



Rotary E-Club of Global Travelers

Trip plan for Paula Schwartz

Paula Schwartz

👤 30 adults

📅 Apr 20 - May 3, 2028 (14 days)

📍 Locations Included

- Marrakesh (3 nights)
- Ouarzazate (1 night)
- Boumalne Dades (1 night)
- Merzouga (2 nights)
- Fes (2 nights)
- Chefchaouen (2 nights)
- Rabat (1 night)
- Casablanca (1 night)

Daily Schedule

Day	Date	Highlights	Location
Day 1	Thursday Apr 20, 2028	Arrival in Marrakesh, Free Evening in Marrakech	Riad Kniza Marrakesh Int. Airport (RAK) to Marrakesh Meals: Dinner
Day 2	Friday Apr 21, 2028	Explore the Red City and its Main Sights, Food Tour & Local Gastronomy	Riad Kniza Marrakesh Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
Day 3	Saturday Apr 22, 2028	Free day in Marrakesh	Riad Kniza Marrakesh Meals: Breakfast
Day 4	Sunday Apr 23, 2028	Marrakesh to Ouarzazate, Guided Tour of Aït Benhaddou	Le Berbere Palace Marrakesh to Ouarzazate Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
Day 5	Monday Apr 24, 2028	Ouarzazate to Boumalne Dades	Hotel Xaluca Dades Ouarzazate to Boumalne Dades Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
Day 6	Tuesday Apr 25, 2028	Boumalne Dades to Merzouga Sunset Camel Ride via Tinerhir & Rissani, Camel Trek to your Camp	Riad Madu Desert Camps Boumalne Dades to Merzouga Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
Day 7	Wednesday Apr 26, 2028	Guided 4x4 Desert Adventures in Erg Chebbi, Half-Day Horseback Ride Tour to the Lake in Merzouga	Riad Madu Desert Camps Merzouga Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 8	Thursday Apr 27, 2028	Merzouga to Fes via Rissani, Midelt, & the Atlas Mountains	Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace Merzouga to Fes Meals: Breakfast
Day 9	Friday Apr 28, 2028	Fes Discovery	Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace Fes Meals: Breakfast
Day 10	Saturday Apr 29, 2028	Fes to Chefchaouen via Meknes & Volubilis, Guided Tour of Volubilis, Guided tour of Meknes	Dar Jasmine Fes to Chefchaouen Meals: Breakfast
Day 11	Sunday Apr 30, 2028	Morning Guided Tour in Chefchaouen	Dar Jasmine Chefchaouen Meals: Breakfast
Day 12	Monday May 1, 2028	Chefchaouen to Rabat, Afternoon Guided Tour in Rabat	Hotel Le Diwan Rabat-MGallery Chefchaouen to Rabat Meals: Breakfast
Day 13	Tuesday May 2, 2028	Rabat to Casablanca, Self-Guided Off-The-Beaten-Path Casablanca, Afternoon Guided Tour in Casablanca, Casablanca's Jewish Heritage Visit, Evening in Casablanca	Kaan Casablanca Rabat to Casablanca Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
Day 14	Wednesday May 3, 2028	Depart Casablanca	Casablanca to Casablanca International Airport (CMN) Meals: Breakfast

Detailed itinerary

1

Arrive in Marrakesh

Apr 20, 2028



Private driver - Start of services



Arrival Transfer from Marrakech Airport to Marrakech

Private transfer · 30m

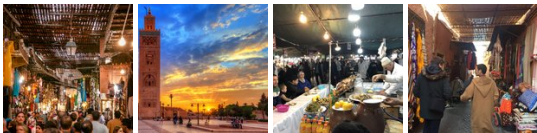
Your driver will pick you up at the airport and take you to Marrakech.



Free Evening in Marrakech

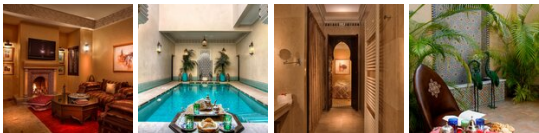
Self guided

Take time to continue your exploration of Marrakesh with dinner at a local restaurant. Wonderful smells waft by as food stalls cook up their local delicacies.



Riad Kniza

34 Derb L'Hotel Bab Doukkala



Marrakesh

Apr 21, 2028



Explore the Red City and its Main Sights

Private · 7h

Start your day by discovering the beauty of the Majorelle Gardens, a botanical garden offering an incredible reprieve from the unrelenting heat of Morocco. The brightly colored buildings complement the various species of subtropical flowers, plants, and trees. Although not lush—this is the desert, after all—you'll find plenty of interesting and unique vegetation to admire.

Acting almost like a sanctuary, the Majorelle Gardens surround visitors with exotic plant species, including bamboo, lilies, and palms, along with fountains and pools. You'll find more than 300 types of plants from five different continents. After strolling through this idyllic setting, enjoy a refreshing drink at the charming café.

Within the gardens, you'll find the famous bright blue and yellow house. Now a museum, the building was once the home of French Orientalist artist Jacques Majorelle. It was designed by French architect Paul Sinoir in the style of a Cubist villa. Today, it houses the Berber Museum, while the nearby Yves Saint Laurent Museum celebrates the designer's connection to Marrakech.

Later, continue exploring Morocco's second-largest metropolis, also known as the "Red City," thanks to the natural red pigment of its walls. Discover the vibrant sights, sounds, and smells as you wander through its historic center.

Begin with one of Marrakech's most beautiful palaces and monuments, the Bahia Palace. Built at the end of the 19th century, its name means "brilliance," and you'll quickly understand why. Admire its beautiful courtyards and gardens, as well as the intricate woodwork and ornate ceilings throughout the palace.

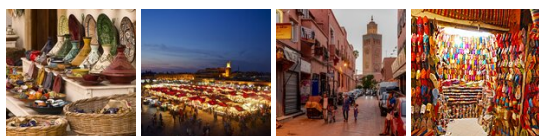
Next, visit the Ben Youssef Madrasa, one of Marrakech's most remarkable historic landmarks. Once one of North Africa's largest Islamic colleges, this beautifully restored religious school is renowned for its stunning architecture. Take time to admire the intricate zellige tilework, carved cedar wood, elegant stucco decoration, and peaceful central courtyard, offering a fascinating glimpse into Morocco's rich architectural and cultural heritage.

Continue to the Koutoubia Mosque and Gardens, the city's largest mosque. Although non-Muslims can't enter, you can still admire the grounds and exterior, including its remarkable minaret. Pass through one of the Medina's historic gates and meander through its twisting alleyways toward the souks (markets) and hidden Fondouks, historic caravanserais once used as lodgings for travelers and merchants.

Arrive at Jemaa el Fna Square, the city's landmark plaza filled with markets, street food, and performers. From here, stroll through some of the best souks, with your guide leading the way. You'll find the famed spice towers at Souk el Attarin and traditional Moroccan slippers at Souk Smata. Don't miss Souk des Teinturiers, where you can watch locals dyeing and hanging colorful cloth and yarn. While bargaining can be part of the fun, your guide will be happy to assist you with any purchases.

In the evening, follow your nose to the wonderful aromas wafting from the food stalls back in Jemaa el Fna Square. Watch locals prepare authentic delicacies and taste the flavors of Marrakech as the sun goes down and the street performers come out to entertain. If you prefer

a quieter dining experience, choose from one of the many cafés overlooking the square and simply sit back and watch the action below.



Food Tour & Local Gastronomy

Small group · 2h

During your Tour with our licensed passionate tour guide, you will have the opportunity to taste many classics of Moroccan cuisine and a wide choice of local products while taking advantage of many explanations and anecdotes about the city and the products tasted. Feel free to ask your questions and share your culinary experiences. The more you interact, the more you will discover!

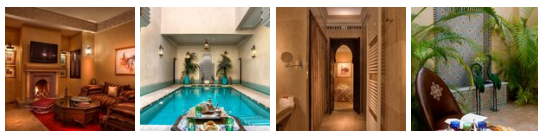
As its name indicates, this experience is far from being a simple walking guided tour, it will be combined with more than 06 tasting stops as well as the main meal. you will try and taste dishes that characterize the local cuisine and are part of the culinary history of Morocco.

The tasting program can change according to the season and/or your desires or food choices, and we can guarantee high-quality foods from carefully chosen food stalls. These local chefs know what they're doing with many years of experience.



Riad Kniza

34 Derb L'Hotel Bab Doukkala



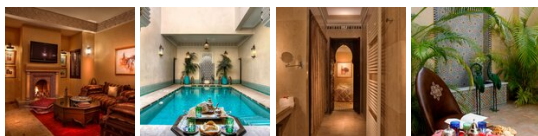
Marrakesh

Apr 22, 2028



Riad Kniza

34 Derb L'Hotel Bab Doukkala



Optional Activities

Your specialist has selected these for you to consider.



Self-Guided Exploration of Marrakech, the "Red City"

Self guided

Marrakesh is Morocco's second-largest metropolis, known as the "Red City," thanks to the natural red pigment in its walls. Explore the vibrant sights, sounds, and smells as you wander through its bustling center. Use the recommendations below to cater your self-guided excursion to how much time you have and your interests.

To best understand the layout, get your bearings at **Jemaa el Fna Square**, the city's landmark plaza filled with markets, street food, and performers. From here, you'll find the souks (markets) to the north, the **Koutoubia Mosque & Gardens** to the west, and the **Kasbah** area with the **Saadian Tombs**, **Bahia Palace**, and **El Badi Palace** to the south.

For entertainment and meals, stick to Jemaa el Fna Square, which begins to fill in the late afternoon with musicians, storytellers, acrobats, dancers, henna artists, and snake charmers. As it gets dark, rows of food stalls will appear, serving anything from full meals to fruit drinks, dried dates, and small snacks. For a more relaxed experience, choose from the numerous cafes that sit above the square. You can enjoy a quieter meal or tea while you watch the show below.

Depending on your personal preferences, here are some recommendations to keep you busy until mealtime:

- The Koutoubia Mosque & Gardens. Although non-Muslims aren't permitted inside, you can still admire the building's structure and grounds, including its minaret, the oldest tower built under the Almohad Dynasty. On the north side of the mosque, you'll find the original mosque's foundations, rebuilt to align with Mecca. Walk around the back to the gardens, filled with fountains, pools, palm trees, and various flowers. It's the perfect place for a late afternoon stroll when the sun glows on the minaret.
- The **Medina** & Souks. There are enough small alleys and markets in the Medina to occupy you for a couple of days! For now, take in the various sights, sounds, and smells as you simply wander at your own pace. A few souks worth exploring include **Souk el Attarin** for spices, **Souk Haddadine** for blacksmith goods, and **Souk Smata** for slippers, rugs, and leather goods. Keep your eyes peeled for **Souk des Teinturiers**, where you can watch people dyeing, hanging, and drying cloth and yarn.
- **Fondouks**. Along many of the alleys, you'll notice large open spaces and courtyards. These Fondouks once operated as inns used by visiting traders and merchants. They slept on the upper floors while their animals stayed on the ground floor. Some have been converted into residential places, while others remain as large shopping areas and

workshops.

- **Medersa Ben Youssef** (Koranic School). Established in the 16th century, this beautifully renovated *medersa* (educational institution) once housed students of the nearby Ben Youssef Mosque. Inside, you can admire the carved cedar, stucco plaster, and zellij tiles.
- **Saadian Tombs**. Hidden for many years and only "discovered" by the inquisitive French authorities in the 1930s, the oldest tomb dates back to 1557 CE. Enter through a very narrow passage to discover a small garden, graves, and three main pavilions.
- **Bahia Palace**. This 19th-century palace was once the largest and most luxurious in the city. Today, you can browse the courtyard, gardens, intricate woodwork, and ornamented ceilings.
- **Majorelle Gardens**. Not far from the buzzy Medina, you can wander these lush, expansive gardens filled with sub-tropical plants, bamboo, lilies, and palms. It's a great place to relax and escape the afternoon heat.

Other potential sites include:

- The **Almoravid Koubba** — the only intact Almoravid building.
- The Marrakesh **Museum** — housed in the 19th-century Dar Mnebbi Palace with various sculptures and various other Moroccan artwork.
- The Museum **of Moroccan Arts and Crafts** — showcasing woodwork, including traditional wedding palanquins.

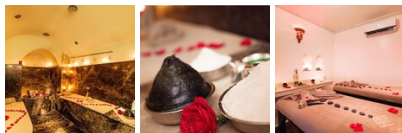


Traditional Hammam & Massage

Private · 2h

Massage treatment and traditional Hammam are awaiting you today! Enjoy your time!

A special trained team works in a relaxed and informal atmosphere, so that you can enjoy a Spa treatment with a sense of joy and satisfaction. An experience featuring a steam room and well-being, combining an aesthetic vision to the technical solution, Moroccan beauty for all skin types. body care, body scrub and massages. Whatever experience you choose to indulge yourself in, you will consequently find great pleasure in it. Enjoy a peaceful safe haven where your health and your well-being are harmoniously fulfilled.



Marrakesh to Ouarzazate

Apr 23, 2028



Marrakech to Ouarzazate via Tizi n'Tichka Pass

Self drive

Enjoy a comfortable self-drive from **Marrakech** to your accommodation in **Ouarzazate**, which takes about four and a half hours. Along the way, you will weave over the scenic **Tizi n'Tichka Pass** and the **High Atlas Mountains**, passing through arid desert landscapes.

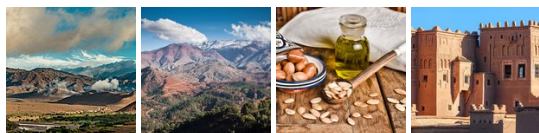
As you leave the busy city behind, you'll transition from flat surroundings to verdant foothills. Twist over the pass where sweeping vistas emerge—try to spot the range's highest summit of **Mount Toubkal**, which sits at 13,671 feet (4,167 m). You'll also pass traditional Berber villages and catch glimpses of the area's unique farmland. The traditional mud-brick homes are quite a unique contrast to the stark modern buildings of today.

Make a stop in the town of **Taddert** and visit the **Argan Oil Cooperative**. Learn how local women extract precious oil from the Argan nut for use in the health, food, and cosmetic industries. The oil production is an excellent example of rural economic development in Morocco.

Your next stop is your accommodation in the picturesque town of Ouarzazate, which gained popularity thanks to the film industry. You have the option to tour a movie studio or visit the **Musée du Cinéma**. Learn about the films produced in Ouarzazate by getting an up-close look at props and sets. This area is featured in several Hollywood productions, including *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Gladiator*, and *Game of Thrones*.

An isolated military outpost during the years of the French protectorate, Ouarzazate—which means “no noise” in the Berber Tamazight language—long lived up to its name. Today, however, the town is Morocco's Hollywood, and you can regularly see moviemakers setting up shop in this sprawling desert crossroads with wide, palm-fringed boulevards. The center of Ouarzazate is easily explored on foot. **Avenue Mohammed V**, the main street, runs from east to west with shops, cafés, banks, pharmacies, and tour agencies all along its length.

For centuries, people from the Atlas, Drâa, and Dadès Valleys converged to do business at Ouarzazate's sprawling **Taurirt Kasbah**. A modern garrison town was established here in the 1920s to oversee France's colonial interests. Since King Mohammed VI started visiting and fixing up the roads, Ouarzazate developed quickly with vast new residential areas marked out to the south of town, plus new condo-hotel complexes, a spacious pedestrian plaza, and well-stocked supermarkets. This is an ideal launching pad for mountains, deserts, and gorges, with scores of agencies offering bikes, motorbikes, and camels.



Guided Tour of Aït Benhaddou

Private · 2h

Start your day with a guided tour of Aït Benhaddou, Morocco's most famous *kasbah* (fortification) and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. People believe this fascinating old *ksar* (Berber palace) dates from the 11th century, when it held an important position along the trans-Saharan trade route between Marrakech, Ouarzazate, and the southern desert. The ksar and

surrounding area are now often used as a filming location for movies, including "Jewel of the Nile", "The Mummy", "Gladiator", and "Kingdom of Heaven."



Le Berbere Palace

Rue Al-Mansour Ad-Dahbi



Ouarzazate to Boumalne Dades

Apr 24, 2028



Ouarzazate to Boumalne Dades via the Rose Valley

Private transfer · 2h 30m

Enjoy a comfortable private transfer from **Ouarzazate** to your accommodation in Boumalne Dades, which takes about two and a half hours.

Your journey starts to follow the Valley of a Thousand Kasbahs, with many kasbahs (defense fortresses) in disrepair—they were constructed with "rammed earth," a building technique using raw materials. You'll pass many small towns where you can see traditional farming methods in use. Be on the lookout for nomads tending to their animals, especially as you near Boumalne Dades.

Enjoy the scenery as you enter the Dades Valley and continue to Kela'a M'gouna, named after the nearby Mount Mgoun and known as the "Valley of the Roses." Here, you can admire the cultivated rose bushes and visit a rose collective. Learn how artisans convert petals into rose water and oil used in the cosmetic industry.

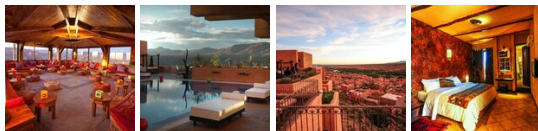
If you're visiting in spring, especially in May, notice how the city's surroundings are covered in roses. It's believed that 10th-century pilgrims arrived in Morocco from Saudi Arabia and brought Rosa Damascena, the variety of roses popular in this region. The month of May hosts the annual Rose Festival, featuring local Berber musicians, dancing, parades, artisans, and food vendors.

Your final stop is Boumalne Dades, a major town straddling the Dades River. After settling into your accommodation, enjoy the scenes of arid landscapes and traditional architecture contrasting with the verdant river valley.



Hotel Xaluca Dades

Zone Touristique, Boumalene Dades



Boumalne Dades to Merzouga

Apr 25, 2028



Boumalne Dades to Merzouga Sunset Camel Ride via Tinerhir & Rissani

4h 30m

Enjoy a comfortable private transfer from **Boumalne Dades** to your Bedouin-style tent accommodation in **Merzouga**, which takes about four and a half hours. Start early, as your driver will stop at a few cultural spots to show you the desert communities in the **Sahara**.

Your first stop is the desert town of **Tinghir**. Here you'll find fantastic views of neighboring villages along an extensive river oasis that features 30 miles (48 km) of palm trees. The surrounding desert landscape reveals impressive buttes, mesas, and plateaus. With its ancient and colorful Jewish quarter, Tinghir also offers a glimpse into ancestral Moroccan Jewry. You can visit **Elhaj Ait Ali**, the old Jewish quarter, and admire its interesting architecture.

Continue to the **Todra Gorge** at 984 feet (300 meters) high, featuring stunning red-stained limestones. Here you can enjoy an easy walk through the gorge or relax in the cool shallow water. Just before reaching **Erfoud**, you'll start to get glimpses of the ever-shifting Saharan dunes.

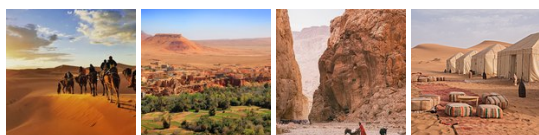
Erfoud is a bustling market town known for its annual **Date Festival**, fossil mining, and artisan factories. While en route, enjoy views of the hillside mines before visiting a local artisan collective to learn about the area's fossils. Watch the full process of how the fossil-rich rock transforms into beautiful objects, like tables, plates, and bowls.

Next, you'll make your way to the town of **Rissani**, entering through its impressive gate. Known for its livestock auction, spend some time observing the donkey "parking lot" and walking around the town's popular market. **Maison Tuareg** is a storehouse filled with traditional arts and crafts, including carpets, jewelry, leather goods, and more.

As you continue, you'll soon see the ever-changing sand waves of **Erg Chebbi** in the distance. Erg Chebbi is an extensive set of dunes covering almost 14 square miles (35 sq km), with some peaks rising over 650 feet (200 m). The color and shape change depending on the time of day and the wind, which is especially enriching just before sunset. Although not as vast, these dunes are much taller than those found in Zagora.

Upon arrival near Merzouga, enjoy a short break as you prepare for a camel ride through the dunes, reaching your luxury camp just before sunset. After settling into your tent, climb up the nearest dune to watch the sunset display its color show across the sands. Head back to camp for dinner and a night by the campfire, enjoying traditional Berber music from the locals. Before climbing into bed, savor the stars strewn across the unhindered night sky.

Although we recommend the atmosphere of the desert tents, everyone has their own preferences. If modern comfort is more your style, you can always opt for a comfortable hotel or auberge in Merzouga. In the morning, transform into an early riser (if you're not one already) for an exceptional Saharan sunrise!





Private

You will meet your camels and trek into the heart of the dunes to your camp for the night.



Riad Madu Desert Camps

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Merzouga

Apr 26, 2028



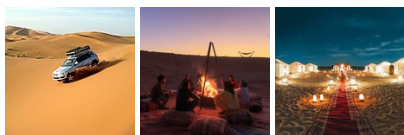
Guided 4x4 Desert Adventures in Erg Chebbi

Private · 3h

Explore the vastness of **Erg Chebbi** and learn more about this surreal landscape. Chebbi is one of Morocco's many *ergs*, large expanses of dunes and tall peaks formed by wind-blown sand. This particular erg stretches over 17 miles (28 km) from north to south, with some peaks reaching nearly 500 feet (150 m). There's much to see and do on Erg Chebbi!

You'll start with a private tour through the dunes in a Jeep, discovering hidden landscape secrets with your guide. As you dip into valleys and conquer hills, you'll learn about the region's history and cultural influences. Your first break will be with a local nomadic family that calls the dunes home.

Next, head to the village of **Khamleya** to visit the home of a Gnawa family, an ethnic group living in Morocco. You'll listen to spiritual healing music, traditionally practiced throughout the country and originating here in the sub-Saharan region. Gnaoua music is spiritual music at its roots, although popular *maâlems* (master musicians) have made it quite mainstream. Watch a maâlem group of musicians and dancers perform their repetitive yet lively beats.

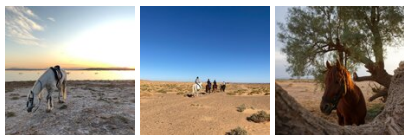


Half-Day Horseback Ride Tour to the Lake in Merzouga

Small group · 3h 30m

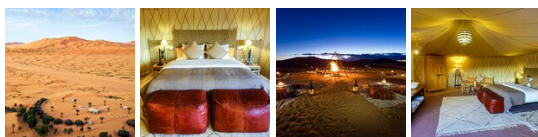
Enjoy a half-day tour that leads you to the enchanting Dayet Srji Lake. You'll commence your journey from the stables, riding past Merzouga towards the lake. Dayet Srji, a salt lake sustained by rain from the Atlas Mountains, welcomes you with a stunning sight of resting flamingos when full. You'll admire this natural spectacle from a respectful distance. Periodically, Dayet Srji dries up, transforming into a stony desert for months. Yet, this landscape holds a unique charm: a serene green forest, a dry riverbed, vast expanses, and the distant Atlas Mountains, offering a breathtaking panorama throughout the year.

Your picnic by the lake concludes your visit before you return to the stables.



Riad Madu Desert Camps

Hassilabied



Optional Activity

Your specialist has selected this for you to consider.



1-Hour Quad Excursion in the Sahara Desert

Small group · 1h

A 1-hour quad excursion in the Merzouga Sahara desert typically involves an exhilarating ride through the dunes. You'll experience the thrill of driving over sandy terrain, often with a guide leading the way to ensure safety and show you the best routes. The landscape around Merzouga is stunning, with vast expanses of golden sand dunes that stretch as far as the eye can see. During your excursion, you might have opportunities to stop for photos, take in panoramic views of the desert, and perhaps even catch sight of local wildlife adapted to this harsh environment. It's a brief but exciting adventure that gives you a taste of the Sahara's unique beauty and the thrill of off-road driving.



Merzouga to Fes

Apr 27, 2028



Merzouga to Fes via Rissani, Midelt, & the Atlas Mountains

7h 30m

Enjoy a comfortable private transfer from **Merzouga** to your accommodation in **Fes**, which takes about seven and a half hours. Start early, as your driver will stop at a few cultural spots as you savor the vast and extensive views across a unique landscape. Enjoy the desert plains, high mountains, and endless plateaus.

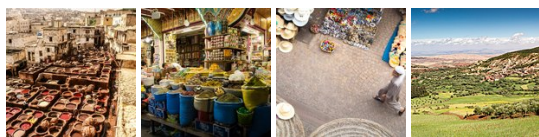
Your first stop is the town of **Rissani**, entering through its impressive gate. Known for its livestock auction, spend some time observing the donkey "parking lot" and walking around the town's popular market. **Maison Tuareg** is a storehouse filled with traditional arts and crafts, including carpets, jewelry, leather goods, and more.

Next, visit **Erfoud**, a bustling market town known for its annual **Date Festival**, fossil mining, and artisan factories. While en route, enjoy views of the hillside mines before visiting a local artisan collective to learn about the area's fossils. Watch the full process of how the fossil-rich rock transforms into beautiful objects.

Continue over the **Tizi n'Talrhemt Pass** and into the **Ziz Valley**, famous for its hidden oases and palm tree clusters. Along the road, you'll see many fortified houses known as *ksars*. Merchants built these homes to protect precious products and items such as gold, salt, and spices. Stop for lunch in **Midelt**, known as the "Apple City," thanks to the nearby Moulouya River and its surrounding fruit orchards.

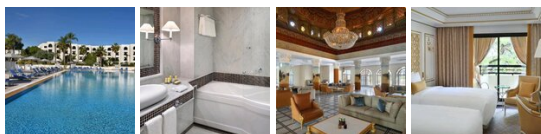
Next, you'll climb an elevation of 7,146 feet (2,178 m) over the **Col du Zad Pass**. Enjoy the scenery as you twist through the cedar forests of the **Atlas Mountains**. Keep your eyes peeled for the local Barbary macaque monkeys that socialize in the trees!

You'll arrive in Fes late in the afternoon. After settling into your accommodation, head out to explore the city. Start at the **Marinid Tombs**, where you can enjoy a lovely panorama of the old city. On the hillside below, you may see leather drying in the sun. Then make your way into the bustling **Medina** and enjoy navigating Fes' charming streets.



Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace

Avenue Ahmed Chaouki



Fes

Apr 28, 2028



Fes Discovery

Private · 6h

Today, it's time to explore the city that has more than 12 centuries of history!

Discover Fes, the vibrant and religious capital of Morocco and the country's oldest imperial city with your local guide.

The entire fortified Medina (old town) in Fes is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the most complete in the Arab world.

Start your guided tour with panoramic views of the city, from either the South Borj or the North Borj (old military towers). Then make your way into Fes el Jedid (meaning New Fes), built in the 13th century when the Marinid Dynasty came to power. Here you will visit the Royal Palace and admire its intricate doors. Stroll through the Mellah (old Jewish quarter and cemetery) and enjoy another panoramic view of the city.

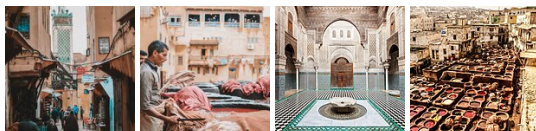
Afterward, enjoy time wandering the maze-like cobbled streets of Fes el Bali's Medina (meaning Old Fes). Founded in the 8th century, much of its architecture was influenced by refugees from southern Spain and Tunisia. Don't miss the 14th-century Al Attarine Madrasa or Bou Inania Madrasa, exquisite examples of Moroccan architecture. Both institutions feature intricate zellij tilework contrasted with dark cedarwood.

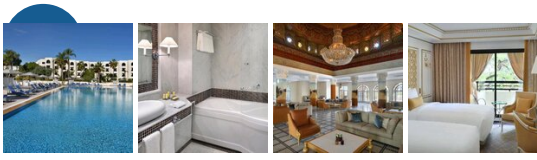
Next, you'll head to one of the oldest still-operating universities in the world, Al-Qarawiyyin University (founded in 859 CE), next to the Al-Qarawiyyin Mosque. Though the mosque is only open to Muslims, there are a few places where you can view its decorated interior. Next, you'll stop at Nejjarine Museum, a historic inn-turned-museum featuring artisan crafts like wood carving and ceramics.

Spend a good chunk of time perusing the iconic souks (markets) for various spices, vegetables, leather goods, ceramics, pewter, shoes, scarves, medicines, and more. Many are concentrated together, and you're bound to see artisans at work in their small shops. Enjoy colorful rugs stacked atop one another and mounds of spices. Grab some culinary delicacies and dried fruit, or search for the perfect ceramic.

While in the Medina, we can't miss the famed Chouara Tannery, which still implements traditional techniques from centuries ago. You can find a local leather shop for a rooftop view (by offering a small tip) to watch the masters at work. A visit in the Zawiya of Moulay Idris won't be missed!

The best way to end your day exploring Fes is by watching the sunset from the Marinid Tombs or at one of the aforementioned towers. These viewpoints offer fantastic views of this dynamic city and its timeless roots.





Fes to Chefchaouen

Apr 29, 2028



Fes to Chefchaouen via Meknes & Volubilis

4h 30m

Enjoy a comfortable private transfer from **Fes** to your accommodation in the "Blue City" of **Chefchaouen**, which takes about four and a half hours. Along the way, your driver will stop in the imperial city of **Meknes** and the Roman ruins at **Volubilis**. To make the most out of your morning, enjoy one final panoramic view of Fes from the **Marinid Tombs** before leaving the city.

Your first stop is in Meknes, the imperial city of Moulay Ismail. Under Moulay Ismail's reign (1672–1727 CE), Meknes grew from a small town to a magnificent capital. Enjoy strolling through the compact **Medina**, which is less busy than other cities and offers a more laid-back atmosphere. Other than the scattered souks (markets), you can visit the Marinid-era architecture at the 14th-century **Medersa Bou Inania** and the impressive 19th-century palace of **Dar Jamaï**.

In the **Ville Impériale** area, explore gardens, palaces, the impressive gate of **Bab al-Mansour**, the **Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail**, and the **Royal Stables**.

Next, continue to Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site containing Morocco's best-preserved Roman ruins. Wander through the massive complex, exploring large merchant homes with visible heating systems, temples, and many colorful mosaics. This town was one of the most remote parts of the Roman Empire, with the Romans ruling about 200 years and leaving in 285 CE. The people of Volubilis exported wheat for the rest of the empire. In addition, they sent many wild animals (lions, bears, elephants) to the capital for feasts, celebrations, and sacrifices, sadly wiping out much of the population.

As you leave Volubilis behind and head toward Chefchaouen, enjoy the scenic 3-hour drive through flat plains, forested hills, and small villages in the **Rif Mountains**. After settling into your accommodation, head out to explore Chefchaouen, or simply "chaoeun," as the locals call it. Twist through the city's **Medina** and its winding maze of picturesque streets while appreciating the relaxed atmosphere.

Beautifully perched beneath the raw peaks of the Rif, Chefchaouen is one of the prettiest towns in Morocco, an artsy, blue-washed mountain village that feels like its own world. It was founded in 1471 by Idrissid *shorfa*, descendants of the Prophet Mohammed, as a stronghold in the fight against the Portuguese. Chefchaouen, esteemed as a holy town, has eight mosques and several zaouias and marabouts.

Chefchaouen was originally founded as a base for Riffian Berber tribes to launch attacks on the Portuguese in Ceuta. However, the town expanded with the arrival of Muslim and Jewish refugees from Granada in 1494, who built the whitewashed houses, with tiny balconies, tiled roofs, and patios (often with a citrus tree in the center). This history gives the town its distinctive Spanish flavor.

The old medina is a delight of Moroccan and Andalucian influence with red-tiled roofs, bright-blue buildings, and narrow lanes converging on busy **Plaza Uta el-Hammam** and its restored kasbah. The town has rapidly gentrified and offers a range of quality accommodation, good food, activities, and no hassles to speak of, making it a strong alternative to a hectic multicity Moroccan tour. Instead, you can peruse the nearby souks (markets) or head to the **Grand**

Mosque and Kasbah. Although non-Muslims can't enter the mosque, anyone can admire its structure and tour the gardens, museums, and old prison cells of the kasbah.

For an exceptional view of the city, walk past the walls and through its historic gates, making your way toward the **Hotel Atlas**. Then, if you have the time, continue up the path for another 30 minutes to enjoy the sunset from the **Spanish Mosque**.



Guided Tour of Volubilis

Private

Explore the ancient Roman ruins of **Volubilis** with a local guide, discovering its striking public buildings, wealthy residential houses, and well-preserved mosaic floors. Walk through the streets of this once-grand settlement, which dates back to the 3rd century B.C. and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Learn about the site's history as an Amazigh city and its significance in establishing the first dynasty of the Kingdom of Morocco.



Guided tour of Meknes

Private · 2h

Visit the lesser-known, but the very interesting imperial city of **Meknes**. Your guide will take you through the city and explain the history and architecture of the city. Your visit will begin by entering the old medina through the interesting gate of Bab Mansour, which incorporates marble pillars that were moved from the Roman ruins of Volubilis. Once inside the medina, you will visit the tomb of Sultan Moulay Ismail. It was under this eccentric ruler's reign from 1672 to 1727 that Meknes served its time as the capital of Morocco. You will also visit the impressive Agdal reservoir and Heri es-Souani, a former granary and stable that lay alongside the reservoir and which once housed 12,000 horses and learn about the vast underground prison and tunnel system beneath the city.



Dar Jasmine

Route Ras El Maa



Optional Activity

Your specialist has selected this for you to consider.



Self-Guided Exploration of the "Blue City" Chefchaouen

Self guided

Discover the sites, streets, and monuments of Morocco's famed "Blue City," **Chefchaouen**, or

simply “chaoeun,” as the locals call it. Its name translates to “two horns,” referencing the town's two mountain peaks. As you twist through the winding maze of picturesque streets, you’ll notice quite a difference from the Medinas of Fes and Marrakech. Despite its popularity with tourists, Chefchaouen retains a much more relaxed atmosphere and is home to some of the friendliest people in Morocco.

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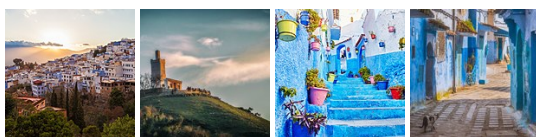
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Next, head to the **Grand Mosque and Kasbah**. Although non-Muslims can't enter the mosque, anyone can admire its structure and tour the gardens, museums, and old prison cells of the kasbah. At the Kasbah (old fortification), enjoy walking through a garden, museum, and some of the old prison cells used during Spanish rule. Then, get an amazing view of Chefchaouen from the roof!

Then, wander into the **Quartier Al Andalous**. This district is reached from the northwestern corner of Plaza Uta el-Hammam, leaving the *fondouk* on the left. The Quartier Al-Andalus received the second wave of immigrants, and here, the houses, painted white, green, or blue. Notice the decorated doors and wrought-iron railings at some of the windows. They follow the steep gradient of the terrain, which makes for many exterior stairways and entrances at various levels.

End the day at **Ras el Ma Spring**, the town's primary water source, where some families wash their clothes in the river. Take a break at one of the quaint riverside cafes for a traditional cup of tea. Then, for an exceptional view of the city, walk past the walls and through its historic gates, making your way toward the **Hotel Atlas**. Then, if you have the time, continue up the path for another 30 minutes to enjoy the sunset from the **Spanish Mosque**.



Chefchaouen

Apr 30, 2028



Morning Guided Tour in Chefchaouen

Private · 2h

You have a two-hour guided walking visit. Your guide will meet you to start an exploration of the quaint blue-washed medina of Chefchaouen on foot. Wander the winding alleys of the medina and discover some of the local artisans, such as the weavers. You can find the traditional blue, white, and red-striped Rif blankets worn by the women of the Rif, as well as soft wool and silk blankets woven on traditional looms. You will visit the 18th-century Kasbah, and the cobbled main square, Plaza Uta el-Hammam, where the striking 15th-century Grand Mosque sits. During the visit, you'll stop to have traditional tea.



Dar Jasmine

Route Ras El Maa



Chefchaouen to Rabat

May 1, 2028



Chefchaouen to Rabat

Private transfer · 4h 30m

Heading west to the imperial city and present-day capital of Rabat, a bustling city with several sights and a rich history.

Explore the medieval fortification of the Chellah Necropolis in the heart of Rabat and wander the Roman and Islamic ruins. Step back in time to Rabat's original city center and enter through the grand door of the Kasbah des Oudaias. Mostly a residential area today, quietly wander the peaceful white and blue-washed streets. From there, visit the 20th-century Andalusian Gardens and enjoy the serene space away from the crowds. Discover the Hassan Tower, a minaret of the incomplete mosque and Mausoleum of Mohamed V. A 12th-century project that was abandoned, where all that remains today is the red sandstone tower standing at 145 feet (44 m) and about 200 columns.



Afternoon Guided Tour in Rabat

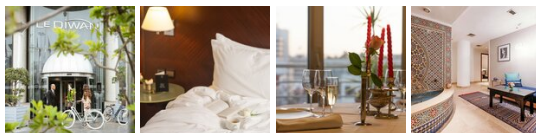
Private · 3h

Get ready for a guided tour to Rabat, the administrative capital of Morocco. This busy political center has a mix of the old and new. Wide, tree-lined boulevards in the Ville Nouvelle contain some of the country's best examples of French colonial architecture. The grand boulevards lead to the narrow bustling alleys of the old walled medina, with its Andalusian influences. Visit the Tour Hassan – remains of the unfinished minaret of a 12th-century mosque, the Mausoleum of Mohamed V – a tribute to the first independent king of Morocco, housing the sarcophagi of King Mohamed V and his sons, Prince Moulay Abdallah and King Hassan II.



Hotel Le Diwan Rabat-MGALLERY

Place de l'Unité Africaine



Rabat to Casablanca

May 2, 2028



Direct Private Transfer from Rabat to Casablanca

Private transfer · 1h 30m

Enjoy a comfortable and private transfer from **Rabat** to your accommodation in **Casablanca**, which takes about one and a half hours. Upon your arrival, take some time to relax before heading out into the city.



Self-Guided Off-The-Beaten-Path Casablanca

Self guided

If you have extra time to spare in **Casablanca**, you can explore some of its not-so-touristy sites. Although the Medina (old town) isn't necessarily a must-see (Casablanca's is only around 200 years old, relatively new than Fes and Marrakech's), you can still enjoy a quick stroll through the markets. But if you're visiting those other cities, you don't need to spend much time in Casablanca's Medina. Instead, explore some of the city's unique history and off-the-beaten-path sites!

Casablanca is the country's most modern city and a conglomeration of stark-white buildings. The present city, known colloquially as "Casa" or "El Beida," was founded in 1912. Straddling east and west, it's the commercial and financial capital of Morocco where tradition and modernity co-exist.

In the 7th century, Casablanca was no more than a small Berber settlement clinging to the slopes of the Anfa Hills. However, for strategic and commercial reasons, it was already attracting the attention of foreign powers. In 1468, the town was won by the Portuguese, who destroyed the city's private ships. In the early 15th century, the port became a haven for pirates and racketeers. Anfa pirates became such a serious threat later in the century that the Portuguese sent 50 ships and 10,000 men to subdue them, leaving Anfa in a state of ruins.

By the mid-1800s, Europe was booming and turned to Morocco for increased supplies of grain and wool. The fertile plains around Casablanca were soon supplying European markets, and agents and traders flocked back to the city. Spanish merchants renamed the city Casablanca, and by the beginning of the 20th century, the French had secured permission to build an artificial harbor.

The city's handsome Moresque buildings, which meld French-colonial design and traditional Moroccan style, are best admired in the downtown area. Visitors who spend time there in the **Quartier Habous** and the beachside suburb of **Ain Diab** will enjoy a blend of local flavors, historic charms, and modern amenities. This old pirate lair continuously looks toward the future, embracing the European-urban sophistication underpinning life here for the past century.

Other recommendations include:

- Explore the **Hobous**, Casablanca's "**New Medina**." Established in the 1930s by the French, Casablanca's new Medina is quite different than its old town. Here, you can walk around the charming streets and admire art deco architecture. Pop into some artisan shops to browse local crafts, including olives, textiles, and spices. As an idealized version of a traditional medina, you'll appreciate the clean streets, attractive Mauresque buildings and arcades, neat rows of shop stalls, and even a small park.

Upon its establishment, the new medina was a unique experiment: a medina built to

Western standards to accommodate the first rural exodus in the 1920s. Though undeniably ersatz, it blends Moroccan architecture with French ideals, and its souq offers excellent opportunities to source souvenirs. The **Royal Palace** (closed to the public) is to the north of the district. To the south, you'll find the old **Mahakma du Pasha** with its more than 60 rooms decorated with sculpted wooden ceilings, stuccowork, wrought-iron railings, and earthenware floors.

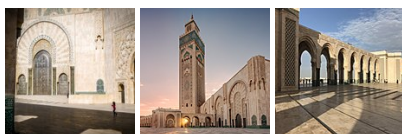
- Visit the **Old Medina**. At the beginning of the 20th century, Casablanca consisted only of the old medina, which comprised no more than a few thousand inhabitants. The walls around the old town were originally pierced by four gates, two of which survive today. **Bab Marrakech** and **Bab el-Jedid**, on the western side, face onto Boulevard Tahar el-Alaoui. A daily market, with jewelers, barbers, public letter-writers, and so on, stretches out along the length of the walls. Opposite the fishing harbor is the *scala*, a fortified bastion built in the 18th century during the reign of Sidi Mohammed ben Abdallah. Behind the bastion is the marabout (shrine) with a double crown of merlons, containing the **Tomb of Sidi Allal el-Kairouani**.
- Stroll the **Beach Promenade**. Casablanca is set on the Atlantic Ocean and offers a scenic promenade, perfect for a leisurely walk. Follow the **Boulevard de la Corniche** between two of the city's beaches. Often called Morocco's "Miami," you'll find several buzzy cafes, restaurants, and bars along this stretch. You can also visit the **El Hank Lighthouse** and enjoy views of the Hassan II Mosque.
- Visit **Rick's Cafe**. If your main reason to tour Casablanca is to follow Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart's footsteps, consider a visit to Rick's Café, which recreates the famous scene in the legendary film!
- Check out the **Clock Tower**: Marking the busiest entrance to the old medina, this clock tower is one of the most recognizable landmarks in downtown Casablanca. The current tower is a 1993 reproduction of the original 1911 structure, which fell into disrepair and was dismantled around 1950.
- Explore the **Notre Dame Church**: A striking example of European modernism, this 1956 Catholic church is notable for its elongated concrete entrance and striking stained-glass windows, which French artist Gabriel Loire designed. It overlooks the Rond-point de l'Europe (aka Mers Sultan Roundabout).



Afternoon Guided Tour in Casablanca

Private · 3h

Meet your guide at the hotel and begin your guided visit to Casablanca. The visit takes you through the city, exploring the Habous area, Place Mohamed V, and some other sights of Casablanca. The drive goes along the coast (Corniche) and then to the Hassan II Mosque, where you can have an external or an internal visit.



Casablanca's Jewish Heritage Visit



Private · 3h

Meet your local guide to begin your guided visit to the Jewish sites in Casablanca. The tour will take you through the city to visit the Temple Beth-El and the Jewish Museum as key places for this guided tour. During your tour, you can also visit the Habous (Jewish quarter), without missing the chance to stop by the iconic Hassan II Mosque.



Evening in Casablanca

Self guided

Spend the evening discovering Casablanca at your leisure. Be sure to enjoy a Moroccan meal at one of the city's fine restaurants, which are some of the best in the country.



Kaan Casablanca

Bd Moulay Hassan I



Transfer to Casablanca International Airport (CMN), Departure

May 3, 2028



Depart Casablanca

Private transfer · 45m

It's time to say goodbye to Morocco today. Your private driver will pick you up from your hotel and transport you to Casablanca airport. Have a safe and comfortable flight home, or to your next destination!



Private driver - End of services

Private Driver

Day 1 - 14 · Thu, Apr 20 - Wed, May 3, 2028 (14 days)

Private Driver Services

Your private driver will be with you for your entire trip.

Start: Apr 20, 2028, Marrakesh Int. Airport (RAK)

End: May 3, 2028, Casablanca International Airport (CMN)

Tell Hakim what you
think

Accommodations

Day 1 - 4 · Check in: Apr 20, 2028, Check out: Apr 23, 2028

Riad Kniza

Riad Kniza, a luxury boutique hotel in the Medina of Marrakesh, offers an authentic Moroccan experience in an 18th-century building. This family-owned gem has been beautifully restored, maintaining its unique character and charm. Perfectly situated in a quiet street within the Medina, you'll be just a short ride from the Koutoubia Minaret and Jemaa el-Fnaa, and within walking distance to the Almoravid Koubba and Ben Youssef Mosque.

Check in: 12:00 pm or later

Check out: 12:00 pm



Day 4 - 5 · Check in: Apr 23, 2028, Check out: Apr 24, 2028

Le Berbère Palace

Built in 1991, Le Berbère Palace opens the doors to the desert and its bewitching landscapes.

Check in: 2:00 pm or later

Check out: 12:00 pm



Day 5 - 6 · Check in: Apr 24, 2028, Check out: Apr 25, 2028

Hotel Xaluca Dades

Xaluca Dades Hotel, perched at over 5,000 feet (1,612 m) against the backdrop of the majestic Atlas mountains, offers a panoramic view of the Dadès Valley, dotted with quaint Berber villages and snowcapped peaks. This hotel is a relaxed oasis in the middle of the mountains, located just a short drive (5 minutes) from the Boumalne Dades Portico, or you can walk there in about 25 minutes. The Boumalne Mosque is even closer, just over 5 minutes on foot from the hotel.

Check in: 12:00 pm or later

Check out: 12:00 pm



Day 6 - 8 · Check in: Apr 25, 2028, Check out: Apr 27, 2028

Riad Madu Desert Camps

Riad Madu Desert Camps are an extension of Riad Madu, a traditional hotel in Hasilabied at the foot of the Erg Chebi sand dunes. You get the best of both worlds: a hotel with amenities and a desert experience—just plan for an hour's journey to get to the camps from the hotel. You can choose how many nights to stay at the riad or in one of the camps, premium or luxury. Either way, opt for meal service to taste the delicious local cuisine and enjoy evenings filled with traditional Berber music, drumming, and dancing under the stars.



Day 8 - 10 · Check in: Apr 27, 2028, Check out: Apr 29, 2028

Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace

Immersing you in stylish luxury, Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace is a welcoming respite for discerning travelers. Unpack your bags in elegantly appointed accommodations enhanced by refined design elements and bathed in natural light. Upgrade your stay in an expansive suite with separate living, dining and sleeping areas. Explore some of Morocco's most celebrated attractions, including Quartier Al-Atlas, the University of Al Quaraouiyine, the Batha Museum, the blue gate of Bab Boujeloud and the Medina of Fez, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Let your productivity soar in sophisticated meeting spaces and venues for events of every size. Delight your palate with diverse international dining and creative cocktails at our hotel's restaurants and bar. After an eventful day of business or sightseeing, refresh in our sparkling outdoor pool or energize in our cutting-edge fitness center. A beacon of luxury, you'll experience an uncommon, remarkable stay at Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace.

Check in: 3:00 pm or later

Check out: 12:00 pm



Day 10 - 12 · Check in: Apr 29, 2028, Check out: May 01, 2028

Dar Jasmine

Dar Jasmine is a peaceful retreat offering a captivating view of the Medina of Chefchaouen. The hotel, a labor of love by owners Yasmina and Monsif, was designed by Kai Interiors and inspired by a romantic legend of love between a local woman and a British airman. This narrative is brought to life through the hotel's decor, executed by local artisans using traditional materials, creating a sense of relaxed luxury with a contemporary twist. The hotel's location within the blue city places you within a 5-minute walk of attractions such as Ras Elma Park and Chefchaouen Waterfall, with the Chefchaouen Kasbah and Plaza Uta el-Hammam slightly faster, about 10 minutes.

Check in: 2:00 pm or later

Check out: 12:00 pm



Day 12 - 13 · Check in: May 01, 2028, Check out: May 02, 2028

Hotel Le Diwan Rabat-MGALLERY

Hotel Le Diwan Rabat-MGALLERY perfectly blends traditional Moroccan charm and modern conveniences. Situated next to a golf course, this hotel is within a 15-minute walk of prominent attractions such as the Mosque and Mausoleum of Mohammed V and Hassan Tower. It's also conveniently located a short distance from the Villa des Arts and the Moroccan Parliament. This hotel's prime location in the downtown center makes it an ideal base for you to explore the city.

Check in: 2:30 pm or later

Check out: 12:00 pm



Day 13 - 14 · Check in: May 02, 2028, Check out: May 03, 2028

Kaan Casablanca



What's Included

Activities

- Apr 21: Explore the Red City and its Main Sights (private group), Food Tour & Local Gastronomy (small group)
- Apr 23: Guided Tour of Aït Benhaddou (private group)
- Apr 25: Boumalne Dades to Merzouga Sunset Camel Ride via Tinerhir & Rissani, Camel Trek to your Camp (private group)
- Apr 26: Guided 4x4 Desert Adventures in Erg Chebbi (private group), Half-Day Horseback Ride Tour to the Lake in Merzouga (small group)
- Apr 27: Merzouga to Fes via Rissani, Midelt, & the Atlas Mountains
- Apr 28: Fes Discovery (private group)
- Apr 29: Fes to Chefchaouen via Meknes & Volubilis, Guided Tour of Volubilis (private group), Guided tour of Meknes (private group)
- Apr 30: Morning Guided Tour in Chefchaouen (private group)
- May 1: Afternoon Guided Tour in Rabat (private group)
- May 2: Afternoon Guided Tour in Casablanca (private group), Casablanca's Jewish Heritage Visit (private group)

Transportation

- Apr 20: Arrival Transfer from Marrakech Airport to Marrakech
- Apr 24: Ouarzazate to Boumalne Dades via the Rose Valley
- May 1: Chefchaouen to Rabat
- May 2: Direct Private Transfer from Rabat to Casablanca
- May 3: Depart Casablanca
- Apr 20 - May 3: Private Driver Services

Accommodations

- Apr 20 - Apr 23: 3 nights stay at Riad Kniza (Marrakesh)
- Apr 23: 1 night stay at Le Berbere Palace (Ouarzazate)
- Apr 24: 1 night stay at Hotel Xaluca Dades (Boumalne Dades)
- Apr 25 - Apr 27: 2 nights stay at Riad Madu Desert Camps (Merzouga)
- Apr 27 - Apr 29: 2 nights stay at Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace (Fes)
- Apr 29 - May 1: 2 nights stay at Dar Jasmine (Chefchaouen)
- May 1: 1 night stay at Hotel Le Diwan Rabat-MGallery (Rabat)

- May 2: 1 night stay at Kaan Casablanca (Casablanca)

Excludes

- International flights
- The meals not mentioned in the trip plan
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance, and repatriation insurance
- Optional excursions, activities, and optional tours
- Reservations marked as "reserved by traveler" are reservations that the traveler is responsible for directly. These items are not reserved or supported by kimkim and are included in the trip plan just for completeness.
- Any charges due at the hotel include local city taxes

Places you will visit

Marrakesh

Apr 20 - Apr 23, 2028 (3 nights)



The colorful oasis city of **Marrakesh** offers up an old town tangle of bazaars with oriental lamps, woven carpets, and scents of spices, alongside Moorish riads and palm trees against colorful surroundings. Make your way through the alleys of the medina, where carpets, ceramics, parchment lamps, and huge spice stalls in all colors are stored up to the roof in the narrow, winding alleyways characterized by stairs and vaults. Visit **Djemaa el Fna**, the central market square. You'll find many food stalls lining its edges by day, and at night it fills with snake charmers, artists, fire-eaters, acrobats, hawkers, herb dealers, trained monkeys, cooks, and musicians. Or find a quiet corner in the historic botanical garden of **Jardin Majorelle**.

Prior kimkim travelers have followed local guides on a food tour through the medina, tasting different local dishes including the famous Marrakechi Tangia. You can also pay a visit to the **ANIMA Gardens**, André Hellers's colorful garden of art. A day trip to the **Agafay Desert** can include a glamping experience and camel ride, or visit **Safran** for a garden tour and saffron tea.

Suggested things to do:

- Take a day trip to the **Atlas Mountains**, where you can explore the rural life of the local Berbers in the village of **Imlil** or the **Ourika Valley** and take a walk in the foothills of the **Toubkal** summit.
- Stroll down **Avenue Mohamed VI**, a shopping promenade with many local shops and restaurants as well as a park that covers more than 5 miles (8 km).
- Scope out the scene at Djemaa al-Fnaa from the terrace of one of the cafes that line its edges.

Ouarzazate

Apr 23 - Apr 24, 2028 (1 night)



Also known as the “Gate to the Desert,” **Ouarzazate** sits at an altitude of more than 3,700 feet (1128 m) between the **High Atlas** and the **Anti-Atlas**. You may recognize its scenery even before you arrive, as it’s a popular filming location and has been featured in *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Gladiator*. Tour the film studios that make their home here, or use it as a starting point for overnight treks into the Atlas Mountains and **Sahara Desert**. The neighboring fortified town of **Aït Ben Haddou** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and also worth a day trip to its nested residential castles (also known as *tighremts*).

Previous kimkim travelers have trekked from Ouarzazate to the picturesque village of **Tagdilte** and up to spots like the summit of **Jebel Kouaouch**, the **Tassigdel Plateau**, the Berber village of **Boulouze**, and through the **Afourar** gorges to the **Bab N’Ali** sandstone blocks. Opt for a different trek out to the popular **Valley of the Roses**, including a transfer to **Qelaat Mgouna**, the capital of the valley. A different excursion could take you to the **Fint Oasis** roughly an hour away, where a small village sits in palm-lined oasis in the middle of the desert and you’re more likely to spot a donkey than a car.

Suggested things to do:

- Explore the **Skoura** oasis by bike on a cycling tour dedicated to the discovery of a region famous for its kasbahs, palm oasis, and colorful landscapes.
- Linger in Ouarzazate’s large main square at sunset over a tagine or cup of mint tea while city residents relax nearby.
- Learn about the life of the local Berber people with a visit to the Sunday souk. The market sells various foods and home goods amid the sensations of different sounds and smells.

Boumalne Dades

Apr 24 - Apr 25, 2028 (1 night)



A view over the oases near Tinerhir

Sitting south of the **Atlas Mountains**, the desert **Dades Valley** is home to some of the most beautiful landscapes in Morocco, the **Dades River** winding through a plateau full of almond, fig, apricot, and peach trees, and a serpentine road through the **Dades Gorge**. The oases dotted through the valley have been spots for Berber *kasbahs* for centuries (also giving it its nickname of the **Route des Kasbahs**), and now attract travelers looking for hiking trails alongside cultural and outdoor activities. The **Dades Canyons**, just a few miles from the town of **Boumalne**, wind for 28 miles (45 km) through towering cliffs and dramatic rock formations. Gaze out over them from the lookout point over the **Monkey Fingers** rock formation.

Previous kimkim travelers have experienced the daily life of farmers in the valley, helping feed the animals and accompanying them into the fields. Enjoy a traditional Berber meal with a family in **Ait Oudinar** or take a day trip into the foothills of the **M'goun** summit in the **Rose Valley**. There, you'll visit the village of **Boutaghrar**, only accessible by Jeep, to explore one of the wildest parts of the valley in the company of Berber nomads far away from the main roads.

Suggested things to do:

- Sip a mint tea and take in the views from a cafe patio. The **Timzillite** cafe-restaurant offers some of the best views of the winding road.
- If you're in town on a Wednesday, visit the weekly *souk*, where members of different mountain tribes meet up to buy and sell clothes, goods, vegetables, animals, and more as they catch up for both socializing and business dealings.
- Experience the area on foot with a hike through almond forests, terraced fields, and Berber villages.

Merzouga

Apr 25 - Apr 27, 2028 (2 nights)



A visit to Morocco without a dune hike is unthinkable, and **Merzouga** is close to two of the most imposing dunes in the country. Those dunes sit in nearby **Erg Chebbi** and were formed by wind alone. Many visitors also embark on a camel ride into the desert with an overnight stay in a Berber-style tent, gently rocking through the pink desert from oasis to oasis before you settle in for dinner and music with your guides around a campfire, and then wake early for the desert sunrise. If you're in search of a little more adrenaline, try sandboarding or offroading through the dunes.

Previous kimkim travelers have spent time with nomadic Berber families and met their herds of goats and camels. Opt for a day trip to the lake of **Dayet Sri**, which sits in the middle of a petrification field full of plant and animal fossils and is now home to flocks of flamingos after the winter rains, or embark on a two-day hiking trip with camel drivers and outdoor camping through the dunes.

Suggested things to do:

- Hear spiritual Gnawa music in the desert village of **Khamlia**. The residents of the village are descended from slaves that were trafficked up from sub-Saharan countries like Sudan, Mali, and Niger, and the Gnawa music carries influences from slaves' songs and chants.
- Explore the oases of **Efroud**, full of olive and palm trees alongside *ksars*, fortified local villages where you can have lunch with a family. The area is known for its dates and fossils—visit a workshop to see how the fossils are extracted and turned into beautiful art.
- Sample the nomad dish of *madfouna*, sometimes called “Berber pizza.” It's a stuffed flatbread that can contain a range of meats, nuts, vegetables, and herbs, traditionally baked in a sand firepit or mud oven.

Fes

Apr 27 - Apr 29, 2028 (2 nights)



Get lost in the largest old town in the world in the medina of **Fes**, whose meandering, narrow stone pathways and blue tiles have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1981. Step within its elaborate gates and into specialized sections known as souks, including wood, ceramic, metal, and leather. At the center of the medina, you'll find the **Qarawiyyin Mosque and University**, as well as 14th-century schools, a museum of woodcut art, and more. It's best to follow a guide through the maze to make sure you can learn about all the history surrounding you and cut down on your potential time spent getting lost. The medina here, which is more Arab in origin, sits on a hill and is much more narrow and winding than its Berber cousin in **Marrakech**.

Pay a visit to the tannery and dye works, where leather and hides are still tanned and dyed using medieval methods, and watch the workers among the giant vats. If you prefer something that comes with a more pleasant fragrance, the food in Fes is considered some of the best in Morocco. Previous kimkim travelers have taken a cooking class with local chefs, shopping for ingredients in the souks and then learning how to combine them into a *pastilla* or *tajine*. More of a hands-off person? Enjoy dinner and comradery in the home of a family in the medina.

Suggested things to do:

- Stop in at the **Cafe Clock** cross-cultural space, where you can enjoy food and drinks as well as participate in workshops focusing on Moroccan music, art, and cuisine or stop in for the twice-weekly Storytelling Night.
- Relax in **Jnan Sbail Garden**, a beautiful garden oasis situated in **Fes Jdid** full of greenery and bubbling fountains.
- Escape the bustle of the medina with a trip up **Mount Zalagh**, where you'll get a view of the whole city while surrounded by olive groves and the scent of wild lavender.
- Visit the **Merenid Tombs**. Perched on a hill above the city, these 13th-century tombs are the resting places of royalty from the Merenid Dynasty that controlled present-day Morocco and other parts of North Africa from the mid-13th to the 15th century. In addition to their historic value, they also offer an excellent view over the city.
- Visit a ceramics workshop outside of town and see the craftsmen who make the *zelliges*, the characteristic Moroccan mosaics.

Chefchaouen

Apr 29 - May 1, 2028 (2 nights)



Sunset over Chefchaouen, view from the Spanish Mosque

Find a soothing oasis in this much-photographed blue city in the **Rif Mountains**. Despite its popularity, it's a peaceful spot to take in the details of its Andalusian-Arab influences. Stroll through the steep, pebbled alleyways of the **Old Medina** and central **Outa-el-Hammam** square, visit the 17th-century kasbah and its gardens, or take in the views of the **Tarik-Ben-Ziad Mosque** and its highly artfully decorated octagonal minaret.

When you need to give your camera finger a break, get up close with local cuisine as previous kimkim travelers have on a food tour of the medina with a local guide. You can also opt for a full-day food experience, where you'll start with a traditional breakfast, go shopping in the souk for ingredients for a cooking class, visit a goat cheese cooperative outside the city, and top it off with a traditional dinner with a local family.

Suggested things to do:

- Walk up to the **Spanish Mosque** for a view over the city that's particularly excellent at sunset.
- Explore **Talassemtane National Park**, where you can hike to the village of **Aghram** alongside clear mountain rivers and Barbary macaques.
- Linger at one of the many cafes overlooking the Tarik-Ben-Ziad Mosque.
- Take a day trip out to the **Akchour Waterfalls**, where in addition to the many cascades you can also look for the rock formation known as **God's Bridge**.

Rabat

May 1 - May 2, 2028 (1 night)



Rabat has been the capital of Morocco since 1956 and earned UNESCO World Heritage designation in 2012, but despite its status as the second-largest city in the country, it attracts fewer tourists than its busier siblings to its signature white architecture. Visit the **Kasbah des Oudaïas**, home to the city's oldest mosque and **Musée des Oudaïas** handicrafts museum, or the city's main landmark, the **Hassan Tower**. This minaret has sat unfinished for centuries since Abu Yusuf Yaqub al-Mansur began the project in 1195, with the intent to build the largest mosque in the world. However, when the minaret was only half-finished at 140 feet, al-Mansur died in 1199, and the project was abandoned. The **Royal Palace** and **Oudaya Gardens** are worth a visit, as is the snow-white **Saint-Pierre Cathedral**, inaugurated in 1991, and the white marble mausoleum of Mohammed V.

Previous kimkim travelers have learned about the city through its culinary scene on a food tour with a local guide, enjoying anecdotes about the city's history through a variety of samples, or take an excursion to **Les Jardins Exotiques de Rabate**. This vast series of gardens outside the city, shaded by tall palms, was the work of horticulturist Marcel Francois, who brought plant species from sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and South America here to create a showcase of exotic nature. Or, cross the **Bouregreg River** on a motorboat excursion to the **Marina de Salé**, where you can enjoy a walk in its less-touristed medina and see one of the largest mosques in the country.

Suggested things to do:

- Explore the medieval fortification of the **Chellah Necropolis** in the heart of Rabat and wander the Roman and Islamic ruins.
- Shop in the souks or arts and crafts district; Rabat is known for making some of the best carpets in Morocco.
- Delve into history at the **Rabat Archaeology Museum**, home to Morocco's best archaeological collection. The prehistoric section brings together human remains from the middle Paleolithic period to the Neolithic, illustrating the continuity and breadth of the population at this time.
- Go modern at the **Mohammed VI Museum of Contemporary Arts**. A visit to this museum makes a lovely contrast to exploring the traditional artisan work for which Morocco is famous and shows the contemporary side of the country's artistic expressions.

Casablanca

May 2 - May 3, 2028 (1 night)



Though a while has passed since the film of the same name was shot, **Casablanca** the city still has plenty going on. The main draw is the **Hassan II Mosque**, which holds status as the fifth-largest Muslim place of worship in the world. It's one of the rare mosques open to non-Muslims, so all visitors go inside to experience the intricate decor and craftsmanship that went into its creation. Elsewhere in the city, the fountain plaza of **Place Mohammed V** is one of the most beautiful squares in the city, adjoining the skyscraper-lined **Avenue de l'Armée Royale** and **Sacré-Coeur Cathedral** cultural complex. Stroll around the port, then hit the beach promenade of **La Corniche** for a dip during the day or dance at night.

Previous kimkim travelers have strolled the **Old Medina's** colorful tangle of textiles, lamps, ceramics, and art, oriented by the views of the minarets. In the **Habous** district, you can find the **Mahkama du Pasha** (Pascha's Palace), a government building from the '50s with lavishly decorated rooms, wood carvings, and Moorish architecture still in use today.

Suggested things to do:

- Visit the **Museum of Moroccan Judaism**, the first museum in the city of Casablanca and the only Jewish museum in the Arab world.
- Take a day trip to **Rabat** to admire the architecture of the **Mausoleum of Mohammed V** and UNESCO-certified **Kasbah des Udayas**. Or scope out a former Formula 1 circuit in the town of **Ain Diab**.
- Wander through the **Villa des Arts**, one of the city's largest museums, and the nearby **Parc de la Ligue Arabe**.

About your local specialist



Orion Trek Voyages is the partner you seek for the organization of your journey to Morocco; from the cultural and historical to the active and adventurous. We design tailor-made holidays for individuals, small groups and families providing full ground support and services. Our office is based in Agadir and we have a network of partners throughout the country to provide high-quality services and support to all our clients. Since 1998, we have been organizing journeys for visitors from the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Australia, South Africa, Canada and the USA.

We have a dynamic and competent team who can support all your needs from arrival through to departure and our reservations and support staff (English and French-speaking) provide on-the-ground assistance and follow-up.

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Last but not least, please note that we don't offer the visa service, and we do not have a local system to check it for our travelers. Every traveler to be held responsible to check any updates regarding the visa arrangements and requirements of the trip.



Hakim

Based in Agadir



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