

COLOURS OF MOROCCO

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SMALL GROUP
MAY 9-25, 2027 | 17 DAYS | 35 MEALS
JOURNEY LEADER: CATHY SEMLER

An Amazigh woman weaving a colourful, traditional Moroccan carpet

Nestled at the crossroads of Africa and Europe, where Christianity and Islam converge, Morocco dazzles with its rich tapestry of history, culture, and timeless charm.

From the Atlantic shores of Casablanca to the red-hued walls of Marrakech, we'll uncover the legacy of Amazigh tribes, Roman outposts, and Moorish dynasties. Beyond the city walls, our path leads into the vast Sahara, where golden dunes rise like waves beneath a setting sun.

A thrilling 4x4 adventure carries us into the desert to a deluxe camp, where the night sky shimmers with stars and the air comes alive with Amazigh music and tradition. Along the way, we'll connect with local families, uncover the rich history of Morocco's imperial cities, and journey through landscapes that have inspired storytellers for centuries. Morocco awaits, with wonder around every corner.

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

LIMITED TO ONLY 25 MEMBERS



Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare with Air Canada
- 15 nights in first-class hotels and comfortable riads, as indicated or similar
- 35 meals (B-15 breakfasts, L-8 lunches, D-12 dinners)
- Bottled water on the coach (daily) and at all included meals
- Porterage (where available)
- Gratuities, taxes, and fees for included services
- Services of our journey leader and national guides
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Journey Leader

We are pleased to have **Cathy Semler** leading this exciting journey. Cathy retired as a high school principal after devoting 35 years to the teaching profession. She is a seasoned traveller who loves the opportunity to learn from new adventures. Her travels have taken her to Alaska, Australia, New Zealand, India, Costa Rica, Ireland, and various destinations throughout Europe. She enjoys visiting iconic cities such as Paris, Amsterdam, and London, as well as hiking in the mountains and cruising to different countries. Cathy is looking forward to this next adventure with you.



Tour Highlights

UNESCO Sites

Volubilis Roman ruins and Ait Benhaddou

Cultural and Historical Sites

Meknes Medina and Bab Mansour, Hassan II Mosque, the Kasbah of the Oudayas, Hassan Tower and the Mohammed V Mausoleum, Bahia Palace, Ben Youssef Madrasa, argan cooperative visit, and Kasbah Amridil

Desert Adventures

Merzouga Luxury Desert Camp, a camel Ride, a 4x4 dune excursion, Kehel Mine, and Khamlia Village

Towns and Landscapes

Ifrane, Erfoud, Jemaa el-Fna Square, Todra Gorge, the Valley of Roses, Skoura Palm Grove, and the Bio Aromatic Garden of Ourika

Culinary and Local Experiences

Moroccan cooking class at La Maison Arabe, tea with an Amazigh family, and lunch at Chateau Roslane

MAY 9, Sun

DEPART CANADA

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

MAY 10, Mon

CASABLANCA / RABAT

Welcome to Morocco! On arrival in Casablanca, we meet our local guide and transfer to our hotel in Rabat. Before checking in, we will visit the Hassan Tower, a magnificent unfinished 12th-century minaret. We will then have free time to relax before dinner at our hotel.

Conrad Rabat Arzana (2 nights)

D

MAY 11, Tues

RABAT

Rabat welcomes us with a sea breeze and a sense of calm grandeur. Wind through the narrow lanes of the Kasbah of the Udayas and pause at the Mausoleum of Mohammed V before continuing to the stately Royal Palace and the ancient ruins of Chellah. Later, explore on your own before joining the group for dinner.

BD

MAY 12, Wed

MEKNES / VOLUBILIS / FEZ

We travel to Fez, home to one of the world's oldest and largest medieval medinas. En route, we visit Meknes, which once rivalled Versailles in beauty and opulence. Entering through the monumental gates of Bab Mansour, we discover the exquisite Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail, the sultan who transformed Meknes into Morocco's imperial capital. After a relaxing lunch at Chateau Roslane, we explore the well-preserved Roman ruins of Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back to around 40 AD. We spend two nights in the heart of the medina, with its bustling markets and a heady mix of aromas, sounds, and sights. **Barceló Fès Medina** (2 nights) **BL**

MAY 13, Thu

FEZ

At the heart of the medina of Fez, skilled artisans shape brass and weave intricate textiles, just as their ancestors did centuries ago. The narrow lanes of the souks beckon us into another world, rich with the mingling scents of cedarwood, tanned leather, and warm spices. We meander through bustling districts where tanners dye hides in vibrant vats, and every corner holds a new wonder waiting to be discovered. Continuing our guided walk, we admire the exterior of the Kairaouine Mosque and University and the Sultan's Palace, each showcasing classical Islamic art. Enjoy a calming walk through the Bou Jeloud Gardens, a botanical oasis. **BD**

MAY 14, Fri

FEZ / XALUCA HOTEL

Following some free time in Fez, we set our sights on the golden dunes of Merzouga. En route we stop in Ifrane, a charming alpine town known as the "Switzerland of Morocco." To ensure a comfortable pace, we break up the drive by resting for the night in the Middle Atlas Mountains. Our lodge overlooks the serene waters of Aguelmame Sidi Ali, a lake set within a rugged landscape, giving us the perfect opportunity to recharge before entering the Sahara the next day.

Hotel Xaluca Aguelmame Sidi Ali (1 night)

BD

MAY 15, Sat

XALUCA HOTEL / MERZOUGA

We continue our way south, driving through the scenic Ziz Valley, before stopping in Erfoud, Morocco's fossil capital. We will visit one of the leading fossil cooperatives, where we will learn about the geological history of the region, the fossil extraction process, and how these fossils are transformed into decorative pieces and furniture. We continue to Merzouga, where we swap our coach for 4x4s and drive out into the Sahara to reach our desert camp. Tonight, we will dine beneath a brilliant, star-filled sky.

Merzouga Luxury Desert Camp (2 nights)

BLD

MAY 16, Sun

MERZOUGA

The day will start with a 4x4 excursion to the historic Kehel Mine and Khamlia Village, where we meet local nomads and discover their traditional way of life. Following lunch at our desert camp, we embrace a timeless custom. A gentle camel ride carries us across undulating dunes to witness a spectacular sunset over the vast horizon. **BLD**

MAY 17, Mon

MERZOUGA / DADES

On our way to Dades, we pass through Rissani, the cradle of the Alaouite Dynasty, before visiting the breathtaking Todra Gorge. This spectacular canyon is known for its towering limestone cliffs, which contain fossils dating back millions of years.

Hotel Xaluca Dades (1 night)

BLD



Colourful tajines, at Jemaa el-Fna Square, Marrakech



Ride a camel across the golden dunes of Merzouga



Kasbah of the Oudayas, Rabat



Ornate exterior brass door of Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca

MAY 18, Tue **DADES / OUARZAZATE**

We enjoy a leisurely morning before winding through the perfumed Valley of Roses. Then we head to Skoura to experience a little piece of paradise in the desert at the Skoura Palm Grove. We travel back in time to a 17th-century citadel, Kasbah Amridil, where we experience traditional Moroccan life as it was centuries ago. For the movie lovers in the group, we stop at Atlas Studios, the largest studio in Africa, where films such as *Gladiator* and *Kingdom of Heaven* were brought to life.

Le Berbère Palace (1 night) **BD**

MAY 19, Wed **OUARZAZATE / OURIKA**

We head north, stopping to visit UNESCO-listed Ait Benhaddou, where the timeless masterpiece *Lawrence of Arabia* was filmed. Then we continue to the lush Ourika Valley, deep within the High Atlas Mountains.

Kasbah d'Ourika (2 nights) **BLD**

MAY 20, Thu **OURIKA**

The Amazigh are Morocco's indigenous people, with a history and culture stretching back long before the arrival of Arab, Roman, or European influences. Today we immerse ourselves in their world, spending the day exploring traditional Amazigh life through a variety of activities. Our day begins with a guided hike through the surrounding landscapes, followed by a visit to a local argan cooperative and tea with a local Amazigh family. We enjoy a traditional lunch by the river.

BLD

MAY 21, Fri **OURIKA / MARRAKECH**

Today we will make a short transfer to Marrakech. En route, we visit the Bio Aromatic Garden of Ourika, a peaceful botanical garden showcasing Morocco's rich variety of aromatic and medicinal plants. Upon arrival in Marrakech, we go directly into the heart of the city to experience Jemaa el-Fna and its labyrinth of souks, alive with craft and culture.

Riad Kniza (3 nights) **BD**

MAY 22, Sat **MARRAKECH**

We spend the day exploring the wonders of Marrakech, beginning with the exterior of the iconic Koutoubia Mosque, the city's largest mosque. We then step inside the beautifully decorated Ben Youssef Madrasa, once one of the region's most important Islamic colleges. We end our city tour with the elegant Bahia Palace, built in the 19th century.

BL

MAY 23, Sun **MARRAKECH**

A culinary experience awaits us at La Maison Arabe, one of Marrakech's finest restaurants since 1946. Under the guidance of an expert chef, we discover the secrets of Moroccan cuisine and prepare a selection of traditional dishes. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy.

BL

MAY 24, Mon **MARRAKECH / CASABLANCA**

Returning to the coastal metropolis of Casablanca, we visit the spectacular Hassan II Mosque. Perched majestically over the Atlantic Ocean, this intricate masterpiece of Moroccan craftsmanship ranks among the world's largest mosques. Following a tour of the city's highlights, we gather for a farewell dinner to celebrate the conclusion of our unforgettable Moroccan adventure.

Art Palace Suites & Spa (1 night) **BD**

MAY 25, Tue **HOMEWARD BOUND**

Early this morning, we bid farewell to Morocco as we catch our flights home.

B

CT Rating 3.5/5 - Challenging: Members should be prepared for crowded cities and busy souks. 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 Early
and Save \$200 Per Person**

**Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person**

Land Only* (Join / Leave at hotel)	\$8,635
Montreal	\$9,845
Toronto	\$9,995
Halifax / St. John's / Winnipeg	\$10,285
Regina / Saskatoon	\$10,445
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver	\$10,385
Victoria	\$10,445
Single Supplement	\$2,695

*Land-only price is based on joining at the hotel in Rabat and leaving at the hotel in Casablanca and excludes flights and airport transfers.

Single rooms are extremely limited.

Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details.

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 2026 and is 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. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

**Deposit is \$800 per person
Final payment is due February 3, 2027**

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:

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