

Morocco Tour 2024

Dates: February 24 – March 7, 2024

The adventure starts in Casablanca on February 24, 2024. If you'd like to arrive early, we can arrange additional hotel nights prior to the tour.

The tour ends in Essaouira. You can return home or to your next destination via Casablanca or Marrakech (see Day 13 for more info).

Day 1 – Casablanca

Saturday, February 24, 2024

Meals: Dinner

Upon arrival at Casablanca's Mohammed V International Airport, you'll be met by a driver and head to the hotel. You'll have a chance to relax on this day prior to your welcome dinner at **Rick's Café!**

You might know Rick's from the iconic movie, *Casablanca*. Though this is not the original restaurant from the movie, it is **filled with details** reminiscent of the film—including the architecture and décor. **The food is great, too!**

Overnight at [Barcelo Anfa](#) or similar in Casablanca.

Day 2 – Casablanca – Chefchaouen

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Today will be your first full day of touring. After breakfast, you'll visit the most spectacular mosque that non-Muslims are allowed to enter, the **Hassan II Mosque** on Casablanca's waterfront.

You'll spend time visiting both the exterior and interior of the mosque on a **guided tour**, with plenty of time for photos.



Afterward, you'll make the drive to **Rabat**, less than two hours away. There, you'll visit a **local female artisan** who creates beautiful leather goods including purses, bags and other accessories. You'll have lunch at a wonderful restaurant in Rabat and then drive onward to **Chefchaouen** (the Blue City), about a five-hour drive away. You'll arrive at your hotel in time for dinner at Lina Ryad.

Overnight at [Riad Cherifa](#) or similar in Chefchaouen.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** **Hassan II Mosque** is the largest mosque in Africa with the **world's tallest minaret** at 689 feet. It's hands down one of the most beautiful buildings in the world and, likely, one of the least known. **It definitely rivals the Taj Mahal.**

Day 3 – Chefchaouen
Monday, February 26, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Today after breakfast, you'll take a guided tour of this beautiful city perched on the side of a hill. You'll meander through the alleys and (mostly) pedestrian streets to photograph the sea of blue walls, windows, doorways and steps.

Lunch will be on your own to give you time to **wander the streets** and to have time to **photograph this charming village**. This will also be a great chance to browse the shops tucked away down all the alleys.

In the late afternoon, you'll walk the slight uphill climb to the **Spanish Mosque** and enjoy the sunset there.

Afterward, you'll have **dinner at a fantastic local restaurant**.

Overnight at [Riad Cherifa](#) or similar in Chefchaouen.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Chefchaouen may be one of the **most beautiful cities** you'll ever visit. Make sure you have camera (or your phone) because it's difficult to *not* capture a great image in this Blue City, where everywhere you look, you feel like you might be **swimming in the Mediterranean**.



Day 4 – Chefchaouen – Fes
Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



After a wonderful breakfast at our ryad, you'll start the drive to Fes. Along the way, you'll stop at **Nzala Women's Cooperative** for a **bread-making workshop**. It's here in the tiny town of N'zalat Bni Amar (pop. 2,000) that these women have also started an **embroidery cooperative** to help bring income to their families and to the village. You'll have an amazing **homemade lunch** with them and learn all about their projects. You'll then drive to **Fes** and check in at our hotel. (Total drive time is about five hours from Chefchaouen to Fes.)

You may have some time to rest in the late afternoon before sitting outside at the rooftop restaurant/bar to enjoy a light meal and drinks for dinner.

You might also take advantage of the hotel's spa for a massage or **hammam** visit or soak in the hot tub.

Overnight at Hotel Sahrai or similar in Fes.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Bread is a staple at every Moroccan meal. And while you may tire of it at some point, you can be sure that when you get home, **you'll be wishing you knew how to make it for yourself!** Today you'll get to do just that. And the ladies who'll be teaching us? They'll charm you with their hospitality!

Day 5 – Fes
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

You'll start this morning with breakfast and then a tour of Fes including the **Royal Palace**, the **Jewish Quarter** and the **Qarawiyyin**—the oldest existing, continually operating, higher educational institution in the world. And, it was **started by a woman** (YES!). You'll also visit a **pottery** workshop where you'll see artisans making pottery of all sizes and styles. (Bring your credit card because you won't be able to resist the work these folks do!)

Afterward, you'll take a **tasting tour of the medina**. This will be during lunch and will be all you need (and then some!) for a lunchtime meal.

After the tasting tour, you'll continue through the medina for a tour of the **tanneries, souqs** and **artisan quarters**, building in some time to shop.

Tonight dinner is on your own. You may not be hungry after the tasting tour but if you are, you can always grab a bite (or more) to eat at one of the hotel's restaurants or bars. And if you didn't get a chance the previous night, consider a massage, hammam visit or soak in the hot tub.



Overnight at Hotel Sahrai or similar in Fes.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** The **Fes medina** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a massive area of alleyways filled with **shops, cafes, restaurants** and **residences**. It's mind-boggling that anyone could find their way around, so you'll be guided to help us through the maze.

Day 6 – Fes – Sahara
Thursday, February 29, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today will be a long drive to get to the Sahara (approximately 10 hours), so you'll want to start early.



Along the way, you'll stop for lunch and other breaks to stretch your legs, take some photos, grab a drink and snacks, and use the restroom. 😊

You'll arrive at the **edge of the Sahara** in the late afternoon and then take a (optional) camel ride to our **Luxury Camp**. Your overnight bag, along with anyone interested, will be taken by vehicle. The **camel**

ride will take about an hour and you'll have the chance to stop for photos along the way!

You'll settle into your tents and then have a fabulous meal in the **dining tent**. You'll then have a chance to sit by the campfire, **stargaze** and listen to the **drumming and singing** by the employees who are all quite talented!

Overnight at a luxury camp in the Sahara.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** You'll feel both **isolated** and **luxuriously relaxed** at the camp. You'll be able to (mostly) only see sand dunes and stars, and you'll be so comfortable, you'll forget you're in a "tent."

Day 7 – Sahara – Ouarzazate
Friday, March 1, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning, you'll have a leisurely breakfast before taking the **short drive** (no camels this time!) back to the main road and town where you'll meet up with our vehicle for the **drive to Ouarzazate**.

Along the way, you'll stop at **Todra Gorge**, where you'll be able to walk along the road and through the gorge and also have lunch.

This will be another longish day of driving (7.5 hours) so you'll continue on to your hotel to relax this afternoon and evening. This town is really just a **stopping-off point** for you so that you can break up the long drive from the Sahara to Marrakech.

Dinner and overnight at Ksar Ighnda or similar in Ouarzazate.



Day 8 – Ouarzazate – Marrakech
Saturday, March 2, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

After breakfast, you'll visit another UNESCO World Heritage Site, **Kasbah Ait Benhaddou**. This area consists of a group of earthen dwellings once used as a stopping point for caravans between the Sahara and Marrakech. If you like, you can **make the easy walk to the top**—via windy alleys and shops—to a **viewpoint** looking over the entire valley. From here, you can look down and perhaps recognize some of the scenery from the movie, *Gladiator*, as part of it was filmed here!



You'll continue on your drive and stop for lunch along the way before arriving in Marrakech in the late afternoon.

At night, you'll tour the **Djemma el-fna**, Marrakech's main square, and enjoy a bit of a tasting tour as you go. It's unlikely you'll be hungry for dinner but, if you are, you can eat at one of the city's many

restaurants.

Overnight at [Villa des Orangers](#) or similar in Marrakech.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Marrakech is a **vibrant, bustling city** that is busy by day, but downright bustling with energy by night. You'll visit the main square in the evening where **nightlife explodes** with **vendors, street performers** and **hawkers** of all things.

Day 9 – Marrakech
Sunday, March 3, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today, you'll take a guided tour of Marrakech's highlights including the **Koutoubia, Bahia Palace** and **Saadian Tombs**—all centrally located. You'll stop for lunch in the medina and then continue with a **guided tour through the medina and souqs**.

For dinner, you'll be taking part in a lively **tagine cooking class** at a nearby cooking school.

Overnight at [Villa des Orangers](#) or similar in Marrakech.



★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Marrakech has much to offer in terms of **history, culture** and **food**. You'll get a se of all of these today during our tour of this city made quite famous by **Crosby, Stills & Nash**.

Day 10 – Marrakech
Monday, March 4, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today you'll drive to the **Atlas Mountains** (about 1.5 hours away) to see the countryside, take in some **fresh air** and see how communities outside of the cities live.

Once we arrive in the village of **Imlil**, you'll take a (optional) guided hike to a **Berber village**. The hike will be just over an hour. While it won't be too difficult, consider wearing hiking or walking shoes with some tread and ankle support.

You'll have a **traditional lunch in a Berber home** with spectacular views of the surrounding mountains.

Afterward, you'll return to Marrakech where **dinner is on your own** to give you some flexibility and to discover food and restaurants of your choosing. You might also schedule a massage or hammam at the hotel, or just take a break from all the delicious food!

Overnight at [Villa des Orangers](#) or similar in Marrakech.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** There will be many highlights today, but overall it will be a day of **interactions with the locals** and getting to know them outside of the city!

Day 11 – Marrakech – Essaouira
Tuesday, March 5, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today after breakfast, you'll go back to the medina to visit a cooperative that helps women with disabilities. These very talented women create and sell their own products, from clothes to purses to table linen.

After your visit to the cooperative, you'll drive west toward **Essaouira**, the last stop on this magical trip! Along the way, you'll stop at a **local winery** for a quick tour as well as lunch and a wine tasting!



Dinner is on your own tonight. There are numerous restaurants nearby where you can grab a light bit or a full meal.

Overnight at [Villa de l'O](#) or similar in Essaouira.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Today's highlights will be the beautiful (and peaceful) **gardens** as well as the delicious meal at **Amal**.

Day 12 – Essaouira
Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Today is, sadly, our **last day of touring in Morocco**. We'll make it easy on you and include just a morning of touring the **medina, harbor and sqala** (the city's fort from the 18th century).

You'll then have lunch on your own and an afternoon free to **eat, shop, relax, walk** or **pack**.

This evening you'll have an **unforgettable farewell dinner** at a wonderful local restaurant.

Overnight at Villa de l'O or similar in Essaouira.

Day 13 – Essaouira – departure
Thursday, March 7, 2024
Meals: Breakfast

Today is departure day! It is recommended that you schedule your flight for later in the day or early the following day so that you don't have to leave too early on this morning (because of the late-night dinner the previous night).

There are a number of options for leaving Morocco. We can book a car/shuttle to Marrakech for you (preferred option and included if you depart the hotel for the Marrakech airport after 10 a.m.), we can book a car/shuttle to Casablanca for you, or you can fly from Essaouira to Casablanca (note that flights are limited).

In our experience, most people return to Marrakech and either flying out late that day or early evening, or they overnight in Marrakech for their early morning flights out the following day. But this will all depend on flight availability and your preferred airline.

Read more about departing Morocco in the FAQs.

**** Itinerary subject to change without notice.**