



*Certified, local experts defending  
nature's right to remain wild*

**Claudia Around the World Tours ~ The Kingdom of Morocco ~ October 15 to 25, 2023  
(Depart the USA on October 14<sup>th</sup> to arrive on the 15<sup>th</sup>)**

**October 15 Day 1: Casablanca**

On arrival at the Casablanca Airport, meet your escort for 1 of the 2 group transfers offered through FamTrips from the Casablanca Airport to your boutique hotel in Casablanca. Self-transfers or private transfers can be arranged to accommodate your arrival time. Relax at your guesthouse or optional walking tour on your own. Welcome reception and overnight in Casablanca (Le Casablanca Hotel or similar). (Welcome Reception & Tapas)

**October 16 Day 2: Casablanca – Chefchaouen**

After an early breakfast, depart via the Atlantic coast through Rabat, the administrative capital of Morocco and another important imperial city of Morocco. Rabat is known for sites that illustrate the Islamic and French colonial heritage. Visit the old town of Rabat, called Oudayas and Kasbah Oudaya, located adjacent to the Rabat medina at the mouth of the Bou Regreg River opposite Sale, a royal fort of the Berber era surrounded by formal Andalusian gardens overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Stop for lunch and continue through Kenitra, have lunch along the way and continue to the “blue city” of Chefchaouen, a sleepy village in the heart of the Rif Mountains noted in the top 50 most beautiful places in the world. Arrive at your guesthouse in Chefchaouen in the late afternoon and relax before dinner and the night (Dar Jasmine or similar). (B, D)

**October 17 Day 3: Chefchaouen – Fes via Meknes**

After a traditional breakfast, take a walking tour of Chefchaouen and depart for Fes. Visit the Roman ruins of Volubilis, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and filming location for Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ*. Spread out across several acres, the ruins reveal the transformation of the Roman Empire Carthaginian settlement into a typical Roman city devoted to the Roman gods. Stop for lunch in Meknes (known as the “Versailles of Morocco”), one of the most important imperial cities of Morocco and former capital of Morocco under Sultan Moulay Ismail known for sites that illustrate both Islamic and French colonial heritage. Visit the triumphant arch of Bab Mansour, argued to be the most beautiful in Morocco. Continue to your riad in Fes for dinner and the night. (Palais Amani or similar). (B, D)

**October 18 Day 4: Fes**

After breakfast, visit the cultural capital of Morocco. Fes, founded in the 8th century by Moulay Idriss II, is known for the fortified medina of Fez El Bali and is one of the largest preserved medieval sites in the world and UNESCO World Heritage Site, with medieval architecture, lively souks, and old-fashioned atmosphere. Explore the medina and the religious school Bou Inania one of the most beautiful Koranic schools in Fes dating back to the 14th century. Have lunch along the way and discover historic mosques, picturesque gates, a traditional Moroccan tile (jelliz) factory, and the city's distinctive and colorful

tanneries. Return to your guesthouse or explore the medina on your own. Enjoy a dinner out of traditional Moroccan cuisine and return to your guesthouse for the night. (Palais Amani or similar). (B, D)

#### **October 19 Day 5: Fes – Midelt**

After breakfast, depart for Midelt situated in the high plains surrounding the Mlouya River, between the Middle and High Atlas Mountain ranges. Stop for a cultural tea experience in a cave home in the small village of Bhalil through our local lifestyle program. Stop for lunch along the way and then a trip to the natural forest area near Ifran and Imouzar and cross the cedar forests with century-old trees and enjoy watching Barbary macaques of Gibraltar. Continue to your guesthouse in Midelt and relax before a traditional Moroccan dinner and the night (Ksar Timnay or similar). (B, D)

#### **October 20 Day 6: Midelt – Merzouga**

After a traditional breakfast, depart to Merzouga via the village of Er Rachidia and Erfoud, through Tizi Ntalghomt and the Ziz Valley. Stop in Er Rachidia for a couscous presentation, which has been a part of Moroccan tradition for centuries, followed by local music and couscous lunch, one of Morocco's most ancient and famous cities, known as the date capital of Morocco. Continue to Merzouga and meet your cameleers who will guide you to your desert camp for sunset over the dunes of Erg Chebbi. Enjoy a desert dinner followed by traditional Saharan music around the campfire and night in luxury tents (Orient Luxury Desert Camp or similar). (B, L, D)

#### **October 21 Day 7: Merzouga – Skoura**

After watching sunrise over the dunes, and a desert breakfast, depart for Skoura via the village of Rissani, crossing the vast palm oasis of Tafilalet with many ksours. Experience landscapes alternating between huge desert plateaus and oases, such as those of Goulmima. Have a cultural geologic presentation on pre-Cambrian life through the fossils of Morocco. Stop for lunch in Tinghir and marvel at the magnificent Tinejdad palm grove, which stretches 30 miles (48 km). Continue to walk in the impressive valley of Todra Gorge. Arrive at your guesthouse in Skoura, a fertile oasis lined with immense palm groves, in the late afternoon and relax before dinner and the night (Dar Sawadi or similar). (B, D)

#### **October 22 Day 8: Skoura – Marrakech**

After breakfast, depart early morning for Marrakech through the Rose Valley and Ait Said, Tourbist, and Tamalout to reach the village of Bou-Thahrar. Pass through the home of Morocco's Rose Festival, El Kelâa M'Gouna (commonly referred to as the Valley of Roses). Continue along the road of many kasbahs to Ouarzazate and on to visit the stunning Ait Ben Haddou Kasbah, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stop for lunch and cross the High Atlas Mountain pass of Tizi-n-Tichka. Arrive at your guesthouse in Marrakech in the late afternoon for dinner and the night (2Ciels Boutique Hotel or similar). (B, D)

#### **October 23 Day 9: Marrakech – Behind the Doors Culture Tour**

After breakfast, visit Jardins Marjorelle, built by the painter Jacques Marjorelle, and the former home of Yves Saint Laurent and its spectacular Berber Museum. Visit Bahia Palace to learn about Moorish architecture. Set off to explore the local culture via a tour of the daily life of Moroccan people through a "behind the doors" culture tour: a visit to a communal bakery, a walk through a local food market, and a visit to a traditional hammam and fondouk, an historic trading place for merchants from across North Africa. Stop for lunch and take in the sites at Jemma el Fna, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which for

centuries has been an incredible world of native theater: snakes, musicians, dancers, storytellers, and fortune-tellers. Have free time in the medina to shop and stop for dinner on your own before returning to your guesthouse for the night (2Ciels Boutique Hotel or similar). (B)

#### **October 24 Day 10: Marrakech – Casablanca**

After breakfast, depart for Casablanca and explore the most emblematic point of Casablanca: the Hassan II Mosque, the second largest mosque in the world including a minaret 690 feet high and one the few mosques open to non-Muslims. Stop for lunch on the Boulevard de la Corniche and continue to your guesthouse to relax with a traditional hammam or spa. Optional dinner/cocktails on your own at Rick's Cafe (Art Palace Suites & Spa or similar). (B, L)

#### **October 25 Day 11: Casablanca – Casablanca Airport**

After breakfast, transfer through 1 of the 2 group transfers to the Casablanca Airport for your return flight to the U.S. or wherever your final destination may be. Self-transfers or private transfers can be arranged to accommodate your departure time. (B)

Tour pricing includes:

- Private transport by climate-controlled coach bus, driver, tolls, and gasoline
- Airport transfers through your host as noted in the itinerary (2 each on arrival and departure days)
- 4- to 4+-star lodging in riads, guesthouses or desert camps (where available); twin or double occupancy; single occupancy with supplement
- Welcome reception on Day 1
- Dinner on Day 3
- Couscous presentation and lunch on Day 5
- Meals as noted
- Entry fees to tour attractions
- Camel trek
- Private, experienced, English-speaking tour guides
- Baggage portage (1 bag limit)
- Gratuities for driver and guides
- Taxes
- 24-hour contact number

Tour pricing does not include:

- Airfare, visa, and other air related fees
- Airport transfers not provided through your host
- Beverages (alcoholic and nonalcoholic), except nonalcoholic beverages at Welcome Reception on Day 1
- Gratuities for meals, lodging staff and cameleers
- Spa and hammam services
- Personal expenses
- Items you choose to purchase along the way
- Medical and personal insurance