

# TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY FOR Ollami

## ITINERARY

- Day 1: Arrival Casablanca- Overnight Casablanca
- Day 2: Visit of Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca  
Transfer to Rabat- Rabat Sightseeing - Overnight in Rabat
- Day 3: Rabat Chefchaouen
- Day 4: Chefchaouen Sightseeing
- Day 5: Chefchaouen- Fez
- Day 6: Fez Sightseeing
- Day 7: Fez- Meknes & Volubilis- Fez
- Day 8: Fez- Erfoud Via Ifrane & Midelt
- Day 9: Erfoud- Rissani – Merzougua
- Day 10: Merzougua- Skoura
- Day 11: Skour Sightseeing
- Day 12: Skoura- Ouarzazate- Taroudant
- Day 13: Taroudant- Essaouira
- Day 14: Essaouira Sightseeing
- Day 15: Essaouira Marrakech
- Day 16: Marrakech Sightseeing
- Day 17: Marrakech- Excursion Agafay
- Day 18: Marrakech Departure

### ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Morning visit to the iconic Great Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca
- Explore the colorful —Chefchaouen the blue City
- Marvel at the deserted dunes of Merzouga
- Enjoy A Unique Moment In The Desert Of Morocco
- Discover the world famous heritage and UNESCO site of Ait Ben Haddou
- Discovery of the medina through its painters & artists
- Discover The Gorgeous And Preserved Medieval Medina & Souks Of Marrakech
- Insider access to visit a local family at Agafay Desert

### MAP OF YOUR ITINERARY



**Day 1 - 21 May 2020**

**Casablanca Airport to City Hotel Transfer**

**B**

**(30 km/18.6mi – 30 min to 1h depending on the traffic via highway, without stops)**

**MARHABA!!!**

This is the traditional greeting used in Morocco, which conveys the meaning of a warm hello and welcome.

Today your flight arrives into Casablanca. After clearing customs and immigration procedures, you will be met by our representative, who will be waiting for you at the exit after the luggage check and inside the airport; he will be holding a sign with your name. Afterwards, you will be transferred to your hotel, where our representative will assist you with check-in.

The name Casablanca evokes thoughts of good living, romance and adventure in a tropical setting, an image that the 1943 Humphrey Bogart film conveyed to cinema during World War II. Originally settled by Berbers in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, Casablanca's fairly recent growth has made it the bustling, French-influenced business centre of Morocco it is today.

**Overnight at Val D'anfa- Classic Room- BB**

**1 night**

**Day 2- 22 May 2020**

**Casablanca Sightseeing- Rabat**

**B**

**(97 km/60 mi – 1h00 via highway, without stops)**

Today you will depart overland to Rabat. Rabat is the capital of the Kingdom of Morocco and the seat of its government, situated at the mouth of the River Bou Regrag, opposite the city of Sale.

Today, you will embark on a city tour which highlights Rabat's cultural influences and the superbly preserved relics of its Moorish past. The political capital of the Kingdom, it is situated at the mouth of the River Bu Regrag, opposite the city of Sale. It boasts several historical sites flanked by wide avenues and lush parks of oak trees.

Rabat's most famous site is the 12th Century Hassan Tower, an excellent example of the gorgeous Moorish style with its incomplete minaret of the great mosque built by Yacoub al-Mansour.

Located alongside is the mausoleum dedicated to Mohamed V, the founder of modern Morocco and the grandfather of the current king.

You will also pay a visit to the Oudaya Kasbah which is built on a bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Its gate is one of the most beautiful surviving in the Moorish world. Within its walls you'll explore a delightful craft museum housed in a former palace, as

well as an Andalusian garden, complete with melodious fountain and sweet-smelling orange trees.

Beyond the city walls are the remains of the ancient city of Sala, also known as Chella.

Within the Merenid walls of the Chellah are the most hauntingly beautiful ruins in Morocco. Set in a garden of tropical plants is the remains of ancient Roman Sala Colonia and the necropolis of the great Merenid leader, El Hassan. The tomb of the mighty “Black Sultan” lies in a small walled mausoleum alongside his favourite wife, Shams ed Doura. There are crumbling walls, pointing out the slender minaret, which house nests of white storks. Nearby is a small pool shaded with banana trees where women come to feed eggs to the dark eels that live in its depths.

**Overnight at Villa Mandarine- Deluxe Room BB**

**1 night**

**Day 3- 23 May 2020**

**Rabat Sightseeing- Chefchaouen**

**B**

Today, you will depart for also known as Chaouen, is a city in northwest Morocco. It is the chief town of the province of the same name, and is noted for its buildings in shades of blue. Chefchaouen is situated just inland from Tangier and Tétouan.

**Overnight at Riad Lina – Suite BB**

**1 night**

**Day 4- 24 May 2020**

**Chefchaouen Sightseeing**

**B**

Today explore the magical Blu City of Morocco

Chefchaouen is a city in northwest Morocco. It is the chief town of the province of the same name, and is noted for its buildings in shades of blue. Chefchaouen is situated in the Rif Mountains, just inland from Tangier and Tetouan. The city was founded in 1471, as a small fortress which still exists to this day, by Moulay Ali Ben Moussa Ben Rached El Alami (a descendant of Ibn Machich and Idris I, and through them, of the Islamic prophet Muhammad) to fight the Portuguese invasions of northern Morocco. Along with the Ghomara tribes of the region, many Moriscos and Jews settled here after the Spanish Reconquista in medieval times. In 1920, the Spanish seized Chefchaouen to form part of Spanish Morocco. Spanish troops imprisoned Abd el-Krim in the kasbah from 1916 to 1917, after he talked with the German consul Dr. Walter Zechlin (1879–1962). (After defeating him with the help of the French, Abd el-Krim was deported to Réunion in 1926.) Spain returned the city after the independence of Morocco in 1956.

**Day 5- 25 May 2020**

**Chefchaouen- Fez**

**B**

Today you will travel along the main highway to the cultural heart of Morocco - magical Fes. Founded in the 8<sup>th</sup> century and a UNECSCO Cultural Heritage site, it is home to several famed historical monuments - among them Karaouine, the first university. Its sprawling medina will take you a step back in time to the Middle Ages.

On arrival, check into your hotel or riad.

**Overnight at Riad Fez – Deluxe Room BB**

**3 nights**

**Day 6- 26 May 2020**

**Fez Sightseeing**

**B**

Today you will take a step back in time to the Middle Ages when you will visit Fes El Bali, the largest living medieval medina-city and the cultural heart of Morocco. You will explore some of the 9000 narrow lanes, alleys and souks that make-up the labyrinth of the city's old quarter, originally founded in the 8<sup>th</sup> century AD by Moulay Idriss I. The medieval Medina is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Imperial capital was a renowned centre of medieval learning and at its heart lies the Karaouine, one of the oldest, still-functioning universities in the world. In the neighbouring building is the Attarine Medersa (Koranic college), a jewel of Hispano-Moorish architecture, built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Your visit of sightseeing will also include a visit to the Nejjarine Square, with its beautiful fountain, made up of mosaics and elaborate tile-work. The nearby Fondouq (Caravanserai) is now converted into a museum of carpentry artefacts.

Colourful slippers, a leather bag or a fashion jacket: all popular items to have in one's wardrobe. But how are they made? For centuries the leather produced in Fes has been highly esteemed and the methods remain the same today as in the medieval times. Only natural ingredients are used for the coloration such as indigo, saffron and poppy. During your visit to the tanneries, you will have the opportunity to learn about the different methods that are used to process the skins of goats and cows to make them look so beautiful.

Your sightseeing includes Dar Batha and the Museum of Moroccan Arts, which houses historical and artistic collections of wood carvings, embroidery, tribal carpets and ceramics.

You will also visit Fes El Jedid (New Fes), built by the Merinid Dynasty in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Here you will see the Royal Palace, mosques, medersas, souks and the city wall. Most notably, Fes El Jedid is home to the Mellah, the old Jewish quarter, which provides an interesting insight into Jewish architecture. The wrought iron-decorated windows and splendid carved wood balconies of the old mansions are particularly outstanding.

Visit of the pottery factory is to discover how the beautiful zellij tiles are made, which are the highlights of Arabo-Andalousian décor and are also used in the manufacture of the famous Tagines. “Tagine” refers to an earthenware pot in which is cooked a traditional meal. The meal itself has also become known as “Tagine” by association, because according to tradition, the meal is cooked and served in the same container. There are diverse tagines, but typically it is a rich stew of meat or fish and most often also includes vegetables or fruit.

**Day 7- 27 May 2020**  
**Fez – Meknes & Volubilis Fez**

**B**

**(122 km/76mi – 3h15 without stops)**

You will depart overland to Volubilis (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), home to the largest and most well-preserved Roman ruins in Morocco. With its triumphal arches, basilicas and capitol, the Volubilis skyline is peppered with examples of Roman architecture.

However, the greatest treasures of Volubilis are the superb mosaic floors, which have been excellently preserved and left in situ. Three outstanding examples include Orpheus charming animals with his lyre, nine dolphins signifying good luck and a portrait of Amphitrite in a chariot drawn by a seahorse.

From here it is on to Meknes (also a UNESCO World Heritage Site), one of the Imperial Cities of Morocco. In Meknes, the impressive monuments recall the splendour of a city first built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the powerful sultan Moulay Ismail to rival the court of his contemporary, Louis XIV of France.

During your visit to Meknes you will see the monumental Bab Mansour gateway, considered to be one of the finest of the great gates of Morocco, the Granaries and the Royal Stables, which were built to accommodate some 12,000 horses. You will also see Moulay Ismail’s Mausoleum, one of the few shrines in Morocco that can be visited by non-Muslims.

Lunch can be enjoyed in a lovely restaurant in Meknes.

At the conclusion of your sightseeing, you will be transferred back to your hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure.

**Day 8- 28 May 2020**  
**Fez – Erfoud Via Ifrane & Midelt**

**HB**

**(430km/269mi – 8h00 without stops)**

Today you will travel to the desert, travelling through the impressive Atlas Mountains and discovering the Tafilalet region, famous for its savoury dates and gorgeous scenery.

Your sightseeing will include a visit to Rissani, which from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> century was the site of the first independent kingdom of the south.

You will also visit Erfoud, a small town on the edge of the desert, and discover its quarry, where fossils have been discovered. More than 400 million years ago, the desert area of Morocco was a sea. When the sea receded, the marine life died and later became fossilised. Today the mining of these fossilised rocks is a growing and popular industry in this part of Morocco. You will have the opportunity to admire how these Goniatitida and Trilobites are used to produce beautiful decorative objects ranging from a plate to a table.

**Overnight at Palais Masandaoi – Deluxe Room BB**

**1 night**

**Day 9- 29 May 2020**

**Erfoud- Rissani- Merzougua**

**HB**

Today you will discover the Tafilalet region, famous for its savoury dates and gorgeous scenery. Your sightseeing will include a visit to Rissani, the last visible point of the Ziz River, which from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> century was the site of the first independent kingdom of the south. While in Rissani you will stroll in the centuries-old palm grove and discover beautiful Ksars. An amusing highlight of this visit will be the fascinating donkey parking area.

You will also see Erfoud's quarry, where fossils have been discovered. More than 400 million years ago, the desert area of Morocco was a sea. When the sea receded, the marine life died and later became fossilised. Today the mining of these fossilised rocks is a growing and popular industry in this part of Morocco. You will have the opportunity to admire how these Goniatitida and Trilobites are used to produce beautiful decorative objects ranging from a plate to a table.

You will head into the south travelling by four-wheel drive vehicle amongst the desert dunes of Erg Chebbi en route to your tented-camp site. The desert is rocky to begin with, like a drum roll preparing you for the upcoming Sahara dunes that you can distinguish in the distance. Then comes the sand, warm and mysterious, never knowing what is hidden behind a dune. One of the hills will reveal your magical tented camp, settled in the middle of nowhere.

In the evening savour a mouth-watering dinner served around a campfire or in a tent, complete with traditional entertainment.

Individual tents with a warm and cosy decoration will welcome you for the night, while the sounds of the Sahara lull you to sleep.

**Overnight at Merzougua Deluxe Camp – Deluxe Tent HB**

**1 night**



**Day 10 - 30 May 2020**

**Merzougua - Skoura**

**HB**

**(265 km/166mi – 4h00 without stops)**

Today you will travel overland to Skoura, the small city nestled on a gorgeous palm grove and located near Ouarzazate. Ouarzazate was once a stopping point for African traders en route to the cities of Morocco and Europe. You will pay a visit to the Todra Gorges and the even more impressive picturesque oases that they hide.

You will travel through the southern slopes of the High Atlas range, following the Dades Valley and passing flourishing crops, irrigation canals and palm trees. Following the 1000 Kasbahs road, you will marvel at the breath-taking vistas of impressive ancient Kasbahs nestled in lush palm groves.

Along the way you will make a stop to visit an amazing, small private museum in a Ksar near Tingherir, which houses exhibits that showcase the local art, culture and history, before continuing on to Skoura and your hotel.

**Overnight at Ksar El Kbabba – Junior Suite HB**

**2 nights**

**Day 11 - 31 May 2020**

**Skoura Sightseeing**

**HB**

Today enjoy a day at leisure to discover the magic oasis of Skoura.

**Day 12 – 01 June 2020**

**Skoura- Taroudant**

**HB**

Today you will depart towards Taroudant, one of the oldest cities of Morocco located in the Souss valley, between the High and Anti Atlas mountains.

Taroudant had its golden age under the Saadi Dynasty, particularly during the reign of Mohammed ash-Sheikh. He constructed the city walls and built the great mosque and its minaret in 1528. The town became the capital of the Saadians who used it as a base to attack the Portuguese in Agadir. Although they later made Marrakech their capital, they made the town prosper through the riches of the Sous plain, marketing goods such as sugar cane, cotton, rice and indigo.

Today, Taroudant is fondly called the "Little daughter of Marrakech" and it retains the feel of a small market town on a caravan route, resembling Marrakech with its surrounding ramparts. However, unlike Marrakech, Taroudant contains nearly the entire city within its walls. It is also known for its jewellery and carpets, with a relaxed atmosphere to purchase these items.

**Overnight at Dar Zitoune– Junior Suite HB**

**1 night**



**Day 13 – 02 June 2020**  
**Taroudant- Essaouira**

**B**

Depart your hotel early this morning and head off to the Atlantic coast. A couple of hours drive from Taroudant, the city of Essaouira is the regional centre and also the source of the fine Argan oil, famed throughout the world for its use in cosmetics but also amazing as a dressing for salads.

En route, there are many options to make this a memorable day. Close to Essaouira, there is a charming vineyard well worth stopping at to taste some wine and goat cheese. Afterwards, you will stop at a women's cooperative to learn about the techniques used to produce the precious Argan oil for culinary or cosmetic uses.

**Overnight at Palais Heure Bleue– Classic Room BB**

**2 nights**

**Day 14 – 03 June 2020**  
**Taroudant- Essaouira**

**B**

Essaouira is an attractive town rich in history. Its islands were inhabited as early as the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC. Pottery found here proves the presence of both Carthaginians and Phoenicians. The Portuguese fortified the city in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and named it Mogador and in 1506, the Portuguese king Manuel built an impressive fortress on the site. Discover the city that has been influenced by various cultures. You will explore the ramparts, the harbour, the fishing port and the Skala, the great sea bastion on the edge of the northern cliffs. This fortress is most famous for Orson Wells filming most of Othello here in 1949.

Strolling in the whitewashed Medina with its blue doors is an amazing way to spend the afternoon. Discover the thuya wood workshops and marvel at impressive items that are made with this aromatic wood. Discover one of the Moroccan beauty secrets, the famed Argan oil, well known throughout the world for its use in cosmetics but also amazing in salads. The oil is produced by a women's cooperative located in the west coast stretching from Agadir to Essaouira. The city also boasts a myriad of fascinating art galleries worth the visit.

A seafood lunch in a lovely beach side restaurant is also one of the highlights of the excursion.

**Overnight at Palais Heure Bleue– Classic Room BB**

**2 nights**

**Day 15 – 04 June 2020**  
**Essaouira- Marrakech**

**B**

(174 km/108mi – 2h30 without stops)

You will continue your journey onwards to the world-famous city of Marrakech. Pearl of the South, Jewel of the South, The Red City - just a few of the nicknames Marrakech has

acquired over the years. Part Berber, part Arab, part African, Marrakech is the heartbeat of Morocco, where palaces and monuments of unrivalled refinement sit calmly alongside the snake charmers and Gnaouan drums pulsing constantly from Djemâa el Fna Square, the most exuberant marketplace in the world.

En route, there are many options to make this a memorable day. Close to Essaouira, stop off at a charming vineyard to taste wine and goat cheese prepared in the region. After the vineyard, you will stop at a women's cooperative to learn about the techniques used to produce the precious Argan oil for culinary or cosmetic uses.

### **Overnight at Riad AlMaha– Deluxe Room BB**

**3 nights**

**Day 16 – 05 June 2020**

**Marrakech Full Day Sightseeing**

**B**

During a day excursion, you will unearth the mysteries of Marrakech, the Pearl of the South. Once called Morocco City by foreign travellers, Marrakech eventually lent its name to the country itself. Most of the city's architectural attractions are inside the Medina, the old walled section of the town.

Your visit will include the Ben Youssef Medersa, one of the jewels of Marrakech. The current structure of this Koranic school was built around 1570. It is the biggest Medersa (school) in the whole of the Maghreb (west). It is renowned for its magnificent architecture with zellij tile work, carved wood and stucco work. The central courtyard, student cells and prayer hall are also very interesting to discover.

Opposite the entrance to the Ben Youssef Mosque, the Qoubba Almoravides was the ablution centre for believers going to the mosque. The complex was also one of the first fountains of the town and used to ensure a constant water supply for the inhabitants of Marrakech and their animals.

As you explore the labyrinthine souks, indulge in some shopping! Souk Smarine is an important thoroughfare, traditionally dominated by the sale of textiles, clothing and all Moroccan handicrafts. This is a maze of colourful alleys

You will also explore the Djemaa El Fna, the city's main square and home to a multitude of street-artists, stalls of dried fruit and freshly-pressed orange juice. The numerous small restaurants which take over its centre from the early evening contribute to the scent of its surroundings. No one can really be certain how it came into being, but over the years the square has become the beating heart of Marrakech, where fire-eaters, acrobats, snake-charmers and street musicians perform at every turn.

You will visit the gardens and admire the Koutoubia Mosque, an emblem of Marrakech. Koutoubia's minaret went on to inspire the architects of the Giralda of Seville and the Hassan Tower of Rabat. The mosque cannot be visited: its beauty can be admired from the gardens and the square. This square tower in finely-worked stone is 77 metres (252

feet) tall, including its lantern. Built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the minaret is considered to be the most perfect Islamic religious structure in North Africa. This famous landmark dominates the local skyline and can easily be spotted throughout Marrakech.

You will also visit the Badii Palace. Construction of this sumptuous was completed in 1603, using the richest materials possible to decorate the 360 rooms of the princely complex. Unfortunately, the magnificence of the Badii Palace is now old history; its only inhabitants are now a couple of storks who have set up their home there. While strolling in the ruins, you will be able to imagine the expansive beauty that it used to be.

The Bahia Palace was ordered in 1880 by the grand vizier Sidi Moussa and took 15 years to complete. The beauty of the Bahia Palace makes it a remarkable example of the Arabo-Andalousian and is a masterpiece of domestic architecture which gives a good idea of how the privileged lived during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The use of marble, stucco and mosaics is prevalent in the apartments, opening on to courtyards filled with fountains and plant life.

Dar Si Said, one of the most beautiful palaces, is now home to the museum of Moroccan Arts and Crafts. Inside are stunning collections of traditional woven carpets and Berber silver jewellery.

Wandering in the Kasbah's district, you will explore the Saadian tombs, preserved in the shadow of the Kasbah mosque. Dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, their over-lavish decoration gives you a glimpse of how rich and extravagant must once have been the El Bahia Palace.

At the end of the day, you will transfer back to your hotel.

#### **Day 17 – 06 June 2020**

##### **Excursion to Agafay Rocky Desert**

**B**

##### **Pick up time at 08H30**

You will meet your guide and drive west of Marrakech to reach the northern edge of Agafay. This semi lunar terrain is the perfect terrain for an amazing gravel bike day. We will ride a short flat section and then a short climb through a nice Eucalyptus forest. On the top of the climb, we will enjoy the superb views of the barren hills contrasting with the snow capped Atlas mountains. You will ride endless miles of smooth gravel roads across undulating hills alive with blooming wildflowers for 50km.

#### **Day 18 – 07 June 2020**

##### **Marrakech Departure**

**B**

##### **Departure Flight details TBA**

##### **Pick up time at TBA**

Today you will bid farewell to Morocco as you depart for the airport where your international departure flight awaits.

Your pick-up time from the hotel will be reconfirmed to you the day prior to your departure.

Please note that you should be at the airport two hours before departure.

**Total Cost in USD : 14775.00**

Thank You.