



## SPLENDOURS OF MOROCCO - A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2024)

Discover exotic Morocco, from the timeless walled city of Fes to the bustling medina in Marrakech, viewing local Berber life in the ruggedly beautiful High Atlas Mountains and staying at A&K's Private Desert Tented Camp nestled among the towering dunes of the Sahara.

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Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



North Africa & Middle East,  
Morocco



12 days from AU\$17,255 pp



18 Guests

## Journey Overview

Uncover vibrant, colourful and exotic Morocco, jewel of North Africa and one of the world's most stylish and fascinating destinations. Journey from the coastal port city of Casablanca inland to medieval Fes, the Atlas foothills and the Saharan desert reaches, to sensuous, legendary Marrakech, where snake charmers, musicians, storytellers and acrobats bring Djemaa el-Fna Square to life. Explore labyrinthine souks full of treasures, savour mouth-watering cuisine, marvel at ancient medinas, bustling kasbahs and towering minarets, and relax in elegant hotels.

### Journey Highlights

- Venture into the Sahara by 4x4 and camelback for an unforgettable overnight stay at A&K's Private Desert Tented Camp that includes dinner and live Moroccan music
- Explore Fes el-Bali, Morocco's cultural heart, on a guided walk through its winding alleyways and past its myriad souks
- Share lively conversation with a female professor over dinner and freely discuss the role of women in modern Morocco
- Tread the ancient Roman paths of Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to marvel at soaring arches and vivid, well-preserved 2,000-year-old mosaics
- Discover Marrakech at its most authentic, taking in the sights, sounds and scents of its UNESCO-listed medina
- Visit local artisans whose works still reflect the influences of Morocco's historic Roman, Moorish and Berber cultures



## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Arrive Casablanca, Morocco**

Arrive in Casablanca and transfer to your luxurious accommodations, designed with contemporary styling and traditional Moroccan accents. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure in this exotic setting, the inspiration for the eponymous 1942 Humphrey Bogart film.

#### ***Four Seasons Hotel Casablanca***

### **Day 2: Rabat & Fes | Ancient Traditions, Rich Heritage**

Begin the day in the port city of Casablanca, Morocco's largest metropolis and its commercial hub. Visit the stunning Hassan II Mosque, which accommodates up to 25,000 worshipers; its minaret stands as the tallest religious structure in the world. Then, travel to the Moorish city of Rabat, capital of Morocco, to visit the Mohammed V Mausoleum, dedicated to the founder of modern Morocco, grandfather of the current king. View the Mauresque-style Hassan Tower and Oudaya Kasbah, along with its palm-dotted Andalusian garden. Continue to Fes for a special cocktail reception. Then, sit down to a welcome dinner, joined by a female professor who shares her insights on the role of women in modern Morocco, an A&K-exclusive experience.

#### ***Palais Faraj Suites & Spa | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 3: Fes | Timeless Medieval City**

Explore Fes el-Bali (Old Fes), the cultural heart of Morocco. Founded in the eighth century by Moulay Idris I, this imperial capital was a renowned centre of medieval learning. Stroll the old quarter, with its 9,000 narrow lanes, alleys and souks, on a market visit of exceeding authenticity. Watching local craftsmen in action — working with bronze and pottery — makes for an engaging artisan visit as well. Proceed to the intricately detailed Karaouine. Built in 859 AD, it is one of the oldest still-functioning universities in the world. You also visit Nejjarine Square before continuing to Fes el-Jadid (New Fes), where you see the Royal Palace, *madrasas* (Islamic schools) and *mellah* (Jewish quarter).

#### ***Palais Faraj Suites & Spa | Meals: BL***

#### **Day 4: Volubilis | Roman Ruins & Lunch at a Vineyard**

Journey overland to explore Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is home to some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in North Africa. With its triumphal arches, basilicas and capitals, the Volubilis skyline brims with iconic examples of Roman architecture. Among its greatest treasures, however, are the mosaic floors of former family dwellings, which include depictions of Orpheus charming animals with his lyre, nine dolphins signifying good luck and a portrait of Amphitrite in a seahorse-drawn chariot. Proceed to a winery outside Meknes for a Chef 's Table experience at an on-site restaurant set among the region's sunbathed vineyards and olive groves. Return to Fes, with your evening at leisure.

***Palais Faraj Suites & Spa | Meals: BL***

#### **Day 5: Erfoud | Desert Oasis**

Travel to small, desert-fringed Erfoud, pausing for lunch en route and marvelling at everyday life as you pass Berber villages, endless date palm plantations and the majestic Atlas Mountains. After the day's scenic drive, settle into your hotel before gathering for dinner this evening. Tonight's meal is prepared with locally sourced, organic ingredients.

***L'Hotel by Chateau de Sable\* | Meals: BLD***

#### **Day 6: The Sahara | Into the Desert Dunes**

This morning, discover the fortified desert town of Rissani. Continue into the desert dunes of the Sahara, at first by four-wheel-drive vehicle, amid stunning reddish-hued sand dunes that reach up to 152 metres high, creating an otherworldly landscape. Then, switch modes of transport and Ride Like a Local, camelback, to your nomadic tented camp, where a reception with mint tea and pastries awaits you. As the sun sets over the Saharan dunes, celebrate your unforgettable desert foray with a Scenic Sundowner. Return to your camp for a traditional meal before a campfire, along with distinctively Moroccan entertainment. Then, slumber in comfort as the sounds of the desert lull you to sleep.

***A&K Private Desert Tented Camp | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 7: Ouarzazate | Road of a Thousand Kasbahs**

Journey overland to Ouarzazate, once a stopping point for African traders travelling to the cities of Morocco and Europe. En route, absorb stunning views of the High Atlas Mountains' southern slopes, intersecting the Dades Valley's flourishing crops, irrigation canals and palm trees. Travel along the "Road of a Thousand Kasbahs" to Ouarzazate and your delightful oasis of a hotel.

***Le Berbère Palace | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 8: Ouarzazate | Door of the Desert**

Begin the day in Ouarzazate, a city originally built as a French garrison in the 1920s. Today, it is a regional trade centre, known for its pottery and carpets. See the Kasbah of Tifoultoute, a majestic 17th-century fortress featuring a panoramic view of the valley of Ouarzazate and the scenic High Atlas Mountains. Continue to Ait Benhaddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home of the region's most exotic kasbahs, some of which have been featured in famous films, including *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Gladiator*.

***Le Berbère Palace | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 9: Ouarzazate | Crossing the High Atlas Mountains**

Journey over the High Atlas Mountains, observing everyday life in remote rural towns, to the fascinating "Red City" of Marrakech, where you check in to your luxurious hotel.

***Four Seasons Resort Marrakech | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 10: Marrakech | Exploring the Red City**

Today, begin to unearth the secrets of Marrakech, starting in the medina, the old walled section of town that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Marvel at its architectural jewels, including the soaring Koutoubia Minaret. Then visit Dar Si Said Museum, originally built as a palace in the 19th century. Afterwards, visit Djemaa el-Fna, Marrakech's main square, which is filled with orange juice stalls and vendors, along with acrobats, dancers and street musicians performing at every turn. You may also wish to stroll the city's fabled, labyrinthine souks.

***Four Seasons Resort Marrakech | Meals: BL***

## **Day 11: Marrakech | Design Your Day**

Begin your day at Jardin Majorelle, a picturesque garden created by French painter Jacques Majorelle and later restored by design legend Yves Saint-Laurent. Stop at the Yves Saint Laurent Museum nearby for an up-close look at some of the famed designer's creations. This afternoon, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities:

- **Learn to Cook with Moroccan Spices** with a cooking demonstration and tasting.
- **Explore the Souks of Marrakech** with an expert guide, walking narrow streets lined with centuries-old shops.
- **Enjoy a Guided Walk of the Jewish Quarter**, once a thriving centre of religious freedom and tolerance.

Tonight, attend a special farewell dinner with entertainment by a local gnaoua band.

### ***Four Seasons Resort Marrakech | Meals: BD***

## **Day 12: Depart Marrakech**

Transfer to the Marrakech airport and board your international flight home, or join an Essaouira Post-Tour Extension.

***Meals: B***

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## Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 6:15 p.m. on Day 1.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 11.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Long drives should be expected on this itinerary. This is the only way to experience the magical scenery that this exotic country has to offer.

Note: Some departures may operate on an alternative itinerary. Please contact A&K for details.

Please note that alternative accommodations for Day 5 will be featured on the following departure date: September 17. Guests will be staying at *Palais du Desert Hotel & Spa*.

## Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Your Choice of Activity on Design Your Day
- Traveller's Valet Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

## Customise this Journey

**Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers** or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.

## Map





## Extensions



Essaouira Post-Tour  
Extension - A Luxury Small  
Group Journey (2024)

**See Details**

## Accommodation

### Four Seasons Hotel Casablanca



Situated on the oceanfront, Four Seasons Hotel Casablanca is a sleek resort-inspired escape. It boasts magnificent views of the Atlantic. This hotel blends cool architecture with Moroccan flair. The Four Seasons is part of the AnfaPlace Living Resort. This resort was designed by cutting-edge London architects. It combines residential, shopping and entertainment. Rooms are ultra-spacious and the hotel houses three restaurants and lounges for ocean-view dining, an outdoor heated pool and one of the city's finest spas and gym. Please note that the hotel does not serve alcohol.

### Why we like it

- A resort-inspired escape, only 10 minutes from the city centre
- The hotel has magnificent Atlantic views
- Water babies will love doing their laps in the 21m outdoor pool
- Modern architecture meets old-world Moorish design

## Palais Faraj Suites & Spa, Fes



Allow the Palais Faraj to take you back in time a thousand years, this grand building with its sumptuous designs and bespoke furniture has the ideal location in the heart of Fes. The Palais Faraj is full of fabulous fountains, intricate arches, carved wood, stucco laces, beautiful marble floors and sacred geometry. This boutique hotel boasts a selection of beautiful suites. Each suite has been designed using the distinguished art of secret alchemy complemented by the latest luxury facilities.

Boasting two restaurants and two bars; the Moroccan Restaurant L'Amandier is one of the best in Fes. As special requests, courses of Fassi cuisine and natural cosmetics of the Moroccan women can be arranged, as well as workshops of brocade weaving, pottery, stucco and zellige uncovering some of the Moroccan traditions.

### Why we like it

- Experience Fes in refinement and comfort at the Palais Faraj Suites and Spa
- Andalusian large patio and outside swimming pool
- Heated bathroom floors for the winter months
- Moroccan designed and inspired interiors
- Discover Fassi gastronomy, one of the most refined cuisines in the world

## A&K Private Desert Camp



A convoy of 4x4 vehicles takes all the equipment necessary to the dunes of Merzouga. Traversing the rocky, flat-baked sand bordering the dunes of Erg Chebbi, you can jump in the convoy or arrive in style by camel, where a traditional mint tea awaits your arrival.

The tents themselves are extremely comfortable and decorated in Berber style to enhance your desert experience. Large rugs keep out the night chills, while your bed space is accompanied by a torch - essential in the desert where the sun is the only source of light - and your campfire, of course. All tents have a small wash basin with cold running water, with towels and basic shower provisions provided. Two chairs stand sentry outside your tent - perfect for watching the permanently shifting dunes and the incredible desert sunsets.

Each tent has use of a bathroom just a few feet away, with a canvas partition separating the sink area (with the luxury of hot and cold running water) from the toilet and shower area at the back.

### Why we like it

- Sahara Desert camping in an isolated spot close to the dunes of Merzouga
- Private Arabic caidal tents with wash basin and a separate toilet and shower tent
- Outstanding cuisine served quite literally in the middle of nowhere
- Enjoy a traditional cooked Moroccan dinner around the campfire or in the private restaurant tent, followed by a wonderful array of exotic fruits
- Camel trek through the dunes at sunrise or sunset

## Four Seasons Resort Marrakech



The Four Seasons Resort Marrakech is located across from the Menara Gardens and just a short walk from the ancient walls of the medina. Offering a new concept for Marrakech, combining comfort and luxury in open spaces but with the feeling of being completely private.

The design of the resort compliments the local architecture but also shows modern influences. This is an ideal destination for everyone, looking after couples, families and business travellers with services and activities to keep everyone happy.

### Why we like it

- Set within 40 acres of Moorish gardens, this is one of the biggest resorts in the city
- Elegant Rooms are furnished with Moroccan influences and stylish décor
- Choose from a variety of room types, each offering views over the resort, the Menara Gardens or the Atlas Mountains
- The resort is set in a Medina style, and each room benefits from its own balcony or terrace
- Choose from two outdoor pools - a family pool and adult-only pool. Both are surrounded by cabanas equipped with complimentary Internet access, ceiling fans and magazines.

## Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

### Nov 28, 2024 - Dec 9, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$17,255 pp</b>	AU\$5,840	AU\$0	Call for Availability

### Dec 7, 2024 - Dec 18, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$17,255 pp</b>	AU\$5,840	AU\$0	Call for Availability

### Dec 10, 2024 - Dec 21, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$17,255 pp</b>	AU\$5,840	AU\$0	Call for Availability

### Dec 17, 2024 - Dec 28, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
<b>AU\$20,080 pp</b>	AU\$8,300	AU\$0	Call for Availability

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