

Craig
travel

EXPERIENCE MOROCCO

BOOK BY MAY 30
SAVE \$200 PP



ESCORTED BY NANCY KNOX

OCT 16-NOV 1, 2024 | 17 DAYS | 30 MEALS

Centuries-old tanning pits brimming with vivid leather dyes in Fez

Nestled at the intersection of Africa and Europe, where Christianity and Islam converge, Morocco beckons with its alluring blend of cultures and timeless charm. On this journey, we will unravel the secrets of Morocco's walled imperial cities, labyrinthine alleyways and bustling souks.

We will be staying in charming riads, traditional boutique hotels that offer a glimpse into Morocco's storied past. Venturing beyond the city walls, we will push the boundaries of exploration to the very edge of the mesmerizing Sahara Desert. As twilight descends, we will find ourselves surrounded by the ethereal beauty of the desert landscape, indulging in an overnight stay at a deluxe tented camp under a sky glittering with stars. Thrilling 4x4 rides over the undulating sand dunes will awaken our spirits, tracing the enduring path taken for centuries by the resilient Berber people.



Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada
- 15 nights in first-class hotels and comfortable riads, as indicated or similar
- 30 meals (B -15 breakfasts, L-3 lunches, D-12 dinners)
- Bottled water on the coach daily and at all included lunches and dinners, plus tea/coffee at dinners
- Transfers and baggage handling
- Gratuities, taxes, and fees for included services
- Services of our tour leader and local guide in Morocco
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Tour Highlights

- Experience the four imperial cities of Morocco: Rabat, Fez, Meknes, and Marrakech
- Overnight in a deluxe tented camp
- Venture to the edge of the Sahara with 4x4 excursions
- Discover Kasbah Country, the old Berber trading route
- Visit Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca

Book With Confidence

For peace of mind, your deposit for this journey is fully refundable until:

July 10, 2024

Tour Escort

Meet your tour escort, **Nancy Knox** has served as a minister in the United Church of Canada for over 35 years. She currently resides in the beautiful Muskoka region of Ontario. Her personal travels have taken her across Canada, as well as to Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. Nancy loves group travel and has led tours to Israel, Jordan, Turkey, Ireland, and Heart of Europe tour featuring Oberammergau. She believes travel builds bridges of understanding, and sharing these experiences with others makes them truly unforgettable. Nancy looks forward to enjoying this incredible adventure with you and making new memories while exploring Morocco together.



OCT 16, Wednesday

Depart Canada

Tour members from across Canada gather in Toronto and Montreal for the overnight flight to Casablanca.

OCT 17, Thursday

Casablanca / Rabat

Welcome to Morocco! On arrival in Casablanca, we will meet our local guide and transfer up the coast to our hotel in Rabat. In the evening, we gather for dinner at our hotel. **Tour Hassan Palace** (2 nights) D

OCT 18, Friday

Rabat

Explore the city of Rabat, which features the exquisite Hassan Tower, the busy Kasbah des Oudayas, the impressive mausoleum of Mohamed V, and the imposing Royal Palace, Chellah. Balance of the day at leisure. BD

OCT 19, Saturday

Meknes / Volubilis / Fez

This morning, we travel further inland to Fez, the world's oldest and largest medieval city. En route, we shall visit Meknes, which once rivalled Versailles in its beauty and opulence. Built over a fifty-year period as an imperial city by Moulay Ismail, Meknes is a treasure trove of palaces and gardens enveloped by 40 kms of mighty walls. Enter through the monumental gates of Bab Mansour to find the exquisite mausoleum of the city's builder. Nearby we

explore the Roman ruins at Volubilis. This UNESCO site dates back to AD 40 and was the capital of the Roman province of Mauritania. Later this afternoon, we arrive in Fez where we will spend two nights in the heart of the Medina with its bustling markets and heady mix of aromas, sounds and sights.

Hotel Les Merinides or similar (2 nights) BD

OCT 20, Sunday **Fez**

This is a day of enchantment as we visit the Medina of Fez, the ancient walled city of artisans, craftsmen, and lively markets. We then descend into the souks of Fez and enter yet another world filled with mingling aromas of cedar, leather, and spices, as we discover the districts of tanners, engravers, and merchants. You may want to visit the Kairouine Mosque and University, the Bou Jeloud Gardens, and the Sultan's Palace, each offering displays of classical Islamic art. BD

OCT 21, Monday **Midelt / Erfoud**

Departing Fez, we cross over the Middle Atlas Mountains into the heart of Berber country. En route, we pass Ifrane, a charming ski resort, and Azrou, an important handicraft centre. Midelt is a pleasant town surrounded by verdant pine trees in a tranquil mountain setting. Take in the scenery as we head to the edge of the Sahara via the palm-fringed Errachidia and Ziz Valley.

Kasbah Hotel Xaluca Arfoud (1 night) BD

OCT 22, Tuesday **Erfoud / Merzouga**

After breakfast, we depart for Merzouga where 4x4 vehicles await to carry us through the final leg to the remote Erg Chebbi dunes. Surrounded amidst the undulating dunes lies our deluxe tented camp. Each tent offers comfortable beds, a private en suite bathroom with hot and cold water, and all the comforts of a well-appointed desert camp. As the desert sun sinks low, casting the dunes in rich amber hues, we have the chance to ride camels and witness the sunset. At night we gather for a traditional Berber meal, the sound of music filling the air as we dine under a canopy of stars.

Golden Camp Merzouga (1 night) BD

OCT 23, Wednesday **Merzouga**

Enjoy a morning at leisure followed by an afternoon visit to a local village along the fringe of the vast Saharan sands.

Kasbah Hotel Xaluca Tombouctou (1 night) BD

OCT 24, Thursday **Todra Gorge / Dades**

Following an early call to admire the sunrise over the desert, we depart for Rissani, the holy city where Moulay Ali Cherif, an ancestor of the Alaouite dynasty is buried. Visit the ruins of a 17th century Kasbah and the ruins of the imposing 19th century castle, Ksar Abbar. We continue onto Tinghir to visit the magnificent Todra Gorge, its towering limestone cliffs soaring 1,000 feet overhead. After lunch, we will journey via the rugged Dades Valley to Dades, renowned for its blooming roses each spring.

Kasbah Xaluca Dades or similar (1 night) BD

OCT 25, Friday **Dades Valley / Ait-Ben-Haddou**

Today, we journey through extraordinary red rock formations to reach the stunning Dades Gorge. This area is often referred to as "Kasbah Country" due to the impressive forts that grace the valley, evoking memories of ancient desert caravans traveling from Africa's depths to



Explore the well-preserved Roman ruins at Volubilis



Wind through dramatic rock formations in the Dades Valley



Atop a camel, watch the sunset blaze over endless amber sands



Soaring over the Hassan II Mosque, this 689-foot minaret is the world's tallest

the Moorish cities in the north. Following lunch, we will explore Ait-Ben-Haddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where the timeless masterpiece Lawrence of Arabia was filmed. **Oscar Hotel Studio** or similar (1 night) BD

OCT 26, Saturday Ait Ourir / Marrakech

Winding through the Atlas Mountains, we journey to the village of Ait Ourir. There we hope to meet a local Imam and visit a school where nearly 90 children are educated. You may bring a small gift for the children if you wish (school visit subject to confirmation). We continue onward to Marrakech, the fabled imperial city that served as a painting retreat for Winston Churchill. Later, we settle into a riad at the heart of the city, close to all the action.

Palais Sebban (4 nights) BD

OCT 27, Sunday Marrakech

Stroll through the Jardin Majorelle, a tranquil retreat from the bustle of the city. Visit the Museum of Islamic Art before participating in a special cooking class and at La Maison Arabe (or similar). Step back in time as we explore the Medina's narrow streets brimming with local handicrafts. Highlights will include the Koutoubia Minaret, the Saadian Tombs with their ornate carvings, the Kasbah, and the lively Jemaa el-Fna Square. BL

OCT 28, Monday Marrakech

Delve deeper into fascinating Marrakech at the Tiskiwin Museum, set within a traditional palace filled with Berber artifacts and insights into local culture. Marvel at the striking artistry of Bahia Palace, built in the 19th century with sections still reserved for the Royal Family. A special highlight will be our visit to the Amal Centre created to support local women from disadvantaged backgrounds. BL

OCT 29, Tuesday Toubkal National Park / Imlil

Just outside of Marrakech lies Toubkal National Park. Drive up the mountain into the Berber village of Imlil. A gentle walk on country roads and local paths follows, before a graciously hosted lunch with a local family, offering insights into rich Berber traditions. As the day ends, we return to Marrakech, leaving the evening open for leisure. BL

OCT 30, Wednesday Marrakech / Casablanca

Legendary Casablanca awaits, made famous by Humphrey Bogart. Explore this port city, highlighted by the eclectic Medina, the Royal Palace, and the magnificent Ain Diab Corniche. Our farewell dinner will be at Rick's Café, recreated to fit the theme of "Casablanca's" set in 1942.

Le Palace d'Anfa (2 nights) BD

OCT 31, Thursday Casablanca

Today we visit the stunning Hassan II Mosque, the seventh largest building of its kind in the world and truly iconic. After a visit, we shall enjoy some free time to explore the area. BD

NOV 1, Friday Homeward Bound

This morning we catch our flights to Montreal and Toronto with connections to our homes across Canada. B

CT Rating 3.5 / 5 - Challenging: Members should be prepared for crowded cities and busy souks (bazaars). In the countryside, services and facilities can be basic, especially in remote areas. This is a fast paced itinerary with several one night stays. This journey includes long walks, uneven surfaces, and stairs. Members must be in good health and physically fit to fully appreciate this journey. A Riad is a traditional Moroccan house or palace built around a central courtyard that has been converted into a private boutique style hotel, with atmosphere and great locations, but often with limited restaurant and other facilities, no elevators or direct coach access.

 **Book and deposit by May 30, 2024**
and save \$200 per person 

Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars per person

Land Only* (Join / Leave at hotel)	\$5,075
Montreal	\$6,545
Toronto.....	\$6,745
Halifax / St. John's / Winnipeg	\$6,995
Regina / Saskatoon	\$7,145
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver.....	\$7,095
Victoria	\$7,145
Single Supplement.....	\$1,665

Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Air inclusive prices are estimated (subject to confirmation).

*Land only excludes flights and airport transfers. Tour price is based on sharing a twin room at hotels and on a minimum of 20 members, based on rates, taxes and fees effective July 2023 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted from Canada with a minimum of 20 group members.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Estimated premiums range from \$312 to \$864 plus tax for travel arrangements as noted for up to 85 years of age – please contact our staff to receive a quote. This insurance is effective from the date of purchase and carries limitations on pre-existing medical conditions. Clients 86 years old and older and/or clients residing outside Ontario - contact our staff to discuss procedures. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Refer to the enrollment form for general information and conditions.

Final payment is due July 11, 2024
Deposit is \$700 per person

To reserve your spot on this tour, complete the enclosed enrollment form, and forward it with your deposit to:



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