

EXOTIC MOROCCO



**WILDLAND
ADVENTURES**

**AUTHENTIC WORLDWIDE
EXPLORATIONS**

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Itinerary Overview

Travel in Morocco following ancient caravan routes of the Magreb. You delve deep into the exotic culture and diverse landscapes from the walled Imperial Cities seemingly suspended in time, through scenic high-Atlas Mountain passes and cliff-clinging kasbahs, among remarkably well preserved Roman ruins and the shifting dunes of the mighty Sahara. Colorful and vibrant Marrakech and the medieval souk of the Fez medina are introductions to Morocco's rich history. What really makes your Morocco Wildland Adventure extraordinary is our connections in local communities and the gregarious hospitality, flavorful cuisine, and lavish Moorish-style of the boutique accommodations. Our in-depth exploration of the Magreb's history and culture lifts the veil on a society balanced between an enchanting past and a vibrant role in the modern world. This itinerary can easily be adapted as a private custom trip with many options we can suggest according to your time, special interests and style of travel.

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	MEALS	HIGHLIGHTS
1	RABAT	Guesthouse	D	Arrive in Casablanca and transfer to Rabat, or fly from European connection direct to Rabat.
2	FEZ	Fez Riad	BD	Drive Fez, en route visit Meknes, Volubilis, Moulay Idriss.
3	FEZ	Fez Riad	BL	Full day walking tour of Fez's souks, madrassa, Moulay Idriss II Memorial.
4	ERFOUD	Kasbah Hotel	BLD	Drive over Middle Atlas Mountains. Ziz Valley village visit and lunch in family home.
5	SAHARA DESERT	Deluxe Desert Camp (or optional hotel)	BD	Erg Chebbi Dunes and Sahara camel ride at sunset from deluxe desert camp.
6	VALLEY OF A THOUSAND KASBAHS	Jardins de Skoura or Dades Kasbah	BD	Sunrise camel ride. Drive through Valley of the Kasbahs, walk in Ksar of Tinjedad, local village and farmlands.
7	MARRAKECH	Marrakech Riad	BD	Drive Marrakech over Tiz n'Ticha pass. En route visit Ait Benhaddou.
8	MARRAKECH	Marrakech Riad	BL	Full day Marrakech tour; Saadian Tombs, Bahaia Palace, Djemma el Fna square and market
9	DEPART		B	Transfer for flight to Casablanca, connect to international departure, or add on trip extension

Itinerary in Detail

DAY 1: RABAT

On arrival in Casablanca, meet your friendly driver-guide and depart for Rabat (or fly direct to Rabat). Time permitting, visit Casablanca's magnificent Hassan II Mosque, heralded as the second largest mosque in the world. Morocco's modern capital of Rabat is the first 'Imperial City' on our Wildland Adventure. It's the official residence of King Mohammed VI and home to the Mohammed V Mausoleum, as well as the remains of the Hassan Tower built in 1196 ACE, which provide an excellent introduction to Moroccan history. Enjoy your first glimpse of Moroccan culture during a short walk through the narrow passageways of the Oudayas Kasbah, admiring the decorative doors and immersed in the sights and sounds of daily Moroccan life. Overnight **local Rabat guesthouse**. [D] (Drive 2 hrs)

Note: Your sightseeing itinerary en route to Rabat is tailored to your international flight arrival time in Casablanca. Direct flights from Europe to Rabat eliminate the 2.5 hour transfer to Casablanca.



Front door of a local home in Oudayas Kasbah quarters.

DAY 2: MEKNES – VOLUBILIS – FEZ

Head east to the next 'Imperial City' of Meknes. With its famous gate of Bab El Mansour, the impressive Dar Jamai Palace, the Royal Stables, and the tomb of Moulay Ismail; this lesser-visited city is worthy of a dedicated visit because the brutal and ambitious sultan turned Meknes into a royal city, aiming at challenging Versailles with enormous palace grounds. Due north lies Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Morocco's largest and best-preserved Roman ruins of colonnaded streets, buildings, and elaborate mosaics. Off in a short distance stop to absorb the beauty and special ambiance of the cobbled streets of Moulay Idriss -- a sacred city named after fourth generation and sainted descendant of Mohamed, the founder of Islam in Morocco and founder of the city of Fez -- your final 'Imperial City' where a scrumptious Moroccan feast is served. Overnight **local Fez riad**. [BD] (Drive 3 hrs)



Enjoy a diverse array of Moroccan specialties in cafes, restaurants and local homes.

DAY 3: FEZ

The mesmerizing call to dawn prayer begins slowly and builds to a crescendo as each of a hundred minarets joins the chorus, a sound integral to Fez and one that has echoed each morning through this exquisite walled city for over 1400 years. The former capital of Morocco, Fez remains Morocco's leading intellectual and religious center as well as a fascinating cultural hub. Meet your private specialist guide to discuss the options of what you'd like to see and do most: walk through the bustling medina with proposed visits to a tannery, wool souk (market), spice shops, and stalls loaded with dates and olives, giving you a thorough immersion into Moroccan mercantile life. As your guide introduces you to local people whose artistic

talents have been passed from generation to generation, you begin to understand the web of traditions that make Moroccan culture so enduring and rich. Walking through the maze of narrow passageways,

you have the chance to visit Qaraouine University, the Madrassa (Quranic school), and the Moulay Idriss II memorial, all windows into local life, education, and religion. Lunch in a local restaurant in the medina is an immersion into the world of Moroccan spices, olives, and specialty dishes. For those who have an extra day to explore Fez, we can arrange a cooking session to learn about preparing delicious Moroccan cuisine: whether it be couscous, tagine (meat stew), and traditional Moroccan soup called harira. **Overnight local Fez Riad. [BL]**



The markets in Morocco reflect the ancient culture, traditions and modern daily life.

village introducing you to family farmers of this fertile valley, before you enjoy lunch at his family's humble home. Continue on to the desert and overnight in a **Deluxe Desert Kasbah. [BLD]** (Drive 6 hrs)

DAY 5: SAHARA DESERT ENCAMPMENT

Enjoy a relaxed morning at the hotel for spa, fossil hunting, or free time to walk around the town. In the Holy City of Rissani you visit the Mausoleum of Moulay Ali Sherife, Ksour Abdel Hamid and the Abdel Malik Kasbah before heading into the vast Sahara. As the day cools and the desert colors intensify you hop in 4x4s headed to your desert camp. Accompanied by indigenous Touareg nomads in their famous blue-dyed turbans, you take a short camel ride into the Erg Chebbi, a vast expanse of huge, drifting sand dunes. Touregs are truly masters of their domain: Centuries ago, Touregs turned the deadly Saharan sands into a trading route using their 'ships of the desert' (camels) to transport goods as varied as dates and gold bullion from the Atlantic coast across Africa to Lake Chad. The sunset changes and deepens the hues of this mystical landscape as your surefooted dromedaries transport you back to your deluxe desert encampment for the night.

After a cold drink and a delicious dinner, retire on carpets and pillows around the fire under a vast star-lit desert sky to ponder the imponderable, and to marvel at the comfort of your private well-appointed tent with mattress beds, linens, towels, pillows and Berber rugs



Sunset and sunrise camel rides and hikes in the dunes of the Sahara with local Tuareg guides is real Moroccan adventure.

with en-suite bath including wash basin, mirror, toilet and hot shower facilities. Or, if you prefer not to camp we can arrange for you to stay in a Kasbah hotel on the edge of the desert, in which case you can still enjoy a camel ride at sunset or sunrise. Overnight **Deluxe Desert Encampment** (or Kasbah hotel). **[BD]** (Drive 3 hrs)

DAY 6: VALLEY OF THE KASBAHS TO SKOURA

This is an exciting day from dunes to desert and hikes to villages and Ksar fortresses in the Valley of Kasbahs. Awaken before dawn to saddle your camel for a short ride through the dunes to watch the sun rise over the desert horizon. The true solitude and beauty of the Sahara reveals itself only in such moments. Depart camp in 4x4 for a beautiful day exploring the farms, villages, and traditional homes through the Valley of Kasbahs. In the town of Tinjedad you walk through part of a Ksar, a surreal roofed village of eighty families living in a complex maze of adobe streets and housing, including the small Berber museum of El Khorbat recounting the story of the indigenous tribes of the region. You'll have an opportunity to stretch your legs and get a feeling for daily life on a two to three-hour easy hike in the picturesque irrigated palmerie of the Dades Valley where families tend to their crops. After lunch at a favorite local restaurant our route approaches Klaat Mgouna, where in springtime the valley is filled with the dusky pink of the Damascus rose, their essence prized by the elite of French perfumers. The best activity at the end of the day in our hidden garden oasis is no activity at all! Relax and enjoy this serene environs and lovely room in this restored Berber-style accommodation among the palm plantations and olive groves. Overnight **Jardins de Skoura** or **Dades Kasbah**. **[BD]** (Drive 6 hrs)



The best way to experience the history and daily life in the Valley of the Kasbahs is hiking in palmeries, villages and fields

DAY 7: AIT BEN HADDOU – TELOUET – MARRAKESH



Local village leaders escort us through their communities and into the maze of passageways in old Kasbahs

Arise early for a morning walk to see the start of the day and the colors of the sunrise on the red soils and glowing walls of the kasbahs. Down the road stop at Ait Ben Haddou, once a fortified ksar and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the setting for many desert films including Lawrence of Arabia and more recently, Gladiator with Russell Crow. After a brief exploration of this popular site you walk through to the lesser known and more impressive area of Telouet, center of the former Glaoui family who ruled over the south of Morocco before they were overthrown by the current monarchy. The road to Marrakesh ascends over the High Atlas Mountains on a sinuous route with spectacular views over Tizi-n-Tickka (7,417 ft) -- the highest pass in Morocco. Descending on the other side into the foothills the landscape turns green with

oaks, walnut groves and oleander bushes. Arriving in Marrakesh by afternoon, there's time to explore the narrow streets, shops, and markets before dusk. As the sun sets the Djemaa el-Fna square comes alive

with an array of jugglers, storytellers, snake charmers, musicians, and soothsayers. Mouth-watering aromas waft through the medina from the many rows of open-air food stalls. Enjoy the opportunity to walk around, photograph and be amazed! Dinner and overnight at **local Marrakesh riad**. [BD] (Drive 5 hrs)

DAY 8: MARRAKESH

Prepare for a full-day private guided adventure delving into this distinctly Magrebi city's history and vibrant culture. Marrakesh has for centuries been Morocco's southern capital, competing with Fez not just metaphorically but militarily and religiously too. Posterity has lost many architectural masterpieces through such conflicts. Of those that remain, tour the Palais de la Bahaia which housed Bou Ahmed's four wives, 24 concubines and numerous children, and visit the Saadian Tombs, the royal burial ground of the Saadian dynasty. There is so much to experience in this vibrant city we keep it flexible: based on your time and interest your guide will accompany you walking among the narrow streets and shops of the old city, view the extensive Berber collection of clothing, jewelry, textiles, doors, baskets, and carpets at the Maison Tiskiwin, and/or on a walk through Jardin Majorelle, the extensive gardens of French painter Jacques Majorelle with a collection of plants from five continents. You may want to end your Morocco adventure with an invigorating Moroccan spa (reservation required, not included) or retreat to a rooftop restaurant for a drink and aerial view of the busy market below. Dinner is open for you to select from any number of exquisite Moroccan restaurants your guide can recommend where you can celebrate and reminisce about your adventures. Overnight **local Marrakesh riad**. [BL]



Picking up souvenirs in the Marrakech souk

DAY 9: DEPARTURE OR TRIP EXTENSION

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Casablanca to connect with your return flight home, or extend your Morocco vacation with a few days in the artistic coastal town of Essaouira. [B]

END OF SERVICES

Actual routes and activities may vary. Local trip coordinators reserve the right to change accommodations to similar quality alternatives.

Click here for [current pricing](#).

Click here for [Scheduled Departure Dates](#) or ask about custom itinerary and dates

INCLUDED SERVICES

- All guided tours and excursions
- English-speaking driver-escort throughout
- Airport-hotel transfers and all transport in comfortable A/C vehicle
- Accommodation as indicated
- Meals as indicated [B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner]
- Wildland Adventures travel consultation and pre-departure services

NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- International and local airfare
- Tips for hotel staff and restaurant servers
- Gratuities for driver-guide & local guides
- Optional activities and associated entrance and onsite guide fees
- Drinks, alcoholic beverages, and meals other than listed above
- Personal expenses or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control
- Travel insurance for trip cancellation, medical services, or evacuation

“What I enjoyed the most about the trip were the visits with families and stopping for lunch in the Middle Atlas at the small farms. The planned and unplanned encounters with the people were very meaningful for me and I was overwhelmed with the generosity, kindness and simple joy of everyone we met. I really appreciated the focus on such excellent Moroccan cuisine and the cooking lesson with the family in Zaouia d'Ifrane. I also loved the Sahara and the camel rides...very beautiful! It was nice to have a small group of people on the trip, and made it more enjoyable for me.”

Diana Strangfeld
Morocco Adventure

PRINCIPAL DRIVER-ESCORT



Throughout your Morocco Wildland Adventure you will be accompanied by an English speaking driver-guide who will be your expert driver and escort throughout your trip. They are skilled at immersing guests into local culture and tradition especially craft, music and cuisine, religion, and architecture. These driver-guides have years of experience traveling throughout their native Morocco, often have worked in various jobs in tourism including hotels, or sometimes working for the international film industry for onsite movie productions as drivers, personal liaison, translator, and trip leader with VIP client rosters from around the world. They have a special appreciation for our style of travel sharing their passion and knowledge of Berber culture and history, as well as an openness to discuss aspects of religion, family and rural life. Each driver-guide will personally engage with you to pursue your special interests taking your off the beaten path and deep into the culture of their homeland.

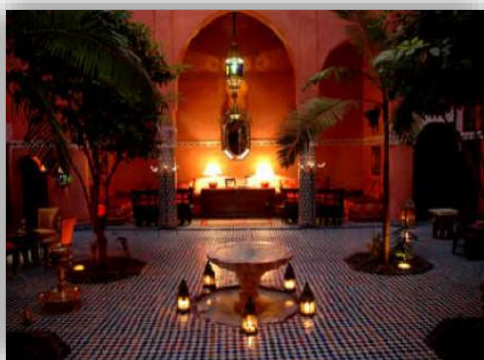
OUR WILD STYLE IN MOROCCO

Our 'Wild Style' of travel in Morocco is based on many years of experience designing Wildland Adventures throughout the Magreb. The design of our itineraries and your experience in the field is facilitated by our close-working relationships with guides, accommodations and outfitters on the ground to avoid the pitfalls of travel in Morocco. We assure you have the most comfortable, safe and authentic experience based on the following 'Wild Style' of travel in Morocco:

- Our gregarious, honest, and informed driver-guides help you get the most out of your trip, especially to facilitate personal connections with locals you meet along the way. They understand that you, as a Wildland traveler, have come to experience the beauty of the landscape, to meet local people, discover Moroccan culture and learn about politics, religion and family life, not just to be lectured on history and architecture, or to spend time shopping (unless you ask to do more).
- Flexibility is the key! On custom trips we'll plan your itinerary to fit your schedule, special interests, level of activity, and your personal style. On all Wildland Adventures in Morocco, once you are there our driver-escorts collaborate with you and the local guides to plan each day and make adjustments to tailor your daily experience as it unfolds.
- We maintain close working relationships with local communities and individuals throughout Morocco who invite you into their homes to experience family life, and who act as your ambassador taking you into villages, fields and markets to meet local farmers, shepherds, merchants, artisans, and students for more in-depth encounters and insights of daily life.
- We combine the popular highlights of Morocco with opportunities to get off the beaten path where you can walk, hike and explore lesser-known places where fewer travelers venture.
- Meals are carefully planned to provide a full culinary experience in a variety of settings from local homes and picnics, to regional cafes, markets and our favorite restaurants specializing in a diverse selection of traditional imperial dishes including some with modern twists to experience the full flavors, aromas and techniques of the Moroccan kitchen. It's too easy to get "tangled" or "cous-coused" out! We also allow time for you to explore and enjoy some meals on your own.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Our portfolio of Moorish-style Moroccan boutique hotels, riads and kasbahs are handpicked to reflect the history, architecture and terroir of the landscape providing travelers a true lifestyle experience of traditional Moroccan hospitality, design and decor. Riads and guesthouses are very small and fill up quickly so we do not publish the names of some preferred accommodations until we confirm your trip in order to protect the work that goes into finding the most stylish and amazing places for you to stay. For each departure we reserve the flexibility to select from a variety of comparable properties that have been carefully selected. If you seek more luxury we also offer luxury Morocco accommodation typically featuring more space, stylish design, and even more professional and personal guest service including lavish spa facilities--they are fabulous! Below are descriptions of properties we use which represent the style and level of accommodation you can expect on our 4* level. We are happy to provide specific names and descriptions of the properties we use after speaking with you about your travel plans. We proceed to confirm specific accommodations upon receipt of your reservation. It's best to book at least 6 months in advance for travel in Sep-Oct and Mar-May for best choices.



FEZ RIADS

There are numerous small former grand mansions, now stylishly renovated into lavish boutique riads full of historic charm and modern amenities. Centered around an interior courtyard with trees and a fountain, room categories typically range from standard double, to a range of suites that accommodate romantic couples or small families. All rooms typically feature TV, mini-bar, and air-conditioning/heating. Services include restaurant serving traditional Moroccan cuisine and international fare, bar, library, wi-fi, laundry, money exchange.



DESERT KASBAHS

On the edge of the Sahara Desert in Erfoud and Rissani our accommodations are restored or newly built kasbah style hotels. They are boutique properties of great character in the architectural style of a stone fortress that was traditionally part of the Arab quarters in which resided the local ruler. Single and double rooms and suites are decorated Moorish style and fully equipped with A/C, heater, sometimes with a private patio or deck. Strategically positioned close to the Erg Chebbi Dunes hotel facilities include a restaurant, bar, swimming pool, laundry service, money exchange.



DELUXE DESERT ENCAMPMENT, ERG CHEBBI

Our deluxe encampment in the dunes of Erg Chebbi is set away from other camps with a view to preserving the serenity of your desert experience. Electricity provides low light in guest tents and the high dining tent festooned with carpets and pillows Moroccan style, or chairs and tables for your comfort. Carpets and pillows are set outside around a fire pit for relaxing under the stars. Spacious Bedouin style private guest tents have twin or double beds on frames above ground with linens and pillows on carpeted floors with a night table. Ensuite bath features sink, mirror, toilet, and hot shower. Food is home cooked and tasty.



MARRAKESH RIADS

Marrakesh riads are charming guest houses located in quiet neighborhoods and side streets throughout the city. Originally a royal palace or home, they have been lovingly renovated in the traditional Hispano-Moresque style of architecture, each retaining many of their authentic features. Rooms and suites are lavishly decorated in their own signature style, typically with table and chair, television, wi-fi, telephone, safe, and hair dryer. Many riads have a refreshing swimming pool and a large courtyard naturally shaded by orange trees, some with views of the Atlas Mountains and the rooftops of the Medina.

Our detailed Portfolio of Preferred Properties in Morocco is available on request

"While traveling with Wildland is to be in touch with nature and local culture, it is also traveling in opulent style, but not ostentatious or pretentious; the riads were unbelievable. In Fes, when we pulled up to the fancy hotel, I was like, oh wow! Then my guide said you're not staying here but in a riad, and proceeded to walk with me down narrow, not-that-well-lit streets to a big brass door. We walked in.....and of course my jaw hit the floor. How unbelievable.....and every place we stayed was of equal grandeur in its own way."

**- Cathy Grey, Moroccan Adventure
TRANSPORTATION IN MOROCCO**



For 2-4 persons we use a 5-seater passenger van such as pictured above with two bucket window seats behind the driver and one bench seat in the back with another bucket seat next to the driver. For over 4 persons we use a 7 seater Sprinter to accommodate 5-6 persons, or we use a 12 seater for up to 10 persons, always allowing for extra space no matter how many persons are traveling together.

CREATE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE

As you travel through Morocco with your private driver-escort, your daily schedule remains fluid in order for you to create your own experience day by day as to local sites you want to visit based on your interests, how you are feeling, and how you want your day to unfold. Each morning your driver-escort will review where you are scheduled to go according to the itinerary, and what your options are to see and do that day. For example, in Marrakesh and Fez, the local guide informs you of all the possibilities providing you enough information about the principal places we most often visit so you can guide him as to how you want to spend your precious time there. For example, much depends on how much time you want to wander and photograph in the souk, if you are interested in any particular trades, crafts or shopping, and which religious, educational, historic or cultural sites interest you most. This is why we have not included nominal entrance fees or specialist on-site guides in a few places so you won't be pre-paying for places you may not want to visit. The total cost for entrance or guide fees at optional site visits not included on this trip are a maximum of \$50 per person if you were to include them all.

Booking your Wildland Adventure

HOW TO RESERVE A TRIP

You can book online using our [Reserve a Trip form](#) or by calling one of our destination-expert Program Directors at 1-800-345-4453. Your space on a trip is confirmed once we receive your reservation form and the initial trip deposit.

Deposit requirement is 20% per person for all trips in Morocco.

*Additional deposits may be required for some trips. It may be necessary to adjust prices up or down 30 days before departure to allow for changes in group size, rooming status or currency fluctuations. Full payment of the remaining trip balance is due 90 days prior to departure. Prior to departure, all travelers are required to sign a [Release of Liability](#)

CUSTOM TRAVEL

This trip isn't exactly what you're looking for? We are happy to customize an itinerary to accommodate your travel dates, interests and style of accommodations. Call us at 1-800-345-4453 or use the Contact a Program Director button on the trip itinerary page on our website.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

If you must cancel before departure, money will be returned less the cancellation fees charged by WA Inc. plus any additional nonrefundable cancellation fees and payments already advanced to airlines, hotels and local operators:

Days Prior to Departure: Fee* per person

91 or more:	\$100
61-90 days:	Initial deposit amount
31-60 days:	50% of land cost
30 or less:	100% of land cost

*Note: Cancellation may result in additional penalties charged by local hotels, operators and airlines, occasionally as much as 100% of the cost.

PRE-DEPARTURE SERVICES

Upon receipt of your deposit and completed reservation form, we will send you a comprehensive Pre-departure Dossier. This contains our exclusive Wildland Adventures Destination Handbooks, country map, immunization information, visa and other permit forms, a trip insurance policy, checklist, reading list, travel gear catalog, cross-cultural information and optional trip extensions. You will receive a final trip packet including Final Reminders and local contact information in your destination 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

QUESTIONS?

Have more questions or concerns? Call us a 1-800-345-4453. We're here to help.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Wildland Adventures, Inc. has arranged your trip utilizing the travel services of local in-country ground operators who are independent contractors. These local outfitters, lodges, hotels and other suppliers of your travel services will make every effort to conduct this trip as described in the itinerary. It is however possible that due to transportation schedule changes, weather, delays and unforeseeable acts of God, humans or nature, this itinerary may vary from what is described. Participants must assume all risks whether identified in advance or unforeseen. All optional activities are at your own risk. Extra costs due to unexpected changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control are not included. We highly recommend purchasing traveler's insurance for trip delay, trip cancellation, baggage, accident or sickness. Representatives are available for assistance at any time during your trip. If preferred hotels are not available, every attempt will be made to reserve alternative accommodations of similar quality. (If upgrade is necessary, higher rates may apply.) All information and services provided are subject to our [Terms and Conditions](#)