

## **Discover Morocco with MEJDI Tours**

- Dates:** March 4-14, 2025  
(Optional Extension March 14 - 17: pg 5)
- Included:** 10 nights' accommodation at hotels per itinerary  
1 Moroccan MEJDI-Trained guide  
11 days of private bus transportation, including airport transfers  
Internal flight (Casablanca to Erfoud)  
Meals listed in the itinerary: 10 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners  
Entrances, sites, and honoraria for speakers  
Water on bus throughout tour  
Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support
- Not Included:** International airfare  
Travel insurance - **highly recommended**  
Single occupancy supplement - \$1,000 per person  
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary  
Gratuities  
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing:** \$3,540 per person (double occupancy)

### **Overview**

Take an immersive journey through Morocco's rich cultural history and centuries-old traditions. Step inside stunning venues, moving from bustling city markets to quiet sanctuaries, and from the mountains to the Sahara desert. Share meals with Moroccan families, enjoy private cultural performances, and hear about current affairs from leaders of local organizations, religious communities, and government. Gain behind-the-scenes access to historic sites in Marrakech and Fes, absorbing both remarkable views and illuminating the many narratives of an inspiring Moroccan landscape.

## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrival - Tuesday, March 4**

Land at Marrakech International Airport and transfer to your hotel. Meet your group for a welcome dinner and orientation.

*Hotel: Riad El Walaa, Marrakech (Dinner included)*

### **Day 2: Marrakech, Old City - Wednesday, March 5**

Set off for the Medina, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, and visit ancient quarter sites including **Madrassa Ben Youssef**, formerly the largest Islamic college in Marrakech, and see **Bahia Palace**, a late 19th-century palace built by a powerful Grand Vizier of Sultan Hassan I. Continue to **Mellah**, the Jewish Quarter, and stop by the synagogue for a conversation with community leadership. In the evening, enjoy a private **Hadra Sufi show** with music performed by local women.

*Hotel: Riad El Walaa, Marrakech (Breakfast and dinner included)*

### **Day 3: Palaces and Tombs - Thursday, March 6**

Begin the day at the 16th-century **Badi Palace** and the **Saadian tombs**. Over lunch, meet a local storyteller—a vocation that thrived in Morocco until the 20th century. Learn how a traditional pastime has remained a relevant part of a changing cultural landscape. Continue to the **Majorelle Garden and the Berber Museum** in the afternoon. There is an option to attend **Friday night services** at the synagogue.

*Hotel: Riad El Walaa, Marrakech (Breakfast included)*

### **Day 4: Atlas Mountains and Ouarzazate - Friday, March 7**

Drive into the **Atlas Mountains** to learn about daily life in a small Berber town before a hands-on **culinary workshop** offered by members of the local community. After exploring the secrets of Moroccan cuisine, enjoy lunch together with your hosts. In the afternoon,

hike or ride a mule across the mountainscape for **breathtaking views**, before continuing to Ouarzazate for the night.

*Hotel: Oscar Hotel, Ouarzazate (Breakfast and lunch included)*

### **Day 5: Aït Benhaddou - Saturday, March 8**

Delve into Moroccan filmmaking at the **Atlas Studios** in Ouarzazate. Continue to **Aït Benhaddou**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to see a remarkable panorama of earthen construction and learn about how these techniques inform contemporary innovation. Head back to Marrakech and conclude the day in conversation with a representative of a local services organization.

*Hotel: Riad El Walaa, Marrakech (breakfast and lunch included)*

### **Day 6: Casablanca - Sunday, March 9**

Drive to Casablanca in the morning (~3 hrs) to visit the famous **Hassan II Mosque** and check out the traditional hammam. Take a short city tour and meet a leading curator at the **Jewish Museum**. Hear from a **civil society expert and journalist** over dinner before heading to the airport to catch a one hour flight to the Sahara Desert. Spend the evening in Erfoud.

*Hotel: La Rose Du Desert Hotel, Erfoud (Breakfast and dinner included)*

### **Day 7: Erfoud and The Sahara Desert - Monday, March 10**

Explore **Erfoud** and its surroundings, including the **Maadid Palace** and one of the region's stunning oases. Learn about the contours and characteristics of the Sahara before reaching your tented camp in the dunes of **Merzouga**. Enjoy a camel ride and watch the sun set over the desert expanse before dinner and a **drum circle by the campfire**. Watch for breathtaking views of the star-filled night sky.

*Hotel: Comfortable Oasis Camping, Sahara Desert (Breakfast and dinner included)*

### **Day 8: Journey to Fes - Tuesday, March 11**

After sunrise and early morning spent reveling in the **desertscape**, begin your overland trip to Fes, stopping along the way for lunch on your own and three stunning photo ops. Check out **Ifrane**, a region known as the Switzerland of Morocco, before reaching Fes in the evening.

Throughout the day, there are many opportunities to stretch your legs, snack, and use clean restrooms.

*Hotel: Jnan Palace Hotel, Fes (Breakfast included)*

### **Day 9: Old Medina - Wednesday, March 12**

Enter the religious capital of the Kingdom of Morocco and traverse the **largest medina in North Africa**, with over 9,000 tiny streets and alleys rich in color, scents, mosaic tiles, mosques, and courtyard. Visit the **Mellah (Jewish Quarter)**, where the community once traced its lineage to the period following the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Stop in the old tanneries, **Al-Attarine Madrasa**, the **craftspeople** quarters, and the **Marinid Tombs**, before meeting a **local professor** to delve further into local history.

*Hotel: Jnan Palace Hotel, Fes (Breakfast included)*

### **Day 10: Maknes Imperial City - Thursday, March 13**

Spend the day in the Imperial City of **Maknes**, stopping en route at the impressive Roman archaeological site of Volubilis. Explore the **Medina of Maknes**, founded as a military settlement in the 11th century, and **Bab-el-Mansour**, the main ceremonial entrance to the Kasbah of Sultan Moulay Isma'il. Note the beautifully preserved green and white zellij tiles, marble columns, and Koran inscriptions, then continue to the **Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail**. Head back to Fes for dinner at a private home accompanied by **live traditional Moroccan music**.

*Hotel: Jnan Palace Hotel, Fes (breakfast and dinner included)*

### **Day 11: Departure Day (Or first day of optional extension, see below) - Friday, March 14**

In the morning, drive to **Casablanca** to catch flights back home.

*Hotel: N/A (Breakfast included)*



## **Optional Extension Chefchaouen, Tangier & Rabat**

**Dates:** March 14-17, 2025

**Included:** 3 nights' accommodation at hotels per itinerary  
1 Moroccan MEJDI-Trained guide  
4 days of private transportation, including airport transfer  
Meals listed in the itinerary: 3 breakfasts  
Entrance, sites, and honoraria for speakers  
Water on bus throughout tour  
Customary tips for drivers, guides  
Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

**Not Included:** International airfare  
Travel insurance - **highly recommended**  
Tips for hotels and portorage fees  
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary  
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

**Pricing:** \$945 per person

### **Day 11: Chefchaouen - Friday, March 14**

Drive to the artsy, blue-washed town of **Chefchaouen** (3.5 hours), nestled in the Rif mountains and originally founded as a kasbah from which to defend Morocco against Portuguese invasion. Tour the **Old City of Chefchaouen** and explore its narrow lanes and maze-like medina. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

*Hotel: Dar Jazmin Hotel, Chefchaouen*

### **Day 12: Tangier - Saturday, March 15**

Set off for Tangier to visit the **Old City** and the **American Legation Museum**, which commemorates historic and cultural diplomacy between the U.S. and Morocco. Visit **Cape Spartel**, the **Cave of Hercules** and the lighthouse before an evening on your own enjoying ocean views.

*Hotel: Palais Zahia Hotel, Tangier (Breakfast included)*

### **Day 13: Rabat - Sunday, March 16**

Drive to Rabat, Morocco's capital city near the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of the river Bou Regreg. Visit the **Mausoleum of Mohammed V**, with its intricate tile work and grand marble tomb, adjacent to the unfinished Hassan Tower. See **Dar-al-Makhzen**, the King's primary residence (outside only), and **Kasbah Oudaya**, a tranquil Andalusian-style neighborhood of twisting lanes surrounded by blue and white buildings. Visit the Kasbah, old town and market, before meeting with a local expert (topic to be decided with travelers). End the evening with dinner on your own.

*Hotel: Riad Zyo Hotel, Rabat (Breakfast included)*

### **Day 14: Departure Day - Monday, March 17**

Transfer to the airport for your departing flights.

*Hotel: N/A (Breakfast included)*