



Morocco January 2024

Where we'll go

Tangier: January 15 to 18

Casablanca : January 18 to 20

Essouria: January 20 to 22

Marrakech : January 22 to 25

Sahara Supplement

Dades Gorges : January 25 to 26

Sahara Desert camp : January 26 to 28

Agdz: January 28 to 29

Marrakech: January 29 to 30

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 : Monday, January 15

Welcome to the Kingdom of Morocco! Take the flight from Charles de Gaulle airport to Casablanca that leaves Paris at 12:30 pm and arrives at 3:35 pm. We'll meet at the airport in Paris and then upon arrival in Casablanca, a tour bus will take us to the train station where we will take the "bullet train" together to Tangier. Our Moroccan hosts will have boxed lunches to snack on during the train ride. Your train ticket is included in the tour price.

When we arrive in Tangier, after checking into our hotel, we will have a group dinner to celebrate the beginning of our adventure!

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 : Tuesday, January 16

Discover Tangier, a strategic port city on the Strait of Gibraltar known as much for its idyllic beaches on the Mediterranean Sea as it is for its vibrant old medina and kasbah. Tangier has been Europe's gateway to Africa for centuries.

After breakfast at our hotel, we will visit the American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies, in the medina that formerly housed the United States diplomatic mission to Morocco. Today, the Institute houses a museum, research library, and cultural center. After touring the Institute, we will enjoy lunch on our way to the Kasbah Museum of Moroccan Cultures in the afternoon in the restored Dar el-Makhzen Palace. After we return to the hotel and enjoy some free time, we'll enjoy dinner at a nearby restaurant together.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 : Wednesday, January 17

Enjoy breakfast at our hotel and then board the tour bus heading to Chefchaouen, known for the unique blue color of its buildings. You will have time to explore Chefchaouen on your own, take a hike to Ras El Maa, the waterfall that serves as the city's source, or to the Spanish Mosque just outside of the city center

for a spectacular view of the town. Over lunch at the beloved Café Clock restaurant, we will learn more about local culture and customs in a Moroccan Culture 101 class with a local guest lecturer.

On our way back to Tangier, we will stop along the way to visit *les Grottes d'Hercule* or the Hercules caves, where according to legend, the mythical god of strength and heroes rested between completing the 11th and 12th labors for the Mycenaean king Eurystheus. Upon return to our hotel, you will have time to rest and relax before we convene for our final dinner in Tangier.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 : Thursday, January 18

After an early breakfast, our tour bus will take us southwest along the Atlantic coast to the capital city of Rabat where we will take a Moroccan Food Tour, lunching on samples and walking through the Oudaya Kasbah which was built 1,000 years ago. After the tour, we will continue south to Casablanca, the largest city in Morocco and the country's economic and business center. While we have dinner at Rick's Café, the fictional saloon from the 1942 film Casablanca, you just might hear the pianist play *As Time Goes By*.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 : Friday, January 19

We will start the day with breakfast at our hotel and then head out for a walking tour of the old quarter including the *Villa des Arts* contemporary art museum and the *Parc de la Ligue Arabe*. To end our day discovering Casa, we will enjoy dinner at Al Mounia Restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 : Saturday, January 20

Enjoy *le petit déjeuner* before we say goodbye to Casablanca and continue south along the coast. On our way to Essaouira, we will stop in Safi for lunch and to admire the famous pottery. Essaouira is a port city and its medina is protected by the *Skala de la Kasbah*, seafront ramparts from the 18th-century that once defended the city. There, you can climb to the rooftop of one of the many terrace restaurants and be rewarded with spectacular views of the sea and bright blue fishing boats docked at the port. After checking into our hotel, we will have dinner as a group near our hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 : Sunday, January 21

After breakfast, you will have the day to yourself to explore Essaouira- relax, shop, visit a hammam or a spa.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8 : Monday, January 22

Have a leisurely morning with breakfast at the hotel before we leave Essaouira and the Atlantic coast, heading inland toward Marrakech. En route, we will stop at *le Domaine du Val d'Argan* winery for a tour, tasting and lunch. When we arrive in bustling Marrakech, we will check into our rooms at Riad Baya, located in the walls of the medina and owned by our friend Jane. Settle into your room before our group enjoys a home cooked meal in the rooftop lounge.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 : Tuesday, January 23

After breakfast at Riad Baya, take in the breathtaking *Jardin de Majorelle*, neighboring Yves Saint Laurent Museum and lunch in the neighborhood, or, if you have visited them before, feel free to take the day to explore the medina on your own or relax with a spa treatment or hammam visit. For dinner, the group will reconvene and head to PointBar in Guillez, the new city.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 : Wednesday, January 24

On our last day together, we will visit *Le Jardin Secret*, an ornate 19th-century palace complex with traditional Islamic gardens; *le Souk*, the vibrant marketplace that Marrakech is famous for; and a walking tour of the medina before we have our final dinner together at Riad Baya.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11 : Thursday, January 25

Le départ. After breakfast, we'll say farewell to those heading home or travelers who opt for the Sahara Supplement will continue their adventure!

Meals included: Breakfast

Fin – Base Trip

Sahara Supplement

Day 11 : Thursday, January 25

We'll say goodbye to our friends heading home and we will depart on a tour bus for the Sahara Desert, traveling first through the High Atlas Mountains and the highest point in North Africa, Tichka Pass. It is a beautiful, mountainous area, often used in films such as *Mission Impossible 5*.

The Dades Valley, also known as a Road of a Thousand Kasbahs, stretches 100 miles from Ouarzazate to the east of Tineghir. The winding road offers stunning views to the gorge and historic kasbahs. Our guests often refer to this as one of their most memorable experiences in Morocco.

If weather and time permit, a walking tour with a local guide will be arranged in the Dades Valley. It's the perfect way to get some exercise and to enjoy the outdoors after a day on the road, followed by dinner at our hotel in Dades.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12 : Friday, January 26

After an early breakfast, we will hit the road- specifically "Cadillac Road," winding through a gorge where a 2014 Cadillac commercial was filmed- as we drive toward the Sahara Desert where we will arrive in time for sunset as you begin your desert adventure.

Then, mount up! Our trusty camels will take us across the dunes and valleys of the Sahara to our camp. Each tent has a normal bed with linens, an individual bathroom with a flush toilet, as well as a shower with hot water and good water pressure. There is electricity that runs on a battery generator although charging electronic devices is not always possible, nor is WIFI always available.

We will have dinner in the dining tent, followed by tea and perhaps a visit or two from other travelers or nomads. Be sure to spend some time stargazing, you may never have seen so many stars before!

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13 : Saturday, January 27

Explore the areas around our campsite and relax in the Sahara!

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 : Sunday, January 28

After breakfast and watching the sunrise from the dunes, we will board our camels and head back to meet our driver. On our way to Marrakech, we will visit the Todras Gorges, a beautiful area with a stream running between two cliffs. Then, we will make our way to Agdz, in the Draa Valley amidst a vast oasis. There are rug, pottery and other shops along the way if you would like to visit. Our driver can recommend reputable shops with authentic goods. We will stay at a beautiful, peaceful hotel in Agdz with dinner served there. If you like, you can schedule a hammam and massage tonight at the hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15 : Monday, January 29

We will get an early start on the road back to Marrakech, stopping along the way for lunch and exercise and a visit of Ait Ben Haddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as a spectacular and remote Kasbah in the village of Talouet. We will arrive in Marrakech in time for dinner at our home away from home, Riad Baya.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 16: Tuesday, January 30

Have your morning tea on the rooftop, overlooking magical Marrakech before you head to the airport on your way home or on to your next adventure.

Fin