**Tour Name: MOROCCO DISCIVERY TOUR** 

**Tour Duration:** 12 days / 11 nights

Starting City: Casablanca

(Casablanca - Rabat - Chefchaouen - Fez - Ifrane - Midelt - Erfoud - Merzouga - Ouarzazate - Marakech)

You will like: The Enigmatic Golden Sahara, the Red fiery Marrakech and The Blue Calming

north

### **DAY BY DAY ITINERARY:**

Day 1: Arrival to Casablanca - Transfer to Rabat

Activities: Transfer from Casablanca Airport to Hotel (Rabat)

Overnight in: Rabat.

As you land in Casablanca, our local driver guide will welcome you outside the airport. You willdrive up north to Rabat, capital of Morocco; you will be taken to check-in at your hotel where you will be spending the night.

Day 2: Rabat

Activities: Rabat: Chellah, Kasbah Ouddayas, Mausoleum, Hassan Tower, Royal Palace (Exterior Visit)

Overnight in: Chefchaouen
Meals: Breakfast, Tea break
Local experience: Café Maure

After breakfast at your hotel, join your tour guide for a tour of the capital city of Morocco. Rabat was founded by Abd Al-Mu'min, a ruler of the Almohad dynasty for military reasons. It was built to serve as a fortress, hence its original name Ribatu I-Fath, meaning "stronghold of victory". Our guided tour in Rabat will then revolve around uncovering the history of Rabat. The tour includes a visit to the Royal Palace, Hassan Tower, and Kasbah Ouddaya. Free time afterwards to stroll around the souks and bazaars in the old medina of Rabat which are full or all type of merchandise as well as leather made traditional and modern shoes alongside Moroccan styles bags with some authentic Berber style and old jewelry shops . Then, Continue to "Café Maure "on the bank of river Bouregrag, to enjoy a Moroccan mint tea alongside some Moroccan goodies like: Kaab Ghazal and Ghariba, after your tea break you are free to roam around the medina on your own or head back to your hotel to relax & overnight

The more you know: Kaab Ghazal means in Arabic the hoof of the dear, and along with Ghariba and Mint Tea are symbols of Moroccan hospitality

Day 3: Rabat - Tanger

Activities: Tanger half day city tour

Overnight in: Tanger Meals: Breakfast,

After breakfast at your hotel, join your driver and head to Tangier "the bride of the north" Upon Arrival Tangier is an international post and a melting pot, here the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean sea, Africa meets Europe, Morocco meet Spain, Andalusia meets us. If you take a quick look at Tangier on the map you will find out that it is located on the northern region few miles from Spain, it is on the Maghreb coast at the western entrance to the Strait of Gibraltar. Your guided visit will take you along the beach and continue to what the city is famed for like: including the Kasbah, the **tomb of Ibn Battouta**- a 14th century famous traveler who was born in Tangier, **Teatro Cervantes**, the **Grand Socco**. The American Legation\*, **the Tangier American Legation Museum** with its Paul Bowles Wing dedicated to the writer and composer who lived most of his adult life in Tangier, and **the Kasbah Museum**, the former Sultan's palace deserves to be seen not only for its collection of artifacts from the Phoenician to modern times, but also for the building and garden. Free afternoon to discover what Tangier has to offer; enjoy The Souks of the city and the view and a walk along "Terrasse des paresseux" and the antic Canons.

\*\*Optional Entrances:

American Legation, St Andrew's church.

Day 4: Tanger - Chefchaouen

Activities: Kasbah, Plaza Uta El Hammam,

Overnight in: Chefchaouen

Meals: Breakfast

After breakfast, Join your driver and head to Chefchaouen the blue city, Upon Arrival start your tour which includes a visit to Kasbah Ali Ben Rachid Plaza Uta el-Hammam and a tour of this beautiful city.

Chefchaouen is Morocco's "Blue Pearl". It has come to be known as such due to a distinctive blue color all the inhabitant use to paint their houses .This tradition trace back to the Jewish traditions and beliefs that the color blue represents the sky which in turn reminds people of heaven and God. This color covering the city gives it and amazing charm as well as a sense and an atmosphere of relaxation, comfort and peace. Have you heard of healing pearls and gems? Well this one really works.

Day 5: Chefchaouen - Fez

Activities: Volubilis, Meknes: Lhri

Overnight in: Fez Meals: Breakfast

After breakfast Join your driver at the lobby and head to Fez, The Capital of science and Knowledge. Along the way you will be making a stop by Volubilis and Meknes. The archeological site of Volubilis is listed by the UNESCO as a worldwide heritage. A specialized guide will walk you around the remains of the Roman and Berber cultures that once occupied it. Afterwards, the trip will continue to the Imperial City of Meknes, one of Morocco's lesser-visited. It was built by Moulay Ismail and was conceived to be the 'Versailles of Morocco'.

Day 6: Fez Tour Overnight in: Fez

**Activities:** Boulnania, Attarin Medersa, the tanners, Ess-Seffarine Square, Moulay Driss tomb, El-Nejjarine square, and the cabinet makers' souk, and the Hebrew district 'Mellah'.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

**Local Experience:** Consider trying an optional Pottery workshops

Wake up today in one of the most ancient cities in Morocco. Founded in AD 808 by the Sultan Moulay Idris II, the city's history and position is well Ingrained in the upcoming of the Moroccan Identity and traditions. It was once the Mecca of Science and Knowledge for it had the first University in the world, Al Karaouyine, and it wielded many scholars and intellectuals. It had fertilized the minds and the souls of many over the age, and surely more to come. Its solid and well established position over centuries as a cultural melting pot had provided it with a unique spirit of multi-culturality, tolerance and peace. Therefore, Open up to the city and enjoy what it has to offer.

Along with your tour guide, touch on the cities marking features and uniqueness which you cannot find anywhere else. As you walk in to Fez El Bali ( the ancient town) you are faced with a fork in the road , the right one is "talaa kebira" and the left one is "talaa sghira" and unlike Robert Frost we will travel the road most taken as we follow the footsteps of great women and men who been here. The "Talaa Kbbira" will lead us straight to Bou Inannia Madrassa at the end of the market. This Madrasa served as theological colleges and was built in 1351 with a Merenid Style.

Right in front of Bou Inannia lays one of Fez's mysteries, the Hydraulic clock. It was mainly made to announce prayer times. Continue After it towards the Henna Souk passing by Fon Douk Smen. After souk Hanna you will reach Zawyat Moulay Driss II (the sultan's shrine) and across it is is Medrasa el Attarine and few maters is the Kairaouione mosque university.

While wandering around your mind would not help but wonder about the lost stories, the legends, hopes, and the love stories that once lightened those brick walls, It's the magic of Fez

\*As part of our local experiences we schedule a pottery workshop, we hope you enjoy it
The more you know: each October Fez held one of the largest and well known Sufi festivals with performers from around the
world

Day 7: Fez - Ifrane - Midelt - Erfoud - Merzouga

**Activities:** Witness the Sunset

Overnight in: Merzouga Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Local Experience: Overnight in the desert camp

After breakfast, we will be heading towards Erfoud through Ifran and Midelt. Erfoud will be our gate way to majestic Moroccan Sahara. It is well known among archeologist due to fossil dating back to hundreds of years. Upon arrival, you will head off for a once in a life time Adventure across the barren and sand dunes. Enjoy the beautiful sunset along the way to the camp in Merzouga.

The more you know: Erfoud is well known for "Medfouna" which translate to the buried. It is a Berber calzone filled with meat. Do not mess it!

### Day 8: Merzouga - Ouarzazate

Activities: The Sun Rise, the Todra Gorge, Skoura oases

Meals: Breakfast and dinner Overnight in: Ouarzazate Local experience: Camel Ride

Wake up early to catch the sunrise over the dunes on the back of a camel. Then travel today between Erfoud and Ouarzazate with English speaking driver. En-route, stop in the Todra Gorge, These gorges are located just southwest of Tinerhir and some 110 km (65 miles) from Ouarzazate. After some stunning photos, you will continue the drive to Ouarzazate. Before reaching there, you will make a second stop in Skoura - one of Morocco's beautiful oases. At first glance from the road, it resembles a sort of thin, long, oasis but if you have a chance to explore it, you will notice it is rather large and impressive.

### Day 9: Ouarzazate - Marrakech

Activities: Visit of the Atlas studio, Ait Ben Haddou and Tizi n'Tichka mountain pass

Overnight in: Marrakech.

Meals: Breakfast

After Breakfast, meet your driver guide in front of the hotel because ....

"Lights, Camera, Action!"

"Rolling picture"

"CUT"

Here are some of our favorite catch phrases that maybe we do not get to say. However, today you'll have the chance to visit the Atlas studios home of some of the world's most loved films and series like the Mummy, Gladiator, Asterix and Obelicx and of course "embrace yourself" Game of thrones. So make the best of it. En route enjoy the dramatic Tizi n'Tichka mountain pass and Ait Ben Haddou – the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Once arrival Marrakech, enjoy time at leisure to explore at your own pace or relax at your hotel.

### Day 10: Marrakech tour

Activities: Majorelle Gardens, Menara Gardens, Koutobia, Bahia Palace, Jamaa El Fna Square.

Overnight in: Marrakech. Meals: Breakfast, lunch

Local experience: Consider trying an optional Koutchi Tour (Horse Back Carriage)

Today you will get the chance to wake up and live Marrakech, a dream of many, so be sure to make the best of it. After your breakfast our local guide and driver guide will be waiting for you to start guided city tour of the "Ochre City". We will visit first in the morning the Majorelle Garden which was named after the French painter, Jacques Majorelle who dedicated a lot of effort and passion to this art piece. After Majorelle let's continue after it to Menara and though the name in Arabic translates to "lighthouse", it is actually a pavilion with a basin and a garden of orchards and olive groves. We will be heading afterwards to the Koutobia Mosque and through the Jewish quarter called Mallah. After lunch at a local restaurant, finish your visit with a carriage ride or "Koutchi" to Jamaa El Fnaa.

The more you know: Marrakesh is known for being holy, Moroccans call it "the land of the seven men" who were huge religion and Sufi scholars that gave their lives for knowledge and worship

Day 11: Marrakech - Casablanca Overnight in: Casablanca Meals: Breakfast

Activities: Hassan II Mosque (interior visit), Optional Museum of Moroccan Judaism

After breakfast, you will be picked up, and then travel to Casablanca the economic capital of Morocco. in the road enjoy the natural views which symbolizes the diversity of the natural richness in Morocco when you arrive to Casablanca you will be joined with your local guide for a visit of the Hassan II Mosque then you will explore the city in road to Cathédrale Sacré Coeur, Habous, Museum of Moroccan Judaism, Morocco Mall, La Corniche, will before check in your hotel.

NB: Hassan II Mosque interior visit is only possible outside Prayer times and until 3Pm each day.

## Day 12: Transfer to Casablanca airport

Activities: Transfer to Casablanca airport

Meals: breakfast

Wake up and enjoy a lovely breakfast at your hotel before heading to Casablanca to catch a flight back home.

### **INCLUDES:**

- Accommodation: 11 nights' accommodation with daily breakfast
- Transportation: Private air-conditioned vehicle with English speaking licensed driver.
- **Sightseeing:** Local tour guides as specified in the itinerary: in Rabat, Tangier, Chefchaouen, Fez, Marrakech and Casablanca.
- Monuments: Admission entrance fees as listed in the itinerary.
- Meals: as specified in the itinerary.
- Local Experiences: as specified in the itinerary
- Service charges and local taxes
- Daily Mineral bottled water in the car

### **EXCLUDES:**

- Flight/Accommodation/Sightseeing not listed in the itinerary.
- Passport and visa fee
- Gratuities: tips to guides, drivers, bellboys, etc.
- **Travel Insurance:** Please kindly note that the full coverage travel insurance from your country of origin should be purchased in advance on your own.
- **Personal expenses: Such** as room service, internet charge, laundry, drink, fax, telephone call, optional activities, or any non specified expense in the itinerary.
- Excess Baggage Charges
- Optional activities

# **HOTELS** to be used or similar:

Rabat : Hotel Le Musée - Standard Room 3+ stars Chefchaouen : El Parador - Standard Room 4 stars

**Tangier**: Dar Souran – Standard Room **Fez** Hotel Barcelo - Standard Room 4 stars

Merzouga Xaluca desert camp Standard Camp 4 stars or Kasbah Erfoud

Ouarzazate Dar Chamaa - Standard Room 4 stars Marrakech : Opera Plaza - Standard Room 4 stars Casablanca : Kenzi Basma - Standard Room 4 stars

### Price:

Rate per person IN Single Rooms: USD 2590 per person (Min 2 pax participating in the tour)

Total for this tour: USD 5180