



MEJDI TOURS

Scheduled Departure - Discover Morocco

Dates: November 13-23, 2024

March 4-14, 2025

Included:

- 10 nights' accommodation (in double occupancy) at the following hotels or similar¹, includes breakfast:
 - 4 nights – Riad El Walaa, Marrakech
 - 1 night – Oscar Hotel, Ouarzazate
 - 1 night – La Rose Du Desert Hotel, Erfoud
 - 1 night – Luxury camping, Sahara Desert
 - 3 nights – Jnan Palace, Fes
- Meals listed in the itinerary: 10 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
- 1 MEJDI English-speaking guide for 9 days
- Private transportation throughout the trip, including arrival and departure airport transfers
- 1 domestic flight from Casablanca to Erfoud
- Entrance fees, site visits, and honorariums for speakers
- Water on bus throughout tour
- Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not Included:

- International airfare
- Travel insurance - **highly recommended**
- Single occupancy supplement - \$1,000 per person
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Customary tips for drivers and guides
- Gratuities for hotels and portorage fees
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

Tour Cost: \$3,540 per person

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability

MEJDI Socially Conscious Experiences

Our socially conscious model focuses on the human element of destinations—the diversity of its people and their stories—in a way that benefits local communities around the world. We specially design our itineraries to immerse you in these cultures. So you don't just visit new places; you become part of them. These human experiences and how we treat the people you meet are what sets MEJDI apart.

- Visit the **highlights of Morocco**, including the **Sahara Desert** and several **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, including Ait Ben Haddou, Old Medina in Fes, Old Medina in Marrakech, and Meknes.
- Attend an optional **Friday night service** at a **synagogue**.
- Take a **hands-on cooking class** led by a local family in the **Atlas Mountains**.
- Savor a **homemade meal** hosted by a family in Fes and be treated to traditional live music.
- Enjoy an exclusive **Hadra Sufi show** with local female singers and musicians.
- Tour **Atlas Film Studios** in Ouarzazate and learn about the art and business of film production in Morocco from Amazigh movie maker, Said Belli.
- Visit the **Jewish Museum** and meet with the **curator**.
- Have dinner with a **Civil Society expert** or a **local journalist**.
- Meet with a **local professor** in Fes to learn about Moroccan history and culture.
- Catch a beautiful sunset while glamping in the Sahara Desert.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival

Arrive at Marrakech International Airport and take a private car transfer to the hotel. Dinner at your hotel.

Hotel: Riad El Walaa, Marrakech (dinner included)

Day 2: Marrakech, Old City

In the morning, we set off for the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of Medina** and spend the day discovering the ancient quarter. We visit **Madrassa Ben Youssef**, formerly the largest Islamic college in Marrakech, and then see **Bahia Palace**, a late 19th-century palace built by Si Moussa, the powerful Grand Vizier of Sultan Hassan I. From there, we visit **Mellah**, the Jewish Quarter, and stop by the synagogue and Jewish cemetery, and **enjoy a private Hadra Sufi show** with local female singers and musicians.

Hotel: Riad El Walaa, Marrakech (breakfast and dinner included)

Day 3: Marrakech, Old City

We begin our day with a visit to the 16th-century **Badia Palace** and the **Saadian tombs**. For lunch, we meet with a local storyteller—a vocation that thrived in Morocco until the 20th century. Afterward, our group heads towards the **Majorelle Garden** and the **Berber Museum**. There will be an option to attend **Friday night service at the synagogue**.

Hotel: Riad El Walaa, Marrakech (breakfast included)

Day 4: Atlas Mountains and Ouarzazate

This morning, we drive to the **Atlas Mountains**. We visit a small town to learn about **Berber life** before taking a **cooking class** with locals. Together, we explore the secrets of Moroccan cuisine and enjoy our handmade lunch. In the afternoon, take a **hike** or a **mule** to explore the beautiful landscape further. We then continue towards **Ouarzazate** for the night.

Hotel: Oscar Hotel, Ouarzazate (breakfast and lunch included)

Day 5: Aït Benhaddou

This morning, we explore **Ouarzazate**, learn about the **filmmaking industry** in Morocco at the **Atlas Studios**, and visit **Aït Benhaddou**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. We end our day with a drive back to **Marrakech** for a **meeting with a storyteller**.

Hotel: Riad El Walaa, Marrakech (breakfast and lunch included)

Day 6: Casablanca

This morning, we head off to **Casablanca** (a 3-hour drive). After lunch, we visit **Hassan II Mosque**, one of Morocco's highlights, and then enjoy a **hammam** and **massage** in the Mosque Hammam (optional). Afterward, we will take a short tour of Casablanca with the option to visit the **Jewish Museum** and **meet with the curator** if available. From there, we **meet a Civil Society expert or a local journalist for dinner** and then head to the airport for our hour **flight to the Sahara Desert**. We spend the night in Erfoud.

Hotel: La Rose Du Desert Hotel, Erfoud (breakfast and dinner included)

Day 7: Erfoud and The Sahara Desert

This morning, we explore **Erfoud** and its surroundings, including the **Maadid Palace** and an **oasis** in the region. Learn about this unique region as we head to our tented camp in the desert dunes of **Merzouga**. This late afternoon, enjoy a **camel ride** and a stunning sunset over the dunes. Later, **enjoy dinner and drum circle by the campfire** while gifted with a breathtaking night below the stars.

Hotel: Comfortable Oasis Camping, Sahara Desert (breakfast and dinner included)

Day 8: Sahara Desert to Fes

After a beautiful **sunrise in the Sahara Desert** and a morning reveling in the landscape, we start our drive towards **Fes** (approx. 8 hours) stopping along the way for lunch on your own and

for stunning photo ops. On the way, we stop in **Ifrane**, a region known as the Switzerland of Morocco. Throughout the day, there are many opportunities to stretch your legs, eat, and use clean restrooms. We arrive in Fes for the night.

Hotel: Jnan Palace Hotel, *Fes (breakfast included)*

Day 9: Fes, Old Medina

We spend today in **Fes**, the oldest of the imperial cities and the religious capital of the Kingdom of Morocco. **Explore the largest medina in North Africa**, with over 9,000 tiny streets and alleys filled with colors, scents, mosaic tiles, mosques, courtyards, and more. And visit **the Mellah (Jewish Quarter)** that, prior to the Spanish Inquisition, had a native Jewish population that could be traced back to the period following the destruction of the Second Temple during the Siege of Jerusalem in 70 C.E. We visit the **old tanneries, Al-Attarine Madrasa, the craftspeople quarters, and the Marinid Tombs** before meeting with a **local professor** and learning about Moroccan history and culture.

Hotel: Jnan Palace Hotel, *Fes (breakfast included)*

Day 10: Meknes Imperial City

After breakfast, we drive to **Meknes** for the day (3.5 hours). We visit the imperial city and make a stop at **Volubilis**, a Roman city. Explore the **Medina of Meknes**, one of Morocco's four imperial cities, founded as a military settlement in the 11th century, and **Bab-el-Mansour**, the main ceremonial entrance to the Kasbah of Sultan Moulay Isma'il known for its beautifully preserved green and white zellij tiles, marble columns, and Koran inscriptions. We tour the **Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail** and other sites in the Medina (time allowing) before heading back to Fes for **dinner** at a **private house** for **traditional live Moroccan music for our final evening**.

Hotel: Jnan Palace Hotel, *Fes (breakfast and dinner included)*

Day 11: Departure Day (Or first day of optional extension)

In the morning, we drive to **Casablanca** (3.5 hours to catch flights back home).

(Breakfast included)

Optional Extension

Dates: November 23-26, 2024
March 14-17, 2025

Included:

- 3 nights' accommodation (in double occupancy) at the following hotels or similar², includes breakfast:
 - 1 night – Dar Jazmin, Chefchaun
 - 1 night - Palais Zahia, Tangier
 - 1 night – Riad Zyo, Rabat
- Meals listed in the itinerary: 3 breakfasts
- 1 MEJDI English-speaking guide for 3 days
- Private transportation throughout the trip, including departure airport transfer
- Entrance fees, site visits, and honorariums for speakers
- Water on bus throughout tour
- Customary tips for drivers, guides
- Dedicated pre-trip customer service and on-ground support

Not Included:

- International airfare
- Travel insurance - **highly recommended**
- COVID testing costs
- Tips for hotels and portering fees
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section

Pricing: \$945 per person

Itinerary

Day 11: Chefchaouen

In the morning, we drive to the artsy, blue-washed town of **Chefchaouen** (3.5 hours), nestled in the Rif mountains and originally founded as a kasbah from which to defend Morocco against Portuguese invasion. Tour the **Old City of Chefchaouen** and explore the city's narrow lanes and maze-like medina. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

Hotel: Dar Jazmin Hotel, *Chefchaouen*

² Subject to confirmation based on availability

Day 12: Tangier

After breakfast, we set off for Tangier (2.5 hours). There, visit the **Old City** and the **American Legation Museum**, which commemorates historic and cultural diplomacy between the U.S. and Morocco. We then visit **Cape Spartel** and the **Cave of Hercules** and the lighthouse before an evening on your own enjoying ocean views.

Hotel: Palais Zahia Hotel, *Tangier (breakfast included)*

Day 13: Rabat

We drive to Rabat (2 hours), Morocco's capital city near the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of the river Bou Regreg. **Visit the Mausoleum of Mohammed V**, with its intricate tile work and grand marble tomb, adjacent to the unfinished Hassan Tower. See **Dar-al-Makhzen**, the King's primary residence (outside only), and **Kasbah Oudaya**, a tranquil Andalusian-style neighborhood of twisting lanes surrounded by blue and white buildings.

Visit the Kasbah, and the old town and market, before meeting with a local speaker (topic to be decided with travelers). End the evening with dinner on your own.

Hotel: Riad Zyo Hotel, *Rabat (breakfast included)*

Day 14: Departure Day

We offer private airport transfers so you can catch your flight back home.

(breakfast included)