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### **10 - 27 Mar 2019 (18-days) Morocco Meanderings**

**Based on 1 Moroccan Dirham = 0.4376 Cost per person Rm9500 (14pax group) Rm9300 (16 pax n above)**

We will make final adjustment on cost based on Moroccan Dirham exchange rate in Jan 2019

**Update 8 Aug 2018** Feb 2019 Morocco Trip is FULL. We open this trip starting 10 Mar 2019 for registration.

**Update 24 Apr 2018** We use Dirham as a base because that is the home currency. 0.4376 is the rate on [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com) (choose +3% Credit Card Rate).

Trip cost is based on Emirates Airways estimated group fare of Rm3200 and will be adjusted up or down depending on final fares. We have been getting very good reviews from past travelers for its diversity of sights and experiences. Airport taxes about Rm300 is not included in the trip cost.

### **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 right attitude for close travel with others through possibly some trying times. Most definitely, this is not a trip for prudes, whiners, fuss-pots, and other similarly 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 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 and no "giant" luggages please. As on other Yongo trips, you pay for your own meals unless stated below, entrance fees, within-the-town taxis and other activities.

**Morocco is sensory overload at its most intoxicating, from the sights, scents and sounds that permeate medieval Fes and magical Marrakech, to the coastal charm of its Atlantic Coast. 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 night:** Meet up at KLIA by **10PM Sun 10 Mar 2019** for past midnight flight.

**Day 1 Casablanca:** We fly **0110am Mon 11 Mar 2019** on EK343 to DXB arriving 0430am (Flight time 7h20 Transit 2h55). We connect to EK751 DXB CMN 0725 1215 (Flight time 8h50) Arrive Casablanca 1215 afternoon. Our chartered van takes group to our hotel located in downtown. Rest of day free. Overnight (O/n) Casablanca, breakfast included.

**Day 2 Chefchaouen:** Early morning we wander about the Central Market before starting on our 5:30hr trip to Chefchaouen located in the Rif mountains in Northern Morocco. 91km from Casablanca, we stop at Rabat, listed in UNESCO World Heritage, also the capital city of Morocco to 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.

**Day 3 Chefchaouen:** We spend the day wandering about the Old town. Take a walk through the old medina and uphill to a "Lookout Point" in front of a Spanish mosque. Enjoy the breathtaking view over Chefchaouen and its surrounding mountains. This place is one of the best shopping places in Morocco. O/n Chefchaouen breakfast included.

**Day 4 Meknes:** An early start to Meknes 5hr, with a stop at Morocco 's main Roman ruins of Volubilis, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was an important Roman outpost which was founded in 3rd century as capital of Mauretania. We'll arrive in the evening at Meknes, one of three imperial capitals of old Morocco. O/n Meknes breakfast included.

**Day 5 Fes:** In the morning we have a guided half day city tour in this UNESCO listed historic city of Meknes, which is the least visited of all three imperial capitals. In the afternoon, we bus to Fes 1hr, Morocco's oldest imperial city and the 4th UNESCO World Heritage site on our travels so far. Fes was founded in 9th century, and it was a capital of Marinid Dynasty in 13th and 14th century. Fes hosts world's oldest university i.e. University of Quaraouiyn". O/n Fes breakfast included.

**Day 6 Fes:** We will do a 3km guided walking tour of the old medina, taking about 3hours or so, and rest of day free to continue your own explorations of Fes. Be prepared for a labyrinth of alleys and a riot of sights and smells, many of which has remained pretty much the same since centuries ago! Run riot on your own then! O/n Fes breakfast included.



Roman Ruins Volubilis / UNESCO Ait-Ben-Haddou / Todra Trekking / Climbing Goats

**Day 7 Tinerhir:** It's a long bus ride into the High Atlas today, as we take in a 10hr 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. O/n Tinerhir. O/n Tinerhir Dinner and Breakfast included. (D/B)

**Day 8 Tinerhir:** 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. Today will be a day of nature and cultural appreciation. We will go on a long walk (4-6 hrs) over the gorge with great views of the surrounds. O/n Tinerhir Dinner and Breakfast included. (D/B)

**Day 9 Mhamid:** Early departure for Mhamid 5hr, 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 and Breakfast included. (D/B)

**Day 10 Sahara Berber Camp:** 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, try your charm on the cantankerous camels around the Berber camp and oasis 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. Dinner and Breakfast included. (D/B)

**Day 11 Mhamid:** We return to Mhamid in the morning for cold drinks, showers, and a soft bed. We take the rest of the day to relax in this desert kasbah. O/n Mhamid Dinner and Breakfast included. (D/B)

**Day 12 Ouarzazate:** We travel over the mountain to Ouarzazate 5hr. Ouarzazate is an oasis for film makers all over the world, hence, it is also known as "The Moroccan Hollywood". Upon arrival, we visit Taourite Kasbah, one of the best in Morocco as well as the Museum of Cinematography. O/n Ouarzazate Breakfast NOT included.



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

**Day 13 Marrakesh:** 30km outside Ouarzazate is Ait Ben Haddou, one of the most exotic and best preserved Kasbahs in Morocco, 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. We move on to Marrakesh on a beautiful high mountain pass reaching an elevation of 2260 meters at Tizi N' Tichka. Total travel time 5hr. O/n Marrakesh Breakfast included.

**Day 14 Marrakesh:** 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.

**Day 15 Essaouira:** Bus 4hr to UNESCO World Heritage listed Essaouira, 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.

**Day 16 El Jadida:** In the morning, see more of Essaouira including the stone ramparts and canon turrets. After lunch 3hrs drive to the 8th UNESCO World Heritage site on our journey. The Portuguese fortification of Mazagan, now part of the city of El Jadida, 90-km southwest of Casablanca. O/n El Jadida breakfast included.

**Day 17 Plane:** Transfer to Casablanca Airport 2hr at 0900AM and the end of our 17 days of Moroccan meanderings! EK752 DXB 1415 0130+1 (Flight time 7h15 Transit 2h)

**Day 18 Home:** Depart Dubai EK346 at 0330AM arriving Kuala Lumpur **1435 or 235PM on Tue 28 Mar 2019.** (Flight time 7h05)

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. Cost cover accommodation and traveling to sites mentioned above.
2. Accommodations will be in budget to mid-range hotels or guesthouses.

3. Not covered are tips, airport taxes on Emirates (Rm300 estimate), meals Rm80 x 16 days total Rm1280, entrance fees (Rm100) and optional activities.
4. Cost is subject to change depending on fluctuations in exchange rates and/or airfares
5. Non-refundable deposit of Rm2200 is payable to confirm your place.

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