

MOROCCO KASBAHS AND DESERT

SEPTEMBER 17-24, 2026

Perfect for travellers looking for a fast-paced trip, this short but sweet adventure offers up a great combination of Morocco's must-see highlights and a little free time to explore on your own. Tour the dunes from atop a camel for an authentic way to experience the Sahara, explore high-walled kasbahs and wander the labyrinthine alleys of Fès and Marrakech, all allowing you to discover the history and rugged natural beauty of mysterious Morocco.

DATE	ITINERARY & IMPORTANT NOTES
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Sept 17	<u>Casablanca</u>
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Arrive at any time.

Please note that this tour does not spend any time in Casablanca. You may wish to come a day early in order to explore Casablanca, and take some time to see its medina, beachfront, and classic examples of Art Deco architecture.

Dinner as a group (at your expense)

Accommodation: Hotel Campanile Casablanca (or similar)



Sept 18	<u>Casablanca → Fes</u>
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Start early and drive through the rolling hills to the Roman ruins of Volubilis.



Take an included guided tour of the best-preserved Roman ruins in this part of Northern Africa, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

AFER Association Community Lunch: Enjoy a traditional lunch that benefits rural Moroccan women and children with disabilities. The association provides vital services including literacy and vocational training, health services, disability assistance, and the operation of a local ambulance. This experience not only supports livelihoods but also celebrates Moroccan heritage and

rural resilience. (included)

After, continue to Fès, one of Morocco's most interesting cities. Take some free time to explore upon arrival. Opt to experience a traditional hammam and get to know the locals.

We will be staying in the new city of Fès, built by the French during their Protectorate of Morocco. This area has the feel of a French provincial town, with its cafés, restaurants, and wide boulevards. Head off for a Moroccan feast at one of the many restaurants and finish off the night with some famous Moroccan mint tea.

Accommodation: Hotel Mounia Fes (or similar)

Sept 19

Fès

Explore the labyrinth of streets within the famous Fès medina with a local guide. The Fès medina is the world's largest living medieval medina and a UNESCO site. Explore the artisan quarters, sample treats from the carts, and view Fès' famous leather tannery from above.

Enjoy free time this afternoon.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ville Nouvelle Exploration - Free

Hit the newer part of Fès to see life in action. Find a sidewalk café to sip mint tea and watch everyday life go by.

Accommodation: Hotel Mounia Fes (or similar)

Sept 20

Fès → Merzouga

Start early today for a drive through the Middle Atlas Mountains to reach the edge of the Sahara. Today is a long day of travel!

Settle into your hotel at the edge of the dunes and enjoy a warm welcome with mint tea.

In the late afternoon, take a camel ride deep into the dunes to watch the sunset. Learn to tie a turban to keep the desert sun off your face and add a little flare to photos.



This evening, indulge in a traditional dinner, then gather around a campfire under the stars near to your hotel. Listen to stories about life in this region and, perhaps, some traditional music on the drums.

Accommodation: Auberge Dunes D'Or (or similar)

Sept 21

Merzouga → Todra Gorge



Rise early to watch the sunrise.

After breakfast, continue through a stone desert to the stunning Todra Gorge. Wedged between massive cliff walls, the gorge is filled with a green oasis of palm trees. This serene spot is great for hiking, relaxing on the edge of the river or sampling some local Amazigh (also known as Berber) delicacies.

Opt to spend the morning exploring the undulating golden sand of the dunes, discovering the surrounding communities on a land cruiser desert excursion. You can pre-book this optional excursion when booking your tour.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Merzouga Land Cruiser Desert Excursion - 700MAD per person (Approx. \$77 USD)

View the golden dunes of the Sahara desert on a land cruiser excursion. You'll be driven around the sand dunes of Erg Chebbi in land cruiser cars, taking in the views of the seemingly endless sea of sand. Pass a kohl mine en route to the village of Khamlia. Witness the delightful sounds of the African music of Gnawa — played by members of the community — as you enjoy a cup of mint tea with the locals.

Accommodation: Hotel Amazir (or similar)

Sept 22

Todra Gorge → Aït Ben Haddou

Visit the Aït Ben Haddou Kasbah, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Opt to participate in a tagine cooking class for an intro to Moroccan cuisine.

Travel along the “Route of 1000 Kasbahs” to the thriving town of Ouarzazate for a lunch stop. This town is home to Atlas Film Studios, where many films have been shot over the years, including Lawrence of Arabia and Gladiator.



Continue on to the fascinating and beautiful Aït Ben Haddou, a wonderful example of a kasbah.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Tagine Cooking Demonstration - 120MAD per person (Approx. \$14USD)

Learn all about the quintessential Moroccan dish — tagine. Learn about the tagine itself (a clay pot) and different ingredients and spices. Enjoy the fruits of your labour for dinner.

Accommodation: : La Rose du Sable Ait Benhaddou (BB) (or similar)

Aït Ben Haddou → Marrakech

Sept 23

Head to Marrakech and take a guided medina visit. Opt to visit the Djemaa el Fna Square in the evening to see the gathering of musicians and street performers. Don't leave without indulging in a feast at the famous food stalls.

The journey to Marrakech includes breathtaking views throughout the High Atlas Mountains via the Tizi n'Tichka Pass (2260m).

Arrive in Marrakech in time for lunch with the rest of the day free to wander the city.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Musée de Marrakech - 50MAD per person (approx \$6 USD)

Wander around the salons of the ornate Mnebbhi Palace displaying various collections of Moroccan art forms.

Traditional Moroccan Dinner with Folklore Entertainment 500 MAD (\$55 USD)

Experience a traditional 3-course dinner in the heart of the medina of Marrakech - Djemma El Fana square - and enjoy a folklore performance.

Jardins Majorelle - 200MAD per person (approx \$22 USD)

Visit this enchanting garden in the heart of the city designed by French painter Jacques Majorelle (1886-1962). Follow the pathways through trees, exotic plants, streams, and pools while watching the numerous birds who call this peaceful paradise home. (Please note that the entrance fee to Musée Yves Saint Laurent is an additional 30 MAD.)

Djemaa el Fna Market Square Visit - Free

Wander past fresh orange juice stalls and water sellers in colourful costumes reminiscent of an era past. See storytellers, magicians, and peddlers of traditional medicines as the day progresses. When the sun sets, the square fills with dozens of food stalls, and is packed with locals, entertaining chefs, and waiters. Grab a spot on a bench with other diners and try the “tanjia” (slow cooked lamb), harira soup, grilled seafood, famous Moroccan couscous, tajine, snails, or even sheep's head (for the truly adventurous). Wash it all down with some spiced tea.

El Badi Palace - 70MAD per person (approx \$8 USD)

Visit the ruins of what was once the most ornate palace of the 16th-century. Its sunken gardens and pools give a glimpse into its former glory.

Bahia Palace Visit - 10MAD per person (approx \$1.10 USD)

The name “Bahia,” translates to “brilliance,” and reflect the palace's beauty and the ambition behind its

creation. The palace showcases a blend of Islamic and Moroccan architectural styles, featuring intricate marquetry, stunning tile work, and ornate ceilings. Its design includes several riads (traditional Moroccan houses with interior gardens), a harem section, and a grand courtyard, which was used for entertaining distinguished guests.

Saadian Tombs Visit - 10MAD per person (approx \$1.10 USD)

Visit the historical necropolis of the Saadian Tombs, rediscovered in 1917. The remains of Saadian Dynasty royalty and officials can be found here. Check out the exquisite architecture of this very popular place.

Accommodation: Moroccan House Marrakech (or similar)

Sept 24

Marrakech

Opt to get an early start and watch the sunrise over the red dust, palm groves, and majestic open landscapes of Marrakech from a hot air balloon. After soaking up the sights, refuel with an authentic Amazigh breakfast in a Moroccan tent. **You must prebook this activity*

*Please note if you purchase the Marrakech Hot Air Balloon ride on the final day of your tour you will not finish until 10am. We recommend booking your departing flight no earlier than 1pm to ensure you have enough time to make it to the airport.

Depart at any time.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Hot Air Balloon Ride - \$225USD per person



IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Start/Finish City: Casablanca to Marrakech
- Price: USD 949.00 per person
 - My Own Room (single supplement) is an additional \$239.00USD per person (very limited)
 - Roommate matching is available!
- Deposit Amount: \$350.00 per person
- Final Payment Due: 60 days prior to departure on 7/19/26
- Meals Included: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Travel Insurance is required. Jill can help you with this part if needed.
- International airfare is not included
- Transfers and pre/post accommodations not included in the price but can be booked for an additional fee.
- Arrive early and make the most of your journey by adding **two additional days before the scheduled start of the trip**, including an unforgettable excursion to **Tangier and the blue city of Chefchaouen**. (Price TBD but approx \$300)

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT, PLEASE CONTACT JILL!

JILL HUNT

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PRE TRIP EXCURSION - OPTIONAL

COST ~\$375 IN SHARED ROOM

Sept 14 - Arrival - Check in to Odyssee Center

Sept 15 - Day 1: Casablanca → Rabat → Tangier

- Morning - Casablanca:
 - Visit Hassan II Mosque (inside tour if possible)
 - Quick walk on Corniche Ain Diab
- Depart around 9AM to Rabat (1.5 hr from Casablanca)
 - Hassan Tower & Mausoleum Mohammed V
 - Kasbah of the Udayas
 - Lunch near the Bourefreg River
- Afternoon drive to Tangier (2.5-3hrs)
 - Check in to hotel
- Evening - Tangier
 - Walk in the Tangier Medina, Kasbah Museum, Sunset at Cap Spartel (Atlantic + Mediterranean)
 - Dinner at a seaside restaurant
- Accommodation: Mariana Bay Hotel

Sept 16 - Day 2: Tangier → Chefchaouen

- Morning
 - Breakfast with sea view
 - Hercules Caves
- Late Morning drive to Chefchaouen (2-2.5 hr)
- Afternoon in Chefchaouen
 - Explore the Blue Medina
 - Plaza Uta el-Hammam
 - Kasbah of Chefchaouen
 - Walk to Ras El Ma
 - Free Time for photos and shopping
 - Check in to hotel
- Evening
 - Dinner with Mountain View
 - Walk through blue streets
- Accommodation: Dar Chrifia Rlad

Sept 17 - Day 3: Chefchaouen → Casablanca

- Morning
 - Early Breakfast
 - Last photos in the medina
 - Drive back to Casablanca (6 hours)
 - Drop off at hotel Hotel Campanile Casablanca