

Two weeks, North and South

Key points :

- ✦ In two weeks you can discover all aspects of Morocco
- ✦ Imperial cities (Marrakech, Rabat, Fez, Meknes)
- ✦ Deserts and Merzouga sand dunes
- ✦ Atlas mountains
- ✦ Road of the thousand kasbahs
- ✦ Jebels

Day 1 : Marrakech

You arrive in Marrakech and we take you to the hotel

Day 2 : Marrakech

We visit the medina of the Red city, former Almoravids' capital : Koranic school (medersa) Ben Youssef, Palace of the Bahia, Saadian tombs, ... and of course Jemaa El Fna square, listed on intangible World Culture Heritage (Unesco), where you can admire the Koutoubia, one of the most beautiful minarets in North Africa, and visit the gardens at its feet. Outside of the medina, we also visit the Majorelle Gardens

Day 3 : Marrakech - Rabat

Before arriving in Rabat, we stop in Casablanca where we visit the outside of Hassan II Mosque, the biggest in the world after Mecca's one. Built facing and over the sea (two thirds of the 9ha site have been taken from the sea), its 210 metres high minaret can be seen nearly anywhere in Casablanca. It was made thanks to the know-how of the best craftsmen in Morocco.

Day 4 : Rabat-Salé

Visit of the Kasbah des Oudayas, its white and blue houses, its small narrow streets, and the monumental doors of the medina, its museum and the Andalusian garden, Mohammed V Mausoleum, Hassan Tower, and Chellah necropolis.

Day 5 : Rabat - Meknes

Visit of the Roman ruins of Volubilis. The city was formerly the capital of Tingitania Mauritania (Western Africa), and remain a monumental Triumph Arch, facing the Plain of Rarb, and many mosaics

Day 6 : Meknes

We visit of the medina of Meknes, which 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 7 : Meknes - Fez

In Fez, we visit the mellah (former Jewish neighbourhood) and admire nearby the splendid ornate monumental doors of the royal palace. From the Borj (fortified tower) we enjoy the panoramic view over the city.

Day 8 : 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 abandon Fez for Meknes. Listed of the World Heritage, Fez medina has some of the most beautiful Muslim monuments, like Karouiyine Mosque, Koranic schools (medersa) Bou-Inania and El-Attarine, zawiya

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

GPS : N 30° 46'352" W 05°30'393"

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Moulay Idriss, and the foundouk (hotel) El-Najjarine, now a museum. You can also visit the tanneries.

Day 9 : Fez - Middelt

We cross Middle Atlas and its beautiful cedar forests, populated with Berber Apes. We pass by Ifrane, surprising ski resort that looks more like Swiss than Moroccan, and arrive in Middelt, in the heart of the Berber country.

Day 10 : Middelt – Merzouga

In the Ziz valley we see numerous traditional ksours along the road. They are typical of the southern Berber architecture, at the beginning a simple alley between few houses, it grows slowly into a strongly fortified village. We visit the Blue Source of Meski before reaching the huge sand dunes of Merzouga, where we set up the bivouac.

Day 11 : Merzouga – Todra Gorges

We visit Rissani, first imperial city of the Alawites, its souq, Moulay Ali Cherif Mausoleum, the old Alawite palace now undergoing renovation, and the ksours around. We pass through small Berber villages before arriving in the very steep Todra gorges.

Day 12 : Todra Gorges - Ouarzazate

We visit Dades gorges and valley, then the Roses valley, where the famous Roses Festival takes place at the beginning of May (Kelaâ M'Gouna). At the end of the day, we arrive in Ouarzazate, garrison city built by the French Foreign Legion in 1928.

Day 13 : Ouarzazate

Visit of the ksar of the Ait Ben Haddou (listed on Unesco's World Heritage), Taourirt's kasbah (a former palace of the Glawi), Ouarzazate old town and, depending on film making, cinema studios.

Day 14 : Ouarzazate - Marrakech

We drive by to Marrakech through the pass of Tichka, with many small Berber villages, deep valleys, hairpin bends, and all High Atlas trees (Indian Figs, nut trees, tanes...) Shortly before Marrakech, by good weather, one can see the Toubkal, highest summit in Morocco (4.167 m)

Day 15 : Departure

We transfer you to the airport, or to another place if you wish (possible extra costs in this case).

15 days

Dates : September to June (possible all year if you can cope with heat)

Price : 1.140 euros per person (for a group of 4-6 people)

Accommodation : Hotel and bivouac



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