

COLOURS OF MOROCCO

SOLOS ONLY 40 Years and Over



14 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS

Morocco, a captivating display of colour, tradition, culture, delicious food and immense landscapes. Join this boutique adventure just for solo travellers, arriving to Casablanca where your 14 day adventure begins. From Casablanca we make tracks to explore the various sides of Morocco.

Marrakech will be the first of your souk visits with all the colour of vibrant textiles, and scents of Moroccan spice. Then onto your exciting journey through the Atlas Mountains getting to know various landscapes, from the dramatic canyons and view points, a superb oasis, and visits to local Berber villages. Experienced best on foot, your Atlas mountain visit includes walking tours to small towns and villages. No visit is complete without a desert camp stay and from Merzouga, set out on a camel trek to reach your overnight luxury desert camp in The Sahara, and experience the stars of the Moroccan night sky.

For many visitors to Morocco, Fes is a highlight. There's a three night stay to soak up the atmosphere and 'must sees' in this unique World Heritage Listed city. As your circuit comes to a close we finish with a two night in the 'blue city' of Chefchaouen before returning to Casablanca via the lovely coast town of Asilah.

FELLOW TRAVELLERS

You will enjoy this group experience with a maximum of 16 travellers. This is a Solos Only tour. You are welcome to join with a friend, but couples do not join this tour.

— THE —
SOLO
— TRAVEL —
AWARDS
2018 WINNER
SOLO-ONLY TRAVEL

— THE —
SOLO
— TRAVEL —
AWARDS
2017 WINNER
SPECIALTY TOURS



TOUR INCLUSIONS

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

- 13 nights accommodation;
11 nights superior hotel stays,
1 night guest house, 1 night luxury
desert camp 13 breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 7 dinners including 3 highlight dinners

SIGHTSEEING & GUIDES

- English-speaking locally based tour director
- English-speaking locally based guides
- All entries for attractions included in the itinerary

TRAVEL

- Private group transport by tourist minivan
- Camel trek to overnight desert camp
- Airport transfers#

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Tips for trip leader, driver and local guides included
- Porterage in and out of hotels included where available
- Small group, not more than 16 travellers

Arrival & departure airport transfers arriving on day 1 of tour and departing on final day of tour, or if extending at group hotel booked as part of your package.

Travel insurance is a mandatory requirement for joining this tour and is in addition to the package price.

Not included:

- Airfares if booking a tour only package
- Travel insurance
- Excess baggage, visa fees
- Porterage at airports
- Meals and beverages not specified on itinerary
- Items of a personal nature and incidental expenses

TOP 5 REASONS TO JOIN

1. Age-matched holiday groups
2. Travel with like-minded solo travellers
3. Small groups
4. Early bird savings with many tours
5. Roommate matching option

HIGHLIGHTS

- Morning city tour, Casablanca
- A traditional horse and carriage ride in Marrakesh
- City touring of Marrakesh including visiting the souk
- Two night stay in Imlil for an adventure in the Atlas mountains
- Berber village visits and walking tours
- Visit Ait Ben Haddou, UNESCO World Heritage listed village
- See Dades Canyon - an astounding landscape
- Visit a beautiful oasis
- A Sahara desert adventure with a camel trek from Merzouga
- An overnight luxury desert camp stay
- Ascend to the Middle Atlas Mountains
- Full day tour of the UNESCO World Heritage city of Fes.
- A day's excursion visiting Moulay Idriss, and Volubilis a UNESCO World Heritage listed
- Tour the imperial city of Meknes
- Go deep into the Rif Mountains
- A 2 night stay in the enchanting 'sky blue' city of Chefchaouen.
- Visit Akchour valley for a walking tour
- Travel to Asilah city - a charming seaside town on the northern coast of the country
- 3 highlight dinners in Marrakech, Fes and Casablanca

ABOUT US

At Encounter Travel we offer holiday groups for solo travellers. All trips are age-matched so there's more chance you'll share your journey with like minded travellers.

Visiting destinations across Australia and around the globe, choose from short escapes to adventure trips and leisurely touring.

CONTACT US

Encounter Travel
Monday to Friday
9:30am to 5pm (Sydney time)

Tel (AU) : 1300 653 692
Tel (NZ) : 0800 653 692
F : 02 8001 619
E: holidays@encountertravel.com.au
W: encountertravel.com.au

PO Box A1088 Sydney South
NSW 1235 Australia

ATAS Accreditation: A10439
CATO Accreditation: T1025
ABN 23 119 642 992



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Our website has full trip details and content in this flyer is only a part of the information. For full details please refer to our website.

TRAVEL DATES:

SAT 17 - FRI 30 OCTOBER 2020

TOUR PRICE

OCT 2020: \$4735 with your own room

SHARE & SAVE:

Ask us about our share and save option with our roommate matching option.

THE PACE [3 out of 5]

Overall this is a moderately to faster paced, small group tour. You should have good fitness to enjoy this tour. Some days will require early morning starts and there are walking tours included with this itinerary. The visit to Imlil has walking tours as a program highlight, to discover local Berber villages (there is the option to opt out). Distances between some places of stay require longer travel distances by road, and if you are prone to motion sickness we recommend bringing remedies to curb the symptoms. This is more relevant for the windy road travel through the Atlas Mountains.

If you have injuries or a fitness level that impedes walking, mobility and climbing stairs you should consider carefully if this tour is the right experience for you. Please talk to our staff before you book to assess your suitability.

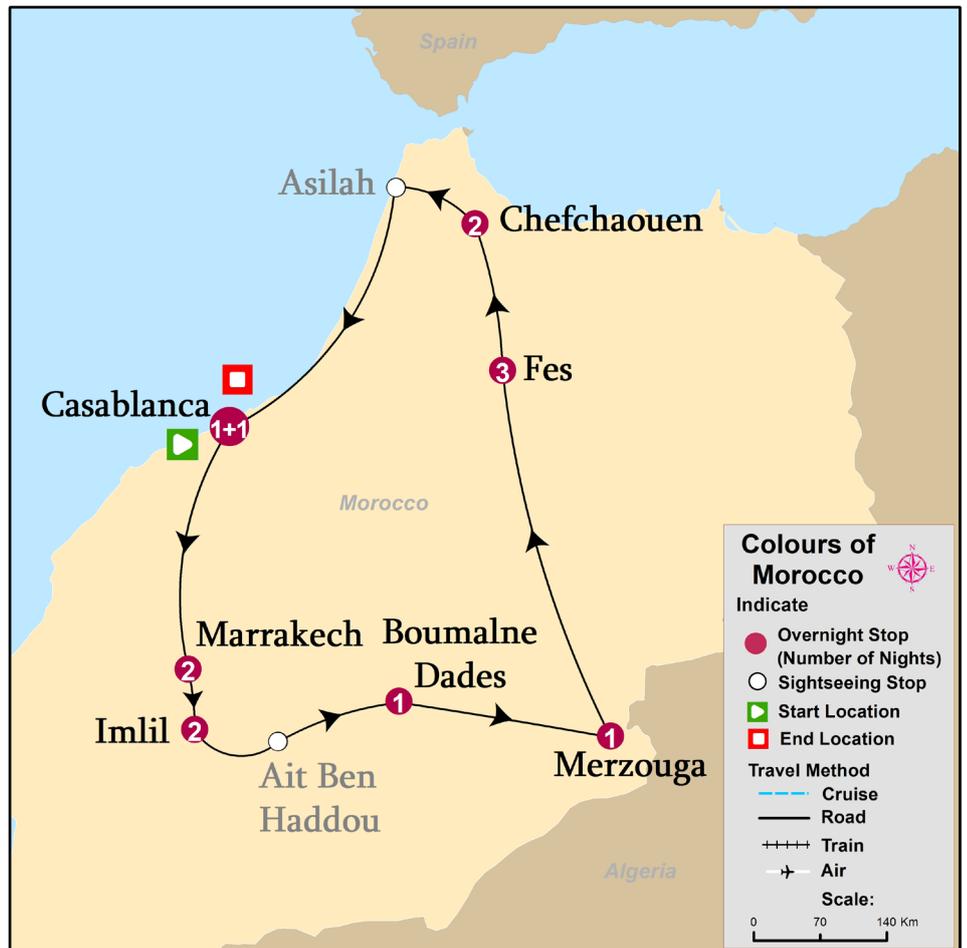
Travellers of 70 years or over will be required to return a Fit to Travel form that is completed by their doctor.

PRE TOUR STAY

Consider arriving a day before the tour starting date, or enjoy a stopover. You can relax and refresh after your flight. The cost of the additional night/s of stay applies. Ask our travel team about this option, and the additional costs.

DAY 1 Arrive to Casablanca

Arrive to Casablanca, the starting point for your discovery of Morocco. This evening



meet with your trip leader and fellow travellers for a welcome mint tea, and tour briefing.

Meals: none included

DAY 2 Casablanca – Marrakech

This morning take a guided city tour of Casablanca including a visit to the Mosque of Hassan II, situated on a promontory looking over the Atlantic, and with lovely views across Casablanca and the residential Anfa quarter. Impressively, it can hold up to 25000 worshippers. It is an enormous architectural masterpiece and the second largest religious building in the world, and its minaret is the world's tallest at 210 metres. After lunch, travel

to Marrakech. Tonight, enjoy a fabulous highlight welcome dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Highlight Dinner

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Guided city tour Casablanca including Hassan II Mosque.
- Travel Casablanca to Marrakech, about 3 hours travel time
- Highlight dinner, Marrakech

SPECIAL NOTES:

- The Mosque of Hassan II is only open to non-Muslims on Fridays.



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DAY 3 Marrakech

This morning, take in the sites of Marrakech with a traditional horse and carriage ride. Visits include the Koutoubia Mosque, the Saadian tombs and the Bahia Palace. By lunch, we end at Djemaa el-Fna Square where there is time to take lunch and an unscheduled afternoon, to explore the market 'Souk', with smells of spice, and the chance to shop for some souvenirs.

Meals: Breakfast

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Morning city tour of Marrakech by traditional horse and carriage
- Djemaa el-Fna Square – time for lunch
- Free afternoon - to explore the 'Souk'
- Evening at leisure

FREE TIME:

- For Museum and fashion fans, consider a visit to Musee Yves Saint Laurent, Marrakech

DAY 4 Marrakech - Imlil

After breakfast we depart Marrakech for Imlil via Tahenaoute and Asni villages, with photo stops along the way to take in the scenery of the vibrant green valley that stays fresh during the hottest days of the summer. We then arrive to Imlil for our next two nights of stay for an adventure in the Atlas Mountains. While staying in Imlil there's the option to explore with organised easy paced walks of three hours each day to discover the Berber culture.

Imlil is a village located in the foothills of the highest summit in Morocco Toubkal 4165 metres above sea level, and has a unique connection to several Berber villages. Arriving to Imlil there's an orientation walk. In the afternoon there's a walk (about 2-3 hours) to visit the Berber village of Aremd (1843 metres above sea level) and the waterfall set in the upper level foothills of the Western High Atlas mountains. Lunch is served Berber house in the village of Aremd. Tonight, a relaxed evening and dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Travel by road Marrakech to Imlil, 2 hours travel time
- Local orientation walk of Imlil.
- Afternoon walk (about 2-3 hours) to visit the Berber village of Aremd and surrounds
- Lunch at a Berber house in the village of Aremd

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Walking shoes required for afternoon walk, take water and sun protection
- Modest clothing; no revealing attire – cover shoulders, thighs & knees, décolletage

DAY 5 Imlil

After a breakfast, our walking adventure commences – departing with a packed lunch, heading up to Tidli plateau and there's the option to do a summit walk of Tagaoute (2500 metres above sea level). If you reach the summit, lunch on the summit offers the chance to admire the top of Toubkal mountain. After lunch, head back to our village and as the afternoon comes to an end, enjoying a relaxing end of day in the guesthouse and dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Walk to Tidli plateau with a packed lunch
- Option to do the summit walk of Tagaoute (2500m)
- End of day and evening at a village guesthouse

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Walking shoes required for the walk, take water and sun protection
- Modest clothing; no revealing attire – cover shoulders, thighs & knees, décolletage

DAY 6 Imlil - Ait Ben Haddou - Boumalne Dades

Today is one of the longer days of travel. We will have an early Berber breakfast and head south to Ait Ben Haddou village and crossing the Tizi n'Tichka pass (2260

metres above sea level), from the semi-arid regions of the south-east of the High Atlas to the more fertile plains of the Atlantic.

Later in our drive, we will stop to visit the ancient fortified city of Ait Ben Haddou to explore the narrow alleyways of the clay Kasbahs. Three hundred Berber families used to live here, but now it's only home to half a dozen. Ait Ben Haddou was built in the 11th century and is UNESCO World Heritage listing, and the Ksar Ait Benhaddou is one of the most extraordinary Kasbahs in Morocco. Located near the foothills of the Atlas Mountains, Ait Benhaddou is both dramatic and picturesque. The site has been a popular setting for films including Lawrence of Arabia and Gladiator.

After lunch, we leave Ait Ben Haddou behind and head towards Boumalne Dades via the Valley of the Roses. Arriving to Boumalne Dades, we take the route to the Dades Canyon – a highlight of this region. It's here you will get the full impression of the astounding rock arrangement and Kasbahs landscape along the Dades River. There's a stop to take in this immense landscape, before continuing to our accommodation.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Early start
- Travel by road Imlil to Boumalne Dades, 7 hours travel time
- A visit of the the ancient fortified city of Ait Benhaddou - UNESCO World Heritage listed
- Viewing the Dades Canyon

DAY 7 Boumalne Dades – Merzouga

Today, our Sahara adventure will start with a drive along the road of 1001 Kasbahs to Tinghir, the gateway to the Todra Gorge. Tinghir is a little desert spring town, well known for its ravines and stream and is a stunning oasis, with beautiful green palms. There is some free time to explore the desert spring and the gulches, and find a local bistro for lunch. By the end of the day our camel caravan is waiting for us for a camel trek experience across the sand dunes for a terrific view of sunset, watching the changing shades of light over the dunes. Just at sunset, we

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should be arriving to our Sahara desert luxury camp. Tonight, under the glory of the stars, enjoy a Moroccan dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Travel by road Boumalne Dades to Merzouga, 4 hours travel time
- A stop at the oasis, Tinghir with free time
- Camel trek to the overnight desert camp
- Moroccan dinner under the stars

DAY 8 Merzouga – Fes

Leaving Merzouga and the Sahara Desert in our wake, our first stop is at a little lookout to admire the Ziz Valley as we begin our climb up the Middle Atlas Mountains. After, we stop at the half-way point between Merzouga and Fes. There's time for lunch and we make a stop in the Cedar Forest and you can expect to see some of the world's remaining Barbary macaque monkeys. From here, onto Fes for our next three nights of stay.

Meals: Breakfast

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Travel by road Merzouga to Fes, 7 hours travel time
- A stop to admire Ziz Valley
- Lunch stop halfway along the journey
- Visit Cedar Forest
- End of day arrive to Fes

DAY 9 Fes

Today, a fabulous full day tour of the UNESCO World Heritage city of Fez. We see the famous tanneries and the Andalusian or El Quaraoyin mosque. We visit Najjarine Square where you can sit and watch the world go by in a café, or visit the Souks. In the afternoon we visit New Fez (Al Jdid) which is considered the most colourful and always bustles with life.

Meals: Breakfast, Highlight Dinner

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Full day touring Fes
- Highlight dinner

DAY 10 Fes

From Fes, we take an excursion to visit Moulay Idriss, Volubilis and Meknes. First stop, Moulay Idriss Zerhoun, a small hilltop town that stands at the base of Mount Zerhoun with a labyrinthine of the medinas. Then not far away we visit Volubilis, the most impressive of the Roman sites in the country. Volubilis contains essentially Roman ruins of an ancient city built in a commanding site. Today, it is a UNESCO world heritage site. Finally, we continue to reach the imperial city of Meknes by early afternoon and tour its focal monuments, such as El Hedim Square and Bab Mansour. Meknes prides itself on its friendly and relaxed atmosphere. By late afternoon we have returned to Fes.

Meals: Breakfast

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- A day's excursion to the towns of Moulay Idriss, Volubilis and Meknes
- End of day return to Fes

DAY 11 Fes – Chefchaouen

From Fes, we travel north, deep into the Rif Mountains, where the earth meets the heavens, to explore the enchanting sky blue city of Chefchaouen. We arrive to Chefchaouen city, with time to get lunch in a local restaurant. In the afternoon, a local guide will escort us for a visit of this Spanish blue city, to visit the kasbah and the market.

Nestled in a green mountain valley 600 metres above sea level, Chefchaouen was originally built up as a hidden outpost to push back the increasing incursions of European powers into Morocco that started in the 15th century. Much calmer and cosier than Fes, Chefchaouen's most striking feature is, without a doubt, is the old city's picturesque sky-blue painted walls and streets built on a mountainside. Tourists just can't get enough of Chefchaouen's innumerable charms. Among the major sights in Chefchaouen are the Kasbah, the Ras El Maa river valley, and the hillside Spanish Mosque (a 30 minute hike from town).

Meals: Breakfast

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Travel by road Fes – Chefchaouen, 3.5 to 4 hours travel time
- Guided tour of Chefchaouen by a local guide

DAY 12 Chefchaouen

This morning we depart for a half hour drive to Akchour valley to reach God Bridge, a naturally formed rock bridge. We have a three hour walk including time for a lunch stop with the option to enjoy a tagine or a barbecue. We walk back to return to our vehicle, and by the end of the day are back in Chefchaouen. There's some free time to enjoy the atmosphere of the blue town, and tonight your trip leader will offer the option to go out for dinner.

Meals: Breakfast

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Drive to Akchour valley to God Bridge
- Guided walk, 3 hours

FREE TIME:

- Trip leader will escort the group for dinner at a local restaurant (on your own account)

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Walking shoes required for the walk, take water and sun protection

DAY 13 Chefchaouen – Asilah – Casablanca

This morning we leave the blue city for a small Mediterranean town, Asilah. A gorgeous seaside town on the northern coast of the country, Asilah has a rich and varied history. With roots as far back as the 16th century, Asilah is a fascinating display of Morocco's unique heritage. A Portuguese fortress leans precariously over the cliffs, while charming blue and white Moroccan houses line the streets. Finally, we head back to Casablanca for a final night of stay and a highlight dinner to celebrate our colourful adventures through Morocco.

Meals: Breakfast, Highlight Dinner

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Travel by Road, Chefchaouen via Asilah to Casablanca, 5 hours travel time
- Free time in Asilah

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- Arrive to Casablanca end of day
- Out for a farewell highlight dinner, Casablanca

DAY 14 Departure

After breakfast, your Morocco trip comes to a close.

Meals: Breakfast

Itineraries may be subject to change, due to circumstances outside of our control. If there is any itinerary change prior to departure of significance, we aim to inform you prior to travel. Itinerary changes while on tour will be informed by your tour leader/guide while on tour.

GETTING THERE

Arrive to: Casablanca
Depart from: Casablanca

You must hold a valid passport with a minimum of six 6 months validity from your return date to your home country. Ensure you have at least two blank pages in your passport. See 'VISA' information in our MORE INFORMATION section of our website (near end of page).

HOTEL CHECK IN /CHECK OUT TIMES

Consider the hotel check in time on arrival and the hotel check out time on departure.

Late check out can be requested but without payment cannot be guaranteed.

ABOUT AIRFARES

On request we provide an airfare quote. If joining the tour from outside Australia it is usually most economical if you make your own flight arrangements or use the service of a travel agent located within your country of residence.

TRANSFERS

Airport Transfers are included on arrival and departure given that;

- you arrive on day 1 of the tour and/or depart on the final day of the tour, or
- you have extended your stay and you have booked the pre or post tour group hotel with us as part of your package.

If you are making your own flight arrangements, in any case, we require your flight itinerary no later than 28 days

prior to travel, even if you are not making airport transfer arrangements with us.

RETURN TRAVELLER REWARD - SAVE \$100

Once you have booked and departed with us on an international tour, you qualify for our Return Traveller Reward on your next international tour booking. The offer does not apply to any cruises, resort packages, or tours within Australia. See our website for full terms of offer.

DISCLAIMER

Any content in this publication maybe subject to change or correction, and without notice.

We have taken great care to prepare and publish the trip information and in good faith we believe it to be accurate at the time we published the information. However, as is the nature of travel, plans may need to change from time to time and often unexpectedly

If trip details need to change, in most cases your final documentation issued prior to your departure will be updated. However, it's also possible that an itinerary change may be necessary while on the trip. It could be related to unexpected weather or road conditions or another example could be an announcement of a closure of a facility we planned to use. In these cases, we will make all best endeavours to provide an alternative, of equivalent or similar standard.

Information in this publication is in part, and for full trip details please refer to our website.

Full terms and conditions are available on our website and provided when a quote is issued.