport, your transfers leave for your landmark city hotel at 09:00, 11:00, 13:00 & 15:00. Later, join your Tour Director for a warm and friendly Welcome Reception and the opportunity to mingle and get to know each other over a pleasant evening of dinner and wine. Hotel: Kenzi Tower Hotel, Casablanca Welcome Reception and Dinner

DAY 3 THE IMPERIAL CITIES OF MEKNES AND FES

A tour of the sights of Casablanca will show you the huge Hassan II Mosque – the largest in the country. The très chic seaside strip (known as the Corniche) stretches to the west, lined with trendy restaurants and cafés. Depart for the capital of Rabat to see the Royal Palace, Hassan Tower and visit one of the few holy places open to non-Muslims; the lavish Mausoleum of King Mohammed V - both an architectural marvel and a monument to a great ruler. Move on to Meknes, one of the kingdom's great imperial cities dating back to the 11th century, its surroundings remain unchanged for centuries. Stand before the Bab el-Mansour, the monumental entrance to the imperial city and focal point of Place El-Hedim. Continue to Fes and be treated to a superb Moroccan feast and traditional folklore show. In an ancient palace at the entrance to the medina, a colourful array of meze plates, aromatic tagines, exotic fruits and wine will be laid before you, amidst a carnival-like atmosphere of belly dancers, drums and authentic music. A truly unforgettable experience! Hotel: Palais Medina & Spa, Fes Buffet Breakfast, Signature Evening



DAY 4 FES SIGHTSEEING

(Relaxed Start) Sightseeing with a Local Expert will show you the Medina – the walled city of hidden courtyards, mosques and workshops, the bazaar and one of the world's oldest universities. Learn about the ancient craft of carpet making, gain an insight into the motifs and colours used in the designs. Witness the unique and age-old techniques of pottery and bread making. Hotel: Palais Medina & Spa, Fes Buffet Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5 THE ZIZ GORGES TO ERFOUD

Leave the bustle of the city behind and head for the spectacular snow-capped High Atlas Mountains. Pass through Ifrane before reaching the great cedar forests of Azrou. After your lunch at Midelt, continue up through the magnificent Ziz Gorges, past palm-fringed towns to Er Rachidia (built by the French at an important crossroads). Your destination is Erfoud, where the red sand buildings contrast against the surrounding desert. In the evening, there is the option to meet the nomadic desert dwellers and marvel at the glorious Sahara sunset on a 4-wheel drive optional experience. Hotel: Kasbah Hotel Xaluca, Erfoud Buffet Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



DAY 6 TODRA GORGE AND ON TO OUARZAZATE

Venture towards the oasis of Tinehir before taking a detour to explore the Todra Gorge – the Grand Canyon of the Sahara. At Boumalne-du-Dades, encounter the dry, rugged Dades Valley, dotted with oases of figs, olives, date palms and castellated mud houses hugging the slopes. En-route, lunch is included. Stop for Berber tea at a traditional Nomad house. Your 'Road of a Thousand Kasbahs' concludes at Ouarzazate, film capital of Morocco, with everything from Lawrence of Arabia to Star Wars being filmed here. Hotel: Le Berbère Palace, Ouarzazate Buffet Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 TO MARRAKESH

(Relaxed Start) Get your cameras ready as you stop at the village of Aït Benhaddou, boasting one of Morocco's finest kasbahs. Continue via the spectacular Tizi n'Tichka Pass, before descending past charming mountain villages, dense woods and green fields to the ochre-coloured city of Marrakesh. Hotel: Atlas Medina & Spa, Marrakesh Buffet Breakfast

DAY 8 MARRAKESH, PEARL OF THE SOUTH

(Relaxed Start) Sightseeing starts in the bustling Jemaa el-Fnaa Square. After some time to watch the dancers, snake charmers, storytellers and acrobats, explore the Medina, seeing the Koutoubia Mosque, with a minaret that dominates the Marrakesh skyline. Then visit the Palais de la Bahia, built in the late 19th century, intended to be the greatest palace of its time. Then enjoy free time to visit a museum or haggle in the souks. In the evening, you could take a charming horse and carriage ride to a vibrant restaurant on the main square for a slew of classic Moroccan dishes and an ambiance arabesque of twirling belly dancers with plates of lit candles on their heads. Hotel: Atlas Medina & Spa, Marrakesh Buffet Breakfast

DAY 9 ELEGANT ESSAOUIRA

(Relaxed Start) Say goodbye to the snake charmers of Marrakesh and venture to the laid-back fishing town of Essaouira. After checking into your hotel, why not spend the afternoon navigating the narrow alleyways, exploring the busy fishing port or maybe just relaxing on the beach? In the evening, you could sample the local seafood and wine at a waterside restaurant. Hotel: Atlas Essaouira & Spa, Essaouira BB

DAY 10 RETURN TO CASABLANCA

(Relaxed Start) Once you've experienced the traditional charms of the country, Casablanca is a fascinating place to return to, offering a unique insight into modern Morocco. At night, "of all the gin joints, in all the towns, in all the world", there really is only one place to be. Join your Tour Director at Rick's Café - recreated from the famous movie. Enjoy a **hearty Celebration Dinner** including drinks and, no doubt, a rendition of 'As Time Goes By'. Here's looking at you kid! Hotel: Kenzi Tower Hotel,

DAY 11 AU REVOIR CASABLANCA

Departure transfers arrive at Casablanca Airport at 05:00, 07:00, 10:00 & 12:00. Buffet Breakfast

HIGHLIGHTS

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES AND DINING

Rabat: Visit the Mohammed V Mausoleum, a masterpiece of traditional Moroccan art and one of the very few Islamic religious buildings open to non-Muslims.

- Fes: Explore this city's major sights, finishing with time spent in the bazaar.
- Fes: Witness the expert techniques of pottery and bread (khobz) making.
- Marrakesh: Built around a lovely inner garden, explore the Bahia Palace with a Local Expert and see glimpses of a Moroccan kingdom's former opulence.

ADDITIONAL INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

- Casablanca: See the Hassan II Mosque, the largest in the country, on your sightseeing tour.
 - Rabat: See the Royal Palace and Hassan Tower.
 - Meknes: Admire the Bab el-Mansour Gate in the heart of the medina.
 - Fes: See one of the world's oldest universities.
 - Erfoud: Stay on the edge of the Sahara Desert.
 - Todra Gorge: Experience 'the Grand Canyon of the Sahara'.
 - Dades Valley: See the castellated mud houses and oases.
 - Ait Benhaddou: View the Kasbah.
 - Marrakesh: Watch the performers. Explore the Medina and see the Koutoubia Minaret.
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- Scenic Drives: Ziz Gorges. View the spectacular scenery of the High and Middle Atlas Mountains. Tizi n' Tichka Pass.

AUTHENTIC REGIONAL FLAVOURS

- Fes: Join in the fun at a colourful Moroccan feast, complete with rhythmic music, writhing belly dancers and an array of local dishes and delicacies.
- Dades Valley: Stop for Berber tea at a traditional Nomad house.
- Casablanca: You must remember this...a fabulous 4-course Celebration Dinner with drinks at Rick's Café, made famous by the 1942 film.
- 9 Buffet Breakfasts (BB), 1 Signature Evening (SE), 2 Lunches (L), 3 three-course table d'hôte Dinners or Buffets (D) all with tea or coffee; plus 1 Welcome Dinner (WD), and 1 Celebration Dinner (CD) both with wine, plus tea or coffee.

STAY AT THE BEST ADDRESSES

- Fes: The Palais Medina and Spa Fes is a perfect alliance between tradition and modern luxury. The hotel offers exquisite rooms and is set in a 5-hectare Andalusian garden.

- Erfoud: Kasbah Hotel Xaluca is located in Arfoud, a city known as 'the Door to the Desert'. The Kasbah is listed as unique in Morocco due to its distinctive characteristics. It was built with adobes, the traditional Moroccan building bricks, and it is a great place to relax and enjoy the moment.
 - Ouarzazate: The recently renovated Le Berbère Palace Hotel offers 5-star luxury suites to all guests, along with fine food and a delightful swimming pool.
 - Marrakesh: The luxurious Atlas Medina & Spa is set amidst lush, picturesque gardens in central Marrakesh, the perfect location for exploring this fascinating city.
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- Essaouira: Located beachfront in Essaouira, the Atlas Essaouira hotel features two swimming pools, a fitness centre and a spa with hammam.
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ADDITIONAL FIVE STAR SERVICES

- An expert Insight Tour Director, at the pinnacles of their careers, will smooth your way throughout your journey. They are your 'travelling concierges', expert guides, consummate organisers and friends in a foreign land.
- Enjoy the unique comfort of Insight's luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with extended leg room and on-board restroom. It's business class comfort.
- Personal radio headsets, gives you the freedom to wander during visits to famous highlights without missing any of your local expert's fascinating insights and commentaries.
- Baggage handling everywhere, with seamless and prompt delivery to your door at every hotel. Hotel and restaurant tips included - you'll never have to worry about how much to give, nor search for foreign currency. Plus we include all taxes and portorage charges at hotels.
- Stay connected with friends and family with our complimentary coach and hotel WiFi.
- Insight Flourishes - from time to time, your Tour Director will enchant you with local tidbits, each representing authentic food or beverages unique to the destination.
- Airport transfers at scheduled times on the first and last day of your escorted journey.

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