



Highlights of Morocco: Marrakech, the Sahara & Fes

12 days | 15 days with Essaouira & Marrakech extension

One day you're riding a camel through the Sahara Desert and the next you're walking through lively city souks. On this small group adventure tour, you'll see classically tiled gates and walled medinas as well as towering mountain ranges and colorful botanical gardens, all located in the heart of North Africa. Among these unique landscapes and inspiring cultures, find your Morocco moment.



Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 6 dinners
- 1 cooking class
- 3 tastings
- 14 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Djemaa el Fna market
- Moroccan cooking class
- Majorelle Garden
- Ait-Ben-Haddou
- Kasbah Ait Kassi
- Tinghir's Jewish Quarter
- Erg Chebbi sand dunes
- Roman Archaeological Site of Volubilis
- Fes Medina

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

12-22

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Marrakech today.

Marrakech → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Marrakech

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Morocco! Sip a welcome drink with your Tour Director and fellow travelers on a terrace overlooking the lively Djemaa el Fna market. Then, enjoy a welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Marrakech

Included meals: breakfast

Get a feel for the history of Marrakech, one of Morocco's imperial cities, on this morning's guided tour.

- Pass through the sophisticated Gueliz district
- 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 to see the Bahia Palace
- Step inside the evocative Saadian Tombs, the mausoleum for 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 the local vendors

Day 4: Cooking class & Majorelle Garden

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Visit a local cooking school and learn how to make Moroccan cuisine, including the famous chicken tagine, and tea during a hands-on cooking class. Enjoy eating the traditional cuisine for lunch.

This afternoon, enter Majorelle Garden, which was designed by French architect Jacques Majorelle and purchased by legendary fashion duo Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé in 1998.

- Stroll through the twelve-acre botanical garden
- Visit the Berber Museum and Yves Saint Laurent memorial

Enjoy a free evening in Marrakech or add an excursion.

+ Traditional Hammam Spa Visit & Dinner

Ouarzazate → 1 night

Day 5: Ouarzazate via Ait-Ben-Haddou

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Transfer through the High Atlas Mountains to Ait-Ben-Haddou.

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

Continue on to Ouarzazate, where movies and shows such as *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Game of Thrones* were filmed.

Sahara Desert Region → 2 nights

Day 6: Erfoud via Kasbah Ait Kassi, Tinghir & Todra Gorge

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner

Make several stops as you travel from Ouarzazate to the Sahara Desert region.

- Visit Kasbah Ait Kassi to meet a local family at this traditional riad, or courtyard, and sit down to enjoy a cup of mint tea
- Walk through Tinghir's ancient Jewish Quarter with your Tour Director
- See Todra Gorge and follow your Tour Director on a short walk along the canyon
- Stop to learn about the ancient Berber Qanat water well system

Day 7: Rissani & Erg Chebbi sand dunes

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner

Spend the morning touring the oasis town of Rissani with your Tour Director.

- Enter the Mausoleum of Moulay Ali Cherif
- Walk through Ksar El Fida, the oldest ksar in Rissani

- Stop at a local fossil shop before returning to Erfoud

Enjoy free time to eat lunch and relax at your hotel. This afternoon, 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
- Visit a Bedouin tent for traditional mint tea and snacks
- Learn about Khamlia's Gnawa people, an ethnic group originating from West Africa, and see how they celebrate their culture during a musical performance
- Take a camel ride over the sand dunes and soak in the incredible landscape

Fes → 3 nights

Day 8: Fes via Midelt & Ifrane

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Drive through the scenic Ziz Valley and Atlas Mountains to reach the town of Midelt, where you'll enjoy free time to explore and eat lunch. Next, visit Ifrane, a city known for its cedar forests and alpine-style architecture. After, continue on to Fes.

Day 9: Roman Archaeological Site of Volubilis & Meknes

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Head outside of Fes today and begin by visiting some of the most significant historical sites in northern Morocco.

- Discover the ancient ruins at the UNESCO-recognized Roman Archaeological Site of Volubilis
- See the Roman ruins of the forum, temple, baths, and gates followed by free time to visit the museum
- Walk through the holy town of Moulay Idriss Zerhoun, known as the birthplace of Islam in Morocco

Continue on to Meknes for an included lunch and a Tour Director-led sightseeing of one of Morocco's imperial cities.

- See the bustling Lahdim Square and Bab el-Khemis Gate

- View the Bab Mansour gate before entering the ruins of Dar el Ma to see the ancient stables and granaries

Return to Fes, where you'll enjoy a free evening.

Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Fes

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

Take a guided tour of Fes, the spiritual and cultural center of Moroccan life.

- See the ornate brass doors of the Royal Palace and visit the Mellah Jewish Quarter
- 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
- Explore the UNESCO-listed Fes Medina on a walking tour through the colorful souks and tanneries
- Visit the Mausoleum of Moulay Idriss and a madrasa, a type of local school focused on both secular and religious studies
- Sample msemen, a traditional flatbread

Enjoy a free evening in Fes or add an excursion.

+ Morocco Home-Hosted Dinner

Casablanca → 1 night

Day 11: Casablanca via Rabat

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

As you make your way to Casablanca, stop to tour Morocco's capital city of Rabat.

- 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, intended to be the world's largest mosque until construction halted in 1199
- Make a photo stop at the Royal Palace
- Walk through the Kasbah des Oudaias to see the mouth of the Bou Regreg river and the Andalusian gardens

Please note: On some departures, the Mausoleum of Mohammed V may be closed due to ongoing renovations.

Enjoy free time for lunch before continuing on to Casablanca, where your Tour Director will introduce you to the seaside city made famous by Old Hollywood.

- See the Hassan II Mosque, the largest in Morocco
- Pass through the fashionable La Corniche waterfront area

Tonight, attend a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers.

Flight Home

Day 12: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Please note: Some flights may leave Casablanca very early in the morning.

+ Essaouira & Marrakech extension

You know Marrakech and Casablanca (you did just travel there!) but have you heard of Essaouira? Join your expert Tour Director to explore this vibrant city on Morocco's western coast. Get ready to be wow-ed by the boutiques, art galleries, and adorable tree-climbing goats in the Argan forest. Yes, seriously.

Essaouira → 2 nights

Day 12: Essaouira via El Jadida & Oualidia

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Travel from the bustling Casablanca to the more quiet Essaouira, stopping along the way for a guided sightseeing tour of El Jadida and lunch in Oualidia.

- Walk through the old Cité Portugaise and see the Church of the Assumption and the underground Portugese Cistern
- Visit Oualidia and sit down for an included lunch, then, enjoy free time to explore the seaside town

Continue on to your hotel in Essaouira.

Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Essaouira

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner

Set off on a guided tour of the UNESCO-listed Essaouira and learn more about this port city made famous by the Orson Welles film *Othello*.

- View the Clock Tower and the attached Sidi Mohommed Ibn Abdallah, the largest mosque in the city
- Explore the Moulay Hassan Square, which hosts the Gnaoua Festival every year bringing in artists and musicians from around the world
- Walk the walls of the Skala de la Kasbah rampart and take in the views of the ocean and the medina of the city

Tonight, sit down for an included dinner with your group.

Marrakech → 1 night

Day 14: Argan Forest & Women's Cooperative Visit

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

As you make your way back to Marrakech, visit an Argan Forest and learn how empowered women command the production of the famous oil in an otherwise male-dominated culture.

- Join a local guide for a walk through an Argan forest and learn about the ecology and lifecycle of the Moroccan trees
- See why the trees are nicknamed "the Tree of Life" not only for its fruit but its impact on the local culture
- Visit a Women's Cooperative and discover the secrets to producing argan oil, a delicious and rich substance with health benefits used in products all around the world
- Sit down for tea with a Berber villager and experience Moroccan hospitality

Then, continue on to Marrakech and enjoy a farewell dinner as you celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers.

Flight home

Day 15: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport 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/MOR | 1-800-754-5066

Day 4: Traditional Hammam Spa Visit & Dinner

\$135CAD/\$145CAD* (5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Do as the Moroccans do and pay a visit to a hammam, or bath house. Going to a hammam has been a mainstay in Moroccan culture since the times of the Roman empire and visiting one is seen as a time to socialize with friends and relax. Today, you'll visit a luxury resort outside of Marrakech and head to the steam room to unwind and enjoy the serenity of the spa. After, sit down for an included dinner of traditional Moroccan cuisine at the resort's restaurant. Please note: There are separate facilities for men and women. Towels are provided.

Day 10: Morocco Home-Hosted Dinner

\$135CAD/\$145CAD* (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Join a local at their home in Fes to enjoy traditional dishes and dine like a true Moroccan. During this dinner, you'll receive an authentic understanding of your host's day-to-day life while learning about Moroccan culture and traditions from a new perspective. Please note: Your Tour Director will not attend 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