

# Highlights of Morocco

10 Day Tour from Casablanca to Casablanca

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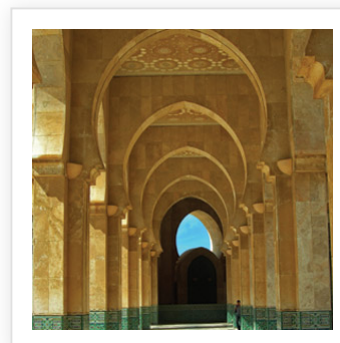
## Vacation Overview

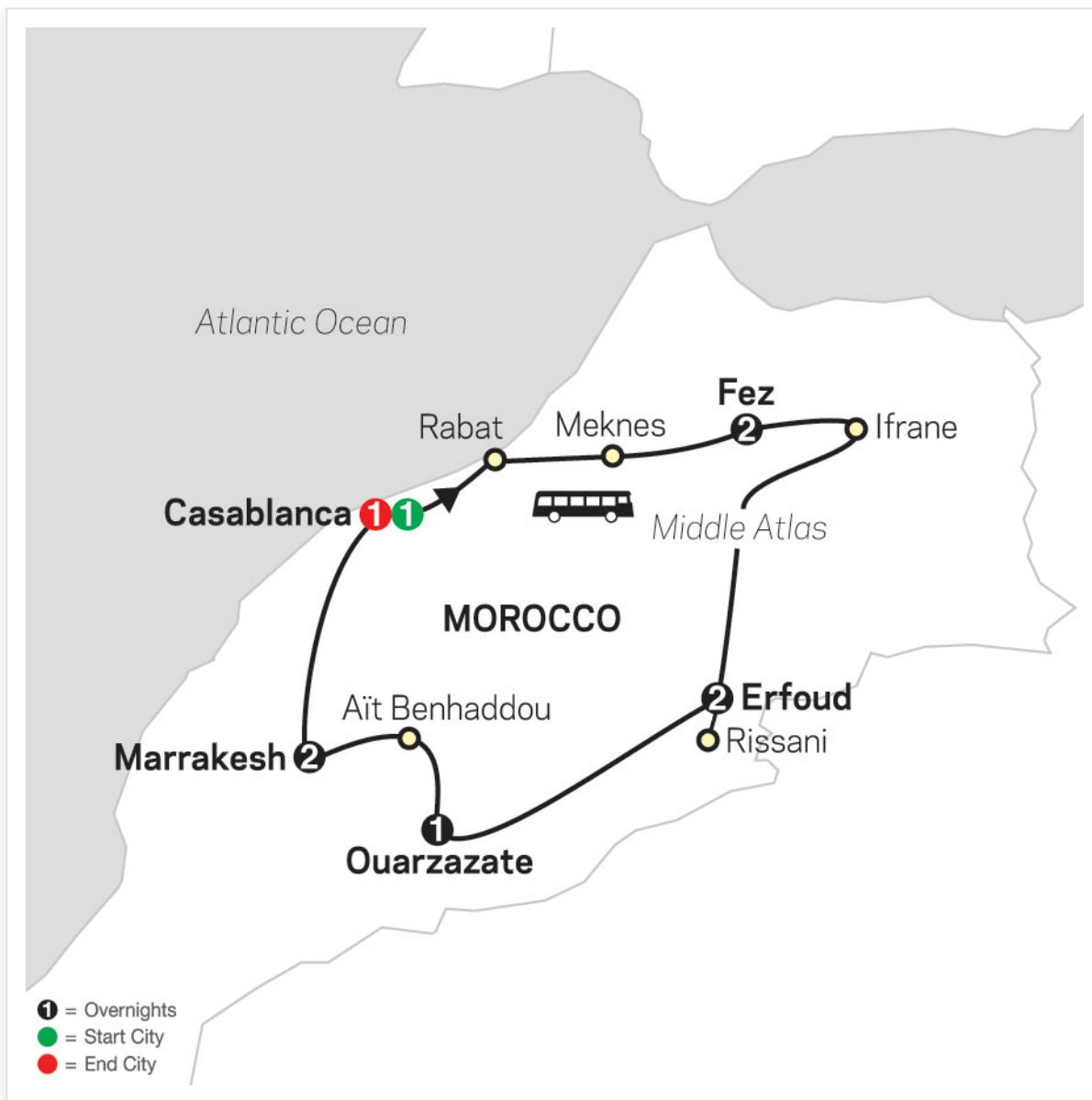
Exotic and fascinating, the Kingdom of Morocco is rich in history and culture, offering travelers intriguing historic sights, authentic cuisine, and changing scenery that is perfect for value-minded travelers wanting to explore and learn about a new destination. This Morocco-focused itinerary takes in the Imperial cities of Morocco, Fez, Marrakech, Meknes and Rabat, as well as some more inspiring cities, such as Ouarzazate, Casablanca and Erfoud.

In the red city of Marrakesh, step back in time as you wander through the Jemaa-el-Fna, a square and exotic bazaar, offering some of the greatest open-air entertainment. Listen to the storytellers—an integral part of the culture—and browse for handicrafts. In Fez, take an optional tour to see the ancient medina. Founded in the 9th century, it is one of the largest medieval cities in the world and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On this comprehensive and affordable tour of Morocco, you will also be enchanted by beautiful landscapes, stunned by the beauty of the desert, and surprised by the mountain scenery of the Middle Atlas. You'll also visit Casablanca and see its modern great Mosque and Meknes, where you'll visit the royal stables built to house 12,000 royal horses. Your tour also takes you to Ouarzazate, where you'll visit the Kasbah de Taourirt, and the amazing Ait Benhaddou, used as set to the Gladiator movie. See the mountain resort of Ifrane; Erfoud, the gateway to the Sahara desert; and Rabat, Morocco's vibrant capital where you'll visit the relics of Chellah, a city built by the Romans in 40 AD.

From the Middle Atlas mountain range and Ziz Gorges to arid desert, this budget-minded Morocco vacation will amaze you with spectacular scenery. This affordable tour of Morocco truly is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

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## Itinerary

### Day 1 **ARRIVE IN CASABLANCA, MOROCCO**

Check into your hotel. Later, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers.

### Day 2 **CASABLANCA–RABAT–MEKNES–FEZ**

A short ride along the coast to Rabat, once a lair of the corsairs and now the country's capital. Sightseeing includes the Royal Palace, Hassan Tower, and the Kasbah of Oudayas. You'll be reminded of the time when Morocco was the Roman province of Mauretania as you visit the fine Roman relics of Chellah and its gardens. Continue to Meknes. During your guided tour, see its monumental gates, mosque, palace, and miles of protective walls. Visit its Royal stables, originally built to house 12,000 of the royal horses. Travel east towards Fez, Morocco's most enchanting city.

Today's Distance: 211 mi/ 340 km

Breakfast Dinner

### Day 3 **FEZ**

At leisure in ancient Fez, which occupies a position of outstanding scenic beauty. Visit the exotic ancient Medina on the optional sightseeing tour, a maze of narrow, bustling streets and alleys that are home to colorful souks.

 Breakfast

#### Day 4 **FEZ-IFRANE-ERFOUD**

Travel today into the very heart of Morocco. Stop in the quiet, French-built alpine mountain resort of Ifrane. Verdant cedar forests give way to volcanic mountains and windswept plains as you travel across the Middle Atlas range. Pass fortified mud-and-straw villages and descend into the spectacular Ziz gorges. The landscape becomes progressively more arid as you enter a stony desert. Approaching Erfoud, encounter an unexpected and breathtaking surprise: the peaceful oasis of the Ziz Valley.

Today's Distance: 267 mi/ 430 km

 Breakfast  Dinner

#### Day 5 **ERFOUD**

The best choice today is an included excursion to Rissani to visit the Mausoleum of Moulay Ali Sharif, the first ruler of the Alaouite Dynasty. This evening, enjoy an optional excursion in the desert.

 Breakfast  Dinner

#### Day 6 **ERFOUD-THE ROAD OF A THOUSAND KASBAHS-OUARZAZATE**

Enjoy the drive through the eastern slopes of the Atlas Mountains and arrive at the Tinerhir oasis with its green valley of palms and local villages. On to the impressive Todra Gorge, then along the Dades Valley. Arrive in the film capital of Morocco, Ouarzazate, where you'll visit the Kasbah de Taourirt, the intricate and fascinating residence of Pasha Thami el Glaoui.

Today's Distance: 217 mi/ 350 km

 Breakfast  Dinner

#### Day 7 **OUARZAZATE-AÏT BENHADDOU-TIZI-N-TICHKA PASS-MARRAKESH**

Travel to Aït Benhaddou, a kasbah, famous as a film location for Lawrence of Arabia and Gladiator. Pass through picturesque villages surrounded by craggy mountains towards 7,414-foot-high Tizi-n-Tichka Pass in the heart of the High Atlas Mountains. Each new twist in the road leads to a different, more dramatic landscape. Leaving the pass behind, see the landscape gradually change to a tapestry of red ochre. Enter the gates of the red-colored imperial city of Marrakesh, justly considered the most fascinating of all Moroccan cities. An optional evening excursion is a fitting way to end the day.

Today's Distance: 143 mi/ 230 km

 Breakfast

#### Day 8 **MARRAKESH**

The included city sightseeing with a Local Guide starts with an orientation drive followed by a walk through the ancient quarters to the fascinating Jemaa-el-Fna square and its exotic bazaar, Bahia Palace, and Majorelle Gardens. You'll feel as if you've stopped the march of time.

 Breakfast  Dinner

#### Day 9 **MARRAKESH-CASABLANCA**

Leave Morocco's magical city of Marrakesh for the journey back to Casablanca. On arrival, see the main sights in the company of a Local Guide.

Today's Distance: 155 mi/ 250 km

 Breakfast

#### Day 10 **CASABLANCA**

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

 Breakfast