

Majestic Morocco



Nov. 10-24, 2017

This tour is designed by Voyages Millefleurs Travel Inc. Canada



CASABLANCA, ESSAOUIRA, MARRAKECH
BERBER VILLAGES & SAHARA DESERT

\$ 5000 CDN (no taxes applicable)



www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfK0tLqMFZE *Morocco Video*

SIGHT-SEEING:

- Medinas in Marrakech & Essaouira
- 2 Day excursion to Atlas Mountains
- Majorelle Gardens- Marrakech
- Medersa – 14C Koranic University
- Hassan II Mosque - Casablanca
- Woodmaking Studio
- Argan Oil Women's Cooperative
- Berber Pharmacy
- Ait Ben Haddou Kashbah

LODGING:

- 1 night in Casablanca
 - 3 nights in Essaouira
 - 2 nights in Imlil Valley
 - 2 nights in Marrakech
 - 1 night in Ouarzazate
 - 2 nights in Zagora
 - 1 night in Desert Bivouac
- Option: **Berber Village Hike**
Option: **Cooking in Essouira**

TRANSPORT:

- Ground transport in minibus – Accompanying chauffeur and bus for the duration of the tour
- Caleche ride in Marrakech
- Desert excursion in 4x4
- Dromedary ride in the desert
- Domestic Flight from Zagora to Casablanca
- International flight Saskatoon -Casablanca

French/ Moroccan Guide Zac • Daily portorage and water provided

For more information, contact Corinne
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Price quoted is per person in CDN \$, based on 12 participants, double occupancy. A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is due at time of booking. Final payment is due on Sept. 10 2017. **NOT INCLUDED** in this tour: meals not mentioned in itinerary; gratuities for guides; travel and medical insurance; and personal expenses.



Tour Itinerary ...Majestic Morocco Tour

Day 1 Nov. 10 – Flight from Saskatoon to Montreal.

Evening international flight from Montreal to Casablanca.

Day 2 Nov.11 - Casablanca Upon your morning arrival in Casablanca, you will be met by your French/Moroccan guide, Zac. Enjoy lunch at a seaside terrace restaurant before checking into the hotel, Club Val d'Anfa. Freshen up before you visit the Hassan II mosque in Casablanca with a 200 meter tall minaret tower and a roof that opens, the 8th wonder of the modern world. Free time to walk along the boardwalk and to catch a snack before an early night.

Day 3 Nov.12-Essaouira Morning departure for Essaouira, an 800- year-old port showing traces of Iberian influence in its forts and towers. We will take the coastal road along the Atlantic ocean for some wonderful vistas. Late afternoon arrival at Essaouira. Dinner and overnight in the oceanside Riad Mimouna. Enjoy the sound of the waves and the sunset from the rooftop of the Riad.

Day 4 Nov. 13 - Essaouira From the Riad take a walking tour of the old medina including the market and a small colourful boutique where you will learn about the spices, fragrances and argon oil products. Not far away is a factory which creates beautiful objects from the local mahogany tree. Transfer to the old port and the Chalet de la Place where you can enjoy a fresh seafood lunch. Visit the old Portuguese port to see the blue, blue boats against the ancient ramparts. The local bluish purple shells were used as pigments which once dyed the Pope's robes. Free time in the evening on the rooftop of the Riad to watch the sunset before a tagine dinner.

Day 5 Nov. 14- Essaouira Morning excursion to the local market to purchase product for the Morocco Cooking experience! Prepare the entrée, tagine and dessert during the day. Rest of the day free to shop or go to the beach in Essaouira. Enjoy the fruits of your labour in an evening meal followed by local entertainment by the Gnaouwa!

Day 6 Nov. 15- Imlil Morning departure for Marrakech. En route we will stop at a women's cooperative for Argan Oil products. Keep an eye out for the goats on the Argan trees! Carry on to the Atlas Mountains to the Imlil lodge for dinner and overnight. Time to visit this berber village.

Day 7 Nov.16 – Imlil - Morning start on the berber village hike with a ride or hike option to the summit pass. Enjoy the stunning scenery on the path between the villages. Stop for tea with a berber family and hopefully encounter a group of children outside their school house. Lunch by the river. You will have a private guide, a mule to transport necessities and a cook. All meals provided. Return to Imlil lodge for the evening meal. For those not

participating in the village hike, enjoy a relaxing day at the lodge with a visit to nearby waterfalls!

Day 8 Nov.17 - Marrakech Noon hour arrival in Marrakech, the "Pearl of the South". Check into the quaint Riad Catalina inside the Medina walls and savour the mint tea offered upon arrival. Just down the street is a Berber Pharmacy where you will discover the herbal medicines and exotic spices of Morocco. Continue the narrow passageways of the Medina to the Madersa, 14th century Koranic university. Enjoy the labyrinth of the Souk where you will learn the berber way of bargaining. Keep your eye out for leather, sweets, jewelry and lanterns. Within walking distance is the world-famous Djemaa Elfna. This is an open square spectacle with storytellers, soothsayers, palm readers and snake charmers all offering something to locals and tourists alike. Dinner and overnight at the Riad Catalina.

Day 9 Nov. 18 - Marrakech This morning we will take a calèche (carriage) ride outside the Medina walls to the Majorelle Gardens, now managed by the Yves St. Laurent Foundation. Be inspired by the exotic plants and capture the beauty of the gardens with your camera. Take the calèche back to the medina for a free afternoon to shop in the souks. Option to participate in a Hamam.

Day 10 Nov.19 Ouarzazate Morning departure for the desert town of Ouarzazate. Enjoy spectacular scenery as you climb over the Atlas Mountains. Stop at the Ait Ben Haddou Kasbah for lunch. This is the scene for many Hollywood movies like Lawrence of Arabia and The Gladiator. Check into the Riad Salam. Enjoy a guided visit of the 18 century Kasbah. Optional visit to a Weaving cooperative. Enjoy a swim and buffet dinner from 7 to 9.

Day 11 Nov. 20- Zagora Morning departure on a 3 hour drive through the stunning Atlas mountains of volcanic ash to Zagora, gateway to the Sahara Desert. Arrival at the Riad Lamane for lunch on the rooftop restaurant under the palm trees. Afternoon walk through the palm trees to the center of Zagora to a market to buy Berber scarves. You will have a chance to visit a berber market for Moroccan rugs or other artifacts. Dinner at the Riad Lamane.

Day 12 Nov. 21 - Bivouac (Desert Tents) Morning to relax at the Riad. Afternoon departure by 4 x 4 to the desert. At the furthest point in the desert Mhamid we will enjoy lunch and swim in an exceptional bath house. Optional 1 ½ hour ride on a dromedary through the desert dunes at sunset to the Bivouac for the night. Dinner in the common tent followed by a music performance by the Berber drummers.

Day 13 Nov.22 Optional Dromedary ride to see the sunrise! After breakfast and more photography we will make our way back in the 4x4 to Zagora for lunch and a dip in the pool at Riad Lamane. Overnight.

Day 14- Nov. 23 Casablanca/Flight Morning flight from Zagora to Casablanca. Here you have time to relax before the 7 hour flight back to Canada. Overnight at an airport hotel in Montreal (Montreal Express).

Day 15 Nov. 24 In Transit Morning flight back to Saskatoon.