

# A suggested 13 night trip to Morocco

**Fes - The Desert - Marrakech - The Atlas Mountains - Essaouira**



*Day 1* On arrival at Mohammed V Airport in Casablanca, you will be transferred by chauffeur driven car to your 5\* accommodation in Fes where you will stay for 4 nights. Dinner will be served in your accommodation.

*Day 2* After breakfast your guide will meet you and take you on a tour of the medieval medina of Fes, one of the largest car-free cities in the world. Narrow cobbled streets are filled with ancient mosques and towering green-glazed minarets. Places of interest to visit in Fes include the Medersa el-Attarine (Koranic university), Foundouk Nejjarine, the shrine of Moulay Idriss II, the countless souks and the famous tanneries. You can also explore the Dar Batha Museum, the recently restored Ibn Danan Synagogue and the impressive gates of the Royal Palace. For dinner you are free to dine at a restaurant of your choice or we can reserve a table for you at one of our recommended restaurants.





*Day 3* After breakfast your driver will take you to the extensive Roman ruins at Volubilis, nearby Moulay Idriss and the Imperial city of Meknes. On your return to Fes you will have the late afternoon and evening free to explore the souk. For dinner you are free to dine at a restaurant of your choice or we can reserve a table for you at one of our recommended restaurants.



*Day 4* After breakfast your guide will collect you and take you to the town of Erfoud, a base from which to explore the vast dunes of Erg Chebbi. Accommodation is provided at the Hotel Kasbah Xaluca Maadid, which we would also recommend for your evening meal.



*Day 5* Before dawn breaks, a 4x4 vehicle will be waiting for you as you continue your adventure by heading towards the dunes of Erg Chebbi, possibly the largest dunes in the Sahara desert.

Here, you will witness the sun rising from the east over the desert dunes and be astounded by the peace and calm as well as the changing colours of the landscape. After the sun has risen, you will be driven back to Erfoud in time for breakfast, after which you can continue your 4x4 adventure in the Sahara desert, exploring the crumbling ruins of once-grand kasbahs now half-buried by sand. As your adventure winds down in the late morning, return to the town of Erfoud.



After lunch we will continue west to the Todra Gorge, an area of dramatic scenery, which you can choose to explore by car or on foot.

We then continue to the Dades Gorges, another area of outstanding beauty. Your accommodation will be at the Kasbah Ben Moro where dinner will be provided.

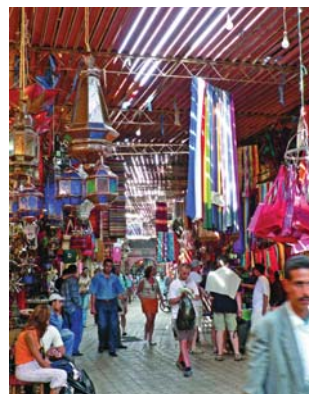
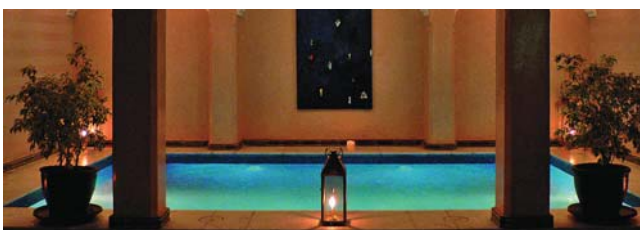




*Day 6* After breakfast you will continue west to Ouarzazate where you can visit the Atlas Film Studios where many famous films have been made. In the afternoon, for those who would like an unusual adventure, you can take off into the local region in an open top dune buggy with guide. You will stay at a 5\* hotel in Ouarzazate.



*Day 7* After breakfast you will be met by your driver and transferred to Marrakech, a journey of approximately 6 hours. The route offers wonderful photo opportunities like the UNESCO World Heritage Centre of Ait Benhaddou, where movies such as Gladiator and Jesus Of Nazareth were filmed, and the dramatic Tizi n'Tichka mountain pass, which the road crosses over. On your arrival in Marrakech you will be taken to your 5\* accommodation where your dinner will be provided.





*Day 8* After breakfast you will be collected from your accommodation and taken on a full day guided tour of Marrakech. Your tour starts at the 12th century Koutoubia Mosque whose beautiful minaret dominates the skyline of Marrakech and can be seen from almost every approach to the city. The tour will include a visit to the medina and its colourful souks (marketplace) where you can barter for carpets, leather goods, jewellery, lanterns and spices. In the early evening we will head towards the frenetic Djemaa el-Fna, the most famous square in Africa, where snake charmers, storytellers, acrobats, medicine men and musicians compete for your attention. You may wish to dine at our recommended restaurant, the Al Fassia, one of the finest Moroccan restaurants in Marrakech. If you wish to do so, we can reserve a table for you on your behalf.



*Day 10* After breakfast you will be met at your accommodation and driven into the foothills of the stunning High Atlas Mountains. Here, you will have lunch at the world-renowned Kasbah du Toubkal, a stunning mountain retreat, standing 1800 metres above sea level. The Kasbah is located in the midst of reddish-brown mountains, walnut groves and mud-brick villages with the towering snow-capped Jbel Toubkal rising



*Day 9* After breakfast you will be met by your guide and continue your tour of Marrakech where you will visit the Majorelle Gardens, the Saadian Tombs, the medieval Medersa Ben Youssef (Koranic university), the Musée de Marrakech and the Dar Bellarj cultural foundation. After lunch you will be driven south from Marrakech to visit the lush and verdant Ourika valley nestled in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains, where local Marrakchis often come at weekends to picnic with their families.

For dinner you are free to dine at a restaurant of your choice or we can reserve a table for you at one of our recommended restaurants.



4165 metres steeply behind. The local Berber inhabitants live a way of life that has hardly changed in centuries.

After lunch you are free to relax or explore the local area and mid-afternoon your driver will take you back to your accommodation in Marrakech. Early evening your driver will collect you and take you to a dinner and Fantasia extravaganza held in the Palmeraie 20 minutes outside Marrakech city centre.





*Day 11* After breakfast your driver will take you to the city of Essaouira, 105 miles from Marrakech. This magical fortified coastal town is in total contrast to Marrakech and offers many photographic opportunities. For dinner, we suggest dining at "Sams", a world-famous fish restaurant at the end of the harbour. Your accommodation whilst in Essaouira will be in a 5\* riad within the walls of the medina.



*Day 12* After breakfast, a guide will meet you and take you on a tour of the lively port, the colourful souk and the medina of Essaouira. For lunch you may wish to eat at one of the many fish stalls near to the port where the morning's catch is on display and cooked right in front of you. In the afternoon your driver will take you out of the town into the surrounding countryside. On your return to the riad we recommend you dine at the excellent Sofitel Beach Restaurant. After dinner you may wish to return to the medina and enjoy a drink on the roof bar of the Taros Café Restaurant where local musicians play relaxing blues and jazz music.



*Day 13* After breakfast your driver will collect you and take you to Casablanca where you will spend your last night at a 5\* hotel in the city centre. We suggest dining at your hotel.



*Day 14* Your driver will take you to Casablanca airport for your onward journey.

