



## IMPERIAL CITIES TOUR AND MERZOUGA DESERT

### Overview

An extended 10-day round trip from Marrakech exploring the Imperial cities of Morocco (Marrakech, Casablanca, Rabat, Meknes and Fes) and exploring traditional towns & villages, valleys, mountains and sightseeing on route including a desert experience at Merzouga.

**Prices** from 800 Euros/person

#### **Includes:**

Airport and hotel transfers  
Private Transport  
4\* Accommodation  
Breakfast and Dinner  
Activities

#### **Excludes:**

Lunch  
Alcohol beverages and soft drinks  
Tipping

### Day 1-2 (Marrakech and High Atlas Mountains)

A guided city tours allows you to visit the famous landmarks of the city which include historical architectural landmarks including mosques, tombs and palaces. Horse carriage rides are popular means to explore the city. There are ample street side cafés to enjoy traditional food and drinks. The day and evening provide an opportunity to explore the Medina where you find the souks of spices, food, cloths and other traditional goods. Jemaa el Fnaa square is lively and vibrant in the evenings; blended with music, snake charmers, fortune tellers and great places to sit and relax. Accommodation for both nights is provided in a traditional Moroccan home known as a Riad, close to the medina of the city. Also, a day out to the Atlas Mountains can be incorporated during your stay in Marrakech.

### Day 3 (Casablanca and Rabat)

An early start from Marrakech takes you north towards the Casablanca, a city built on the coastline of the Atlantic Ocean. You be guided through the city to discover the monuments such as the Hassan II mosque, Mohammad V Square and the medina walls of the city. The corniche provides an ideal location for lunch and enjoying the sea view. One can't forget the memorable quote from the classic film 'Casablanca' (1942), as Ilsa walks into Rick's bar, his voice echoes:

*'Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine'*

After a leisurely lunch, the tour heads toward the capital city of Rabat. Here there is a chance to visit the Mausoleum of Mohammed V and Kasbah of the Udayas perched above the rugged Atlantic coastline. Dinner is provided in the evening prior to your relaxation time in your hotel.

### Day 4 (Volubilis / Meknes / Fes)

The trip takes you east towards the interior of the country. First stop will take you to explore the famous heritage sighting of the largest and best-preserved Berber and Roman ruins of Volubilis.

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The site provides an understanding of ancient Berber lives and evidence of Roman inhabitants in this region. Subsequently the historical trail takes you to grand tour of the Imperial cities of Meknes. The city which flourished under Islamic rule and you will discover the richness of the Islamic architecture and its history. After a day of sightseeing and excursion, you will travel Fes for your overnight stay and dinner

### **Day 5 (Fes)**

From a distance as you oversee the city from the surrounding hills, the old city (medina) of Fes is enclosed with the city walls. To date, the whole medina is separated from the modern part of the city. The introduction of the religion of the Islam in North Africa brought richness in culture and architecture design which is evident in Fes. Visits include the Medersa Bou Inania, the most beautiful of Meremides monuments and the El Karaounine Mosque & University. Also, further visits are made to the Nejjarine Square with its 18th Century fountain and the residence of the King.

### **Day 6 (Ifra / Errachidia)**

Travelling south-east and leaving Fes behind, the first stop is made in Ifrane, also referred to as the 'Lion City'. As you pass the city and move towards the south, you enter the Middle Atlas landscape with is covered with the Cedar trees. Breaks are taken throughout day which includes a stop at Midelt. After mid-day lunch, the journey continues towards Erfoud for your overnight stay.

### **Day 7 (Merzouga desert)**

Arriving in the late morning to the desert region of Merzouga provides an opportunity to relax at the hotel's facilities and enjoy the scenic views of the sand dunes. Additionally, refreshments and lunch are provided during the day. Before the sunset, you will travel towards the sand dunes by camel or 4x4 drive. As the sunsets in the distance, you will reach your authentic Berber tents in the desert. Your evening will be filled with a dinner banquet, campfire relaxation and traditional music.

### **Day 8 (Merzouga desert)**

As you leave the glorious beauty of the desert behind you, the journey takes you west towards the famous Todra Gorge. The landscape begins to change as you move towards the open countryside. Nomadic lives of the people in this region are evident and there is a chance to observe the lives of these travellers. The destination of the day will be the Dades valley.

### **Day 9 & 10 Ouarzazate / Ait Ben Haddou / Marrakech**

The well-known 'Hollywood in the Desert' of Ouarzazate gives you the insight of scene making of many famous films. The ancient Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site is worthy of a visit. Driving over the 2,260m 'Tizi n' Tichka Pass and then making a drop down to the plains brings you to the end of your journey arriving in Marrakech by late afternoon. Your arrival to the city will include your transfer to the airport or your hotel.

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