

# *The Best of Morocco*

*Casablanca, Fez, Chefchouen, Erfouz, Ouzarzazate, Marrakech*



*The Arabs call Morocco “the farthest land of the setting sun”. Morocco has a history stretching back nearly 10,000 years. It has been crisscrossed by Roman legions, Berber caravans and Muslim scholars and offers a wonderful balance of ancient traditions and modern-day life. Experience stunning and varied landscapes, unique cultural interactions and a host of extraordinary moments on our tour of Morocco.*

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ *Marvel at the Hassan II mosque which dominated the skyline of Casablanca*
- ❖ *Discover the world’s largest medieval medina within the walls of old Fez.*
- ❖ *Visit the blue-washed town Chefchaouen.*
- ❖ *Spend a night camping under the stars in the Sahara*
- ❖ *Traverse the wonderful Atlas Mountains on your way to Marrakech.*
- ❖ *Walk through the fantastic labyrinthine souks of the Djemaa El Fna medina, a swirling carnival of musicians, fire-eaters, storytellers and snake charmers.*

## Day 1 - 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - Arrival into Casablanca



Arrival at Casablanca airport, meet and greet with your driver and transfer to your hotel.

*(The transfer will be arranged for all flights arriving at approx 1300 hours at Casablanca airport. For any other time, an extra cost will be applicable)*

Later this evening, we will have a short panoramic tour of Casablanca including a visit to the mosque.

Located along the Atlantic, the Hassan II is the largest and one of the most ornate mosques in the world. Much of the surface of the mosque is covered in ornate, traditional Moroccan tile work (zellij), woodcarving, and stucco work. Of particular note is the vast, decorative prayer hall. The mosque complex was designed by French architect Michel Pinseau, took six years to build and was completed in 1993. Its dramatic location overhanging the ocean waves echoes verse from the Quran, which states that God's throne was built upon the water.

To visit the Hassan II Mosque, you must be dressed appropriately.

Men should wear pants and shirts, no shorts or tank tops. Women must cover their heads, arms and legs.

**Dinner at a local Restaurant**

**You will be booked for a stay of 1 night at Hotel Movenpick Casablanca or similar.**

## Day 2 - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - CASABLANCA -RABAT -MEKNES -FEZ 295 Km



After breakfast, we will leave for Rabat, where we will enjoy a panoramic tour of Rabat, the administrative capital of the country: see Hassan tower, the mausoleum of Mohammed V and the Kasbah of the Oudayas former military camp.

From here, we travel to Meknes, the imperial city of Morocco. Meknes is the third Imperial city of Morocco with its famous door, it is known as "The Versailles of Morocco. You will explore Bab El Mansour, one of the most beautiful gateways. Continue your sightseeing tour by visiting the Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail.

Lunch in Meknes and then, from here, we travel to the old city of Fez.

**Dinner at a local Restaurant**

**You will be booked to stay at Hotel Barcelo Fez or similar for 3 nights.**

### Day 3 – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - Fez sightseeing



A day to discover Fez, the artistic, intellectual and religious capital of Morocco. A visit to Fez is to throw oneself into the almost inextricable network of its narrow and tortuous alleys, cut by stairs and covered passages. It is immersed in the most beautiful medina of the Arab world, largest and certainly one of the most beautiful of the ancient Koranic universities, the Medersa Attarine, as well as the Place Nejjarine famous for its magnificent fountain decorated with mosaics, zelliges and stucco.

Start the day at Bab Boujloud, one of the gates which lead into the medina. Visit some of the beautiful ancient buildings such as the Madrasa Bou Inania and El-Attarine, Koran schools for religious studies, and the University and Mosque of Al-Karaouine. Visit the Nejjarine Museum of Wooden Arts and Crafts and discover traditional tools, carpets, furniture and musical instruments in a beautifully restored caravanserai.

After a lunch break in one of the hundreds of restaurants in the medina (on your own), we will continue the tour to the famous tanneries, where the leather is still processed the same way as it was hundreds of years ago. You can observe the workers from a lookout and they will be glad to explain the different workings, step by step, if you are willing to bargain for a new bag or belt afterward. Be aware of the bad smell of the furs and colouring goods.

Outside the medina lies the Royal Palace with its large plaza lined with palm trees.

Return to your hotel afterwards.

**Dinner tonight will be at an Indian restaurant**

**Overnight in Fez**

### Day 4 – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - Day trip to Chefchaouen



Take a day trip to Chefchaouen, the famous blue and white-washed city of Morocco located in the Rif Mountains. On this day trip, you will visit the small city and discover the shops, cafes, Grand Mosque, Plaza Uta el-Hammam (main square) and kasbah museum.

You will have time to explore this picturesque small city's streets of the medina. Discover the local shops and cafes, the main square known as Plaza Uta el-Hammam, the kasbah museum belonging to the early 18<sup>th</sup>

century, the Grand Mosque and perhaps the Ras Elma river that runs through the old city. You may also want to visit the ethnographic museum which contains musical instruments, antique weapons, and photographs of the old town

**Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant**

**Overnight in Fez**

**Day 5 – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - FEZ – EFROUD- 410 Km**



After an EARLY breakfast, you will head south by crossing the towns of Ifrane, built by the French around 1930 with the intention of becoming a mountain resort, and Azrou, a lively and quiet Berber town surrounded by pine and cedar forests, crossing the Middle Atlas chain .

Arrival at Midelt for Lunch (cost not included)

Post lunch, drive to Erfoud.

*In the heart of the desert, this charming town rests at the foot of the High Atlas on the road of a thousand kasbahs. It makes for a perfect base camp for exploring Morocco's desert where you will find endless extraordinary landscapes!*

**This afternoon, you will enjoy a 4x4 safari to Merzouga.** Discover the extraordinary dunes of Erg Chebbi, the only true Saharan hermitage in Morocco, one of the huge stretches of sandy dunes.

**Dinner tonight will be at the hotel**

**You will be booked for a stay of 1 night at Hotel Xaluca Erfoud or similar.**

**Day 6 – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - ERFOUD - OUZARZATE (300 Km)**



After breakfast this morning, we will depart for Tinghir village, famous for its proximity to the TODRA gorges, a series of limestone river canyons, or wadi, in the eastern part of the High Atlas Mountains. It is a spectacular canyon with high rocks up to 300 m high.

From here, continue on to Ouarzazate, the film capital of Morocco. Movies like Star Wars and Lawrence of Arabia were filmed here.

Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight in Ouarzazate

#### **Day 7 - 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - OUZARZATE - MARRAKECH (200 Km)**



This morning, after breakfast, drive to the lovely French town of Marrakech, visiting Ksar of Ait Benhaddou enroute. This is one of the finest Kasbah's in Morocco.

Afternoon at leisure in Marrakech.

Dinner included at an Indian restaurant.

**You will be booked for a stay of 2 nights at Novotel Marrakesh Hotel or similar.**

#### **Day 8 - 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - Marrakech**



This morning, enjoy a sightseeing tour of Marrakech, capital of the South. The city is located at the crossroads of the desert, the mountain and the Atlantic plains. The red city and its ambience attract plenty of visitors.

Discover the fragrant gardens of the Bahia Palace, the Koutoubia Mosque and its 70-meter-high minaret and the recently discovered Saadian tombs. On a visit to the Bahia Palace you'll be able to enjoy a walk through the beautiful gardens, filled with fruit trees and fragrant flowers. Built in the 19th century, the palace was designed to be the largest of its time. Continue to the Saadian tombs, and admire the cedar wood domes and marble columns.

We will then visit the beautiful Majorelle Gardens, made in the 1920s by the French painter Jacques Majorelle, with marble pools, raised pathways, banana trees, groves of bamboo, coconut palms and bougainvilleas. The garden was then taken over and restored by the fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent and his partner Pierre Berge.

**We will then have lunch at a local restaurant for lunch (own cost)**

You will then be taken to the Djema al Fnaa medina. The guide will be with you for an hour to walk you around and then you can walk around and explore it on your own.

The medina extends over an area of 600 hectares and is one of the largest medinas in Morocco and the most populated in North Africa. The famous ramparts of the old town of Marrakech underwent important modifications by various dynasties. Thus, they were repeatedly pierced with new doors (Bab in Arabic). Today, the height of the walls ranges between 8 and 10 meters and they extend over a total distance exceeding 19 kilometers.

You will be collected from the Medina and then taken for dinner.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Marrakech

### **Day 9 – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - Marrakech – Casablanca**

This morning, after breakfast, you will be driven to Casablanca airport for your flight back home.

*(The transfer will be arranged for all flights departing at approx 1400 hours from Casablanca airport. For any other time, an extra cost will be applicable)*

\*\*\* Return home with wonderful memories \*\*\*

**Price per person on a twin-sharing basis: INR 1,18,800**

**Single supplement: INR 26,900**

#### **Price includes**

- Meet & Assist at the airport on arrival & departure
- 8 nights' accommodation in the 4 star hotels mentioned or similar on a twin-sharing basis
- Transportation in a private vehicle for the entire duration of the trip
- Daily Breakfast
- Daily Dinner
- Sightseeing tours with an English speaking guide
- Entrance fees where applicable
- Services of an Odyssey Tour escort

#### **Price excludes**

- Air ticket for travel to and from Casablanca
- Visa & Insurance
- Meals and sightseeing not mentioned
- Tips (recommended at EUR 7 pp per day)
- Items of a personal nature
- **GST at 5%**
- Anything not specifically mentioned under "Price includes"

#### **Notes:**

- Standard check in at hotels is at 1400 hours onwards. Where necessary we will request an early check-in however, this is not guaranteed. The same applies to check out, which is at 1200 hours
- Rates subject to change without prior notice due to circumstances beyond our control e.g. fuel increases, rate of exchange fluctuations.
- Please note that your passport should be valid for more than 6 months beyond the date of travel and that you must have at least 2 blank pages on your passport.
- Please contact us if you would like to book pre-tour or post-tour accommodation
- ROE calculated at 1 EUR = Rs. 80. Any fluctuations at the time of payment will alter the cost
- **Price based on a minimum of 14 people travelling together**

## Recommended airfare

Carrier	Flight	Dep.Date	Day	From	To	Dep	Arr	Arr.Date
Emirates	501	11 SEP	Fri	Mumbai	Dubai	0430	0600	11 SEP
Emirates	751	11 SEP	Fri	Dubai	Casablanca	0725	1245	11 SEP
Emirates	752	19 SEP	Sat	Casablanca	Dubai	1445	0115	19 SEP
Emirates	504	19 SEP	Sun	Dubai	Mumbai	0330	0810	19 SEP

**Economy class Fare: Approx Rs 97000 pp ex Mumbai and approx rs 84000 ex Delhi**

## Map of Morocco



## Terms & Conditions

### BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

1. A deposit of Rs 30,000 per person will be payable by 15th May 2020. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to Odyssey Tours & Travels.
2. At the time of making the booking, please send a copy of the first page of your passport
3. Balance payment is to be made by 15th July 2020.
4. All rates are subject to a revision if there is a fluctuation in the currency rates.
5. Payment of the booking deposit constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions.

### CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

1. Should you wish to cancel any part or all of a confirmed booking / reservation all such cancellations must be advised in writing. Given below is the cancellation policy.
2. Cancellation of a reservation due to any visa being rejected will amount to cancellation charges being levied as per the scale mentioned below and Odyssey Tours & Travels will not be responsible for any visa rejection by the consulate.
3. Cancellation of any reservations are subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Cancellations effected before between 1<sup>st</sup> June and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 will attract a cancellation fee of Rs 30000 pp.
  - b. Cancellation from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 will attract a fee of 50% of the total cost
  - c. Cancellation after 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 will be charged 100% of the total cost.
  - d. No refund will be due after commencement of travel
4. Refunds due can take up to 5 weeks to process.