



## The Women's Travel Group Morocco with The Sahara April, 2021

*Morocco combines exceptionally exotic sights, customs and people. Our trip touches ancient crossroads from Roman North to Berber Atlas Mountains and ends in the thrilling desert oasis of Saharan Marrakech. We travel in April, when weather is ideal with still snow on the mountains. Some nights are spent in authentic Riads: classic Moroccan homes built around a courtyard and fountain. Other nights are in luxurious hotels with Turkish steam baths and amenities. Special experiences include an optional night in a luxurious Berber tent in the desert. Other options: In Fes, a Hammam (a dedicated Turkish style steam experience, you will be soaped and scrubbed to perfection). We offer a pre tour to the 'Blue City' of Chefchaouen, and a life changing end in Marrakech at the luxury palace, La Mamounia. Join us for an African adventure with markets, minarets, and muezzins. Eat hand picked eats and enjoy daily conversation with our excellent guide.*

**Ask us to arrange your air! We help with insurance! We are a full service company from your first phone call to your last flight home.** Hotel photos are from the hotel's websites.

### **Pre Tour Chefchaouen (the Blue City) \$1060 Single +\$335**

#### ***Tuesday, April 13 Arrive Casablanca***

After clearing government formalities at Casablanca Airport, we will be met and transferred to our hotel **Overnight Hotel Novotel City Center or similar (D)**

***Wednesday, April 14 Casablanca to Chefchaouen*** (4 ¾ hours) Travel to Chefchaouen. Hanging like a crescent from twin mountains, the town is a 15th century relic of Muslim Andalusia. Check in at our Riad. This afternoon our guide takes us on a leisurely walking tour which includes the medina and streets lined with craftsman and their wares. **Overnight at Riad dar Ba Sidi or similar. (BLD)**

***Thursday, April 15 – Chefchaouen – City Sightseeing*** Full day tour of Chefchaouen, also called Chaouen, known for blue-washed buildings of its old town. Founded in 1471 by Moulay Ali Ben Moussa Ben Rached El Alami, Chefchaouen served as a Moorish fortress for exiles from Spain. Over centuries, the city grew and welcomed Jews and Christian converts. Nestled into the Rift Mountains the walls are painted a pale blue. The roofs are covered with brown tiles like those in southern Spain. The alleys climb to little squares crossed by Andalusian arches. Visit "Rass El Ma" a waterfall, located on the top hill where local women gather to wash clothes. **Overnight at Riad dar Ba Sidi or similar. (BD)**



**Friday, April 16- Chefchaouen to Rabat (4 hours)**

Transfer to Rabat to join the group **(B)**

**Main Tour Morocco 2021**

**\$3050 Single: +\$960**

Based on minimum 10 passengers

**Day 1: Friday, April 16 – Arrive Casablanca – Rabat (1 hour)** Upon arrival at Casablanca Airport, we are met and transferred to our hotel in Rabat. This evening a full briefing followed by welcome dinner at the hotel. **Overnight luxurious Le Diwan by M Gallery or similar. (D)**

**Day 2: Saturday, April 17 Rabat.** Morning panoramic city tour of Rabat. Sightseeing of the “Imperial Garden City” begins with the Kasbah of Oudayas, Hassan Tower and walls of the Mechouar surrounding the Royal Palace. **Overnight Le Diwan by M Gallery or similar (BL)**

**Day 3: Sunday, April 18 – Rabat / Fes (approx. 2 ½ hours)** After breakfast we depart for Fes arriving mid afternoon. Check into our hotel. In the late afternoon our guide will take us on an orientation walk **Overnight Riad Gita Palace or similar. (B)**

**Day 4: Monday, April 19 – Fes – City Sightseeing** Full day exploration of Fes: the oldest cultural and spiritual Imperial City in Morocco. Begin with the medina with the many hidden treasures that only inhabitants know. Fes served as the capital of Morocco for more than 350 years and is home to the University of Al Karaouine, the oldest operating university in the world. Our guided tour will take us to the Nejjarine Fountains and Women’s Embroidery Cooperative. Visit the embroidery coop and see women make traditional Fasis designs woven in seamless intricate patterns. Visit countless markets, including food/spice souks and a communal bakery. (OPTIONAL: Luxury hammam experience). **Overnight Riad Gita Palace or similar. (B)**

**Day 5: Tuesday, April 20 – Free Day or OPTIONAL Volubilis / Meknes Tour.** Discover Volubilis, the amazing Roman archaeological site excavated in the early 20th century revealing the Roman Empire’s most remote city. Here admire the beautiful, well-preserved mosaics, as well as different Roman monuments: the capitol and triumphal arch.



Meknes is one of the Imperial Cities as it was built and became prosperous in the 17th century under the rule of a powerful sultan. Moulay Ismail made Meknes a capital with palaces, mosques, fountains, terraces, gardens, stables, and shops. **Overnight Riad Gita Palace or similar (B)** For those who do not opt for this day tour, there is plenty to see, shop and do in Fes.



**Day 6: Wednesday, April 21 – Fes / Ifrane / Azrou / Midelt / Erfoud** (approx. 7 hours) Depart through the Atlas

Mountains, Berber villages and the ski towns of Ifrane and Azrou which look more like Bavaria than Morocco! Continue to Erfoud, with a stop in Midelt and Errachidia. Continue to Erfoud. **Overnight at Xaluca Erfoud or similar. These hotels are at the start of the Sahara Desert and offer many amenities to break your journey. (BD)**

**Day 7: Thursday, April 22 – Erfoud / Rissani / Merzouga** (approx. 2 hours) Enjoy AM at leisure with the many amenities of our hotel in the warmth of the desert. This afternoon travel to Rissani: capital of the Tafilalet where the Alaouite dynasty ancestors are buried. Visit the 17th century Kasbah and imposing ruins of Ksar Abbar. Enjoy the stunning landscape and continue through the gorges to Ifra N Ismikh to meet with nomads herding flocks and living under tents for centuries.

Sit for a picnic lunch and share a glass of tea with nomads. In the afternoon, carry on the adventure at the stunning dunes of Ouzina and its lovely oasis where a semi-nomadic tribe started to settle and farm crops under the shady date trees. Explore the village and drive a pretty dirt road through desert plateaus, acacia trees and mountains to the town of Taous and cover the last leg to our camp where we will enjoy a tour highlight as we set out on a camel ride over the beautiful high sand dunes of the Sahara. In enormous silence we watch the sunset over the desert loping on camels at a slow pace. **OPTIONAL overnight at a deluxe Berber-style camp: Luxury Desert**

**Camp or similar. Those that do not wish to overnight in tents will return to the hotel in Erfoud (Xaluca Erfoud).** Camp staff welcomes us for a unique experience in the Moroccan Sahara Desert. We are accommodated for the night in comfortable tents



with all necessary facilities. A traditional dinner is served with local music. **(BLD)**

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**Day 8: Friday, April 23 – Merzouga/Erfoud/ Todra Gorge / Ouarzazate** (approx. 5 hours) Early in the morning, witness the unique sunrise: watch the pink disc of the sun appearing over the gigantic dunes of Merzouga. Mid-morning departure to Erfoud, before continuing via Tinejdad and Tinghir, on the “Road of 1,000 Kasbahs”. Stop at Todra Gorge – the highest, narrowest gorge in Morocco. We will meet locals and learn about the culture and geography. Continue to Ouarzazate via El Kelaa and M’Gouna. **Overnight at Berbere Palace Hotel or similar. (BD)**



**Day 9: Saturday, April 24 – Ouarzazate / Marrakech (3 ½ hours)**

Morning visit to Kasbah Taourirt, the capital of the local dynasty early 20th century when the French foreign legion built their base here. Travel to Kasbah Ait Benhaddou, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and a backdrop for international movies. This afternoon continue to Marrakech traveling across the Tichka Pass (7,730 ft.). We visit a women’s Argan oil cooperative. **Dinner at the hotel Overnight Hotel Kenzi Menara or similar. (B)**



**Day 10: Sunday, April 25 – Marrakech – City Sightseeing** Today we explore Marrakech “red city of Morocco”. We see all the sites of historical and cultural interest. Begin the tour with the garden and pool of Menara, a famous summer residence of Sultan Abderrahmane. The area is surrounded by orchards and olive groves, some of which are more than 100 years old. View Koutoubia Tower, landmark of the city, then visit the Saadiens Tombs from the 16th century, a necropolis richly decorated and discovered in 1917. Then Bahia Palace built in 19th century, consisting of rooms decorated with stunning paintings and mosaics. This afternoon explore the botanical treasures of Marrakech. Visit famous Majorelle Gardens, designed by French Artist, Jacques Majorelle in 1924, and purchased by Yves St Laurent in 1980. It contains 300 species of plants from 5 continents. Afternoon visit Al Kawtar Women’s Cooperative for handmade linens, clothing. Visit a local pharmacy to learn traditional remedies with quality oils, herbs and spices. This evening visit Jemaa Al Fina Square with its snake charmers and exotic music. **Overnight Hotel Kenzi Menara Palace or similar. (B)**

**Day 11: Monday, April 26 – Marrakech – (Optional Essaouira Tour)**

**OPTIONAL Full day excursion to walled Essaouira on the Atlantic (approx. 2 ½ hour drive each way).** Tour of the medina, the ramparts, the Skala, the marquetry craftsmen carving “Thuja” wood inlaid with ivory; the fishermen’s port, the silver jewelers, the Mellah Jewish quarter, the art galleries and Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdullah museum. Enjoy time by the golden beach before returning to Marrakech late afternoon. The farewell dinner will be at the authentic Moroccan restaurant, DAR YACOUT, including select wines and soft drinks **Overnight Hotel Kenzi Menara Palace or similar . (BD)**

**Day 12 Tuesday, April 27 – Depart Marrakech – Casablanca (2 ½ hours)**

Transfer to Casablanca. **Sightseeing to include** Hassan II Mosque (inside tour) and the medina. Lunch Rick’s Cafe. **Overnight Hotel Novotel City Center (BL)**

**Day 13 Wednesday, April 28 Casablanca/Home**

Transfer to the airport for flights home **(B)**

**Optional luxury post-tour stay – La Mamounia Marrakesh**

**\$1630 Single: +\$1215**

3-days/2-nights – April 27-29, 2021

*La Mamounia Marrakech – A legendary palace that is part of the fabric of Marrakech, its history, colors and traditions. Boasting incredible views of the gardens, the Atlas Mountains*



*and the Koutoubia Mosque, the rooms suites and luxury suites boast elegance of a 5-star palace hotel.*

**Day 12 Tuesday, April 27 Marrakech**

Midday transfer from our hotel to La Mamounia. Indulge in all the hotel has to offer. The spa at La Mamounia offers guests an unforgettable journey into the senses. Hammam, sauna, ghassoul, argan...the stuff that dreams are made of! Walk up the Majorelle blue stairs and follow the dreamy glow of the Oriental lighting. A vast space is devoted to wellness, with massages, body treatments and more. **Overnight La Mamounia (B)**

**Day 13 Wednesday, April 28 Marrakech**

Private guided shopping in the souks

**Overnight La Mamounia (B)**

**Day 14 Thursday, April 29 Marrakech/ Home**

Transfer to the airport in Marrakech for your onward flight. **(B)**

If you prefer, we can arrange an overland transfer to Casablanca Airport



**Included in MAIN TOUR:**

- 12 nights accommodation – as per itinerary outline
- Meals as indicated (12 breakfasts, 3 lunch & 5 dinners)

**Tips for included meals**

- Transportation in private bus  
(10-14 pax = 16-seat minibus / 15+ pax = 27 seat bus)
- Sightseeing w/ entrance fees – as per itinerary
- English speaking national guide at disposal throughout

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Not included:



- Meals not mentioned
- Tours not mentioned
- International Air & Airport taxes
- Insurance
- Tipping/gratuities
- Items of personal nature such as telephone, laundry, beverages
- Any items not listed above:

**Terms and Conditions; please also see our site and booking forms:**

- **Airfares:** Based on current fares and subject to change without notice UNTIL TICKETED. Airfares are based on the current lowest fare, and subject to availability of the applicable class of service. It may be necessary to re-quote a fare at the time of booking, depending on availability. At time of final payment, please check for any applicable increase in taxes and fuel surcharges. Airfares are subject to different rules and cancellation fees. Some airfares may be non-refundable once ticketed. Details will be provided on request. **Insurance:** We strongly recommend Travel Insurance.
- **Visas:** US Passport holders do not require visas for Morocco. Please ensure that your passport is valid for 6 months from return date.
- **Inoculations:** We recommend you contact your personal physician and the CDC.

OPTIONAL – Luxury Desert Camp Upgrade, based on 4 passengers

Land price per person based on double occupancy: \$200 per person Single Room

Supplement: \$200 per person

OPTIONAL – Volubilis & Meknes full day tour, based on minimum 4 passengers

Land price: \$99 per person

OPTIONAL – Essaouira full day tour, based on minimum 4 passengers

Land price: \$99 per person