

Trip Map | PDF file of this Trip |

18 APR - 4 MAY 2024 (17D15N) Morocco Meanderings (Casablanca, Rabat, Chefchaouen, Fes, Tinghir, Mhamid, Er Chicaga Desert, Ouarzazate, Marrakesh, Essaouira, El Jadida)

Trip Cost per person Rm7100 (16pax group) EXCLUDE FLIGHTS

Based on 1 Moroccon Dirham = Rm 0.47171 (10Jun23). Final adjustments on trip cost is based on exchange rate at time of final collection.

Update 5 Sep 2023. Itinerary changed as below based on Promo Emirates Airlines Rm4700 on FIT (individual). Update 28 Jun 2023 Itinerary below based on Qatar Airline. Qatar fare is Rm5426 for FIT as of 28Jun2023. We'll check for Group fares and benefit will be passed on to trip members

IMPORTANT NOTICE. This is meant to be a "free and easy" budget trip. Participants should be relatively fit, with a good sense of humour, and above all, have the <u>right attitude</u> for close travel with others through possibly some trying times. Most definitely, this is not a trip for prudes, whiners, fuss-pots, and other similiarly assorted types! Although every effort will be made to stick to the given itinerary, ground conditions may change and cause some disruption and/or deviation from the norm. Otherwise, have fun!

We hire a 17 seater Mercedes Sprinter with a local driver for the duration of this trip. We stay budget to mid-range accommodations except for the one night in a desert tent. Its quite important participants are able to manage their own luggage, preferably backpacks or softpacks. Large 28 inches luggage is strictly NOT ALLOWED. Yongo trips, you pay for your own meals unless stated below, entrance fees, within-the-town taxis and other optional activities.

Morocco is an amazing travel destination which will overload your sensories. The sights, scents and sounds that permeate medieval Fes and magical Marrakech, to the coastal charm in Essaouira and El Jadida. From the high of the Atlas range and its abundance of mountains, Kasbahs, and friendly Berbers, to the stunning sculpted sands of the Sahara. Morocco rewards you with the richness of its desert, the thrill of the hidden alleys in its ancient cities and its salty breeze along the Atlantic coast.



Shopping / Chigaga Dunes / Centuries old tannaries of Fes

Day 0 Meet KLIA: Meet up at KLIA 1130 MIDNIGHT WED 17 APR 2024 for Emirates Airlines flight.

<u>Day 1 Casablanca.</u> Departs THU 18 APR 2024 KUL (0225) lands DUBAI (0530) Transit 2HR. Departs DUBAI (0730) lands Casablanca (1255 noon). Our chartered van takes group to our hotel located in downtown. Visit Hassan II mosque, largest mosque in Morocco. its minaret is the world's second tallest minaret stand at 210m. Rest of day free. Overnight (O/N) Casablanca, NO meals included on this day.

mountains in Northwest Morocco. 91km from Casablanca, we stop at Rabat, the capital city of Morocco, also listed in UNESCO World Heritage. We visit the Kasbah of the Udayas, a well preserved fortress dating back to 12th century Almohad Dynasty. The Hassan Tower Mosque and across it the Mausoleum of Mohammed V. After lunch, we continue journey to Chefchaouen, also known as the Blue City with its blue-washed buildings, this town of 43,000 population is becoming a popular tourist destination. O/N Chefchaouen, breakfast included. (B)

<u>Day 3 Chefchaouen.</u> We spend the day wandering about the Old town. Take a walk through the old medina and uphill to a "Lookout Point" infront of a Spanish mosque. Enjoy the breathtaking view over Chefchaouen and its surrounding mountains. This place is indeed a rare and stunning gem of Morocco. O/N Chefchaouen breakfast included. (B)

<u>Day 4 Fes (220km)</u> An early start 4:30hr to Morocco 's biggest Roman ruins of Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was an important Roman outpost which was founded in 3rd century as capital of Mauretania. Then to Fes 1:30hr 85km, which was founded in 9th century. It was a capital of Marinid Dynasty In 13th and 14th century. Fes hosts world's oldest university i.e. University of Quaraouiyin". O/N Fes, breakfast included. (B)

<u>Day 5 Fes.</u> We will do a guided walking tour of the old medina (locally known as Fes el Bali). The old city is alive with craftmen, markets, tanneries and mosques. Lookout for Merdesa Bou Inania, one of the city's most beautiful building. Visit Medresse Al-Attarine and the splendid Funduk Nejjarine, a beautifully restored 18th century caravanserai. The rest of day free to continue your own explorations and get lost in the labyrinthe of alleys in this old medina. Note Fes medina is car-free, you will be on foot throughout your stay in Fes. O/N Fes, breakfast included. (B)



Roman Ruins Volubilis / UNESCO Ait-Ben-Haddou / Todra Gorge / Essaouira Port

<u>Day 6 Tinghir (470km)</u> It's a long bus ride into the High Atlas today, as we take in a 10 hours trip to Tinerhir. However, the change of scenery as we start our uphill ascend will surely keep all awake, at least some of the time. Tinerhir is a city in the region of Draa-Tafilalet, an oasis sandwich between High Atlas and Little Atlas. The beautiful palmeraie or oasis along the Todra river simply takes your breath away. O/N Tinerhir. Dinner included. (D/B)

<u>Day 7 Tinghir.</u> Morocco 's answer to the Grand Canyon, Todra Gorge awaits us today. With 300m cliff walls at its narrowest point, and quaint Berber villages abounding. We will go on a long walk (4-6 hrs) over the gorge with great views of the surrounds. Be prepared to walk about 12km with elevation of 400m. O/N Tinerhir Dinner and Breakfast included. (D/B)

<u>Day 8 Mhamid (330km)</u> Early departure for Mhamid 5 hours, the last village before the Algerian border and the beginnings of the Western Sahara. On the way, we stop at Zagora market (Wed & Sun only) where one finds many dark-skin Moroccans of African origins. O/N Mhamid, Dinner, Breakfast included. (D/B)

<u>Day 9 Sahara Berber Camp.</u> We depart after lunch for a sand-bashing time with 4WD deep into the Western Sahara, to Erg Chigaga and its 150m sand dunes. In the evening, take a camel ride through the dunes around the Berber camp, where we will stay the night. We sleep in large Berber tents, but nothing like a sleeping bag on soft sands under a thousand stars! O/N Sahara Desert Tents. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included. (L/D/B)

<u>Day 10 Ouarzazate (260km)</u> We return to Mhamid in the morning for shower and quick lunch. We travel over the mountain to Ouarzazate 5 to 6 hours. Ouarzazate is an oasis for film makers all over the world, known as "The Moroccan Hollywood". O/N Ouarzazate Lunch and Breakfast included (L/B).

<u>Day 11 Ouarzazate.</u> Morning, we travel 30km outside Ouarzazate to Ait Ben Haddou, one of the most exotic and best preserved Ksar (fortified village) in Morrocco, and yet another UNESCO Heritage Site! Ait Ben Haddou has been featured in many famous movies including "Lawrence of Arabia, Gladiators, Indiana Jones" and many more. Afternoon, we visit Atlas Studio, one of the largest movie studio in the world and it's named after the Atlas mountain range around it. O/N Ouarzazate NO meals noluded.



Chefchaouen Blue City / Tagine in local restaurant / Jemaa el Fna Marrakesh / Essaouira

<u>Day 12 Marrakesh (200km)</u>. We move on to Marrakesh on a beautiful high mountain pass reaching an elevation of 2260 meters at Tizi N' Tichka. It is the highest major mountian pass in north Africa. Total travel time 5 hours. O/N Marrakesh NO meals included on this day.

<u>Day 13 Marrakesh</u>: The epicenter of Morocco tourism, Marrakesh is meanderer's heaven. We take in the city sights, smells, and sounds in a half-day guided walking tour, and end the day at the Koutoubria Mosque. The medina of Marrakesh is listed in UNESCO World Heritage. Djemaa el-Fna, a huge square in central Marrakesh showcase one of the world's greatest spectacle of food, fun, wares and everything else in a kaleidoscope of Moroccan vibrancy! O/N Marrakesh Breakfast included. (B)

<u>Day 14 Essaouira (180km)</u> Bus 4 hours to UNESCO World Heritage listed Essaouria, a late 18th century Portuguese fortified seaport town. Wander about the maze-like streets filled with interesting artisan wares and enjoy the breeze and sights of this Atlantic coastal town. O/N Essaouira Breakfast included. (B)

<u>Day 15 El Jadida (280km)</u> In the morning, self explore more of Essaouira including the stone ramparts and canon turrets. After lunch 3 hours drive to the 8th UNESCO World Heritage site of El Jadida. The Portuguese fortification of Mazagan, now part of the city of El Jadida, 90-km southwest of Casablanca. O/N El Jadida Breakfast included. (B)

<u>Day 16 Plane:</u> Transfer to Casablanca Airport 2 hours 98km at 7.30AM and the end of our 17 days of Moroccan meanderings! Fly <u>FRI 3 MAY 2024</u> from Casablanca (1455). Breakfast NOT included at El Jadida Hotel

fDay 17 Home: Lands Dubai (0115). Transit 1:55HR before flight DUBAI (0310) to KUL (1425) SAT 4 MAY 2024.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1. Cost cover accommodation and travel to sites and some meals mentioned above.
- 2. Accommodations will be in budget to mid-range hotels, guesthouses, Mhamid and Sahara Desert Tent (multi-share).
- 3. Not covered are flight costs estimated at Rm5400, estimates Meals (Rm1200 (100 x 12 days), Entrance fees and Tips (Rm350) and optional activities.
- 4. Cost is subject to change based on exchange rates fluctuation...
- 5. Non-refundable deposit of Rm2500 is payable to confirm your place.

6. Members are required to have Travel Insurance and be adequately insured prior to departure.

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