



## Majestic Morocco - Imperial Cities and Desert Wonders

16<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> September

14<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> October

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### **Itinerary Overview: Day 1 – Arrival in Marrakech**

Early rise to begin your exciting adventure ahead of you. Meet and greet with tour leader at 03.30 hrs at Malta International Airport, where we will assist with the check-in for the flight scheduled to depart at 05:50hrs to Milan, Italy. There will be a layover in Milan for our connecting flight to Marrakech, known as the vibrant economic heart of Morocco. Once we arrive in Marrakech we will be met by our driver who will take us on a scenic drive through the coastal regions and charming suburbs of this beautiful country, heading towards the iconic city of Casablanca. We will check into our comfortable hotel for an overnight stay.

### **Itinerary Overview: Day 2 – Casablanca to Chefchaouen: A Scenic Moroccan Journey**

After a hearty breakfast, we will check out and look forward to a day spent sightseeing. Starting with a short stop at the iconic mosque in Casablanca, offering a great opportunity to capture stunning photographs. We then continue our journey to Rabat, the capital city of Morocco. The city is situated along the Atlantic ocean and is renowned as one of the cleanest cities in the world. Rabat is also home to the King of Morocco, Mohammed VI. In Rabat, we will explore the magnificent Hassan Tower and the serene Mausoleum of Mohamed V, which sits on a hill having

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a commanding view of the Wadi Bou Regreg. As we make our way through the city, we will pass by the King's Palace and the Mohamed VI Tower in Sale, which is the tallest building in Africa at 250 meters. We will leave Rabat and head out for Chefchaouen. During the journey we will stop to stretch our legs and take in the tranquil atmosphere of the Rif Mountains. Upon arrival in Chefchaouen, we will check in at the hotel. You will have the rest of the day at your own leisure to either relax or simply stroll through this enchanting city which is known for its charming alleys and vibrant blue hues. The city's charming streets provide a stunning backdrop for photography.

### **Itinerary Overview: Day 3 – Akchour Cascades to Fez: A Day of Nature and Culture**

After breakfast, we begin the day with a visit to the breathtaking Akchour Cascades, one of Morocco's most stunning natural wonders. Upon arrival, we will embark on a scenic walk towards the impressive reservoir dam, passing by a series of captivating waterfalls. The lush surroundings and tranquil atmosphere make for an unforgettable experience and for those seeking adventure, a refreshing dip in the cool waters awaits, weather and time permitting!

Once we have soaked in the beauty of Akchour, our journey continues towards the cultural gem of Fez. Along the way, we will stop at a charming street bakery, where you can purchase freshly baked bread straight from the oven, typical of the region, fragrant and still warm.

Upon reaching Fez we will check in at our hotel. You have the evening to relax and savor the memorable day. Look forward to a good night's sleep and prepare for the next exciting day of our adventure.

### **Itinerary Overview: Day 4 – Fez Exploration and Beyond: History, Nature, and Scenic Delights**

After breakfast at the hotel, we will be met by our local tourist guide who will take us around to explore Fez, also known as the cultural capital of Morocco. We will start with an oriental tour, that presents us with a panoramic view of the entire medina of Fez. We will pass various landmarks such as the majestic Royal Palace, the historic Jewish Quarter, and the renowned American Animal Hospital. We will also have time to visit a local ceramic factory to witness traditional craftsmanship and an opportunity to buy a gift or two.

Next, we embark on a guided walking tour through the narrow, winding streets of the Medina, one of the largest car-free urban areas in the world. During our walk, we will visit the impressive Quaraouiyyine Mosque founded in 859 by Fatima el Fihri, and several other fascinating neighbourhoods within the Medina. The tour includes a stop at the famous leather tannery, where you can observe the ancient techniques still used today.

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We leave Fez, and our journey continues through the charming town of Ifrane with its picturesque landscapes often referred to as the "Switzerland of Morocco". We will then continue to the lush cedar forests of Azrou and here you will have the opportunity to hand-feed the playful Barbary macaque monkeys. Our day concludes with a scenic drive to Midelt, where we will check in for an overnight stay, complete with a delicious dinner.

### **Itinerary Overview: Day 5 - Sahara Adventure: Valleys, Dunes and Desert Luxury**

After breakfast, we depart from Midelt and set out towards the infamous Sahara Desert. Along the way, we will pass through the stunning Ziz Valley, famous for its lush palm groves and expansive oasis. Our journey continues toward Merzouga, passing through the towns of Aoufous and Erfoud renowned for its rich fossil deposits. We will visit a local fossil factory where you will see the meticulous process of transforming these ancient relics into exquisite works of art. A unique experience.

The journey continues with a drive through Rissani, famous for its exceptional quality and sweet dates. You will have the opportunity to sample and purchase these world-famous Moroccan dates during our stop.

In the afternoon, we reach Merzouga, where camels await us to take us on a journey across the vast dunes of Erg-Chebbi. Experience the tranquil beauty of the desert enjoying a breathtaking sunset over the dunes. After approximately an hour, we will arrive at a luxury desert camp and be greeted with refreshing Moroccan tea which they refer to as "Berber whisky."

At the camp, you can fully immerse yourself in fun activities like sandboarding or simply a relaxing walk across the vast golden dunes. We will stay at the camp for an overnight stay under the stars. Before dinner, you will be allowed time to settle into your tents and relax until it is time to come together for a traditional Moroccan dinner. Weather permitting the organizers will light a camp fire that lights up the night whilst providing warmth, with local Berber musicians playing the soulful rhythms of Saharan drums. A unique experience surely to be one of the highlights of this tour. On a clear night, you can recline and admire a sky adorned with stars.

### **Itinerary Overview: Day 6 – Sunrise to Culture: A Day of Desert Rhythms and Local Flavors**

Rise early to witness the mesmerizing sunrise over the dunes of Erg Chebbi. After this unforgettable experience, we will enjoy breakfast at the camp before checking out. Leaving the camp we will drive towards Merzouga. There will be the option to travel in a 4x4 or for those who wish to increase the adrenaline take a ride on quad bikes. This is not included in the tour.

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Next, we make our way to Khamila village, where we will immerse ourselves in the soul-stirring rhythms of Gnawa music. Following this, we visit a traditional caravan shop where you can learn about the ancient art of Berber carpet weaving and explore other local crafts.

As an *optional* lunch, experience the unique taste of Madfuona, a traditional North African dish often referred to as "Berber pizza," offering a rustic and flavorful taste of desert cuisine.

In the afternoon, we check in at a hotel in Merzouga where you can unwind before dinner time served at the hotel, allowing you to savor delicious Moroccan cuisine.

### **Itinerary Overview: Day 7 – Road of a Thousand Kasbahs: From Gorges to Film history - Dades Mountains**

After breakfast, we check out and depart for the stunning Dades Mountains, traveling along the famous Road of a Thousand Kasbahs. This central region of Morocco is one of the country's most captivating and romantic destinations, offering a beautiful contrast of lush river valleys, palm groves, and vibrant mud-brick homes, all set against the backdrop of the deep blue desert sky. As we journey through the Ziz Valley, you'll be amazed by the dramatic escarpments and breathtaking gorges that stretch across the landscape.

A stop at the Todra Gorge invites you to take a scenic walk through this stunning natural wonder, where towering cliffs and flowing waters create an awe-inspiring setting. The journey continues towards Ouarzazate where we pass by the scenic Dades Valley and the enchanting Rose Valley. Ouarzazate, often called the "Hollywood of Morocco," is famous for its film studios, having hosted many renowned films such as *The Mummy*, *Gladiator*, *Game of Thrones*, and *Ben Hur*. After settling into our next hotel you can look forward to enjoying a traditional Moroccan dinner at the hotel (included in the tour), in a peaceful and picturesque setting.

### **Itinerary Overview: Day 8 – From Ouarzazate to Marrakech: Kasbahs, and Cultural Delights**

After breakfast, we are back on the road to return to Marrakech. Our day will start with a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ait Benhaddou, a stunning fortified kasbah that has endured through the centuries. After exploring this remarkable site, we head towards the majestic Atlas Mountains that ascend the Tizi Tichka Pass at 2,260 meters above sea level. This mountain pass offers panoramic views of lush valleys, towering peaks, and traditional Berber villages nestled in the landscape.

Upon arrival in Marrakech, known as the "Red City" we will be given a guided walking tour. Visit the iconic Koutoubia Mosque, a landmark of Marrakech that inspired architectural wonders like Seville's Giralda, the world-famous Jemaa el-Fna Square, where the air is filled with the lively sounds of food stalls, snake charmers, local musicians, herbal medicine vendors and more!

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After the walking tour, we check in at our hotel in Marrakech. The evening is free for you to explore the bustling souks. Indulge with some bartering to shop for unique items at bargain prices.

### **Itinerary Overview: Day 9 – Atlas Mountains to Ouzoud Waterfalls: Nature's Beauty and Adventure**

On this day you can opt to be an early riser and join an adrenaline ride on a hot air balloon. This excursion is optional and comes complete with breakfast and a complimentary breathtaking aerial view like no other of the surrounding landscape below.

Those who do not wish to join the excursion can take it easy and enjoy a delicious breakfast at the hotel before we embark on a scenic drive through the stunning High Atlas Mountains. (En route we will pick up the balloonists to join in). The journey offers a tranquil ride so you can sit back and take in the panoramic landscapes, including vast olive tree fields.

Our next destination is a visit to the magnificent Ouzoud Waterfall where we will be met by our local guide. The Ouzoud Waterfall is the tallest in North Africa, standing at an impressive 110 meters. The waterfalls cascade on multiple levels, creating a spectacular and authentic natural beauty. For those seeking an extra adventure, you can embark on an *optional* boat ride that brings you close to the heart of the falls, offering an unforgettable experience.

Alternatively, you may choose to relax at one of the charming cafes situated by the water's edge or observe the wild macaques that roam freely in the lush river valley. The macaques is a species of monkeys that inhabit ranges throughout Asia, North Africa, and Europe (in Gibraltar). After a day of exploration, we return to the hotel in Marrakech to unwind and relax for the rest of the evening.

### **Itinerary Overview: Day 10 – Farewell and Departure from Marrakech**

After breakfast, time to say farewell to this beautiful country. Our driver ensures that we arrive at Marrakech airport to check in for our flight to Milan Malpensa scheduled to depart at 09:30hrs. There will be a layover in Malpensa before we catch our connecting flight back to Malta. We hope that this journey leaves you with amazing memories to cherish.

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**Tour Pricing and Inclusions:**

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|------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Adult in a single room                         | €1599 |
| Adult in a twin/double room (price per person) | €1345 |
| Adult in a triple room (price per person)      | €1295 |

**Price includes:**

- Return, connecting flight – Malta – Milan Malpensa - Marrakech – Milan Malpensa – Malta
- 1 night in Casablanca hotel with breakfast
- 1 night in Chefchouen hotel with breakfast
- 1 night in Fez hotel with breakfast
- 1 night in Midelt hotel with breakfast and dinner
- 1 night in the Desert in a luxury camp with camel ride, breakfast, and dinner included
- 1 night in Merzouga Hotel with breakfast and dinner
- 1 night in Quarzazate hotel with breakfast and dinner
- 2 nights in Marrakech hotel with breakfast
- Excursions mentioned in the itinerary
- Local English speaking guides
- Service of a Maltese-speaking Kerçem A' Tours tour leader
- Insolvency Fund Certificate

**Price does not include:**

- Madfouna (Berber pizza) - €15 per person (vegetarian options available)
- Hot air balloon ride with breakfast - €160 per person.
- Quad bikes - €50 per person driving quad alone or €90 shared quad.
- Boat Ride Ouzoud Water Fall – Aprox. €2 per person. *(to be paid on-site)*

**For all optional tours let us know which tours are of interest to you upon booking the trip. Payment for the optional tours will be collected with the balance 6 to 8 weeks prior to the departure date.**

**The booking is confirmed upon payment of €500 deposit.**

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Payments can be made with a cheque made payable to Kercem A' Tours, via bank transfer or by cash. Card payments are also accepted over the phone.

**For bank transfers kindly issue the payments to the following Bank Account details:**

Kercem Ajax FC. A/C TOURS

Account Number: 40023111554

IBAN: MT09VALL220130000000040023111554

Account Currency: EUR

**NB. PLEASE MAKE A REFERENCE TO THE TOUR IN PAYMENT REFERENCE**

**SECTION. EG. MS VELLA/ MOROCCO TOUR.**

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