

EXPLORE!

Tailormade Imperial Cities of Morocco
9 days

Morocco - Trip code TMMR3



Tailormade Imperial Cities of Morocco

Morocco's imperial highlights

Visiting Morocco's great historic cities of Fes and Marrakech, you'll have the opportunity to get lost in the maze of backstreets and alleyways, explore the souks and mosques, and discover snake charmers, acrobats and musicians in the lively Djemaa-el-Fna. Inbetween both cities, witness a mix of civilisations; view some beautiful Moorish architecture in towns such as Meknes and walk around an ancient Roman site in Volubilis.

Enriching tailormade journeys - for you

This bespoke journey features some of our favourite spots in Morocco. You can choose to take our destination experts' recommendations and travel just as you see the itinerary here, or contact us to add your own special touches; you may wish to take a cookery class in Marrakech, visit the High Atlas mountains and do some trekking, or travel a little further and have a few nights under the stars in the desert. We're here to design your perfect holiday.

Call us on **01252 883 184**.

Trip highlights

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Fly to Casablanca and drive to Rabat

Depart from the UK. You'll be met on arrival in Casablanca and transferred to your hotel in Rabat.



Accommodation: Riad Dar Yanis (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



None

DAY 2 - Rabat city tour and drive to Fes

Rabat was established as the capital of the French protectorate in 1912 and since independence has served as the capital of a modern Morocco. Rabat's history stretches back as far as 8BC, when settlers arrived in what is now the Chellah area, a district that went on to become a prosperous Roman town, before being transformed by the Merinids into a cemetery. Your visit will take in something of the city's historic heart, exploring the area around the Hassan Tower and the Mausoleum of Mohammed V, before wandering through the engaging Kasbah des Oudaias, originally a fortified town that is now infused with a distinctly Andalusian flavour. In the afternoon you'll transfer to Fes.



Accommodation: Hotel Volubilis (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Swimming pool available



Breakfast

DAY 3 - Morning city tour

This morning you will have a guided tour of 'the artisan capital of Morocco'. Taking in the mosques and souks of the Fes el Bali (Old Fes) on foot affords the ideal opportunity to explore the souks that line the backstreets of the town, wandering past aromatic spice stalls and taking in the opulent majesty of the 14th century Attarin Medersa, whose intricate decoration and elegant design makes it one of the city's most captivating medieval colleges. One of the city's most impressive monuments is the spectacular Medersa Bou Inania, the 14th century Merenid structure built by the Sultan Abou Inan, whose exquisite carvings and tile work is considered amongst the most exceptional examples of its kind anywhere in Morocco. The afternoon is then free to enjoy at your leisure what is

in essence one of the most engaging, and certainly one of the most undiminished, medieval cities anywhere in the Arab world.



Accommodation: Hotel Volubilis (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Swimming pool available



Breakfast

DAY 4 - Meknes, Volubilis and Moulay Idriss

Enjoy a guided tour of the major highlights of Meknes, including the old granaries of the Heri es-Souni and the Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail himself. In spite of Ismail's seemingly unquenchable blood lust and far from benevolent treatment of his subjects, the sultan still seems to be held in high regard and his tomb is something of a place of reverence even today amongst a people who still see his rule as Morocco's Golden Age. You'll discover much of the city's beautiful architecture and the busy medina, where you can try your bartering skills in the markets. From here we head next for the nearby ancient site of Volubilis – the capital of the Roman province of Mauritania Tingitana. The detailed mosaics here are still intact and the site gives a good idea of the layout of provincial settlements. En route back to Fes you will stop for a visit at the Muslim pilgrimage town of Moulay Idriss, named after the Prophet Mohammed's grandson.



Accommodation: Hotel Volubilis (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Breakfast

DAY 5 - Drive to Beni Mellal via Azrou

In the morning depart for your journey to Beni Mellal, a small town in rural Morocco lying at the foot of Mount Tassemit and an important agricultural town. On this scenic journey, stop at the Berber market town of Azrou, set deep in the Middle Atlas this slow-paced town has stunning views of the surrounding meadows and cedar forests. On arrival in Beni Mellal spend the afternoon at leisure.



Accommodation: Les Belles Terrasses (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



Swimming pool available



DAY 6 - Drive to Marrakech

Depart for Marrakech in the morning and stop at the Cascades D'Ouzoud, a three tiered waterfall within stunning canyon scenery. Later, arrive in Marrakech in the late afternoon and spend the rest of the day at leisure.



Accommodation: Riad Celia (or similar)



Standard Riad



Breakfast

DAY 7 - Morning city tour

Morocco's famous 'Red City', Marrakech is the spiritual heart of the country, a cultural melting pot of the mountain Berbers and the desert peoples of the south. Blessed with some of the most stunning architecture in Morocco, its mix of tradition, colour and history makes for a fascinating guided walk through its medina this morning. You'll wander through its bustling souks and pay a visit to the remarkable setting of the Bahia Palace, a fusion of Moroccan and Islamic styles that was intended to be the greatest palace of its time, you'll also see the Saadian Tombs and Koutoubia Mosque. This afternoon has been left free for you to explore at your leisure.



Accommodation: Riad Celia (or similar)



Standard Riad



Breakfast

DAY 8 - Free day

Today has been left free to continue exploring this amazing city. You can wander past vendors selling doughnuts and fried grasshoppers, meander through native markets where Muslim women, their hands and feet dyed with henna, call out to sell their wares, and enjoy the sounds and the smells of the exotic. Perhaps you will prefer to take time to enjoy more of the remarkable Medina, haggling for a bargain or two, or simply sitting at one of the local cafés and watching the street tableaux unfold before you. If you are after something more active you could take a trip to Imlil or Ouirgane in High Atlas in the High Atlas Mountains for a short hike in the stunning surroundings.



Accommodation: Riad Celia (or similar)



Standard Riad



DAY 9 - Fly to UK

This morning you transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Tailormade Expert



Meet Sarah Slocomb,
Regional Specialist for Morocco

Call on 01252 883 184

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7



Transport

Private car



Trip staff

Local guide
Driver



Accommodation

5 nights standard hotel
3 nights standard riad

Trip information

Country information

Morocco

Climate

The climate is both Mediterranean and Atlantic. The dry, hot season is from May to October when summer temperatures can reach 38°C and above (if sight seeing is included we will do our best to avoid the heat of the day during this period). Temperatures may drop significantly at times during the night as the day's heat rapidly diminishes. From December to January snow can be expected on mountain passes and it can be wet. In winter, day temperatures will probably be around 18-25°C, dropping to perhaps 0-5°C.

Time difference to GMT

0

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Islam

Language

Arabic, Berber, French.

Budgeting and packing

Country Information

Morocco

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£6.00 - 8.00

Dinner price

£8.00 - 12.00

Beer price

£2.5

Water price

£0.6

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Moroccan Dirham (MAD).

Recommended Currency For Exchange

US Dollars, Sterling and Euros are readily exchangeable. We recommend you take a mixture of cash and credit cards. Scottish bank notes and Australian dollar travellers cheques and cash are NOT normally accepted in Morocco.

Where To Exchange

Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you.

ATM Availability

ATMs are available in main towns/cities, though can be unreliable.

Credit Card Acceptance

Not all places.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers cheques are difficult to exchange and are not recommended.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Standard

Light on your pocket but long on authentic experiences, these tours are based in simple, sometimes local-style accommodation. If your idea of adventure travel is to experience real, everyday life then you will enjoy our Standard style of holiday. You will have the chance to stay at simple, family-run hotels and guesthouses where the lack of luxury is more than compensated for by the warm welcome and genuine insight into local life.

Moroccan House Hotel

This charming hotel is ideally located close to Boulevard Mohamed V and only a short drive away from the mosque. The hotel is decorated throughout with traditional Moroccan designs and furnishings, Rooms are spacious and comfortable and the hotel also has a small restaurant.

Hotel Nouzha

Hotel Nouzha is ideally located within the walls of the medina, offering easy access on foot to the Fes el Bali and local restaurants. The hotel is centered around a courtyard and features traditional decor throughout. Rooms are simple, yet comfortable and the hotel offers a restaurant, bar and a spa.

Riad Celia

Located in the centre of the historic area of Marrakesh, the Riad Celia is the perfect place from which to explore the medina. The restored house is a small property offering traditionally decorated rooms. Set over three levels around a central courtyard the rooms are brightly coloured and ornate, with air-conditioning and en suite. There is a terrace where guests can chill-out, or relax in the summer lounge by the fountain or the winter lounge with TV and games.

Premium

On Premium level tailor-made tours you will stay at comfortable mid-range hotels, chosen for their location, ambiance or local character. Your rooms will be clean and well-appointed, with en suite bathrooms and air-conditioning or heating as necessary. Premium level hotels normally have restaurants, bars and often other amenities such as a swimming pool and gardens, offering a good level of comfort at a reasonable price.

Club Val D'Anfa

Ideally located on the corniche, the Club Val D'Anfa is a great place to relax and unwind, whether that be by the hotel swimming pool or walking along the sea front. For those who enjoy being a bit more active, the city centre is only a short drive away. The hotel is tastefully decorated throughout, featuring a flavour of traditional Moroccan designs. Rooms are spacious and comfortable, and the hotel also offers a bar and restaurant.

Riad Salam

Riad Salam is located next to Batha Square offering easy access to the medina and the famous Bab Boujloud Gate. The riad was built at the beginning of the 20th century and has been beautifully designed and decorated. Guest rooms are all individually decorated with Moroccan designs and overlook the quiet interior patio. When not exploring the medina guests can relax in the traditional hammam or enjoy a traditional dish from the restaurant.

Riad Berta

This old residential house is a blend of traditional materials combined with modern comfort. Located in the prestigious Kasbah Quarter next to the Royal Place, Riad Berta is about a 15 minute walk from the famous Jamaa El Fna Square on typical animated streets through the Saadien Tombs and the Bab Agnaou Gate. The riad has an open courtyard planted with palm trees and surrounded by decorated arches as well as a large terrace where you can enjoy a glass of mint tea with great views of the High Atlas peaks and the green tiled roofs of the Royal Palace. The rooms are all comfortable offering different styles and Moroccan colours.

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your

destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click [here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Morocco

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, typhoid, infectious hepatitis and polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.
