

Morocco & Beyond 9 Days



Highlights:

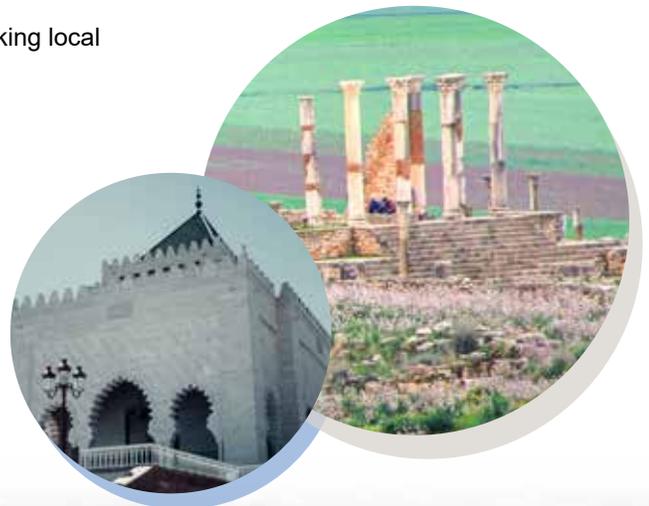
- ★ Explore the four ancient capital cities on one trip
- ★ Discover major historical sites in every city
- ★ Satisfy your craving for learning how to hand make traditional local arts and crafts
- ★ Sample some typical Moroccan cuisines along the journey
- ★ Include ample optional features and extensions to enhance overall experiences
- ★ Visit 7 UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites 

Included:

1. Round-trip international flight
2. Hand-picked 4-star hotel accommodations
3. Sightseeing admission fees as listed on the agenda
4. Food as specified on the itinerary
5. Special cultural programs as specified in the schedule
6. Professional English speaking local tour expert
7. All tax and fuel surcharge

Excluded:

1. Travel insurance
2. Any personal expenses
3. Tour extensions and optional programs
4. Gratuity for tour guides and drivers
5. Single supplement fee: U\$599





Day 1: Depart for Morocco

Breakfast: N/A | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Onboard international flight to Casablanca.

Day 2: Casablanca Arrival

Breakfast: N/A | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Upon arrival at Casablanca, meet and greet then transfer to the hotel.
- Rest up and get ready for your busy sightseeing tomorrow.

Remarks before tour starts:

- Conservative dress is recommended especially when visiting religious venues. No shorts or short skirts for ladies and bare shoulders/heads are better to be covered. Men are encouraged to choose long pants. Remove shoes when entering into the mosques.
- Ramadan is the holy month for the Islamic world and all Muslims have to fast from dawn to dusk without eating, drinking or smoking. Non-Muslims are not supposed to eat in public at this time.

Day 3: Casablanca - Rabat - Volubilis - Meknes - Fes

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Acclaimed as the "Atlantic Bride", Casablanca is also called a "White City" as the entire city is dominated

by white color. Today you will start your journey from Casablanca to Fes and on the way, visit the political capital Rabat, some 56mi/90km away to the north along the ocean coast. Rabat is one of the four ancient imperial cities with a history of about 900 years. Follow our local expert to explore the UNESCO  listed **Kasbah of the Udyas**, once a military fortress on the ocean and first built by the Berber Dynasty in 12 century AD, now is a mesmerizing blue and white artist village, nicknamed "Miniature Chefchaouen". The white marble **Mausoleum of Mohammed V** commemorating the founding father of modern Morocco sits just opposite of **Hassan Tower**, a remarkable and elegant structure from 1195 AD. In between the two constructions are 312 stone pillars still standing as the **Ruins of Grand Hassan Mosque** which was destroyed during the 1775 earthquake. Continue on to Meknes, 94mi/150km from Rabat. En route, stop at **Volubilis** to visit a UNESCO  listed ancient Roman city archeological site. Arrive at Meknes, one of the four ancient imperial cities and used to be the capital city in 1672 AD. Walk around the historical city under the protection of UNESCO  including **Royal Stables**, **City Wall** and **Bab Mansour**.

- Overnight in Fes.

Day 4: Fes

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Being the first of the four ancient imperial cities, Fes is always regarded as the religious and cultural capital even today with 2800 years of history. Start off your full sightseeing day by observing the **Bronze Doors** of the Royal Palace, symbol of the country followed by entering the magnificent **Bab Bou Jeloud** erecting between the





old town and the new town with shining blue façade on the outside and green mosaic design facing interior, a typical Moorish architecture. Stroll along the UNESCO  **Medina** old winding alleyways lined with hundreds of mosques and tens of thousands of shops with medieval atmosphere. As the first Muslim city in North Africa and proud to be one of the Islamic Mecca places globally, Fes had the world first university, **Mosque and University Karaouiyn** which was built close to 400 years earlier than Oxford University. Once known as the “*African Athens*”, “*Paradise for Handicrafts*” and “*Pottery Capital*”, Fes was a much more prosperous and sophisticated city than most of the European metropolitan areas back then. Step into the bucket-list workshop of **Dye-pits, Tanneries, Ceramics** and **Carpet weaving** to learn how the local artisans have preserved their traditional techniques for producing such high standard leathercraft and pottery for hundreds of years.

- Enjoy your free evening or you may join us for a unique optional evening excursion to enrich your experience.

 **Optional Tour: Fes by Night with dinner and live performance in Riad U\$109/person**

- Sit down in a traditional-style house with a courtyard in the middle decorated with colorful ceramic mosaic patterns. Dinner is the special Moroccan delicacy accompanied by a live music band. Some of the instruments that the musicians use date back to ancient dynasties. A marvelous performance presented by belly dancers and local artists will for sure leave you an unforgettable memory for the evening.

Day 5: Fes - Marrakesh

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: N/A

- Today you are bused from Fes to Marrakesh (330mi/530km), the last of the four ancient imperial cities.

- Enjoy the rest of the day after arrival or you may take part in our optional Marrakesh evening excursion with dinner.

 **Optional Tour: Marrakesh by Night with dinner U\$109/person**

- Hop on a horse carriage for a ride to soak up the unique ambiance of thousand-year-old North African culture. Explore **Medina**, a UNESCO  World Cultural Site and linger around the dynamic and lively **Djema el-Fna Square**, a never-sleeping bazaar for almost one thousand years where you will find dancers, fortune tellers, snake charmers and acrobats all over the market place. The smell of the food stands, the lights of the souvenir stalls, the rhythm of the musicians all make this souk a hustle and bustle hub of Marrakesh attracting visitors from home and abroad every single day. Dinner will be a roast lamb feast in a unique Moroccan tent facing a horse race track for an outstanding production.

- Overnight in Marrakesh.

Day 6: Marrakesh

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Often declared to be the “*Pearl of the South*”, Marrakesh is also named “*Red City*” due to its age-old red city wall together with other red sandstone buildings from history. In sharp contrast to this major city color, **Majorelle Garden** adopts vibrant colors especially the bright yellow and bright blue for decorating the courtyard dotted with leafy trees, dense shrubs, towering cacti and colorful flowers. The so-called Majorelle Blue villa located in the garden has been converted to be the **Berber Museum**, home to a collection of Berber cultural relics and artifacts. Next is **Saadian Tombs**, a richly and luxuriously decorated complex depicting the high point of Moroccan and Moorish architecture in the Saadian Dynasty. Following the necropolis is the **Bahia Palace**, former residence of the royal family known for its ornate glazed tiles and intricate wood carving decorations. Your final stop is at the center of the old quarter, **Koutoubia Mosque**, “*The*





most beautiful mosque in North Africa", big enough to host 20,000 people at the same time. The 253ft/77m tall minaret tower, also called "*Fragrant Tower*", is the landmark and symbol of the city, not only due to its height but also its aroma as herbs and spices were added in the plaster when constructed.

- Overnight in Marrakesh.

Day 7: Marrakesh - Essaouira

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: N/A

- Drive south along the coast to Essaouira (230mi/370km), a major seaport and the gateway to Marrakesh since the 19th century. Essaouira is also a renowned "*City of Wind*" that makes it the best place for surfing, windsurfing and kitesurfing. En route, stop to watch the **Climbing-tree Goats** which is unique to this area. Upon arrival, you will be taken to the **Fish Market** where you may see not only the fresh seafood but also the sea-blue fishing boats. Wander around at the country's best beach, the **Essaouira Beach** stretching a few miles long, and enjoy the hustle and bustle here on the fine and soft golden sand with the breeze from the Atlantic. Continue on to visit **Skale du Port** which is a fortress built in the late 18th century and now the city landmark appearing as Astapor in the Game of Thrones. Afterwards, walk through the **Bab el Marsa** and explore the UNESCO  protected old town of **Medina**, a melting pot consisting of Arabic culture, Berber culture, South African culture and Jewish culture. The Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and French rulers in history have also left their influences in this fascinating city. Stroll through the old alleyways full of cafes, shops, restaurants and art galleries.

- Overnight in Essaouira.

Day 8: Essaouira - Casablanca

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Breakfast in the hotel followed by a bus ride back to Casablanca (190mi/250km), Morocco's commercial capital and the largest city of the country. On the way, make a quick stop at the **Portuguese Fortified City of Mazagan** which was registered as a UNESCO  World Heritage Site as an outstanding example of the interchange of influences between European and Moroccan cultures. Upon arrival at Casablanca, go directly to **Mohammed V Square** located at the city center in honor of the former king of Morocco Muhammad V. Head to **Hassan II Mosque**, the third largest mosque worldwide. Designed by French architects, partially built in the Atlantic and equipped with innovative facilities, the mosque is often hailed as the "*Mosque on the ocean*" and the "*Most luxurious and modern mosque in the world*". Stroll along the **Miami Beach Boardwalk**, a trendy and cozy coastal promenade where you may enjoy the ocean breeze, view the stunning sunset or take a selfie with the Atlantic Ocean.

 **Optional Tour: Rick's Cafe dinner with wine at U\$109/person**

- Overnight in Casablanca.

Day 9: Depart from Morocco

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- After breakfast, transfer to the airport and board the flight back to your home.

BOOK NOW!

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