



Magical Morocco



Highlights:

- This trip is customized and organized exclusively for you
- Explore ancient Medinas (Medieval cities consist of maze like narrow streets)
- Shop at souks (markets) for tagines, kaftans, babouche slippers, lanterns, spice, jewelry, etc,...
- Stay at traditional riads (multi story houses with gorgeous interior garden courtyards)
- Explore the blue city - Chefchaouen
- Marvel at the mosaics and temple at the ancient Roman city of Volubilis
- Savor exquisite Moroccan cuisine at restaurants and local homes
- Take a cooking class and learn to make traditional Moroccan dishes
- Shop for leather goods right at the source - the tannery of Fez
- Explore the Middle Atlas Mountains (drive through cedar groves)
- Join our local guide and explore Ziz Valley on foot
- Stay at a special luxury camp in Sahara Desert with air conditioning
- Ride a camel near Erg Chebbi dunes at sunset
- Listen to live Gnawa traditional music in the Sahara
- Learn about the caravan route while exploring Valley of the Kasbahs
- Explore Ait Ben Haddou Ksar (fortified village) UNESCO World Heritage Site and learn about all the movies made here like Lawrence of Arabia, Prince of Persia, Game of Thrones
- Get a temporary henna on your hand (or feet)
- Learn about argan oil
- Hike in the Atlas Mountains
- Enjoy a traditional hammam (Turkish bath)
- Explore Marrakech's Jemaa el-Fna Square, a Medieval marketplace with street food stalls, snake charmers, musicians, soothsayers, herbalists, etc,...

Overnight	Highlights	Hotels	Meals
Rabat	Jay and Claudia arrive in Casablanca and transfer to Rabat	Euphoriad	_____
Rabat	David and Karen arrive in Casablanca and transfer to Rabat	Euphoriad	B
Rabat	Explore Rabat with your driver	Euphoriad	B,D
Chefchaouen	Half day guided tour in Chefchaouen	Ryad A&B	B
Fez	Drive to Fez. Along the way explore Volubilis, drive through Meknes.	Riad Laaroussa	B, D
Fez	Explore Fez medina with a local guide; tannery, spice market, souks, Qaraouine University	Riad Laaroussa	B, L
Fez	Cooking class in the morning. Afternoon free	Riad Laaroussa	B, L
Erfoud	Drive through Middle Atlas Mountains, lunch at a local guide Tata's home in Ziz Valley	La Rose du Desert	B, L, D
Sahara Desert	Lunch with Berber women who will cook for you. Explore the Erg Chebbi dunes by camel	Deluxe Sahara Camp	B, L, D
Ouarzazate	Sunrise at Sahara, Gnawa Music, Berber Heritage Museum, Valley of the Kasbahs	Dar Kamar	B, D
Ouirgane (near Toubkal)	UNESCO site of Ait Ben Haddou, Tizi N' Tichka Mountain Pass	Domaine Malika	B,D
Ouirgane (near Toubkal)	Guided walk with lunch at village family's home, explore villages	Domaine Malika	B,L,D
Marrakesh	Drive to Marrakesh. Afternoon free. Evening food tour with guide	La Sultana	B,D
Marrakesh	Guided tour of Marrakesh	La Sultana	B, L
Marrakesh	Morning cooking class. Afternoon free.	La Sultana	B, L
Depart	Jay and Claudia fly out of Marrakesh at 10:20 am. David and Karen travel to Casablanca		

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Casablanca

Upon arrival in Casablanca, you'll be met at the airport and transfer to Rabat (1.5 hour drive). This is the major airport in Morocco and it can take at least an hour to go through passport control. Your driver will be waiting for you outside the luggage claim. Most likely you'll arrive at the Riad around 9:30- 10 pm.

No meals are included.

Overnight at Euphoriad

Jale's note: Euphoriad house formerly belonging to the Pasha Bargach Rabat, tells the lifestyle of notable families in society "Rabatie" traditional. Its private terrace, swimming pool and hammam carved marble offer stunning and privileged view over the medina.

Overnight at EUPHORIAD

7-9 impasse Caid Bargach - Médina Rabat

Phone:+212(0) 5 37 73 42 09

Day 2: Full day tour of Rabat

Your driver will meet you and take you on a full day tour of Rabat. Here are some important sites to see:

Mausoleum of Mohammad V: It contains the tombs of the Moroccan king and his two sons, late King Hassan II and Prince Abdallah. The building is considered a masterpiece of modern Alaouite dynasty architecture, with its white silhouette, topped by a typical green tiled roof, green being the colour of Islam.

Hassan Tower

is the minaret of an incomplete mosque in Rabat, Morocco. Commissioned by Abu Yusuf Yaqub al-Mansur, the third Caliph of the Almohad Caliphate in 1195, the tower was intended to be the largest minaret in the world along with the mosque, also intended to be the world's largest. When al-Mansur died in 1199, construction on the mosque stopped.

Chellah is a medieval fortified Muslim necropolis. The Phoenicians established a trading emporium at the site. This was later the site of an ancient Roman colony in the province of Mauretania Tingitana.

Kasbah des Oudaias is located at the mouth of the Bou Regreg river opposite Salé. The edifice was built in the 12th century during the reign of the Almohad Caliphate. Kasbah frequently refers to multiple buildings in a keep, a citadel, or several structures behind a defensive wall.

Breakfast is included at the riad.

Lunch is on your own during touring.

Dinner at the Riad is included.

Day 3: Chefchaouen

After breakfast, you'll head to Chefchaouen (4 hours drive) known for the striking, blue-washed buildings of its old town. Lunch on your own. After lunch, you'll meet your guide for a half day tour of Chefchaouen (4 to 7 pm). In the main square of Place Outa el Hammam is the red-walled Kasbah, a 15th-century fortress and dungeon, and Chefchouen Ethnographic Museum. The octagonal minaret of the Great Mosque rises nearby. This former Jewish settlement is now home to a vibrant art scene. Get ready to take amazing photos of the blue alleys, walls, streets with cats, etc,.. You can sit at one of the cafes on the main square and sip mint tea and people watch.

Jale's note: If you like hats, go to the Hat Man. This funky shop is located toward the top of the medina on the main thoroughfare, Rue Targui. For spices and artisanal soaps, stop by El Jabon Arte Con La Abuela (Soap Art with Grandma) on Zanka Targhi, just a few steps up from the central Place Uta el-Hammam.

After you explore the village, you'll check in to your hotel and relax.

Breakfast is included.

Lunch and dinner are not included.

Day 4: Chefchaouen - Volubilis - Fes

After breakfast, you'll drive to the impressive Roman ruins of **Volubilis** (3 hours drive) to explore (on your own) amazingly well-kept mosaics. After Volubilis, you can drive through Meknes as well or you can directly go to Fes.

Meknes is known for its imperial past, with remnants including Bab Mansour, a huge gate with arches and mosaic tiling. The gate leads into the former imperial city.

Upon arrival in Fes, you'll check in to your Riad and relax. Enjoy dinner at the Riad.

Riad Laaroussa

Address: 3 Derb Bechara, Fes, Morocco

Phone: +212 674-187639

Jale's note: Riad Laaroussa is one of my favorite reads in Morocco. It's a 17th century old house restored and converted into a boutique hotel. There's a wonderful hammam and spa here. The staff is wonderful; they will take good care of you. You'll enjoy all the meals here prepared by the local chefs.

Day 5: Guided tour of Fez

After breakfast, you'll meet your local guide and have a private tour in Fes. Here you'll be able to enjoy a guided visit with a local, expert guide through the labyrinth that makes up the ancient medina of Fez. Some of the highlights include the tannery, spice market, the Qaraouine University, Koranic schools, visiting craftsmen, and walking through the various souks; all of this unveils even more about Moroccan culture, history, and even cuisine. Today's guided visit ends at around 4:30 p.m.

Highly recommended: the mosaic (zelij) factory, your guide and driver can take you there.

Breakfast is included

Lunch is included during the guided tour in Fez.

Dinner is not included.

Overnight at Laaroussa

Day 6: Cooking Class in the morning, Free afternoon in Fez

Enjoy a wonderful cooking class at Cafe Clock. You will be given instructions about what time to be at Cafe Clock and how to get there.

Afternoon is free to enjoy Fez and to continue exploring this famed medina. You can schedule a hammam (Moroccan spa) experience for the afternoon.

Breakfast is included at the Riad Laaroussa.

Lunch is included with the cooking class

Dinner is not included.

Day 7: Ifrane / Ziz Valley

Today you will explore Morocco's diverse landscapes. Travel from Fez through the Middle Atlas Mountains to Ifrane, which referred to as the "Switzerland" of Morocco.

You'll then head south where the mountains give way to flat, rocky escarpments and eventually impressive oasis valleys filled with agricultural settlements, villages, and date palms. In Ziz Valley, you'll meet your local guide Tata who will take you to his family's home for lunch. You'll explore his village on foot with Tata and learn about the famous dates grown in the valley. You'll then head to Erfoud, known as the gateway to the Sahara, for an overnight in preparation for tomorrow's full adventure.

Breakfast is included at Riad Laaroussa, Fez.

Lunch is included at your local guide Tata's family home in Ziz Valley.

Dinner is included at La Rose du Desert

Overnight: La Rose du Desert

Address: BP 294, N13, Erfoud 52200, Morocco

Phone: +212 5355-76583

Jale's note: Today's drive is very long, about 6 hours, starting in Fez, ending in Erfoud. This is the only way to get from Fez to Erfoud. You'll go through from a bustling town through cedar forests and mountain villages to palm groves. You will stop along the way several times to break the drive. Today's highlight will be meeting your local guide, Tata who is one of my favorite guides in Morocco. Please say hi from me.

Day 8: Sahara Desert

Following breakfast, you'll travel to the Sahara Desert and the region of Merzouga. The landscape quickly changes from rocky sahel where distant dunes will soon make themselves known. Before heading into the golden sand, you'll be able to enjoy a visit to a village to enjoy lunch prepared by local Berber women who enjoy sharing their traditional methods of food preparation. This is going to be at Tata's own home and he

will be with you, serving medfouna (Berber pizza, baked in dome shaped oven made of clay). You'll enjoy this local speciality for lunch then Tata will take you into the dunes by 4x4 to your deluxe Sahara encampment. Once at the camp and settled in, an optional sunset camel ride awaits. Those who do not wish to ride camels can simply walk into the dunes to enjoy this mesmerizing setting as day turns to dusk with the stars making themselves known. Once back at the camp, dinner will be served followed by some local music fireside. Feel free to dance among the dunes until your heart's content.

(Total drive: 3 hrs)

Breakfast at La Rose du Desert is included

Lunch at a local Berber family's home is included.

Dinner at the Sahara Deluxe Camp is included.

Overnight at Chergui Bivouac, Sahara Deluxe Camp

Overnight: Chergui Bivouac, Sahara Deluxe Camp

<http://bivouac.chergui.com/>

Day 9: Tinjedad - Ouarzazate (Valley of Kasbahs)

For those who'd like to enjoy what usually becomes an unforgettable sunrise, you'll have the chance to head out into the dunes before breakfast is served. You'll check out of the Sahara Camp and drive to Khemlia village to enjoy the local Gnawa music. You'll drive to Ouarzazate and along the way, you can visit a ksar (Berber castle) with Berber heritage museum that makes a worthwhile stop (and serves nice lunches). Following, you'll travel through the Dades Valley region and to Skoura, an area referred to as the Valley of Kasbahs. You'll travel deep within the valley to a garden kasbah hotel. (Total drive time today = 6 hrs)

Overnight: Maison d'hôte DAR KAMAR

KASBAH TAOURIRT 45 - OUARZAZATE

Phone: (00212) 5 24 88 87 33

Breakfast is included at the Sahara Deluxe Camp

Lunch is not included

Dinner is included at Dar Kamar

Overnight at Dar Kamar

Jale's note: The old court house of former Pasha Glaoui, Dar Kamar "The house of the moon", present a charming hotel restored in the middle of Taourirt Kasbah in Ouarzazate, on the verge of the Moroccan desert. Its twelve rooms and two suites are air conditioned, restaurant, massage, Hammam, tea room, relaxing room, and a huge terrace keep the splendor and the art of the sun-dried brick made buildings from the XVII Century. If you want to use the hammam, you need to make a reservation ahead of time. Your driver can call Dar Kamar, the day before or this morning to make reservations.

Day 10: Quarzazate / Ait Ben Haddou / Quirane (Toubkal)

After breakfast, you'll travel to the UNESCO site of Ait Ben Haddou that has been used in various films as an impressive backdrop. Some of the movies made here are: The Sheltering Sky (1990), Kundun (1997), The Mummy (1999), Gladiator (2000), Alexander (2004), Kingdom of Heaven (2005), Babel (2006)

You'll then travel over the stunning Tizi N' Tichka mountain pass that connects Morocco's south to Marrakesh- Atlas Mountain. You'll be in safe hands with your driver as you climb in altitude and descend down to Marrakesh region. You'll check into Domain Malika in Toubkal region and relax. (Total drive time = 5-6 hrs)

Overnight at Domain Malika

Address: Marigha Ouirgane, Morocco

Phone: +212 5244-85921

Breakfast is included at Dar Kamar

Lunch is not included

Dinner is included at Domain Malika

Jale's note: The Hotel Domaine Malika is situated in a small Berber village in the mountains: Marigha (district of Ouirgane in the Marrakech region) It's situated in the heart of the Royal Reserve of Bighorn Sheep in fantastic surroundings for hiking or mule-riding from Berber village to village of the High Atlas of mountains of Toubkal.

Day 11: Guided walk in Toubkal region

After breakfast at Domain Malika, your local guide will pick you up and take you on a hike in the mountain villages. You will explore villages nearby.

Breakfast is included at Domain Malika

Lunch is included at a local family's home during the hiking tour

Dinner is included at Domain Malika

Day 12: Atlas Mountains to Marrakesh

After breakfast, you'll drive to Marrakesh (1 hour). Visit Majorelle Gardens and Yves Saint Laurent Museum on your own (driver will take you there, entrance fees are not included).

Check into your beautiful hotel in the afternoon.

Overnight: La Sultana, 403 Rue de la Kasbah,

Marrakech

Phone: +212 5243-88008

In the early evening, you'll join a food tour where your guide will take you to sample local Marrakesh food. You'll eat at several small restaurants.

Breakfast is included at Domain Malika

Lunch is not included.

Dinner is included as a part of the evening food tour.

Jale's note: The smallest five star deluxe hotel of Marrakech, in the heart of the Médina (Old Quarter). La Sultana Marrakech is ideally located in the old city just a stone's throw from the main attractions, ten minutes walk from Jemaa El Fna square.

You'll farewell to your driver today.

Day 13: Guided tour of Marrakesh (B, L)

Today is filled with learning about one of the world's most magical sounding cities (and a former capital of Morocco), Marrakesh. You'll meet with your guide this morning to discuss some of the more prominent and hidden monuments and sites you might like to see. Some of the more impressive monuments in the city are the Saadian Tombs, Bahia Palace. Lunch is included on the guided visit today that ends around 3:30 p.m. or later if you'd like to keep exploring!

Breakfast is included at the riad.

Lunch is included while touring with your guide.

Dinner is not included.

Day 14: Cooking Class in Marrakesh

Morning cooking class at the Amal Center. Details of this class will be given at the final trip document. Afternoon free.

Breakfast is included at the riad.

Lunch is included with the cooking class.

Dinner is not included.

Day 15: Depart Marrakesh

What's Included:

Handpicked, superb accommodation throughout

All private transport with English speaking guide/driver in air conditioned van

Local specialist guides (where indicated)

All breakfasts; most lunches and dinners (where indicated)

Private Guided tours where indicated

Luxury Sahara Desert Encampment & camel ride

Ziz Valley Walk & Lunch prepared by a local family

Berber lunch at a local family's home in Merzouga

Lunch at a local family near Toubkal region

Private Guided Visit of Fez

Two cooking classes

Food tour of Jmaa El Fna Square in Marrakesh

What's not included:

International airfare

Gratuities for driver and guides

Entrance fees at optional sites

Entrance fees coverage does not cover Majorelle and the YSL Museum, the Secret Gardens, Photography Museum
Alcoholic beverages, and meals other than listed above
Personal expenses or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control
Travel insurance for trip cancellation, medical services, or evacuation
Spa, Turkish bath and henna
Laundry and items of a personal nature
Activities on free days

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