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MOROCCO

MAY / JUNE 2022

15 DAYS

Receive an introduction to Africa by traversing across the Kingdom of Morocco, where you'll find epic mountain ranges, ancient cities, sweeping deserts, and warm hospitality. Wander among the blue walls of the Blue Pearl City--Chefchaouen. Get up and close to leather tanneries in Fes, and then get lost in the city's maze-like medina. Ride a camel off into the sunset, and sleep in a luxury desert camp under the stars. Treat your taste buds with a flavorful combination of Mediterranean and African cuisine. You'll return home with wonderful memories and hundreds of spectacular photographs.

B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner

DAY 1

Meet at Mohammed V International Airport (CMN) and transport to our hotel in Casablanca. Welcome dinner together at Rick's Cafe and rest for the evening. **D**

DAY 2

Tour the largest mosque in Africa -- the Hassan II Mosque. After lunch in the medina, travel one hour and a half hour north to Rabat, the capital of Morocco. Afternoon tour at the Mausoleum of Mohammed V and the Hassan Tower. Stay in Rabat for two nights. **B**

DAY 3

Morning tour of the Archeological Site of Chellah where you will see a mix of Roman ruins and Islamic culture. Have lunch at Le Dhow, a large wooden pirate boat turned floating restaurant. Walk through the Kasbah of the Oudayas, situated on a bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, ending at the Andalusian Gardens. Spend the rest of the evening strolling through the Rabat medina and dining fine Moroccan cuisine for dinner. **B**

DAY 4

Bid Rabat farewell and travel north to Tangier, a port city only 20 miles south of Spain. Make a stop at the Cave of Hercules, where Hercules allegedly rested during his labors. Visit the nearby Cap Spartel. Arrive Tangier and walk around the Tangier medina. In the evening, we will watch the sunset at the Phoenician Tombs. **B**

DAY 5

Drive south to Tetouan, a gorgeous white-walled city situated by the Mertil River. Spend a few hours walking through the medina. After lunch, we will continue our trip south to Chefchaouen, Morocco's famed Blue Pearl. Dinner and rest. **B**

DAY 6 • • • •

Spend the full day wandering among Chefchaouen's blue walls. Optional: group hike to the Ras El Ma waterfall and then up to the Spanish Mosque for a panoramic view of the city at sunset. Dinner in Chefchaouen. **B**

DAY 7 • • • •

Travel 3 hours south to Volubilis, an excavated 3rd century Roman archeological site for a walking tour. Visit Moulay Idriss, one of the holiest places in Morocco. Travel to our hotel in Fes and have dinner. **B**

DAY 8 • • • •

Full day exploring Fes el Bali, the oldest walled part of Fes and Morocco's largest and most populated medina (home to over 150,000 people). It is also the world's largest car-free zone. Start the day with a visit to al-Qarawiyyin University, the first university in the world founded by a woman. Stop by the Al-Attarine Madrasa for photographs at the courtyard, which is a dazzling example of intricate Islamic architecture, and then make our way to the Chouara Tannery, Fes' largest and oldest leather tannery. Optional late afternoon tour of the Jewish Mellah, Jewish Cemetery, and the Ibn Danan Synagogue. **B**

DAY 9 • • • • (Tuesday or Saturday)

Afternoon flight to Errachidia, an airport 2 hours away from the Sahara Desert. After arriving at the base of the desert, hop on a camel and ride for around an hour to our luxury desert camp. Watch the sunset and then be served a delicious dinner. Enjoy watching nomadic Berbers play music under the bright night sky before heading to bed. **B,D**

DAY 10 • • • •

Wake up early to watch the sun rise above the sand dunes. After breakfast, hop into a 4X4 car and set out to see the different faces of desert dunes with its black volcanic rocks, passing through small villages, where you will drink mint tea with a Berber family in their tent. Afterwards, visit a cave and learn about how the nomads survive in the desert. After lunch, transfer to Rissani to visit historical Kasbahs, open-air markets, and the Sijilmassa ruins before heading back to our luxury desert camp for a second Sahara sunset. **B,L,D**

DAY 11 • • • •

Morning flight to Marrakech with layover in Casablanca or flight to Casablanca and car transfer to Marrakech (*dependent upon flight schedules*). Arrive Marrakech and check into our hotel. Short introduction to the city and dinner. **B**

DAY 12 • • • •

Morning tour of Marrakech's medina, covering major sights including Djemaa el-Fna Square, Koutoubia Mosque, street markets, Ben Youssef Madrasa (*pending completion of renovations*), Jardin Secret Garden, and Majorelle Garden. Lunch at the cafe at the Majorelle Garden. Free time in the afternoon to go shopping or book a hammam and/or massage experience at our hotel (*highly recommended!*). **B**

DAY 13 • • • •

Day trip to Ouzoud Falls, the tallest waterfall in Northern Africa, and the second tallest in all of Africa. Hike about 20 minutes down the trail to get up and close to the waterfall. Optional boat ride to get even closer (you will get wet!), and then walk up the steps to have lunch and possible encounters with Barbary macaque monkeys. Return to Marrakech and have dinner. **B**

DAY 14 • • •

Second morning tour of Marrakech, covering sights including Bahia Palace, El Badi Palace, and Saadiens Tombs. Free time in the afternoon to do last-minute shopping. Farewell dinner together. **B,D**

DAY 15 • • •

After breakfast, transfer to Marrakech Menara Airport (RAK) for your departure flight. **B**

MOROCCO TOUR PRICE

\$3,300 per person / double occupancy (for a group of 8+)

\$500 deposit per person is required to reserve space.

The availability of space is based on a first come, first serve basis.

100% of the balance is required 90 days before the first day of the tour.

CONTACT: rachel@handson.travel

TOUR LEADER: Rachel Soudakoff

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

- Small tour group size.
- 12 nights in moderately priced accommodations. 2 nights at a luxury desert camp.
- 19 meals: Breakfast (14), Lunch (1), Dinner (4)
- Services of a deaf group leader on call 24 hours a day.
- Services of local guides.
- All transportation expenses connected with the tour itinerary.
- All admission fees for attractions and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- Most tips connected with the tour itinerary, except for your group leader.
- Informative travel preparation packet.
- Pre-tour and/or post-tour itinerary consultation.
- \$100 credit off your next full tour with Hands On Travel.

IMPORTANT POINTS:

- International airfares at the start and end of the tour are not included.
- All other meals not mentioned in the itinerary and personal expenses are not included.
- A lot of walking will be expected during the tour. Appropriate physical fitness is needed.
- Please consult the most recent version of the HOT terms and conditions.
<https://handson.travel/resources/terms/>
- Hands on Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. To learn more about how to help protect you and your trip investment, view the following link:
<https://handson.travel/resources/protection/>
- **Tour itinerary and price are subject to change.**