



MEJDI TOURS

MEJDI Tours Group Departure

- Tour:** The Wonders of Morocco
- Included:** 10 nights' accommodation at the following 4-star hotels or similar (double occupancy): Oum Palace Hotel & Spa (Casablanca), Dar Echchaouen Maison d'Hôtes & Riad (Chefchaouen), Riad el Yacout (Fes), Auberge La Belle Étoile (tented camp - Erfoud), Hotel Karam Palace (Ouarzazate), Hotel Farah (Marrakech)
1 local guide for 10 days
11 days of private bus transportation including arrival and departure transfers
Meals listed in the itinerary: 10 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers¹
Water on the bus throughout the tour
US-based customer service representatives
- Not included:** International airfare
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
Single Supplement-\$450
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
Gratuities
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing²:** 10+ Paying Participants - \$3,995 Per Person

¹ Subject to confirmation based on availability

² Subject to change based on confirmation. This quote is valid for 2 weeks.

Overview:

Experience the wonders of Morocco on this incredible 11-day journey. Explore cosmopolitan Casablanca and the capital city of Rabat. Wander through the artsy, blue-washed town of Chefchaouen, and get lost in the bright and bustling medinas of Fes and Marrakech. Drive along winding mountain roads with sweeping desert and mountain views in the High Atlas. Dive deeper into the heart of the Moroccan people and hear first-hand stories from locals. Learn about Jewish & Muslim relations from members of Mimouna Association, an organization that works to educate Moroccan Muslims about Jews and Judaism. Visit a local family home for a conversation on Moroccan culture, Amazigh traditions, and Sufism. Stay the night in a tented camp in the Sahara and relax under a canopy of stars. Enjoy a breathtaking desert sunrise from the back of a camel. Spend the day with the High Atlas Foundation, an organization that promotes sustainable development, women and youth empowerment, and interfaith relations. Visit the House of Memory in Essaouira, a former home of a wealthy trader, converted to a space dedicated to the historic co-existence of Morocco's Jewish and Muslim communities.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival - Casablanca, Morocco

Arrive in Casablanca. Transfer to your hotel. Afternoon **panoramic city tour** including Temple Beth El Synagogue, Hassan II Mosque (outside only), and La Corniche beachfront district. Enjoy a group **welcome dinner** this evening.

Hotel: Oum Palace Hotel & Spa, Casablanca (D)

Day 2: Rabat - Chefchaouen

Transfer to **Rabat** this morning (~1.25 hour drive), Morocco's capital city on the Atlantic Ocean at the mouth of the river Bou Regreg. See **Dar-al-Makhzen**, the King's primary residence (outside only), and **Kasbah Oudaya**, a tranquil and tiny Andalusian-style neighborhood of twisting lanes surrounded by blue and white buildings. **Visit the Mausoleum of Mohammed V**, with its intricate tile work and grand marble tomb, adjacent to the unfinished Hassan Tower. Continue on to the artsy, blue-washed town of **Chefchaouen** (~4 hour drive), nestled in the Rif mountains, and originally founded as a kasbah from which to defend Morocco against Portuguese invasion. Explore the city's narrow lanes and maze-like medina and enjoy dinner on your own.

Hotel: Dar Echchaouen Maison d'Hôtes & Riad, Chefchaouen (B)

Day 3: Meknes - Fes

This morning, transfer to **Meknes** (~3.5 hour drive). **Visit 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. Continue to **Fes** (~1 hour drive), for dinner (on own) and a **discussion with local students and members of Mimouna Association, an organization that works to educate Moroccan Muslims about Jews and Judaism, and to advance Jewish-Muslim relations.**

Hotel: Riad el Yacout, Fes (B)

Day 4: Fes

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 ancient mosques, towering minarets, arched doorways, tranquil courtyards, and brilliantly colored intricate mosaic tiles, delicately engraved with quotes from the Koran, and 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. This afternoon, **visit a local family home for a conversation on Moroccan culture, Amazigh traditions, and Sufism.**

Hotel: Riad el Yacout, Fes (B)

Day 5: Ifrane - Azrou - Erfoud

Travel toward the Sahara Desert (~6.5 hours drive) today, with stops en route. Visit **Ifrane**, a university and resort town known as the “Switzerland of Morocco,” for its alpine-style architecture, ski slopes, and forests. Continue through **Cèdre Gouraud Forest** (Azrou Cedar Forest), a woodland area in the Middle Atlas mountain range, known for its population of **Barbary macaques**. Enjoy stunning views of the eastern **High Atlas** and the **Ziz River** as you continue past the town of Midelt toward the oasis of **Erfoud**. Upon arrival, **enjoy a quiet evening and dinner at your tent hotel in the Sahara Desert.**

Hotel: Auberge La Belle Étoile (tent hotel), Erfoud (B, D)

Day 6: Merzouga - Tinghir - Ouarzazate

Rise before the sun this morning and **travel by 4x4** to Merzouga. Enjoy a **camel ride and a beautiful sunrise over the dunes**. Return to your hotel for breakfast, then **visit the village of Khamliyah to hear some Gnawa music**, Moroccan and sub-Saharan African Islamic religious songs and rhythms that combine poetry with traditional music and dancing. Depart toward Tinghir, and **visit the magnificent Todgha canyons**, a series of limestone river canyons, or wadi. After a walk and sightseeing, depart for Ouarzazate (~2.5 hours drive), winding through stunning desert landscapes, villages, and palm groves, on the **Road of 1000 Kasbahs**. Arrive in **Ouarzazate**, the gateway to the Sahara and Morocco’s movie capital, where many famous movies have been filmed. Enjoy a group dinner this evening.

Hotel: Hotel Karam Palace, Ouarzazate (B, D)

Day 7: Ait-Ben-Haddou - Marrakech

Drive to **Ait-Ben-Haddou**, a spectacular ksar village and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A striking example of southern Moroccan architecture, Ait-Ben-Haddou was once a major stop along the caravan route between Marrakech and the Sahara. Continue along winding mountain roads with sweeping desert and mountain views to **Marrakech** (~3.5 hour drive). Check into your hotel and get settled in, then **visit the bustling Jemaa el-Fnaa, a square and market place in Marrakech's Medina Quarter, or Old City**. Explore the market, a favorite spot for tourists and locals alike, and enjoy dinner on your own.

Hotel: Hotel Farah, Marrakech (B)

Day 8: Marrakech and the Villages of the High Atlas

Spend the day with the High Atlas Foundation, an organization that promotes sustainable development, women and youth empowerment, and interfaith relations.

Visit some of the villages and womens' co-ops with whom they work and hear first-hand stories of the life-changing work the organization is doing in the villages of the High Atlas.

Enjoy dinner on your own in Marrakech this evening.

Hotel: Hotel Farah, Marrakech (B, L)

Day 9: Day Trip to Essaouira

Today, take a trip to the vibrant and picturesque port town of **Essaouira** (~2.75 hours drive). Wander through charming labyrinthine lanes lined with Portugese, French, and Amazigh architecture. **Visit the House of Memory**, the former home of a wealthy trader, converted to a space dedicated to the historic co-existence of Morocco's Jewish and Muslim communities. Enjoy some time at leisure and dinner on your own this evening before returning to Marrakech.

Hotel: Hotel Farah, Marrakech (B)

Day 10: Marrakech - Casablanca

Today, explore **Marrakech**, a former imperial city, major economic center, and home to mosques, palaces, extravagant gardens, and the famous red stone walls that surround the "Red City." Visit the **Menara Gardens**, a historic garden and orchard and a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the **Koutoubia Mosque** or "Bookseller's Mosque," the highest structure in Marrakech and a prominent meeting point at the heart of the city. For lunch, learn the secrets of Moroccan cuisine at a **local cooking class**. Visit **Bahia Palace**, a late 19th century palace built by Si Moussa, the powerful Grand Vizier of Sultan Hassan I, featuring dazzling displays of zellij tiles, painted ceilings, ornate wrought iron features, opulent salons of the harem era, and a massive grand marble courtyard. Visit the **Mellah and Slat AlAzamah synagogue**, built by Jews expelled from Spain in 1942. Later this afternoon, transfer to Casablanca (~2.5 hour drive) and check into your hotel. Meet the group for a final **farewell dinner** this evening.

Hotel: Oum Palace Hotel & Spa, Casablanca (B, L, D)

Day 11: Departure

Transfer to the airport and depart for home today. *(B)*