

A Custom Designed Itinerary to

Morocco

by

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

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Day 1: CASABLANCA. Upon arrival in Casablanca, you will be met by your English-speaking driver/escort, who will remain with you until departure from Marrakech. You will be transferred into Casablanca, where 1 night is reserved at the **Royal Mansour Hotel**. You will enjoy a half day city tour with your private driver/escort and local guide, including Mohamed V Square, Habbous Mahkama (Law Court).



Day 2: CASABLANCA/RABAT. Depart your hotel with your driver/escort. Before setting out to Rabat, enjoy an inside visit of the Hassan II Mosque. Upon arrival in Rabat, you will have a sightseeing of the city, which is the administrative capital of the kingdom. Visit the Hassan Tower, an impressive masterpiece of Almohade architecture, with its unfinished minaret, contemporary Koutoubia of Marrakech. It is part of a mosque that was intended to hold the Moorish army for worship. Pause to admire the exquisite craftsmanship of the mausoleum of Mohamed V, raised in tribute to Morocco's contemporary king and liberator. Visit the Chellah Roman ruins, the Archaeological Museum and passing through the massive fortified gateways of the Kasbah of the Oudaia, enter a delightful Andalusian garden with its Moorish cafe overlooking the river.



Check into the **Hilton Hotel** for overnight.

Day 3: RABAT/MEKNES/VOLUBILIS/FES. This morning an early departure to Meknes via the enchanting cork-oak forest. Meknes, the Imperial city of the 17th century, was founded by Moulay Ismail, a contemporary of Louis XIV (who built Versailles). Visit the monumental Bab el Mansour gateway, the ruins of the Imperial stables and granaries, the Moulay Ismail Mausoleum, the Christian slaves prison, Palais des Idrissides and the old medina. From Meknes, travel via Volubilis and the old Moulay Idriss. In Volubilis you will see the Roman ruins of this former Province of Mauritania. Also known as Tingitana, it was the home of Anthony and Cleopatra's daughter, Sylene, who married the Berber King Juba II. Visit the olive press, the House of Orpheus, the Basilica, the Baths of Gallienne, the Forum, the Triumphal Arch of Caracalla, and the House of Venus. You will stop for photos at the Holy City of Moulay Idriss, founded in the early 8th century. Arrive in Fes for 2 nights at **Hotel Palais Jamai**.



Day 4: FES. Fes is the oldest imperial city. It is also the spiritual and intellectual capital of Islam in the West. Today you will see the imposing fortifications of the Kasbah des Cherada, the 9th century Karaouiyine Mosque and University with Bou Inania and Attarine dating back to the 14th Moulay Idriss (founder of Fes in 809 AD), the Boujeloud Gateway, the Hispano-Mauresque dar collection of carpets, textiles, woodwork, ceramic made Fes famous. You will also see the Belghazi at leisure. Your guide is available for further Overnight at Palais Jamai.



its medersas (colleges) of century, the Shrine of Nejarine Square, the Bab Batha Museum and its and traditional arts that Museum. This afternoon is sightseeing if you wish.

Day 5: FES/MARRAKECH. Drive via the Middle Atlas Mountains and via the Berber cities of: Ifrane, Azrou, and Khenifra and the berber tribes of Ichkirn and Zayane. Ifrane was created in 1929 as a self-conscious “pocket of France” and built in the 1930’s by French colonials. It is so different compared to the rest of Morocco that it is easy to imagine you have arrived in a Swiss village. It is indeed a well-known skiing station, with its chalets, its ski lifts, its clean streets, its pine smell and its crisp mountain air. The province of the Middle Atlas and populated by two large tribes: Beni Mguil. Its natural wealth includes a National cedar forest in the country. There are also pre-historical sites here, such as the underground cave of Tizguite and archaeological vestiges in Zerouka, Ghabt, Al Bahr and Ittos. You will stop in the agricultural city of Ben Mellal for lunch, which is a perfect mid-way stop between Marrakech and Fes. Upon arrival in Marrakech, check into **Hotel La Mamounia** for a 2 nights stay.



Day 6: MARRAKECH. Marrakech is the second oldest of the Imperial Cities founded in the 11th century. It spreads out in a huge palm grove at the foot of the snow-capped High Atlas Mountains. There is a lot to see here, so you may want to discuss with your guide what to see in a half day. If you decide to keep him for the full day, just let him know. These are some of the sights you may not want to miss: The venerable monument of Koutoubia, known as a master piece of Almohades art, the richly decorated rooms of the Saadian Tombs; the Bahia Palace and Dar si Said Palace, now converted into the exquisite museum of Moroccan Art. Maison Tiskiwin, Dar M’Nibhi, Ben Youssef Medrassa, Musee de Marrakech. And of course, you will want to visit the souks, the artisans and the enormous Djemaa El Fna Square which abounds with storytellers and local people squatting around the ever present tea kettles producing the fragrance of fresh mint tea. Overnight at Hotel la Mamounia.



Day 7: MARRAKECH/CASABLANCA. Day at leisure until you are transferred to the Marrakech airport in time for your flight to Casablanca. Upon arrival, you are met and privately transferred back to **Hotel Royal Mansour** for a final night.

Day 8: DEPART. This morning an early transfer to Casablanca airport, in time for your flight.