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THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

MOROCCO

Sahara Sands and a Feast for the Senses

March 13 - 26, 2021

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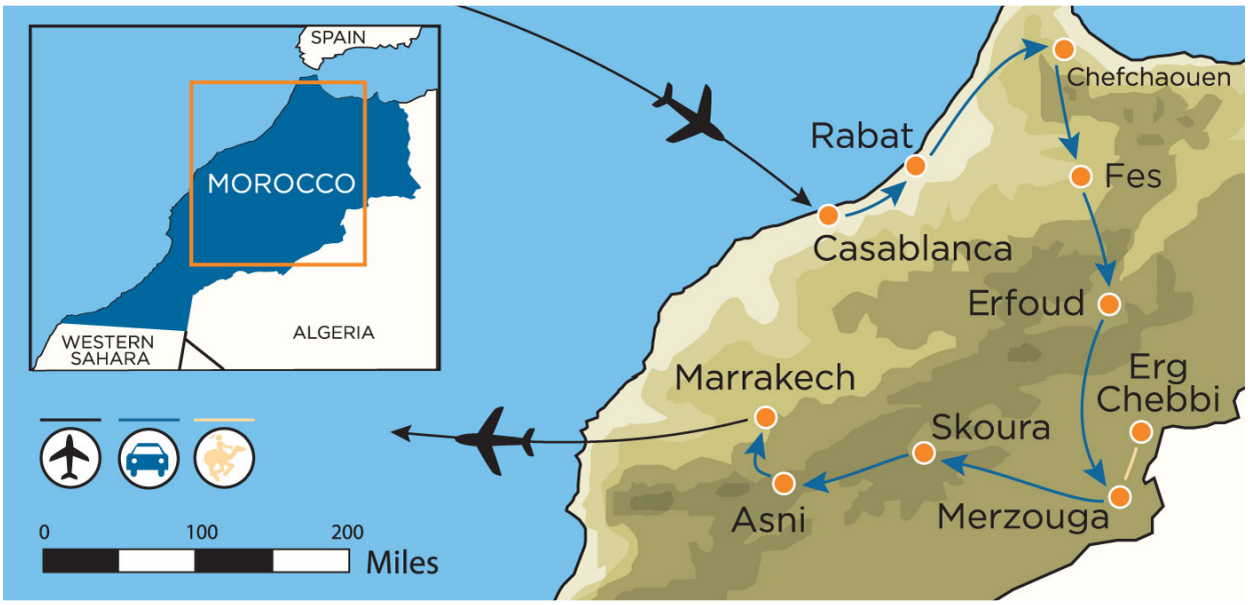
TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Stroll through Chefchaouen's blue-painted Old City and medina
- Enjoy a luxury tented camping experience in the Sahara, complete with the chance to ride a camel
- Shop the bustling medinas and explore the vast, twisting paths through Fes and Marrakesh
- Tour women-owned artists' cooperatives, meet their artisans, and learn from local female leaders in education

TRIP ROUTE



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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

Day 1	arrive in Morocco, welcome dinner
Day 2	explore Rabat, drive to Chefchaouen
Day 3	walk the Medina, have lunch with a local family
Day 4	taste Moroccan wines at a vineyard, arrive in Fes
Day 5	learn about leatherwork and ceramics, optional cooking or pottery class
Day 6	visit a women's cooperative, learn about local traditions
Day 7	drive to Erfoud, visit a semi-nomadic family on the way
Day 8	ride a camel in the desert, stay at a luxury tented camp
Day 9	witness sunrise over the dunes, walk in Todgha Gorge
Day 10	visit Ait Ben Haddou, a famous film location and World Heritage Site
Day 11	hike in the Atlas Mountains, visit a women's group, drive to Marrakesh
Day 12	explore Marrakech, visit local monuments, museums, and souks
Day 13	explore Marrakesh on your own, farewell dinner
Day 14	depart Morocco

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Moderate

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: $6,390
Optional Single Accommodations: $2,000

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your adventure in depth

DAY 1
Saturday
3/13/21

Arrive in Rabat

Welcome to Morocco! Colorful and lively, this richly diverse country is populated with warm, hospitable people with a passionate love of music, art, and sublime food. A long history of social traditions, a reputation for religious and ethnic tolerance, and the longest-running monarchy in the world all contribute to the fabric of this modern-day magical kingdom.

During your adventure, you'll get to know your Moroccan guide and driver, who will help you discover everything Morocco has to offer as you wind your way through the country. You are also accompanied by an AdventureWomen Ambassador, committed to helping make your experience a fun and personally rewarding adventure, and cheering you on as you reach beyond your comfort zone to take on new challenges in your own unique way!

Arrival Information	Arrive in Casablanca, Morocco (CMN) today before 4:00pm. One group transfer will be provided, and the time will be determined closer to departure.
Pickup and Transfer	You will be picked up at the Casablanca Airport and transferred to your hotel in Rabat.
Welcome Dinner	Enjoy a lively welcome dinner as you get to know your fellow travelers this evening. Share stories and learn about why each woman in your trip is excited to explore Morocco!

Accommodations
Hotel La Tour Hassan
Meals Included
dinner

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DAY 2
Sunday
3/14/21

Rabat to Chefchaouen

Chefchaouen lies between two mountains in the Rif mountain range. The contrast of the small blue-washed Medina among the majestic mountains makes for stunning views. Chefchaouen, known as the "blue city", is a magical place to wander with your camera. The labyrinth of alleyways, small archways, and vibrant storefronts immerse you in the sights, sounds, and smells of daily life in this mountain town.

Tour of Rabat

Explore Rabat with your group this morning, visiting the Mohamed V. Mausoleum and Hassan Tower. Walk the narrow alleyways of Kasbah Oudaya, an old fortress.

Drive to Chefchaouen

Drive into the Rif Mountains, and enjoy lunch on your way to Chefchaouen. When you arrive, have a brief orientation of the small, blue-washed town before settling into your hotel so you know your way around!

Accommodations
Ryad Lina

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 3
Monday
3/15/21

Chefchaouen

Chefchaouen was founded as a fortress in 1471 to fight Portuguese invasions of northern Morocco. Tucked away in the Rif Mountains, the "Blue Pearl" was closed off from the world for 500 years. Now it's a vibrant, colorful Berber city that is uniquely blue. Some say the color wards off mosquitos; some say it's of religious importance in both Jewish and Islamic cultures; and some believe it represents the importance of water. Whatever the reason, the result is stunning.

Walking in Chefchaouen	Enjoy a walking tour of the Medina in Chefchaouen, visiting the main sites of the city. Soak up the atmosphere of this town with so many mixed cultures, and witness the influence of the native Berbers, Muslims, and Jewish refugees from Spain. Visit a traditional workshop to learn about the Djellaba, the traditional long, loose-fitting outer robe worn in the area. Most djellabas have a hood that comes to a point in the back.
Lunch in a Local Home	Join a local family in their home for a traditional lunch. Learn about the family's history, customs, and share some of your own history with your hosts!
Hike to a Viewpoint	Take a short hike up one of the hills surrounding Chefchaouen to get a panoramic view of this unique place.
Optional Afternoon Activities	After a day in the city, you might want to treat yourself with a Hammam or a massage at the hotel. The Hammams here are extremely traditional - it's quite the cultural experience!

Accommodations
Ryad Lina

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 4
Tuesday
3/16/21

Chefchaouen to Fes

Enjoy a scenic drive across the Rif mountains to join the fertile Saiss plain. You will see a varied landscape as you drive south, including green forests, isolated villages, and olive groves. Arrive in Fes late this afternoon, the second largest city in Morocco and known as the Mecca of the West. This medina is the largest car-free urban area in the world. Also found in Fes is the oldest functioning madrasa in the world, Al-Qarawiyyin.

Depart Chefchaouen	Depart Chefchaouen and drive through the Moroccan countryside towards Fes.
Volubilis	Stop to explore Volubilis, an unexpected Roman site, which lies on a rich river valley with the dark Zerhoun mountain ridge as a backdrop. It was once a capital of a Roman province and the southern border of the Imperial road. Soak in the history of the area as you see some of the most preserved mosaics of the Roman era in Morocco.
Vineyard Visit	Stop in Meknes at one of the finest vineyards in the area. Tour the vineyard and enjoy tasting some Moroccan wines with your group - not many people can say they have tried wines in Morocco!
Arrive in Fes	Arrive in Fes early this evening and settle into your room before having dinner as a group.

Accommodations
Riad Fes

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 5
Wednesday
3/17/21

Fes

You will be transported back centuries while walking through the labyrinth that is the Fes Medina. Within the Medina all transport of goods is provided by donkeys, mules, and handcarts. In Fes you'll feel as if you were transported back in time as you wander the tiny streets.

Explore the Medina	From a small hill, take in the view of the city of Fes, one of the most preserved medieval Islamic cities in the world. Your expert native guide of Fes will accompany you to the old Medina, through the very narrow streets, to the souks and the tanneries. Explore the Karaouine Mosque, the Medersas, and the Nejjarine.
Tanneries and Pottery Cooperative	Visit a tannery and learn how local leatherwork is still created using ancient skills - make sure to ask about the materials they use; you might be surprised! You'll also have an opportunity to see the special blue ceramics made in Fes.
Lunch	Enjoy lunch at a traditional restaurant in the Medina.
Optional Cooking Class or Pottery Workshop	This afternoon, either take a cooking class, learning to make excellently spiced (but not spicy!) local dishes, or enjoy a pottery workshop. The cooking class is $45 per person, and the pottery workshop is $20 per person. You can pay for these directly with your guide.
Afternoon at Leisure	If you opt out of the cooking class and pottery workshop this afternoon, take some time at your Riad to relax.

Accommodations
Riad Fes

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 6
Thursday
3/18/21

Fes

Spend today in Sefrou, which was once home to one of the largest populations of Moroccan Jews, beginning as many as 2,000 years ago. Sefrou is known for its UNESCO-endorsed Cherry Festival, a beauty contest for Moroccan women competing for the honor of being crowned "Miss Cherry."

Women's Textile Cooperative

Leave Fes for Sefrou and spend most of the day with a women's cooperative that makes djellaba, fabric, scarves, and rugs. Learn how the women make cherry buttons and learn to make them yourself!

Enjoy lunch with the women - share your story with them, and learn about their families, their lives, and their goals.

Afternoon in Fes

Head back to Fes, where you'll arrive around mid-afternoon. Enjoy your lovely hotel, try a Hammam, take a dip in the swimming pool, or enjoy the view from the rooftop terrace.

Accommodations
Riad Fes

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 7
Friday
3/19/21

Fes to Erfoud

After two busy days in the Medina of Fes, escape the hustle and bustle of the city for the countryside of Southern Morocco. After crossing the plain around Midelte you will reach the range of the High Atlas and cross via Tizi n Talghemt (the pass of the camel). On its Southern slopes, the road drops smoothly down to the Ziz gorge and Tafilalet valley, the largest palmeraie of Morocco.

Drive to Erfoud Continue your journey to Southern Morocco with a few short stops including a picnic lunch along the way. Watch for changing colors, landscape, architecture, and the vegetation along this journey.

Arrive in Erfoud Settle into your lovely hotel in Erfoud when you arrive this evening. It's a long drive today (nearly eight hours), but you'll be rewarded with a much more private, off-the-beaten path experience, including the possibility of meeting a local semi-nomadic family. Enjoy dinner and decide what you'll do with your free morning tomorrow!

Accommodations
Kasbah Chergui

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 8
Saturday
3/20/21

Erfoud to Mergouza

When you leave Erfoud, the desert will loom larger and larger in your field of vision as you approach and finally arrive at the stunning and expansive sand dunes of Erg Chebbi.

Free Morning in Erfoud	Enjoy a relaxing, free morning at your hotel in this beautiful area before departing for Merzouga. Enjoy lunch along the way before transferring to your private desert camp.
Camel Ride into the Dunes	Arrive at your luxury tented camp in the dunes of Erg Chebbi.

Accommodations
Luxury Tented Camp

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 9
Sunday
3/21/21

Merzouga to Skoura

Once you explore beyond the road you discover that Skoura is incredibly large, and that what appeared to be just a line of trees is actually a huge and flourishing oasis, perfect for long walks. This region is also known as "1,000 Kasbahs" route where fortified mud Kasbahs dominate the green cultivated fields.

Sunrise	If you're awake early enough, walk up to one of the highest sand dunes to watch the sun rise over the desert. This is a peaceful experience you won't forget.
Leave Your Camp	Enjoy some free time at your camp before rejoining your driver to head to the Todgha Gorge.
Walk in the Todgha Gorge	Explore on foot in the Todgha Gorge, a canyon in the eastern part of the High Atlas Mountains. The gorge is spectacular; and you will probably meet local people herding camels and goats along the way!
Dinner	Enjoy a delicious dinner as a group this evening. By now, you'll feel like an expert on Moroccan food!

Accommodations
Ksar El Kababba

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 10
Monday
3/22/21

Skoura to the Atlas Mountains

A short drive will take you to Ouarzazate in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. This region is well known in the film industry, as it offers varied landscape and imposing lights with a mixture of colors. The whole setting is dramatic and is a wonderful place to take photos.

Kasbah Ait Ben Haddou

Explore the Kasbah on foot. Kasbah Ait Ben Haddou, a World Heritage Site, is probably the most preserved Kasbah in the south of Morocco and is a famous film location.

Head into the Atlas Mountains

After lunch, cross the spectacular Tizi n Tichka pass, journey towards the plains, and then head up to the village of Asni at the foot of the Atlas Mountains - this will be a complete change of scenery. Today's total drive time will be about six and a half hours, but it helps you get off the beaten path to explore Morocco more deeply.

Accommodations
Kasbah Angour

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 11
Tuesday
3/23/21

Atlas Mountains to Marrakesh

Backdropped by the stunning Atlas Mountains and once a key city of trade on the ancient caravan routes, Marrakesh retains its fascinating blend of Arab, African, and European influences. The second largest city after Casablanca, Marrakesh was founded in 1062 as the capital of the Almoravid dynasty. The kaleidoscope of colorful architecture and incredible spectacle of Djemma el-Fna, a huge open-air market, have entertained centuries of visitors from far and wide.

Morning Hike	Go out on a hike to discover the traditional architecture of the Berber villages and learn about local terraced agriculture.
Local Women's Group	Visit a local women's group, which offers education and teaches traditional skills to local people.
Drive to Marrakech	Drive about an hour to Marrakesh and relax at your hotel. Enjoy dinner on your own tonight - have dinner at the hotel or go explore a local restaurant with some of your new friends!

Accommodations
Hotel La Sultana

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 12
Wednesday
3/24/21

Marrakesh

Marrakesh feels like no other city. Rich in history and full of contrasts between the Medina and the new city, it is an ideal location to end your incredible journey through Morocco. Sharpen your haggling skills for the local souks.

Explore Marrakesh

Your local expert guide will take you through the amazing alleyways of Marrakesh. Explore the monuments which will help you deepen your understanding of the rich history of the city. In addition to the gardens and monuments, visit museums such as Dar Tiskwine and 'Maison de La Photographie' which explain life in Marrakesh as it was during the French protectorate. Finally, you will discover vibrant souks displaying a great selection of traditional Moroccan handicrafts. The skills of the artisans as well as the number of items piled in a tiny space will stun you. Take some time to shop for art and souvenirs - do not forget to bargain! You can work with other women in your group to make the bargaining feel a bit more natural.

The Djemaa el Fna Square gets busier in the evening with musicians, story tellers, acrobats, snake charmers, and many other performers. Enjoy the spectacle before heading with your group to dinner.

Accommodations
Hotel La Sultana

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 13
Thursday
3/25/21

Marrakesh

Marrakesh has two main divisions, the old walled city called the Medina, and the modern city. The medina includes narrow and maze-like streets, many dating back to the 9th century. Here you'll find fountains, palaces, mosques, and monuments - but no automobile traffic!

Day on Your Own

Explore Marrakesh today on your own or in small groups. Optional activities include visiting the Majorelle Gardens, full of unique native plants and exotic flowers, or touring the local art museums.

You could also enjoy the hotel spa, which has amazing Hammam and massage options. Or just choose to explore Marrakesh to do some last-minute shopping.

Farewell Dinner

Have a farewell dinner with your new AdventureWomen friends. Reminisce over all of the memories you have made and celebrate the end of an amazing journey through this truly spectacular country.

Accommodations
Hotel La Sultana

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 14
Friday
3/26/21

Depart Marrakesh

Enjoy one last morning in Marrakech.

Transfer to the Airport	Say goodbye to your new AdventureWomen friends as you transfer to the airport for your flights home.
Departure Information	Depart Marrakesh, Morocco (RAK) any time today.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

Meals Included
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Accommodation Details

Hotel La Tour Hassan

This extraordinary place defies time. Everything is designed for your comfort and well-being. Luxury, calm, and serenity are all part of your stay.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

Ryad Lina

Surrounded by magnificent cerulean mountains and nestled in the heart of the medina, this luxurious ryad enjoys a privileged position in one of Morocco's most unique destinations. The spa with its heated indoor pool, oriental baths, and Hammam will offer traditional delicious moments of relaxation. The personalized service promises a unique and unforgettable stay in an area where authentic Medina living is still preserved.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

Riad Fes

Riad Fes is located in the heart of the ancient city of Fes. It has succeeded in combining refinement with inspiration and invites you to relax and enjoy your stay in a serene atmosphere with decor reminiscent of Arabian Nights. Riad Fes provides guests with the opportunity to travel back in time and enjoy the splendour and authenticity of the lifestyle of Fassi nobility. The prestigious history and refined civilization of this imperial city are reflected in the Spanish Moorish architecture and attention to detail seen in the decor.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

Kasbah Chergui

Kasbah Chergui is in a quiet spot on the outskirts of Erfoud, not far from the largest and most spectacular sand dunes in Morocco. The hotel has a pool, spa, and hammam, as well as an indoor and outdoor restaurant.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

Luxury Tented Camp

Your tented camp in the Erg Chebbi dunes is complete with stunning detail. Your tents include comfortable beds with fine linens, attached bathrooms, and soft furnishings. Your stay in the desert will be unforgettable.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner; electricity

Ksar El Kababba

Located in the heart of Skoura palm grove, and made with centenary old stones, Ksar El Kebbaba comes to life in the middle of lush greenness and precisely under the branches of an aged olive tree.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

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Accommodation Details

Kasbah Angour

Kasbah Angour is a gorgeous Berber castle, perched on a hill-top in the Atlas Mountains near Marrakesh, with superb panoramic views. The boutique hotel and restaurant has 25 rooms & suites, spacious public areas, a wonderful swimming pool, and beautiful gardens.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

Hotel La Sultana

La Sultana captures the charm and elegance of residences from a bygone era, offering the intimacy of a smaller hotel with unparalleled one-on-one service and experiences. Made-up of five separate riads, it feels maze-like and disguises its sprawling corridors and hidden chambers for the delight of its guests.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

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Included:

- Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- All meals as listed in the itinerary
- All ground transportation
- One group transfer on arrival and departure
- Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- English-speaking guide throughout the trip
- Drinking water available in large jugs to refill personal bottles
- Gratuities for hotel staff, camp staff, lodge staff, wait staff, local

Not Included:

- International airfare to and from Morocco
- Optional activities
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- Items of a personal nature
- Gratuities for main guide and driver