

## The essentials, Merzouga and the jebels

### Key points :

- 📍 Imperial cities (Fez, Meknes, Marrakech)
- 📍 Seaside cities, Essaouira and El Jadida
- 📍 Volubilis site

### Day 1 : Marrakech

Arrival in the Red City. We take you to your hotel.

### Day 2 : Marrakech - Beni Mellal

We stop at the Ouzoud cascades, to admire these one hundred metres waterfalls. The way going down to the river is shadowed with trees hosting many Berber Apes. Still making our way through the "Moroccan Swiss" we pass by Azilal and the huge Bin-El-Ouidane dam to reach Beni-Mellal, where we visit the Aïn-Asserdoune sources and admire the panoramic view from the Borj.

### Day 3 : Beni Mellal - Meknes

Another source, of the Oum er-Rbia river, where sweet waters and waters salted by Atlas rock salts simultaneously flow. Along the way, tents have been set up, and it is a very nice and very cool place when the weather is really hot. We then cross the cedars forest of the Middle Atlas, populated with Berber Apes, and large green agricultural plains. Passing by Azrou, we reach Meknes.

### Day 4 : Meknes and Volubilis

In the morning, visit of the Roman ruins of Volubilis. The city was formerly the capital of Tingitania Mauritania (Western Africa), and remains a monumental Triumph Arch, facing the Plain of Rarb, and many mosaics. In the afternoon we visit the medina of Meknes, whose fortified walls have the largest doors in Morocco. Inside, we see the splendid Moulay Idriss Mausoleum, the House of Water (Dar-el-Ma), the former granaries of Moulay Ismail (Heri es-Souani) and the large Agdal water pool.

### Day 5 : Fez

We visit the medina of Fez, the oldest of all imperial cities. Founded in 789, it grew in 818, welcoming the Muslims chased out of Cordova, and continued growing in concentric circles till the XVII° century, when the Alawites abandoned Fez for Meknes. Listed as a World Heritage, Fez medina has some of the most beautiful Muslim monuments, like Karouiyine Mosque, Koranic schools (medersa) Bou-Inania and El-Attarine, zawiya Moulay Idriss, and the foundouk (hotel) El-Najjarine, now a museum. You can also visit the tanneries. We go back to Meknes, where we sleep.

### Day 6 : Meknes - El Jadida

From Meknes, we go to Rabat, where we visit the Kasbah des Oudayas and the Hassan Tower. In the evening, we arrive in the former Portuguese Mazagan, now called El Jadida.

### Day 7 : El Jadida

Portuguese left a fortified city of the XVI° century, which highlight is a large underground cistern, discovered again by sheer luck at the beginning of the XX° century, by a merchant who wanted to extend his caves. After visiting the medina and the fortified walls, you can enjoy the beach and the sunset.

**Camping de l'Oasis de Mezgarne – Tazzarine – Province de Zagora – Morocco**

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**Day 8 : El Jadida - Essaouira**

Along the coastal road, we drive southwards to Essaouira. We pass by Oualidia, a very nice and charming sea resort, whose beach offers a wonderful and protected lagoon. It's an area with oysters farming, and you'll see the parks along the seaside. We reach Essaouira, formerly called Mogador.

**Day 9 : Essaouira - Marrakech**

We visit Essaouira, whose strong walls remind us of the city of St Malo and protect a typical medina. Essaouira is a city known for its artists, craftsmen (especially wood sculptors and inlayers working mainly with thuja and citrus) and sport opportunities (winds are a real treat for surfers), and has a very active fishing harbour. We drive back to Marrakech.

**Day 10 : Departure**

We transfer you to your airport or another place when you stay in Morocco (in that case, possible extra costs, please ask us).

10 days

Dates : All year

Price : 770 euros per person (for a group  
of 4-6 people)

Accommodation : Hotel



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