MEJDI TOURS

The Wonders of Morocco

(Scheduled Group Departure)

Dates & Pricing

March 20 - 30, 2027 ($4,685 per person, + $945 single room supplement)
Pre-tour extension: March 18-20, 2027 ($995 per person, +$220 single sup.)
Post-tour extension: March 30- April 1, 2027 ($900 per person, +$150 single sup.)

November 6 - 16, 2027 ($4,685 per person, + $945 single room supplement)
Pre-tour extension: November 4-6, 2027 ($995 per person, +$220 single sup.)
Post-tour extension: November 16-18, 2027($900 per person, +$150 single sup.)

Included

10 nights' accommodation at premium hotels per itinerary
1 MEJDI-Trained local Moroccan guide throughout the tour
11 Days of private bus transportation, including private airport arrival and departure transfers
Meals listed in the itinerary: 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 7 dinners
Bottled water during all touring and light drinks at meals
Entrances, sites, and honoraria for speakers
Customary tips for all included services (guides, drivers, porters, restaurant staff)
Dedicated pre-trip traveler services and 24/7 on-ground support

Not included:

International airfare
Travel and Medical insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

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Overview

Embark 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 from the coast, to the mountains and through the Sahara desert. Share meals with Moroccan families, enjoy private performances, and hear about current affairs from local organizations, religious communities, and government. Gain exclusive access to breathtaking sites in Marrakech, Essaouira and Fes, absorbing remarkable views and illuminating the many narratives of an inspiring Moroccan landscape.

Visit: Marrakech, Atlas Mountains, Ouarzazate, Erfoud, Sahara Desert, Fes, Casablanca, Essaouira

Highlights:

- Traditional **Moroccan cooking workshop** celebrating hospitality, flavor and women's entrepreneurship
- Insightful conversations with **journalists, activists and local advocates**
- Explore the legacy of Moroccan coexistence in conversation with local **Jewish community members, Imams, and scholars**
- Private **Hadra performance by local women**, **Gnawa music**, and **Sufi storytelling**, presenting Morocco's spiritual heritage and oral tradition
- Tour the world-famous **Atlas Studios**, learn about Morocco's influence on global cinema
- Share intimate meals in **Moroccan family homes** to discover daily life through meaningful exchange
- Support sustainability and economic independence by visiting a women-led **argan oil production cooperative**
- Visit a care center **supporting working animals in Fes**

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Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival to Casablanca

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

Hotel: Casablanca (dinner included)

Day 2: Casablanca

Start with a visit to the **Hassan II Mosque**, one of the most important religious and architectural landmarks in the Muslim world.

Continue to the Jewish quarter and synagogue before for a **meeting with a member of Morocco's Jewish community**. Discuss the history of Moroccan Jewry, emigration, relations with Israel, and the future of Jewish life in the country.

In the afternoon, travel to **Rabat and meet with a journalist, policy expert, or civil society leader** to discuss contemporary Morocco, including the role of the monarchy, social change, youth aspirations, regional dynamics and the Ceuta case.

Hotel: Rabat (breakfast and dinner included)

Day 3: Rabat-Fes

Begin the day in Rabat with visits to the **Mausoleum of Mohammed V** and **Hassan Towe**r, offering insight into Morocco's modern monarchy and national identity.

Afterwards, enjoy a tasting experience in Rabat's medina or central market and have lunch 'tasting style'. In the afternoon, travel to Volubilis, the best-preserved Roman archaeological site in Morocco. Have a short tour to explore the remarkable mosaics, temples, and public buildings while discussing the region's Roman, Amazigh, and Islamic layers of history. Later, continue to Fes.

Hotel: Fes (breakfast and lunch included)

Day 4: Fes

Discover the largest medina in North Africa, a labyrinth of over 9,000 alleys filled with vibrant colors, scents, and craftsmanship. Visit the **Mellah (Jewish Quarter)**, explore

the historic **tanneries, metalworkers, tiles workshop and Al-Attarine Madrasa**. **Meet a local Imam** for a conversation on Islam and community life. Later, **visit a local care center** supporting working animals in the city.

Hotel: Fes (breakfast included)

Day 5: Education, Amazigh Identity & the Middle Atlas

Travel to Midelt with a scenic drive through the Middle Atlas. Pass through **Ifrane**, known as the "Switzerland of Morocco," and appreciate the magnificent building of the **al-Akhawayn University while meeting with a speaker.** Stop in **Azrou** for lunch on your own and enjoy several picturesque photo stops. In Midelt/Azrou: Stop for tea with local nomadic families. **In Midelt, have an introduction to Amazigh culture by a local educator.**

Hotel: Midelt (breakfast and dinner included)

Day 6: To the Sahara

Depart Midelt and journey south through the dramatic landscapes of the Middle Atlas and the Ziz Valley, where lush palm groves and ancient kasbahs create a striking contrast to the surrounding desert terrain. Stop at scenic viewpoints overlooking the valley before continuing to **Erfoud**, known for its rich fossil deposits, to learn about the region's remarkable geological history. Continue to **Rissani**, a historic caravan town and former center of trans-Saharan commerce, where merchants, pilgrims, and traders once connected Morocco with West Africa. Visit the historic **fortress of Sijilmassa** and have a brief stop at the local market while discussing the region's role in shaping Morocco's cultural and economic history.

Continue to **Merzouga** and embark on a **camel ride into the golden dunes** of Erg Chebbi, experiencing the vast silence and beauty of the Sahara as the sun sets over the horizon. Conclude the evening with dinner and an overnight stay in a desert camp beneath the stars.

Hotel: Merzouga (breakfast and dinner included)

Day 7: Towards Dades

Start the day with a visit to the village of **Khamlia for a private Gnawa music performance**. Descendants of West African communities who settled in southern Morocco generations ago, the Gnawa preserve a rich musical and spiritual tradition

that reflects centuries of migration, cultural exchange, and resilience. Learn about the history and significance of this unique cultural heritage.

Later, continue westward through the desert landscapes to **Ksar El Khorbat**, one of the best-preserved fortified oasis villages in southern Morocco. Explore the **Berber Museum** and learn about traditional Amazigh architecture, oasis life, and the ingenious systems of water management that have sustained communities in this harsh environment for centuries. Enjoy lunch in the village before continuing toward **Tinghir.**

If time allows, take a short walk through the lush palm oasis that stretches along the edge of the town, offering a striking contrast to the surrounding desert and mountains. Continue to the dramatic **Todra Gorge**, where towering canyon walls rise above a narrow river valley, before completing the journey through the scenic landscapes of southern Morocco to the Dades Valley. Drive the Dades Valley and travel west through southern Morocco's dramatic landscapes toward **Ouarzazate, for overnight**

Hotel: Ouarzazate *(breakfast and dinner included)*

Day 8: Journey to Marrakech

Start the day at **Ouarzazate**, often referred to as the "Hollywood of Morocco." Visit the renowned **Atlas Studios**, where countless international films and television productions have been brought to life, and learn about Morocco's unique role in the global film industry.

Continue to **Aït Ben Haddou**, one of Morocco's most iconic UNESCO World Heritage Sites. This remarkably fortified village, built of earth and clay and set along an ancient caravan route, offers a window into centuries of trade, architecture, and desert life. Explore its winding alleys and historic kasbahs, visit a local carpet collective, and enjoy lunch overlooking the village and surrounding landscapes.

In the afternoon, continue across the spectacular High Atlas Mountains, following one of Morocco's most scenic routes as it winds through mountain passes, traditional villages, and ever-changing landscapes. **Arrive in Marrakech** in the early evening and settle into your hotel, preparing to explore the vibrant cultural heart of Morocco.

Hotel: Marrakech (breakfast and lunch included)

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Day 9: Amazigh Culture and Old Medina Marrakech

Begin the day with an excursion into the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains for a visit to **local Amazigh communities**. Through conversations with residents, gain insight into traditional culture, daily life, women's roles, and the opportunities and challenges facing rural Morocco today. **Enjoy an early traditional lunch** before returning to Marrakech.

In the afternoon, explore the vibrant Medina of Marrakech, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where centuries of history, commerce, and culture converge. Visit two of Marrakech's most celebrated cultural landmarks: the historic **Ben Youssef Madrasa**, one of the finest examples of Islamic architecture in Morocco, and the elegant **Bahia Palace**, renowned for its intricate craftsmanship and tranquil courtyards.

Conclude the afternoon in the legendary **Jemaa el-Fnaa square**, where storytellers, musicians, performers, and food vendors bring the city to life. This evening, enjoy a **private Hadra sufi music show and meet with a traditional storyteller** and discover Morocco's rich oral traditions.

Hotel: Marrakech (breakfast and lunch included)

Day 10: Marrakech

Spend the morning exploring the historic **Mellah**, once home to one of Morocco's largest Jewish communities, and meet with a member of the local Jewish community to discuss Jewish life in Marrakech, past and present. The afternoon is free to relax, explore the city independently, shop in the souks, or revisit favorite corners of Medina. In the evening, gather for a **festive farewell dinner** as the group reflects on the people, cultures, and stories encountered throughout the journey.

Hotel: Marrakech (breakfast and dinner included)

Day 11: Departure Day

Transfer to the airport for your return flight (*or first day of optional extension, see below*).

Hotel: N/A (breakfast included)

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Optional Extension: Post-Tour

Essaouira

Dates:	March 30- April 1, 2027 & November 16-18, 2027
Included:	2 nights' accommodation at premium hotels per itinerary 1 Moroccan MEJDI-Trained guide 3 days of private transportation, including airport transfer Meals listed in the itinerary: 4 breakfasts Entrance, sites, and honoraria for speakers Water on bus throughout tour Dedicated pre-trip traveler services and 24/7 on-ground support
Not Included:	International airfare Travel insurance - highly recommended Customary tips for drivers, guides, hotels and porterage fees Meals not mentioned in the itinerary Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

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Itinerary

Extension Tour Day 1: Essaouira

Take a scenic drive through argan tree country, stopping at a **women's cooperative** to learn about traditional argan oil production and economic empowerment in rural communities. Continue to a **local farm for a guided vineyard tour**, tasting, and wine-paired lunch on the terrace, where you will discuss the cultural and economic nuances of viticulture in a traditional Islamic nation and modern water-scarcity management.

Upon arriving in coastal **Essaouira**, walk through the vibrant fishing port's traditional wooden shipyards to witness ancestral maritime trades that support local working-class families. Check into the **Al-Manara Hotel**, and conclude the afternoon with an orientation walk along the French-designed 18th-century *Skala de la Kasbah* fortifications to watch the Atlantic sunset before an evening at leisure.

Hotel: Al-Manara, Essaouira (breakfast and lunch included)

Extension Tour Day 2: Essaouira

Start the day with a visit to **Bayt Dakira**, a beautifully restored synagogue and cultural center honoring shared heritage, for a conversation about **Moroccan pluralism** and **Jewish-Muslim coexistence** with a local expert. Take a **guided food tour** through Essaouira's bustling market for lunch, sampling local delicacies from seafood to sweets, then browse the **Medina's artisan workshops** before an evening at leisure.

Hotel: Al-Manara, Essaouira (breakfast and lunch included)

Extension Tour Day 3: Departure Day

Transfer to Marrakech airport for your departing flights.

Hotel: N/A (breakfast included)

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Optional Extension: Pre-Tour

Chefchaouen & Tangier

Dates: March 18- 20, 2027 & November 4-6, 2027

Included:

2 nights' accommodation at premium hotels per itinerary

1 Moroccan MEJDI-Trained guide

3 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

Dedicated pre-trip traveler services and 24/7 on-ground support

Not Included:

International airfare

Travel insurance - highly recommended

Customary tips for drivers, guides, hotels and porterage fees

Meals not mentioned in the itinerary

Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

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Itinerary

Extension Tour Day 1: Tangier

Meet in **Casablanca** with your guide and board the high-speed train to **Tangier**. Your exploration begins with an immersive walking tour of the historic **Medina**, where you will wander through the vibrant plazas of the **Grand Socco** and **Petit Socco**. Over a relaxed cup of coffee, you will discover the rich history of Morocco's iconic **kasbahs**. The day concludes with an exclusive meeting with a **local expert**, offering deep insights into Tangier's unique and influential role in Moroccan life, culture, and history.

Hotel: Tangier (breakfast included)

Extension Tour Day 2: Chefchaouen

Travel by private coach into the Rif Mountains to reach **Chefchaouen**, Morocco's famous artsy, blue-washed town. Originally founded as a defensive **kasbah** against Portuguese invasions, this breathtaking city is now a haven of peace and creativity. Connect deeply with the community during an exclusive conversation with a **local woman**, who will share firsthand insights into the realities, triumphs, and traditions of rural Moroccan life. As daylight fades, gather on a scenic **rooftop** to witness the sunset over the dramatic mountain landscape before enjoying a relaxing evening at leisure.

Hotel: Chefchaouen (breakfast included)

Extension Tour Day 3: Tangier-Casablanca

Journey back to the coast to explore the natural wonders of Tangier, beginning with the dramatic cliffs of **Cape Spartel** and the legendary **Cave of Hercules**, where the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean. After pausing at a nearby historic **lighthouse**, board the afternoon train back to **Casablanca**. The evening brings everyone together for a special **welcome dinner**, marking the official launch of the full program and the beginning of your shared journey with the rest of the group members.

Hotel: Main Program Stay in Casablanca (breakfast included)