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7 - 25 Oct 2019 (18-days) Morocco Meanderings

Based on 1 Moroccan Dirham = 0.44540 Cost per person Rm9560 (14pax group) Rm9360 (16 pax n above)

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

Update 15 Jan 2019 We use Dirham as a base because that is the home currency. 0.4454 is the rate on www.oanda.com (choose +3% Credit Card Rate).

Update 18 Mar 2019 We move starts date forward to 7 October 2019.

Update 25 Jun 2019 Slight change of departure and arrival time. We have booked Qatar Airway instead of Emirates due to better fare. Group booking of Qatar at Rm2900 excluding taxes.

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 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 Mercedes Sprinter with a local driver for the duration of this trip. We stay budget to mid-range accomodations 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 **1130PM Mon 7 Oct 2019** for past midnight flight.

Day 1 Casablanca: We fly **0225AM Tue 08 Oct 2019** on QR853 to DOH arriving 0515AM (Flight time 7h50 Transit 3h25). We connect to QR1397 DOH CMN 0840 1430 (Flight time 7h50) Arrive Casablanca 230PM. Our chartered van takes group to our hotel located in downtown. Rest of day free. Overnight (O/n) Casablanca, breakfast included. (B)

Day 2 Chefchaouen: After breakfast, we start our journey of 5:30hr to Chefchaouen located in the Rif mountains in Northwest 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. (B)

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 indeed a rare and stunning gem of Morocco. O/n Chefchaouen breakfast included. (B)

Day 4 Meknes: An early start to Meknes 5 hours, 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. (B)

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 1 hour, Morocco's oldest imperial city and the 4th UNESCO World Heritage site on our travel 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. Univerisity of Quaraouiyn". O/n Fes breakfast included. (B)

Day 6 Fes: We will do a 3km guided walking tour of the old medina, taking about 3 hours 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! Note Fes medina is car-free, you will be on foot throughout your stay in Fes. Run riot on your own then! O/n Fes breakfast included. (B)



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 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 palmeria or oasis along the Todra river simply takes your breath away. 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 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 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. Lunch, Dinner and Breakfast included. (L/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. Lunch, Dinner and Breakfast included. (L/D/B)

Day 12 Ouarzazate: We travel over the mountain to Ouarzazate 5 hours. 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. (No B)



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 5 hours. O/n Marrakesh Breakfast included. (B)

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. (B)

Day 15 Essaouira: Bus 4 hours 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. (B)

Day 16 El Jadida: In the morning, see more of Essaouira including the stone ramparts and canon turrets. After lunch 3 hours 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. (B)

Day 17 Plane: Transfer to Casablanca Airport 2 hours at 230PM and the end of our 17 days of Moroccan meanderings! QR1398 CMN DOH 1935 0440+1 (Flight time 7h05 Transit 4h10)

Day 18 Home: Depart Doha QR852 at 0850AM arriving Kuala Lumpur **2150 or 950PM on FRI 25 Oct 2019.** (Flight time 7h)

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 14 days total Rm1120, entrance fees (Rm200) 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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