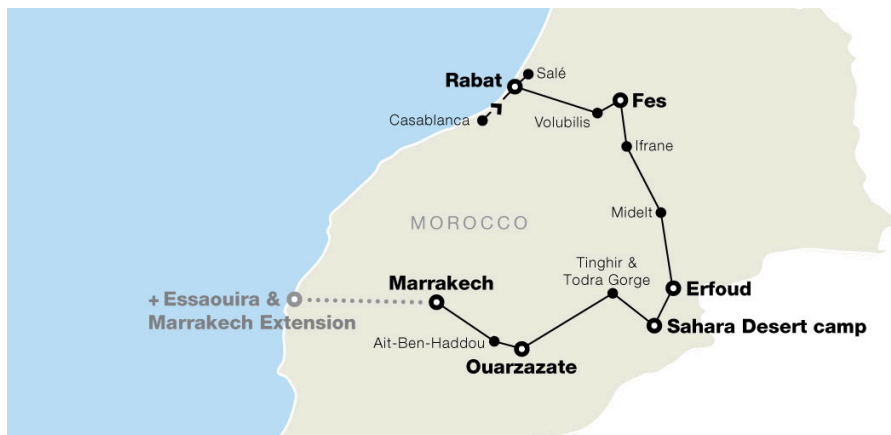




Morocco for Solo Travelers: Fes, the Sahara & Marrakech

11 days | 14 days with Essaouira & Marrakech extension

Experience the historical architecture, varied landscapes, and traditional cultural practices of the “Kingdom of the West” on this Solo Tour through Morocco in North Africa. Enter one of the nation’s oldest medinas along the coast, tour the ruins of an excavated Roman city in the foothills, and cross the Atlas Mountains to spend a night under the stars in a tented camp nestled in the vast Sahara Desert. Delight in a feast for your senses as you journey through the souks of Fes, packed with spices, colorful ceramics, and intricate tapestries. Sip mint tea in Marrakech as you bond with fellow solo travelers and allow the vibrant personality of a nation to warm your soul as you create lasting memories on your journey. If you simply aren’t ready to depart, extend your stay with a visit to the coastal town of Essaouira.



Your tour package includes

- 8 nights in a private room at handpicked hotels
- 1 night in a handpicked Sahara Desert camp
- 9 breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 6 dinners, some with beer or wine
- 2 food tastings
- 12 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Rabat’s ancient Chellah
- Salé and its medina
- Kasbah des Oudayas
- Roman archaeological site of Volubilis
- Medina of Fes
- Erg Chebbi sand dunes
- Tinghir’s Jewish quarter
- Todra Gorge
- Ait-Ben-Haddou
- Bahia Palace
- Marrakech’s Djemaa el-Fna market

Tour pace

You will walk for at least 3 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

Group size

15-20
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Morocco for Solo Travelers: Fes, the Sahara & Marrakech

11 days | 14 days with Essaouira & Marrakech extension

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Casablanca today.

Rabat → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Casablanca & transfer to Rabat

Included meals: dinner

Welcome to Morocco! Arrive in Casablanca and transfer to your hotel in Rabat.

This evening, enjoy an included dinner with your Tour Director and fellow solo travelers as you get settled in.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Rabat and Salé

Included meals: breakfast, welcome lunch, tasting

Get to know Morocco's capital city, Rabat, this morning with a local guide. The city is home to over a half-million people and sits on the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of the Bou Regreg river. After its founding in the 12th century, the city grew to great importance before becoming a haven for Barbary pirates. When Morocco achieved independence in 1955, Rabat became the capital city.

- Enter the white-and-green Mausoleum of Mohammed V, which houses the tombs of the 20th-century king and his two sons.
- View Hassan Tower, commissioned by caliph Yaqub al-Mansur and intended to be part of the world's largest mosque until construction halted in 1199 with his death.
- Make a photo stop at the Royal Palace, official residence of the king of Morocco and home of the Royal College, which specializes in the education of princes and princesses of the Alaouite dynasty.
- Visit the Chellah necropolis, an ancient port city where you'll discover the history of the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, and Arabs who once called the area home.

After an included welcome lunch in the town of Salé, set off to explore Rabat's twin city and its undiscovered yet thriving medina.

- Learn how the town developed an infamous reputation thanks to the Salé Rovers, a group of pirates based there in the 17th and 18th centuries.
- Visit the Marinid Madrasa, once the country's most important Islamic school, and view the intricately designed interior.
- Stroll along the Bastion des Larmes, an ancient fortified wall along the Atlantic, and see 13th-century cannons that were stolen from Spanish ships.
- Return to Rabat and walk through the UNESCO-listed site Kasbah des Oudayas walled fortress. Then enjoy some tea before strolling among the bougainvillea and citrus trees in the adjacent Andalusian Gardens, which were inspired by the Moorish gardens of Spain.

Fes → 2 nights

Day 4: Fes via Moulay Idriss Zerhoun & Roman archaeological site of Volubilis

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

En route to Fes, once the country's capital, make stops at some of the most significant historical sites in Northern Morocco.

- Enjoy an included lunch in the hill town of Moulay Idriss Zerhoun—the Idrisid dynasty, who were important to the early Islamization of Morocco, was established here in 788.
- Discover the ancient ruins at the UNESCO-recognized archaeological site of Volubilis. First settled in the 3rd century B.C. and later inhabited by the Romans after the fall of Carthage in 146 B.C., Volubilis peaked in the late 2nd century as a substantial Roman provincial town with around 20,000 inhabitants.
- See the Roman ruins of the forum, temple, baths, and gates, followed by free time to visit the museum—making sure to view the intricate red-and-yellow mosaics and the picturesque Tingis Gate.

Continue to Fes and sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Fes

Included meals: breakfast

Take a guided tour of Fes, the spiritual and cultural center of Moroccan life. The second-largest city in the nation is home to over 1.1 million people and was founded in the year 789. Today, the city has two medinas and a large, modern urban area founded during the French colonial area.

- See the ornate brass doors of the Royal Palace and visit the Mellah Jewish quarter, established in 1438 and known for its ornate balconies and wrought iron windows.
- View the Bab Bou Jeloud, a blue-tiled gate that exemplifies the Moorish architectural style.
- Attend a ceramics demonstration, where you'll learn how the intricate and colorful art pieces are created—including the culturally significant tagine pots used to cook the dish that shares its name.
- Explore the UNESCO-listed Medina of Fes on a walking tour through the walled city of more than 300 neighborhoods and 9000 alleyways. Explore the colorful souks, historic tanneries, and countless shops composing the largest medina in the world.
- Visit the Mausoleum of Moulay Idriss and a madrasa, a type of local school focused on both secular and religious studies.

Enjoy a free evening in Fes or add an excursion.
+ Moroccan Cooking Class & Dinner

Erfoud → 1 night

Day 6: Erfoud via Ifrane & Midelt

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Make your way to the Sahara town of Erfoud, stopping in Ifrane, a city known for its cedar forests and alpine-style architecture. Then, continue to Midelt, where you'll enjoy free time to explore and eat lunch. Afterwards, drive through the scenic Ziz Valley and Atlas Mountains to reach Erfoud. Settle into your hotel, where you'll enjoy an included dinner.

Sahara Desert Camp → 1 night

Day 7: Erg Chebbi sand dunes & transfer to Sahara Desert camp

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner

This morning, head out to the Erg Chebbi sand dunes and discover the otherworldly beauty of the Sahara Desert.

- Hop inside a 4x4 Jeep and ride through the desert to visit the town of Merzouga, which has the largest underground body of water in Morocco and was once a transit point for merchants on their way from the coastal cities to Timbuktu.
- Visit a Bedouin tent, typical of the nomadic Arab tribes who historically call the remote desert their home, for traditional mint tea and snacks.
- Learn about the small village of Khamlia and the Gnawa people, an ethnic group originating from West Africa, who call it home, and see how they celebrate their culture during a musical performance.

Head further into the Sahara Desert to your tented camp accommodations, where you'll spend the night in the desert's wide expanse. After settling in, take a camel ride over the sand dunes and soak in the incredible landscape. Later, sit down for an included dinner at your camp and enjoy free time to explore.

Ouarzazate → 1 night

Day 8: Ouarzazate via Tinghir & Todra Gorge

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Make several stops as you travel from the Sahara Desert region to Ouarzazate. Nicknamed “the door of the desert,” this city in South-Central Morocco sits in the middle of a plateau south of the Atlas Mountains with the desert opening up beyond. Throughout history, it has been a rest point for African traders on their way to the northern regions of Morocco and Southern Europe.

- Stop to learn about the ancient Berber khattara, a water supply system characterized by a series of vertical shafts connected by a gently sloping tunnel that taps into underground wells.
- Walk through the ancient Jewish quarter of the Tinghir oasis with your Tour Director, where you'll peruse the many clothing and jewelry stalls on its busy shopping street and see the ongoing restoration of the town's ancient architecture.

- See Todra Gorge and follow your Tour Director on a short walk along the limestone river canyon where walls can reach up to 1,300 feet tall.

Continue to Ouarzazate, where you'll gather with your fellow solo travelers for an included dinner after settling into your hotel.

Marrakech → 2 nights

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Ouarzawood, Ait-Ben-Haddou & transfer to Marrakech

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Spend the morning getting to know Ouarzazate—the town dubbed “Ouarzawood” (that's Moroccan Hollywood)—on a guided tour of Atlas Studios where movies and shows such as *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Gladiator*, and *Game of Thrones* were filmed.

Afterwards, transfer to Ait-Ben-Haddou, which sits along the old caravan route between the Sahara and Marrakech. The village is a wonderful example of Moroccan earthen clay architecture and has been a World Heritage Site for nearly four decades. Located on a hill next to the Ounila River, the village's buildings are tightly grouped together and decorated with geometric motifs.

- Take a guided walking tour of the UNESCO-listed ksar to see the fortified complex made up of defensive walls and towers.
- Sit down for an included lunch at a local restaurant.

Continue on through the scenic High Atlas Mountains to Marrakech and enjoy a free evening.

Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Marrakech

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Get a feel for the history of Marrakech, one of Morocco's imperial cities, on this morning's guided tour. Inhabited since the Neolithic Age, the city of Marrakech was founded in 1070 as the capital of the Almoravid dynasty. Its sandstone walls have given it the nickname of the “Red City.”

- Pass through the sophisticated Gueliz district—home to upscale restaurants and mainstream fashion storefronts.
- Marvel at the massive Koutoubia Mosque, which features a minaret that reaches nearly 200 feet high and dominates the city's skyline.
- Enter the UNESCO-listed Medina of Marrakech—the city's original fortified center and home to traditional Moroccan baths,

markets, and mosques—to see the 19th century Bahia Palace, constructed by the grand vizier of sultan Muhammad IV which is still used by the king of Morocco to receive foreign dignitaries.

- Step inside the evocative Saadian Tombs, the mausoleum of the 16th-century ruling princes.

Return to your hotel and spend some time relaxing before experiencing Marrakech's market culture on this afternoon's guided tour.

- Visit Djemaa el-Fna, a festive, open-air market where musicians, snake charmers, and clowns perform during the evenings.
- Walk through the city's vibrant souks to see the many products being sold by local vendors—including shoes, leather, jewelry, pottery, and, our personal favorite, spices (grab some saffron, turmeric and cumin for easy souvenirs!)

Tonight, attend a farewell dinner with your fellow solo travelers.

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your trip to explore Essaouira.

+ Essaouira & Marrakech extension

You know Marrakech and Fes, but have you heard of Essaouira? Join your expert Tour Director to explore this vibrant port city on Morocco's western coast, where you'll be wowed by its UNESCO-listed Medina, boutiques and art galleries, and the ever-present alizee trade winds. Then, end your trip with a farewell lunch at a community-based nonprofit in Marrakech before enjoying one final sunset in the “Red City”.

Essaouira → 2 nights

Day 11: Transfer to Essaouira & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

Travel from bustling Marrakech to quieter Essaouira, a place made famous by the Orson Welles film *Othello*. Upon arrival, set off on a guided tour and learn more about this port city.

- View the clock tower and the attached Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdallah mosque, the largest in the city.
- Explore Moulay Hassan Square, home to the annual Gnaoua World Music Festival—a four-day celebration, featuring Gnawa artists and other invited acts, that attracts nearly half-a-million spectators each year.
- Try sfenj: the Maghrebi take on a donut. This popular Moroccan street food is made by frying a sticky dough, and is either served plain, with a sprinkling of sugar, or soaked in honey.
- Climb to the top of the city's ramparts and walk the Skala de la Kasbah, taking in views of the ocean and the famous Medina of Essaouira.

Day 12: Free day in Essaouira

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in Essaouira or add an excursion.

+ Morocco Argan Oil, Wine Tasting & Lunch

Marrakech → 1 night

Day 13: Transfer to Marrakech & farewell lunch

Included meals: breakfast, farewell lunch

Return to Marrakech today, where you'll visit the Amal Center—a nonprofit focused on training women and helping them find jobs in the culinary field. Learn about the community-based organization's mission as you dine on a delicious "social gastronomy" farewell lunch crafted by its talented chefs.

Transfer to your hotel and raise a toast as you celebrate your trip with your fellow solo travelers over a farewell drink.

Flight Home

Day 14: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport in Marrakech for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: goaheadtours.ca/MO6 | 1-800-754-5066

Day 5: Moroccan Cooking Class & Dinner

\$149CAD/\$159CAD* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon, dinner included)

Visit a local cooking school and learn how to make Moroccan cuisine during a hands-on class. You'll prepare chicken tagine, mint tea, two types of Moroccan salad, and a dessert. Then, enjoy the traditional meal you've made for dinner.

Extension excursion options

Day 12: Morocco Argan Oil, Wine Tasting & Lunch

\$119CAD/\$129CAD* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon, includes lunch)

Spend the afternoon discovering the secrets of argan oil—Morocco's super ingredient used in cooking, cosmetics, and therapeutics. Head to an argan oil producer, who will take you through the process of creating the deliciously rich substance. After, visit a local winery for an included lunch, featuring Moroccan specialties paired with different wines, and learn about the wine scene in Morocco. Please note: Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for this excursion.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms