

Morocco

KASBAHS & CAMELS



Sahara Desert

April 22– May 5, 2024

A country of dazzling diversity, Xplore mysterious and mesmerizing Morocco with its epic mountains, sweeping deserts and ancient cities. An ancient land where the intoxicating sights, colours, and aromas entice the senses. Serving up warm hospitality and the perfect glass of mint tea. Wind your way through the famous and colourful century-old souks in Fès and UNESCO-recognized Marrakesh medina. Xplore the captivating labyrinths within ancient walled Kasbahs, journey into the mountains to see Morocco's magical blue city and embark on an epic expedition across the desert dunes spending a night under the stars in a Berber Desert Camp. Morocco is sure to steal your heart!

HIGHLIGHTS

Multi-night stays Fès,
Boumalne Dades, Marrakesh

Welcome Dinner Rick's Café

City Tours of Marrakesh

Guided walking tour
Marrakesh

Chefchaouen "Blue City"

Mezouga Dunes

Meknes UNESCO Heritage Site

Rabat UNESCO Heritage Site

Volubilis UNESCO Heritage
Site

Bedouin Camp stay in
Sahara Desert

Camel Ride in the Sahara

Moroccan Cooking Class

Lunch in Moroccan Home

Henna & Jewelry Workshop

Hassan Tower

Palais Royal

Place El Makhzen

Nejjarine's museum

Sahara Desert

The Majorelle Gardens

Tafilalt Oasis

Todra Gorge

Ait Ben Haddou UNESCO
Heritage Site

Tizi N'Tichka Pass

High Atlas Mountains

Fès & Marrakesh Medinas
UNESCO Heritage Site

Ziz Valley

House of Water

The Erg

Visit a Women's Cooperative
for disadvantaged women

Village of Khamlia

Nomad Villages

Gnawa Musician Concert

Berber town of Azrou

Dades Valley

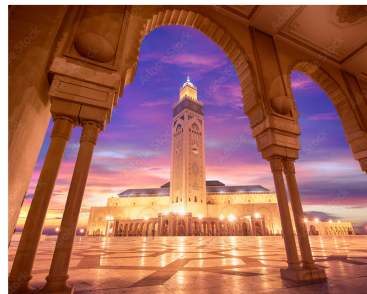
Valley of Roses

Todra Valley

Guided walk Oasis Palmeraie

Tour of Museum of the Oasis

Farewell Dinner



modern city, representing the vibrant, modern Moroccan culture. In the afternoon, start with an introductory tour of the city, including a visit to the impressive **Hassan II Mosque**, second only in size to Mecca. In the evening, travel back in time to **Rick's Café** for the **Welcome Dinner** with your fellow Xplorers.

Day 1 – Casablanca. Arrive off your international flight. After clearing customs and immigration, your Moroccan guide and driver will meet you outside the airport and transfer you to the hotel in Casablanca. Originally a Phoenician settlement - Anfa, then a Berber town, today Casablanca is a



Day 2 – Casablanca - Rabat - Chefchaouen. On your first full day in Morocco, visit **Rabat**, the first of Morocco's Imperial Cities and the administrative capital of the Kingdom of Morocco. Rabat, on Morocco's northern coast and facing the Atlantic Ocean, is an intriguing mix of the region's past glories

and modern marvels. During the tour of this imposing city, visit the **Palais Royal**, the **Hassan Tower**, and the **Mohammed V Mausoleum**. After enjoying lunch in a local restaurant, depart for the blue city of Morocco, **Chefchaouen**. After hotel check-in, a group **dinner** is planned this evening at your riad.



Day 3 –Chefchaouen to Fès

Chefchaouen is situated in the Rif Mountains, just inland from Tangier and Tetouan. The town was founded in 1492 by Moorish exiles from Spain. Chaouen (or Xaouen, from the Spanish), as it is often called by Moroccans has one unique distinction: its blue-rinsed houses and buildings. The **tour** of this blue and white village includes **the Place El Makhzen** and the famous **square Uta el Hamman** and the **medina**. After the tour enjoy **lunch** in a local restaurant, take some time to explore this unique and beautiful blue city on your own. Chefchaouen is a city with a special vibe. Its unique charm gives an impression of unreality. With its blue-rinsed houses, the whole city seems to be bathed in azure. You walk around as if you are in a dream. Later in the afternoon continue to the medieval city of Fès, home for the next four nights and enjoy a wonderful **dinner** together at the riad.



Day 4 – Fès. Joined by your local guide, head out to Xplore Fès on full-day tour. Fès is the religious capital of Morocco. Visit **the old and new medinas**, the 14th century **Medersa Attarine** (religious school), and the **Nejjarine's museum**. This is a wonderfully restored funduq, an ancient inn used by travelling merchants who stored and sold their goods below and took lodgings on the floors above. Centered on a courtyard, the rooms are given over to displays of traditional craftsmen's tools, chunky prayer beads and Berber locks, chests, and musical instruments. Everything is beautifully presented, although the stunning building gives the exhibits a run for their money. The rooftop cafe has great views over the medina. Photography is forbidden near the exhibits but is allowed in the courtyard and from the rooftop. **Lunch** included in a beautiful riad in the Medina. Afternoon, Xplore the impressive labyrinth of **souks**

in Fès, declared by **UNESCO** to be one of the world's cultural treasures. The afternoon will also include photo opportunities at the imposing gate of **Bab Boujloud**, the splendid fountain at **Place Nejjarine**, the ancient **ramparts**, and the beautiful façade of the **Royal Palace**. Return to your riad for some time at leisure before meeting again for **dinner** at the beautiful **Maison Blanche**.



Day 5 – Fès, Meknes, Volubilis, Fès. In Meknes, the former Imperial City, see **the old ramparts**; **the Agdoul Basin** which was used to water the royal gardens and

amuse the favorite concubines; the **Moulay Ismail royal stables**, granaries, and **House of Water** (Dar el Ma), built in the 17th and 18th centuries to house, feed, and water the sultan's twelve thousand horses; **Bab el Mansour**, one of the most beautiful gates in Morocco; and the intrigue of the Meknes landscape. After enjoying **lunch**, depart for **Volubilis**, this Roman city was a flourishing trade city in the 2nd and 3rd centuries selling oil, corn, and wild animals. The Berbers who had been converted to Christianity occupied Volubilis until the 8th century. The earthquake of 1755 destroyed the city, it was found, and excavations started in 1887 and continue to this day. A visit includes a **tour of the ramparts**, 5 feet wide and 1.5 miles long, which incorporate no fewer than forty bastions and eight 2nd century gates. Return to Fès for overnight.

Day 6 – Fès. Moroccan cuisine is one of the most fascinating in the world, and Fès is the capital of Moroccan cooking. Today, is an exciting and savoury day, preparing Moroccan dishes during **a private cooking class**. Start with a morning **visit to the souk** to gather the necessary ingredients, then enjoy an authentic cooking experience. Prepare a traditional appetizer, main dish and dessert, then enjoy your lunch in a Moroccan home, a beautifully restored riad featuring all the modern amenities. Returning to the hotel in mid-afternoon to enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.



Day 7 – Erfoud. This morning, set out on a journey south through the **Middle Atlas Mountains**, a Berber country of high, windswept plateaus and forests of giant oak, cork, and cedar. Stopping in **Ifrane**, a French-style winter ski resort, then continue to the friendly Berber town of **Azrou**, a handicrafts center set among steep volcanic hills. Travelling through the cedar forests,



complete with resident monkeys, and through the **Ziz Valley**, dotted with date palm trees, to the small town of **Erfoud** on the edge of the **Sahara**. Spending the night in a beautiful kasbah style hotel, surrounded by the magical desert landscapes. Arriving in the afternoon, to catch the sunset and see the stars come out, before enjoying **dinner** at our kasbah hotel.



Day 8 – Erfoud / Merzouga dunes. A relaxing start to the day, with a departure mid-morning to visit in the 8th century caravan town of **Rissani**, visit the mausoleum of Moulay Ali Cherif, the founder of the current ruling dynasty of Morocco, and visit the fairy-tale **Tafilalt Oasis**. Continue by exploring **the Erg** (sand sea) of the Sahara Desert traveling in the shadow of the giant dunes to fully appreciate their height, stopping at **nomad desert villages**, enjoying mint tea with the locals, and learning about the significance of the mint tea ritual. The entire Sahara Desert was once underwater as evidenced by the abundant snail and squid fossils found here, so we'll have the opportunity to search for these relics that date back several millions of years. Afterwards, head to the magical **village of Khamlia**, renowned for its **Gnawa musicians**. During **lunch** of the local specialty of Medfouna or "Berber Pizza", we'll learn about Gnawa music, and its spiritual, sub-Saharan origins and we'll be treated to a **private concert**. In the afternoon, we can relax by the hotel's swimming pool, then, just before sunset, we'll travel onto the dunes to our **Berber desert camp** for the night. Camel rides at sunset and after dinner, enjoy traditional Berber music around the campfire, before falling asleep under the starry skies of the desert in a comfortable Berber tent.



Day 9 – Merzouga Dunes to Boumalen Dades. We'll wake up early today, to watch the sun rise over the dunes. In the stillness of the morning, this magical experience borders on transcendental. Travelling west, pass by lush palm, olive, and almond groves, by tiny Berber villages and magnificent kasbahs. We'll stop in **Kharttarat**, to admire the ancient irrigation system, and in **Ksar El Khorbat** to tour the **Museum of the Oasis** featuring the Berber culture and history. After **lunch**, we'll stop in the oasis



town of **Tinghir** for a **guided walk** through the **Oasis Palmeraie** (garden) and through the old **Mellah** (Jewish area). When we reach the **Todra Valley** on the remote eastern side of the High Atlas Mountains, we'll take a leisurely walk in the spectacular surroundings of the **Todra Gorge**, where the Todra River carved out a canyon into the pink cliff walls of the mountain. The path follows an icy river flowing through the gorge, passing by several kasbahs built into the gorge. In the afternoon, arrive at our hotel with a panoramic view of the **Dades Valley**, just on the edge of the Sahara Desert, and the terrace will be a perfect place to enjoy **dinner** and watch another sunset.

Day 10 – Boumalen Dades. In the morning, set out to meet the local women in the Valley of the Roses, joining them for mid-morning tea. Afterwards, join a **local family** for a traditional couscous **lunch**, then spend more time with the local women, having henna applied to our hands or feet, as we talk with the women and learn about their daily life and cultures. We'll also be visited by **metalwork artisans**, and enjoy a demonstration of hand making decorated jewelry, before returning to our hilltop hotel for **dinner**.



Day 11 – Marrakesh . After breakfast, departure to **Ouarzazate** for a morning tour including the 17th century **Kasbah Taourirt**, continue to the ancient Kasbah complex of Ait Ben Haddou, an impressive 11th century structure that has been declared an





historical treasure by **UNESCO**. A photographer's wonderland, **Ait Ben Haddou** remains home to five families. Next, set out through a mountainous and semi-desert landscape and continue over the **High Atlas Mountains** at **Tizi N'Tichka Pass** (7,400 feet). Proceed across the fertile countryside of the Haouz Plain to the pink city of **Marrakesh**.

Day 12 – Marrakesh . The city of **Marrakesh** is in the middle of a lush oasis. Our **guided morning walk** will introduce you to this fascinating Imperial City. Visit the **Bahia Palace**, with its beautiful gardens and harem quarters, see **Ben Youssef Madrasa** and the **Koutoubia Tower**. In the afternoon, enjoy leisure time to shop for local crafts in **the souks** or wander through **Jemaa El Fna Square**, famous for its market stalls, food vendors, performers, snake charmers, acrobats, storytellers, and musicians. In the evening, enjoy a **Traditional Moroccan dinner** in one of the best local restaurants in the city.

Day 13 – Marrakesh . On your last full day in Morocco, enjoy a free morning to Xplore the city of **Marrakesh** according to your individual interests. Meeting back at noon for **lunch**



impressive western landmarks: **The Majorelle Gardens**. Ending the day with a **Farewell Dinner** reminiscing with your fellow Xplorers over your magical Moroccan adventure.

Day 14 – Departure to Home City . Bidding farewell to Morocco, transfer to the airport for your flight home with fond memories, new friends, and many stories to share with your friends and family at home.

PRICING		
DOUBLE	GUARANTEED SHARE	SINGLE
\$7,625.25	\$7,625.25	\$9,885.25

All prices are per person **LAND ONLY** and include all taxes & fees.

Not included in price:

- International Airfare
- Gratuities for Tour Director & Driver
- Meals and activities not specified in the itinerary
- Any personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Pre or post tour arrangements

Total meals included: Breakfast daily, 11 Lunch, 11 Dinner



at a local 'women's cooperative', dedicated to the empowerment of disadvantaged women in the workplace. After **lunch**, enjoy a leisurely tour among the rich variety of exotic plants set against the Berber signature cobalt blue of one of Marrakesh's most



WestWorld Tours & Women Xplorers have partnered with **Trees4Travel**. Two trees will be planted for each passenger to help reduce the carbon emissions produced by this tour.

