

# Morocco Mosaic of North Africa

Free the senses at the nexus of the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, where mountains meet sand dunes as the past meets the present. *Marhaba*—in Arabic, a word of welcome.

## highlights

**Ancient Medinas.** Get lost in some of the oldest winding markets in the world.

**Earthly Wonders.** From glimmering oceans to the vast Sahara, and peaks of the High Atlas to the depths of Todra Gorge, Morocco's topography will seem like a mirage.

**Warm Maghreb Hospitality.** Stay in charming riads—traditional guesthouses—and interact with locals over home-cooked tagines, baskets of dates, and steaming mint tea.

**Dunes at Dusk.** Ride camels into dramatic sandscapes and spend the night under clear, deep skies deciphering the constellations.

## at a glance

**Meet in Casablanca.** View the Hassan II Mosque, a stunning architectural marvel built on the edge of the Atlantic featuring the globe's most massive minaret. Spin around the courtyard of the royal residence in Rabat, the medieval Chellah, and the Hassan Tower.

**Ageless Ruins.** Peruse the architectural sites of El Hedim Square and lavish Bab el-Mansour gate in Meknes. Wander Volubilis, a Roman town built and occupied since the 3rd century BC, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Lost in the Medina.** Enter Fes through the grand gate Bab Bou Jeloud and ramble the narrow alleys of Fes el-Bali, the world's largest car-free zone. Get lost in the medina, thick with the smell of spices and freshly tanned leather.

**Life in the Sands.** Drive along the meandering Ziz River and arrive at Merzouga, the last oasis before entry into the desert. Ride camels into the Sahara at sunset and learn traditional music from communities that have survived in the sands for centuries.

**Topography and Cinematography.** Switchback through the roads of the Dadès Gorge, crane to see massive canyon walls of the Todra Gorge, and play at Atlas Studios, with dramatic movie sets of *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Kingdom of Heaven*, and even *Game of Thrones*.

**Mystics of Marrakech.** Tour Bahia Palace and the Koutoubia Mosque before visiting the 14th-century Ben Youssef Madrasa with exquisite zellij tiles. Meet snake charmers in Jemaa el-Fnaa square in the center of Marrakech after a feast with a rooftop outlook.

**Windy and Winding Essaouira.** Stay for an optional extension to this strategic port with honeycomb-colored fortifications, colorful bazaars and sea-scented breezes. Browse boutiques and talk with craftspeople drawn to this stirring city from across Morocco.

## details

- 8 days, 7 nights.
- Dedicated bilingual guides and private transportation throughout the trip.
- Comprehensive briefing packet for each participant, including country information, logistical and contact information, reading list, and packing list.

“Such a great experience. I am longing to go back to Morocco! I've never felt this way about any of the other trips we've taken!”



“It was truly a wonderful and life-altering journey.”

