

## Morocco - 7 Delightful Days in Morocco - Private Tour

### Day 1: Arrival in Casablanca

Upon arrival at Casablanca airport you will be greeted by your personal driver who will be ready to take you to your hotel for check-in.

**Please note:** If you arrive early in the morning we cannot guarantee that a room has early check-in available unless you have booked the night before.

Overnight in Casablanca: Relax Casa Voyageurs (Budget option); Kenzi Basma (4 Star option); Kenzi Tower (5 Star option); Val d'Anfa (Superior Riad option)

### Day 2: Explore Casablanca, Rabat & Meknes

After breakfast, begin your tour with a visit to the **Hassan II Mosque**, the largest mosque in Morocco. This extravagant place of worship was built to commemorate the former King's 60th birthday. Not a cent was spared and it showcases the very best of Moroccan artisanship.

From here take a stroll along the **Ain Diab Corniche**, the fashionable coastal suburb of Casablanca. Then head to **Mohammed V Square** also known as the heart of Casablanca. For lovers of architecture this area is sure to delight.

You will next be driven to **Rabat** (approximately a 1 hour drive), the country's capital city, rich in history and beautiful architecture.

Explore the **Kasbah of the Udayas** built during the Almohads dynasty in the 12th century. Stop next at the **Mohammed V Mausoleum\*** where the present King's father (the late Hassan II) and grandfather were laid to rest. Remember to look up and marvel at the hand-carved cedar ceilings covered in gold leaf.

Visit the **Hassan Tower** (just opposite the Mausoleum), an incomplete minaret standing at 44 metres tall with approximately 200 columns that would have originally been the foundation of what was to be the world's tallest minaret and largest mosque.



After a full morning, have some lunch and sit back as you head east to Meknes (approximately a 2.5 hour drive). Arrive at **Bab El Mansour**, an enormous and beautiful gate. Look closely and you will see the inscriptions across the top.

Just nearby is **Hri Souani**, a complex comprised of three buildings built for granaries and stables. Later in the afternoon you'll be driven to **Fes** (approximately a 1 hour drive) and taken to your hotel.

Overnight in Fes: Hotel Arena (Budget option); Ramada Fes (4 Star option); Palais Medina (5 Star option); Riad Myra (Superior Riad option)

Meals included: Breakfast

\*Ensure you are respectfully dressed when entering the Mausoleum. Shoulders and legs should be covered where possible.

### Day 3: Explore the wonders of Fes

After breakfast, begin your tour of **Fes** with a visit to the **Palais Royale**, the largest royal palace in Morocco. But don't expect to venture inside, this palace is to be admired from the outside only. Continue with a wander through the ancient Medina.

Enjoy watching master potters at work in a traditional ceramic crafts village. From here step back in time and journey through medieval **Fes El Bali**, a part of town that remains ancient in all its glory and untouched by modern times.

After stopping for a bite to eat, take a tour of the famous **Al-Karaouine Mosque**, considered by UNESCO and the Guinness Book of World Records to be the oldest operating university in the world. Non-Muslims are prohibited from entering the Mosque itself but are welcome to peer through the gates to view the impressive interior.



Complete the city tour of Fes with some shopping at the Leather Souq, the oldest Leather Tannery in the world dating back at least nine centuries. The shopping here is wonderful and even if you don't plan to buy anything, the colourful experience is quite special.

Please note: today you will have a local guide.

Overnight in Fes: Hotel Arena (Budget option); Ramada Fes (4 Star option); Palais Medina (5 Star option); Riad Myra (Superior Riad option)

Meals included: Breakfast

## Day 4: Drive through the Middle Atlas Mountains to Marrakech



This morning you will be collected by your driver to head to the **Middle Atlas Mountains**. Your first stop is **Ifrane** (approximately a 1 hour drive), a charming and unexpected town/ski resort famous for its Alpine climate and European-style houses.

With its neat red roof houses and lake-studded parks it has more of a Western feel. Built by the French in the 1930's, Ifrane was an attempt to re-create a European alpine-style resort. Look out for the **Barbary Macaque**, an endangered species and the only African monkey living north of the Sahara.

Continue on to **Beni Mellal** (approximately a 4 hour drive). Here you may like to have lunch and if there is time, wander through the local souq (market) for some great produce and textiles.

Arrive in **Marrakech** in the late afternoon (approximately a 3 hour drive).

Please note: today there is around 8 hours driving.

Overnight in Marrakech: Les Trois Palmiers (Budget option); Kech Hotel (4 Star option); Atlas Medina (5 Star option); Dar Karma (Superior Riad option)

Meals included: Breakfast

## Day 5: Wake up in Marrakech and enjoy this wonderful city

Today enjoy a guided tour of **Marrakech** - 'Paris of the Sahara' as Winston Churchill once described it.

Your first stop is the **Koutoubia Mosque**, the largest Mosque in the city. From here you will be taken to **Bahia Palace**, built in the late 19th century by Morocco's top artisans over a period of 14 years. The detail and level of intricacy is an absolute delight to view.



Next visit the **Saadian Tombs** – with imported Italian marble and pure gold gilding, the tombs represent opulence at its best.

After lunch, be entertained by street performers of the famous **Jemaa el Fna Square**. In 2001 UNESCO declared the Square a 'Masterpiece of World Heritage'.

Before dinner, wander through the bustling souqs in the Old Medina for a spot of shopping. Be enchanted by the rainbow of colours sprawled across the market from walls of babouche (Moroccan leather slippers) to exotic fresh fruit, scarves for every occasion, brightly coloured ceramics and so much more. Be sure to up-skill yourself on bargaining – it will come in handy :)

Please note: today you will have a local guide.

Overnight in Marrakech: Les Trois Palmiers (Budget option); Kech Hotel (4 Star option); Atlas Medina (5 Star option); Dar Karma (Superior Riad option)

Meals included: Breakfast

## Day 6: Free day in Marrakech then drive to Casablanca

Today enjoy the morning at your leisure in **Marrakech** before being collected and driven to **Casablanca** for the evening (approximately a 2.5 hour drive).

Overnight in Casablanca: Relax Casa Voyageurs (Budget option); Kenzi Basma (4 Star option); Kenzi Tower (5 Star option); Val d'Anfa (Superior Riad option)

Meals included: Breakfast

## Day 7: Time to go home or onto your next adventure

Today you are free at leisure in Casablanca before your departure. You will be collected 3 hours prior to your flight by your driver and taken to the airport. It's time to say goodbye or hello to your next destination.

Meals included: Breakfast