



# Magnificence of Morocco 2018

## 11-Night Fully Escorted Small Group Tour with Jacob Shoshan

### Sunday October 21 – DEPART USA

### Monday October 22 - ARRIVAL IN CASABLANCA - RABAT

- Today we will meet in **Casablanca**
- Meet your tour educator and other group members
- Visit the magnificent **King Hassan Mosque** (second largest Mosque in the world)
- Depart for **Rabat**.
- Take a guided walk through the Old Walled City and the marvelous **Kasbah des Oudayas**.
- Welcome dinner and orientation with your tour educator.

**Overnight: Rabat (Sofitel or similar)**

### Tuesday October 23 – RABAT - CHEFCHAOUEN

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Begin your visit with a city tour that includes a drive around the walls of the **Royal Palace** and a visit to the **Mausoleums of Mohammad V and Hassan II**, two rulers who worked hand-in-hand with the Jewish community.
- Leaving Rabbat behind, head to the beautiful “blue city” nestled in the Rif Mountains.
- Dinner and overnight in Chefchaouen

**Overnight: Chefchaouen (Riad Hicham or similar)**

### Wednesday October 24 – CHEFCHAOUEN

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Explore Chefchaouen; take in the striking, blue-washed buildings and steep cobbled lanes.
- Visit the Ras El Ma springs where women still do their laundry.
- Pass the main square of Place Outa el Hammam, the red-walled Kasbah, visit a 15th-century fortress and dungeon and stroll through the charming alleyways, with many small cafes and restaurants.
- Free evening

**Overnight: Chefchaouen (Riad Hicham or similar)**





#### Thursday October 25 – CHEFCHAOUEN to FEZ

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Today head south to visit the ruins of **Volubilis**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Founded in the 3rd century B.C.E., the town became an important outpost of the Roman Empire. You will see remarkably preserved mosaics.
- Depart for **Fes**, the most extensive medieval city in the Arab world, and the home of Jewish scholars and rabbis for hundreds of years.
- Check into the hotel.
- Free Evening

**Overnight: Fes (Hotel Sahrai or similar)**



#### Friday October 26 - THE MYSTERIES OF FES

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Take in a panoramic view of the Medina of Fes from **Borj Sud**.
- Enjoy a guided visit through the **Mellah** (Jewish Quarter) of Fes and visit the **Ibn Danan Synagogue**.
- Continue on a guided walk through the **Medina**, where the renowned Jewish scholar Maimonides once lived. Our visit includes:

- A glimpse of local **craftsman** at work in their shops as they weave, embroider, carve and chisel today as they have done for centuries.
- A tour of the **Madrassa Bou Inania**, founded in the years 1351-56. The madrasa is one of the few religious places in Morocco accessible to non-Muslim visitors.
- A look into the **University of Al-Karaouine** or Al-Qarawiyyin, considered by the Guinness Book of Records, UNESCO and many historians as the oldest continuously operating, academic degree-granting university in the world.
- Visit the **Tanneries** of Fes, which give the Medina its unique flavor and smell.
- Return to the hotel for Shabbat Dinner

**Overnight: Fes (Hotel Sahrai or similar)**





### **Saturday October 27 – FES - INTO THE DESERT**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel, depart Fes, and drive through the fertile valley of Saiss, and through cedar forests, to **Ifrane**.
- Drive through the Middle Atlas Mountains to the Saharan plateau.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.

**Overnight: Erfoud (Kasbah Xaluca or similar)**

### **Sunday October 28 - EXPLORING THE DESERT**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Learn about the place of the desert in Moroccan culture with your tour educator.
- Visit the city of **Rissani** and the ruins of the legendary caravan city of **Sijilmassa**.
- Drive in rugged **off-road (4x4) vehicles** deep into the **Sahara Desert**.
- Ride **camels** over the sand dunes of **Merzouga** on the edge of the Sahara and arrive at your desert camp.
- **Traditional dinner** at the camp under the stars.

**Overnight: Luxury Desert Camp, Merzouga**

### **Monday October 29 – THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS**

- Early wake-up to enjoy a desert sunrise, and get the adrenaline pumping with (optional) **sand-boarding** on the sand dunes.
- Breakfast at the camp.
- Depart the camp and begin the drive through the **High Atlas Mountains**.
- Learn about Berber civilization and culture with your tour educator.
- Walk along the **Todra Gorge**, home to a variety of rare plant and bird species.
- Drive along the “**Route of a Thousand Kasbahs,**” a region of fortresses.
- Arrive in **Ait Ben Haddou**, one of Southern Morocco's most recognizable villages, often used as a location for fashion and film shoots and many Hollywood movies including Gladiator and Jewel of the Nile.
- Explore Ait Ben Haddou, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.

**Overnight: Ait Ben Haddou (Ksar Ighnda)**





### Tuesday October 30 – FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO MARRAKECH

- Breakfast at the hotel and check out.
- Drive to **Marrakech** through changing landscapes, including the 7,500-foot-high Tizi N'tichka Pass.
- Explore Marrakech's enormous **marketplace**.
- Experience the **Djemaa El Fna Square**, one of the most colorful and mysterious sites in all of Africa, with its snake-charmers, street vendors, musicians, jugglers, fortune-tellers and storytellers.
- Free Evening at leisure.

**Overnight: Marrakech (Sofitel or similar)**

### Wednesday October 31 - THE WONDERS OF MARRAKECH

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit the famous **Majorelle Garden**, created by the orientalist painter Jacques Majorelle and the newly opened and spectacular **Yves St. Laurent museum**.
- Visit the **Saadian Tombs**, built in the 16th century as a mausoleum for many Saadian rulers and entertainers.
- Explore the Mellah (formerly the Jewish Ghetto) and visit the **Slat al-Azama Synagogue**
- Free Evening at leisure.

**Overnight: Marrakech (Sofitel or similar)**



### Thursday November 1 - MARRAKECH

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit the 19th-century **Bahia Palace**
- Return to the **Medina and Market** - time for more shopping and more exploring
- Dinner together at Comptoir or similar

**Overnight: Marrakech (Sofitel or similar)**

### Friday November 2 -

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- **Transfers** to Marrakech Airport or Casablanca Airport



*NOTE: The daily Itinerary above is subject to change and dependent upon local conditions and/or operational changes or improvements. The specific times and order of inclusions within each destination may also be altered to best accommodate unscheduled closures, special events, weather, traffic, etc.*