

The Wonders of Morocco

(Scheduled Group Departure)

Included 9 nights' accommodation at hotels per itinerary or similar

1 MEJDI-Trained local Moroccan guide throughout the tour 8 Days of private bus transportation, including private airport

arrival and departure transfers

Meals listed in itinerary: 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 dinners Bottled water during all touring and light drinks at meals

Entrances, sites, and honoraria for speakers

Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not included:

International airfare

Travel and Medical insurance-HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Single Supplement costs

Customary tips for all included services (guides, drivers, porters,

restaurant staff)

Meals not mentioned in the itinerary

Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival to Marrakech (No Guide, No Transportation)

Land at Marrakech International Airport and transfer to your hotel for check in.

Hotel: Riad El Walaa, Marrakech (No Meals included)

Day 2: Marrakech, Old City (Guide, Private transportation)

Meet your guide at the lobby for a quick orientation and begin the vibrant **Medina of Marrakech**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a visit the **Mellah**, the city's historic **Jewish Quarter**. Explore a synagogue and cemetery, engaging in meaningful dialogue with community leaders on Jewish life past and present. After lunch, visit the exquisite **Bahia Palace**, a 19th-century marvel built by a Grand Vizier, known for its intricate tilework and lush gardens. Continue to iconic **Jemaa El Fnaa square**, where performers and vendors embody the city's lively spirit. Meet with a leading



journalist / civil society leader for a **conversation on Moroccan current events** before enjoying dinner as a group.

Hotel: Riad El Walaa, Marrakech (breakfast included)

Day 3: Palaces and Tombs (Guide, Private transportation)

Return to Marrakech to visit historic sites including **Madrasa Ben Youssef**, once the largest Islamic college in the Medina. Hear how an ancient tradition has been adapted from a **traditional Sufi storyteller**, stroll through the serene **Majorelle Garden** and visit the **Berber Museum**. Later, check out a local photography exhibition and participate in a **hands-on cooking workshop** led by **local women** at La Maison Arabe.

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

Day 4: Atlas Mountains and Ouarzazate (Guide, Private transportation)

Drive into the Atlas Mountains to visit a rural Berber village with the **High Atlas Foundation**, followed by a group lunch. Continue to **Aït Ben Haddou**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its striking earthen architecture and cultural significance, including a visit with a local carpet-making collective. Conclude the day at the famed **Atlas Studios** in Ouarzazate, a hub of Moroccan filmmaking. Continue to Skoura for an evening at leisure.

Hotel: Riad Aman, Skoura (breakfast, lunch and dinner included)

Day 5: Into the Sahara (Guide, Private transportation)

Visit an off-road **nomadic community living in traditional caves** near Bou Tharar for insight into Morocco's heritage, then stop in the lush **Valley of the Roses** before reaching **Tinghir**. After lunch, take a short walk for views of the the dramatic **Todgha Gorge** and arrive in Merzouga for a **sunset camel ride**. Have dinner as a group, followed by a drum circle and campfire under the stars.

Hotel: Desert Camp, Merzouga (breakfast and dinner included)



Day 6: Dunes and Midelt (Guide, Private transportation)

Wade into the desert dunes and join a workshop on **Gnawa music in Khamlia**. Pass through **Rissani** and continue to **Erfoud** to see its fortress, fossils and surrounding landscape. Discuss the relationship between Jewish and Muslim communities of the region over centuries, then continue to Midelt for the evening. Head to a nearby village for a warm **hospitality dinner at a local family home.**

Hotel: Villa Pomme d'Or, Midelt (breakfast and dinner included)

Day 7: Journey to Fes (Guide, Private transportation)

Journey to Fes via scenic drive through the Middle Atlas, stopping in **Azrou** for lunch and picturesque photo opportunities. Pass through **Ifrane**, known as the "Switzerland of Morocco," to appreciate the magnificent building of the **al-Akhawayn University**, where an expert provides a new perspective on this remote region. Nearing Fes, stop to browse an artisan **ceramics workshop** and take in a panoramic view of the city from the **Marinid Tombs**. In the evening, enjoy a **private Hadra Sufi music performance** by local women and dinner at **Dar Chadia**.

Hotel: Jnan Palace Hotel, Fes (breakfast included)

Day 8: Old Medina

Discover the largest medina in North Africa, a labyrinth of over 9,000 alleys filled with vibrant colors, scents, and craftsmanship. Walk through the **Mellah (Jewish Quarter)**, explore the historic **tanneries, metalworkers, tiles workshop and Al-Attarine Madrasa**. Discuss Islamic tradition and community life with a **local Imam** and **visit a local care center** supporting working animals in the city.

Hotel: Jnan Palace Hotel, Fes (breakfast and lunch included)

Day 9: Fes to Casablanca

Depart Fes for Casablanca, stopping **for a meeting at the home of Jewish community member** for a conversation on contemporary Moroccan Jewry, followed by a visit to the local school and synagogue. Visit the impressive **Hassan II Mosque** by the sea in the afternoon, followed by time to experience the mosque **hammam** (*optional time permitting, costs not included*) or explore the city at leisure. Gather in the evening for closing reflections and a festive farewell dinner.



Hotel: Best Western Plus Casablanca City Center, Casablanca (breakfast, lunch and dinner included)

Day 10: Departure Day

Head to the airport to catch flights back home. (or first day of optional extension, see below)

Hotel: N/A (breakfast included)