



MOROCCO EXPERIENCE

SEPTEMBER 4 – 15, 2022

ITINERARY

Tour the Imperial cities of Casablanca, Fez, Marrakech and Rabat. Tour the Jewish Quarters, the Mellah in Fez and Marrakech, learn about the Jewish history of Morocco, experience the traditional arts, crafts and music. Step back in history and live the present of Morocco.

DAY 01: Leave USA Sunday, September 4

DAY 02: ARRIVE CASABLANCA Monday, September 5

Welcome to Casablanca International Airport, assistance, and transfer to your hotel. On our way to our hotel, we will have an overview of the city. Check in at hotel. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. **(D)**

DAY 03: CASABLANCA Tuesday, September 6

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart for a day of touring in Casablanca, "The White City" including **Temple Beth-El**, the Jewish Synagogue and the **Jewish Museum**. The Jewish Museum in Casablanca is the only one of its kind in the Islamic world. The museum traces the history of Morocco's once thriving Jewish Community. After lunch on your own, we walk through the narrow streets of the Medina. The tour features visits to **United Square**, **Hassan II Mosque** (visit from inside), and the **Court House**, various **souks**, the **central market**, **Habous district** and **Cornice Boulevard of Ain Diab**. Overnight at the hotel **(B)**

DAY 04: CASABLANCA – RABAT – MARRAKECH Wednesday, September 7

Breakfast at the hotel.

Check out from the hotel and depart for Rabat. **Lunch in Rabat**. We have a **city tour of Rabat**, the administrative capital of the Kingdom and continue to Marrakech. Check-in at the hotel. **Dinner** and overnight at the hotel. **(B, L, D)**

DAY 05: MARRAKECH Thursday, September 8

Breakfast at the hotel.

This morning we start our exploration of Marrakech. The defining landmark of Marrakech is the 12th century tiled **minaret of the Koutoubia Mosque** and there is no better place to begin your journey into this tantalizing city. We continue toward one of its main attractions, **Jemaa El Fna Square**, the greatest square in all of Africa and perhaps in the entire world. It was once the ultimate destination for traders from places as diverse as Venice, sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia. Today, it provides ever-changing entertainment for Moroccans and foreigners alike, reaching its climax at sunset when the square is alive with storytellers, healers, snake charmers, acrobats, and countless food stalls. Walk through the square to experience its intensity and then, if you wish, enjoy the view from the terrace of a rooftop café. The entire Jemaa el Fna has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Space (one of only a handful in the world due to its unique role in transmitting oral history and traditions from one generation to the next). We will also visit **a synagogue and cemetery**. **Dinner** and overnight at hotel. **(B, D)**

DAY 06: MARRAKECH Friday, September 9

Breakfast at the hotel.

We begin our day in the tropical **Majorelle Gardens** created by the orientalist painter Jacques Majorelle and lovingly restored under the patronage of the late **Yves St. Laurent Museum**. Nearby is the **Maison Tiskiwin**, one of the oldest museums in Marrakech. The collection compiled by Dutchman Bert Flint is housed in a restored riad and takes you on a historical tour of Timbuktu. After lunch on your own, we continue to visit the 16th century **Mellah** and enjoy the view of its Moorish architecture. Optional Shabbat services - **Dinner** and overnight at hotel. **(B, D)**

DAY 07: MARRAKECH – OURIKA CALLEY Saturday, September 10

Breakfast at the hotel.

We travel to the **Ourika Valley** a beautiful area high in the Atlas Mountains offering spectacular scenery. See its lush green fields. We will go to a **Berber Village** where people still go to market on donkeys. Visit the **tomb of Tzaddik Rabbi Shalom ben Hans**. The tomb is the object of pilgrimage once a year attended by Jews of Moroccan descent from all over the world. **Lunch** and we return to the hotel in the late afternoon. **(B, L)**

DAY 8: MARRAKECH – FEZ Sunday, September 11

Breakfast at hotel.

This morning, we visit the **Saadian Tombs** near the Kasbah mosques. It is the mausoleum of the great dynasty that once ruled North Africa. This treasure was lost until the beginning of the 20th century, when aerial photographs of the medina revealed its existence. We depart for Fez **dinner** and overnight at our hotel. **(B, D)**

DAY 09: FEZ Monday, September 12

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today, we spend a memorable day by taking an in-depth look at the Jewish history and culture of traditional Morocco. We will explore **the Mellah (Jewish Quarter)** of Fez, founded in 1438 and once home to tens of thousands of Jews. The community of Fez included over forty synagogues, a Bet Din, communal ovens, ritual baths, and many

schools. The highlight of our day will be when we go to **the Ibn Danan Synagogue**. It is one of the oldest and most intact synagogues in Morocco. The synagogue is located in the heart of the Mellah. Its renovation was carried out with the assistance of private and public organizations including the Moroccan government and the Ibn Danan family. It is listed as a historical monument in Fez. We will also visit the **El Fassiyeen Synagogue** nearby. **Visit the Jewish Cemetery** opposite the gates of the Royal Palace. **(B, D)**

DAY 10: FEZ Tuesday, September 13

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today, we step back centuries as we discover Fez, the oldest of the Imperial cities of Morocco. Fez seems like a maze of like streets, ancient mosques, minarets, and its souks which symbolize the mystique of this ninth century city. Highlights of our day include, **The Madera Boo Inanna**, a religious building that is still in use and open to the public. It forms part of the Kairaounie University located in Fez and founded by Sultan Abou el Hassan in 1350. We will also see **the Batha Museum** housed in a 19th century summer home which today houses an excellent collection of Moroccan arts and crafts. A break for lunch on your own and we continue our exploration of Fez. In the afternoon, we discover the **Medina**, with its organized handicrafts and souks. UNESCO has declared the Medina of Fez as one of the world's cultural treasures. During this tour, we will see **Nejjarine Square** with its splendid and unusual fountains. It takes its name from the Souk Nejjarine (Carpenters Souk), which is situated behind a wooden door in a narrow street below the square. A visit to the **Tanneries** completes our day. **(B)**

DAY 11: FEZ – MEKNES – CASABLANCA Wednesday, September 14

Breakfast at the hotel.

We leave Fez for Casablanca. En route, we visit the extensive Roman ruins at **Volubulis**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its prosperity was derived primarily from olive growing, which prompted the construction of many fine town houses with large mosaic floors still visible today. Visit **Meknes**. Begin the visit with a panoramic view of Meknes, which offers a splendid look at the old Islamic Medina with its numerous tall and soaring minarets. Explore the **Jewish Mellah**, with its narrow lanes and colorful courtyards. The presence of Jewish history is evident in the Hebraic epitaphs that date back to the Christian era. These epitaphs along with Greek inscriptions can be seen on the Meknes Jewish zaouia, a place of pilgrimage to the tomb of Rabbi David Benjamin. We arrive in Casablanca. Farewell **dinner** and overnight. **(B, D)**

DAY 12: CASABLANCA / USA Thursday, September 15

Breakfast at the hotel.

We depart for the Casablanca International Airport and your flight to the USA. **(B)**

Itinerary subject to change without notice

Program includes:

Round trip air transportation coach class via Air Canada from Chicago

3 nights hotel accommodation in Casablanca - Hyatt Hotel

4 nights hotel accommodation in Marrakech - Moevenpick Hotel

3 nights hotel accommodations in Fez - Marriott Hotel

Buffet breakfast daily

7 dinners including water, tea, or coffee

2 lunches including water, tea, or coffee

Entrance fees as required based on itinerary

Services of an experienced licensed English speaking Moroccan guide and local guides as required

Deluxe motor coach transportation

Porterage of luggage at hotels (one piece per person maximum)

Bottled water on the bus

Headsets while touring

Escorted by a JCC staff person

\$3825.00 per person, double occupancy with air from Chicago*

\$1000.00 single supplement

*Other cities call for rate

Land only \$3095 per person double occupancy

For additional information, please contact:

Great Time Tours, Ltd 1 847 882 8881- miriam@great-time-tours.com

Great Time Tours, Ltd.

1140 Nottingham

Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Phone: 847 882 8881

Out of state 1 800 624 2947

Program 2022-02