

# 15 days/14 Nights

Travel Dates: September - June  
\*Desert camping does not operate July & August



## Grand Tour of Morocco: Rabat, Chefchaouen, Fez, Merzouga, Ouarzazate, Atlas Mountains, Essaouira & Marrakesh

Take an exciting journey through Morocco on which you will visit various corners of the country including the medinas in Marrakesh, the dunes of the Sahara Desert, ancient villages in the peaks of the Atlas Mountains, and the laid-back beaches on the Atlantic coast. Private transfers allow access to various sites along the way including the limestone river canyons of Todgha Gorges and ancient villages like Ait Ben Haddou. Experience a thrilling camel ride before camping in the Sahara, amid breathtaking natural settings. This adventurous tour also includes stays in the captivating blue city of Chefchaouen and the historic walled city of Fez, before ending your whirlwind trip in energetic Marrakesh.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

- 1 Night Rabat
- 1 Night Chefchaouen
- 3 Nights Fez

- 1 Night Merzouga Desert  
Camping with Camel Ride
- 1 Night Ouarzazate

- 2 Nights Atlas Mountain
- 2 Nights Essaouira
- 3 Nights Marrakesh

### INCLUSIONS

- Private Fez Medieval Heritage Tour
- Private Argan Forest Adventure Tour

- Private Experience the Wonders of the Souks Tour
- Visits to Dades, Todgha Gorges, Ait Ben Haddou & Telouet

- Private Transportation Throughout
- 1 Dinner
- Daily Breakfast



#### ARRIVE RABAT:

After arriving at the Rabat Airport, meet your driver for a private transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure to rest or explore your surroundings. Morocco's capital city is home to an 11th century kasbah and an attractive walled medina (old quarter), far less touristy than those in other large cities. Dinner is on your own this evening, and you'll find a wealth of restaurants offering European, Moroccan and Mediterranean cuisine. Moroccan cuisine combines spices, herbs, and fresh ingredients, including couscous, and tajine (a North African stew made with stewed meat and vegetables).

*(Accommodations, Rabat)*



#### CHEFCHAOUEN:

After breakfast, you'll have a transfer to the famous blue village of Chefchaouen. After checking into your hotel, the remainder of the day is at your leisure. Nestled in Morocco's Rif Mountains, the city has skyrocketed in fame thanks to its chief draw: it's painted every shade of blue - periwinkle, cobalt, sky, royal, turquoise, baby blue.

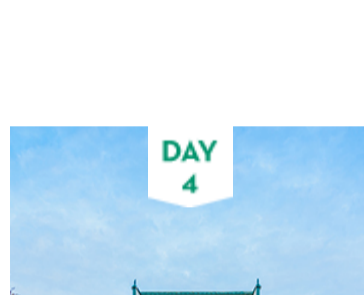
*(Breakfast, Rabat; Accommodations, Chefchaouen)*



#### FEZ:

Today is at your leisure to explore the "Blue Pearl" on your own. The northern Rif mountain city of Chefchaouen is incredibly picturesque, with its rich blue buildings. Simply wander the winding streets and alleyways of the medina and you will soon leave the tourist crowds behind. A gentle 20-minute walk up to the Spanish mosque provides a fantastic view over the city. You'll find a range of restaurants and cafés, as well as leather, carpentry, and textile shops. Later in the afternoon, you'll have a private transfer to your hotel in Fez. After checking into your hotel, dinner will be on your own this evening.

*(Breakfast, Chefchaouen; Accommodations, Fez)*



#### FEZ:

After breakfast, meet your guide for a Private Medieval Heritage tour of this historical city. You'll learn about the history of Morocco and how people from different origins, religions and cultures settled this region. This cultural visit will begin in the El Jid, the beautifully built Jewish quarter, which stands next to the 14th century Royal Palace. The tour continues past Quaraouiyine University, the oldest existing university in the world. Pass through one of the main gates of the city, reaching the lush, historical gardens of Jnan Sbil, replete with eucalyptus, weeping willows, and citrus trees. You'll visit the 19th century Royal Palace. Founded in 1915, it's the oldest museum of Moroccan traditional arts. Then drive along the beautifully restored ramparts before stopping to enjoy the stunning view of the city from the hilltops. Before returning to your hotel, enjoy a stop at a pottery making village, where this ancestral fine craft is still practiced. Returning to your hotel, the remainder of the day is at your leisure.

*(Breakfast & Accommodations, Fez)*



#### FEZ:

Today is free to relax or explore on your own. Perhaps choose an optional excursion like the "Private Tasting the Flavors of Fez" tour, which takes you to different food markets in the old city of Fez with your English-speaking guide, who will help you to discover and taste some of the different Fez delicacies. Or try "A Day in a Family Way of Life" tour, where you will visit a local family, learn how to bake bread in a communal oven, shop for ingredients at the local market, then prepare the Moroccan traditional Tagine and seasonal salad for your lunch. Afterwards, enjoy a Moroccan mint tea as you learn more about the life of your host family.

*(Breakfast & Accommodations, Fez)*



#### MERZOUGA DESERT CAMP:

An exciting day awaits you, beginning with a transfer to Erfoud. From here, you'll ride in a 4 x 4 vehicle to Merzouga, the gateway to the Erg Chebbi dunes. You will complete your ride to the Gold Sand Desert camp on a camel\* (about 45 minutes), where a warm welcome awaits you. This traditional Arab tented camp offers "hotel room" comfort with luxuriously appointed accommodations. Later, catch the spectacular sunset over the dunes, then enjoy a traditional meal, freshly prepared and served by candlelight. Then repair to your private tent with ensuite facilities including a king or double bed, a full-size shower with hot and cold water, sink, and a WC.

*\*The camel ride portion is optional, so if one prefers, you can take the 4x4 transfer all the way to the desert camp.*

*(Breakfast, Fez, Accommodations & Dinner, Merzouga Desert Camp)*



#### OUARZAZATE:

After breakfast, you'll have a transfer from the Gold Sand Desert Camp to Erfoud by a 4 x 4 vehicle, then by car to Ouarzazate (war-za-zat). Along the way, you'll visit Dades; widely considered one of the most attractive Moroccan cities. Later, your drive continues to the Todra (Todgha) Gorge. Situated on the east side of the Atlas Mountains it's home to one of the world's most spectacular canyons. Here, both the Todra and Dades Rivers have carved out cliff-sided canyons on their final 25-mile stretch through the mountains, leaving behind this series of reliefs and etches in the rock. Arriving in Ouarzazate, nicknamed "the doorway to the Sahara", you can explore the pedestrian plaza, and dinner will be on your own this evening.

*(Breakfast, Merzouga Desert Camp; Accommodations, Ouarzazate)*



#### ATLAS MOUNTAINS:

After breakfast, enjoy a drive along the foothills on the southern slopes of the High Atlas to the site of Ait-Ben-Haddou. This UNESCO Heritage Site is the most famous ksar in the Ounila Valley. The walls of Ait-Ben-Haddou will be familiar to those who have seen Game of Thrones or Gladiator; both filmed here. The ksar, a group of earthen buildings surrounded by high walls, is a traditional pre-Saharan habitat, and the Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou is a striking example of southern Moroccan architecture.

Continuing your journey, you'll arrive in historic Telouet. Telouet is a Kasbah (fortress), along the former route of the caravans from the Sahara over the Atlas Mountains to Marrakesh. Departing Telouet, arrive at your hotel in the Atlas Mountains.

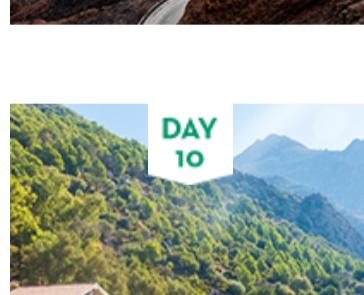
*(Breakfast, Ouarzazate; Accommodations, Atlas Mountains)*



#### ATLAS MOUNTAINS:

Today is at your leisure. Spend a relaxing day at your hotel enjoying the beautiful scenery or go for a hike through the mountains.

*(Breakfast & Accommodations, Atlas Mountains)*



#### ESSAOUIRA:

Your day begins early to discover the bohemian vibe of Essaouira, a picturesque and quirky seaside resort built in a Mediterranean style on the Atlantic coast. Before arriving, you'll travel through forests famed for their argan oil. Arriving in Essaouira, explore the old medina listed as an "UNESCO World Heritage site", as well as the city's long beach (6 miles), rich with the pungent scent of salt air and strong coffee.

*(Breakfast, Atlas Mountains; Accommodations, Essaouira)*



#### ESSAOUIRA:

Today, you'll experience a "Private Argan Forest Adventure Tour", including lunch. At a family cottage industry in Ahl Dar you'll have a hands-on lesson in making argan oil the traditional way. When you've experienced the labor of love that goes into gathering the fruit, removing the pulp, cracking the nuts to release the seeds and extract a few drops of oil, you'll know why it's so precious. Fruit-loving goats lend a hand in the production process of this exotic oil, sought after worldwide for its antioxidants and rejuvenating properties. You may be lucky enough to see these curious, tree-climbing goats as you cross the world's only argan forest, stopping in a Berber market village and taking in views of Essaouira's dramatic Atlantic coastline.

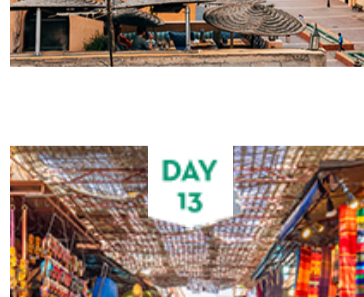
*(Breakfast & Accommodations, Essaouira)*



#### MARRAKESH:

After breakfast, you'll have a private transfer to the "Red City", Marrakesh. After checking into your hotel, relax or explore independently.

*(Breakfast Essaouira; Accommodations, Marrakesh)*



#### MARRAKESH:

Meet your guide for a delightful private walking tour inside the colorful Souks in the Medina of Marrakesh. You will be offered a feast for your senses as you taste some local produce, smell the fragrance of the local spices and oils, touch the texture of the local fabrics, see the colorful markets and listen to the sounds of everyday life. Walk through the mazes of narrow colorful streets and feel yourself traveling back in time through this bustling part of town. Stop every now and then at your ease and haggle over the price of different items. With the help of your guide, you may talk to the crafts people and ask them questions in order to learn more about their traditions and skills. Your tour will end with a stroll through the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Jemaa El Fna square. You will hear some of the local folklore traditions such as the Berber musicians and the Gnaoua drummers. See folk dancers, acrobats, snake charmers and learn about each of these ancestral performances.

*(Breakfast & Accommodations, Marrakesh)*



#### MARRAKESH:

The day is at your leisure to explore Marrakesh on your own or choose an optional tour. Take a tour to Majorelle Garden, the botanical landscape garden created by Jacques Majorelle. Or for those with a taste for adventure, take a hot air ballooning tour over the countryside north of Marrakesh where you can observe local villages and stunning landscapes.

*(Breakfast & Accommodations, Marrakesh)*



#### MARRAKESH:

After breakfast, meet your driver for a private transfer to Marrakesh Airport for your return home, or on to your next Avanti Destination!

*(Breakfast, Marrakesh)*

**\*\* Itinerary and inclusions are subject to change**