



SHORT ESCAPE: MOROCCO

Discover a place of timeless landscapes, distinctive architecture and genuinely welcoming people on this Morocco short escape.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



North Africa & Middle East,
Morocco



7 days from AU\$8,195 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Discover a place of timeless landscapes, distinctive architecture and genuinely welcoming people on this Morocco short escape. Explore some of the best-preserved Roman ruins anywhere in the world, experience the unique bustle and hum of medieval Fes and meet the Berber people of the Atlas Mountains, before finishing your journey in endlessly alluring Marrakech.

Journey Highlights

- Explore the spectacular UNESCO World Heritage sites of Meknes, Volubilis and Fes
- See some of the world's most impressive architecture, including exotic Moorish towers, sacred Islamic shrines and massive Roman ruins
- Learn the secrets of a famous Moroccan craft on a visit with an expert carpet maker
- Discover Marrakech with its lively medinas, intoxicating spice markets and captivating street performers
- Experience authentic Berber culture when you join a local family for tea and conversation in their hilltop home



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Marrakech

Arrive in Marrakech and drive to Rabat, Morocco's capital and the seat of its government. The town is situated at the mouth of the River Bou Regrag and features several of the country's iconic monuments, including the Hassan Tower and the gorgeous Oudaya Kasbah.

Fairmont La Marina Rabat-Salé | Meals: B

Day 2: Meknes & Volubilis

Start at Volubilis, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the largest and most well-preserved Roman ruins in Morocco. With its triumphal arches, basilicas and capitols, the Volubilis skyline is peppered with outstanding examples of Roman architecture. Its greatest treasures are its superb mosaic floors that have been excellently preserved and left in situ. In Meknes, you have the option to visit the wine cellars of Chateau Roslane for lunch, each course paired with a delectable wine. Following your visit, drive to Fez and check into your hotel.

Palais Amani Fes | Meals: B

Day 3: Fes

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 lanes and souks of the old quarter. Proceed to the intricately detailed Karaouine. Built in AD 859, it is one of the oldest still-functioning universities in the world. Visit a tannery and then pause for tea in a cool courtyard, where an expert rugmaker reveals the incredible craftsmanship that goes into making these treasured goods. Continue to Fes el-Jadid (New Fes) to see the Royal Palace, madrasas and mellah (Jewish quarter). Finally, visit a pottery factory to discover how the beautiful zellij tiles are made. These tiles are fantastic examples of Arabo-Andalusian décor and are also used in the manufacture of Morocco's famous tagines.

Palais Amani Fes | Meals: B

Day 4: Marrakech

Fly to Marrakech today and check into your hotel, a combination of authentic Moroccan riad and relaxing modern ambience .

Les Jardins de la Medina | Meals: B

Day 5: Atlas Mountains

Discover the timeless grandeur of the Atlas Mountains, driving by 4x4 vehicle to Asni , with its picturesque mudbrick structures that seem to rise from the surrounding landscape. Continue to the village of Imlil nestled on the slope of Djebel Toubkal, the highest peak in the Atlas range. Meet the Berber people and experience their legendary hospitality, enjoying refreshing mint tea and the beautiful views in every direction. Have lunch at Olinto and savour the calming ambience of this luxurious mountain retreat.

Les Jardins de la Medina | Meals: BL

Day 6: Marrakech

Spend your morning unearthing the secrets of Marrakech, starting in the medina, the old walled section of town that is recognised by UNESCO for its historic and architectural significance. Marvel at its architectural jewels, including the soaring Koutoubia Minaret. Visit Dar Si Said Museum and Bahia Palace, a masterpiece of domestic architecture with eye-catching carvings, mosaics and gardens everywhere you turn.

Les Jardins de la Medina | Meals: B

Day 7: Depart Marrakech

Transfer to the Marrakech airport and board your international flight home.

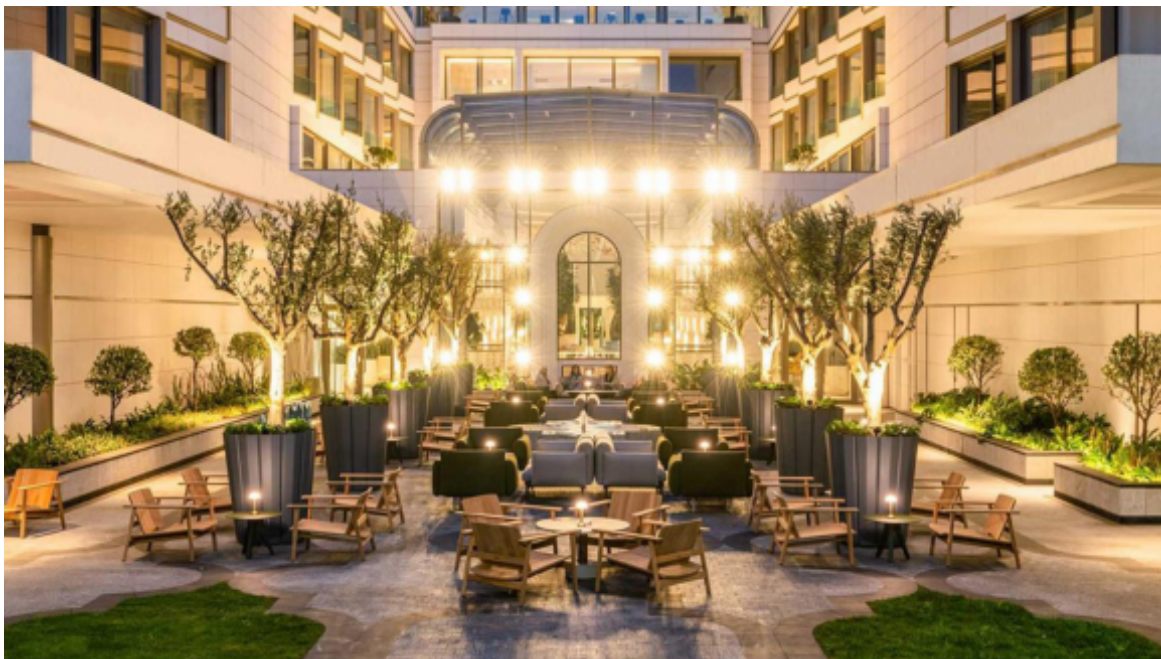
Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Fairmont La Marina Rabat-Salé



An urban retreat set overlooking the point where the Bouregreg meets the Atlantic, the Fairmont La Marina Rabat-Salé does elegance on a grand scale. Reminiscent of a cruise ship anchored in the estuary, it perfectly blends contemporary design with authentic local craftsmanship and timeless tradition, reverent to both modern Moroccan life and the influences of the past. Close to the heart of Rabat and with easy access to and from the airport, from the hotel you can both spy the city's landmarks, and reach them within minutes to explore.

The accommodation is split between rooms, suites and residences. With traditional Moroccan flourishes, all standards offer a stylish, well-appointed and peaceful haven where you can unwind in comfort. The luxurious Residences, one-, two- and three-bedroom, are an excellent choice for families or those looking for a home away from home.

The Fairmont La Marina Rabat-Salé's spa is a temple of wellbeing, with a range of sensational treatments rooted in rituals of the past. The fitness centre offers plenty of ways to exercise both your body and soul, from state-of-the-art gym equipment to yoga and guided meditation sessions.

For those looking to exercise their taste buds, the hotel will not disappoint, with three fabulous restaurants and a riad-esque lobby tearoom. L'écume

brings a 'farm and ocean to table' ethos, Dahlia offers authentic Moroccan cuisine and Le Deck serves up creative drinks and bites around a heated pool with 360 degree panoramas – a must visit at sunset.

Why we like it

- The spa offers a multisensory experience – you'll even find the same botanicals running through the treatments and the drinks and pastries served before or after your session
- L'écume showcases organic, local produce at a high, and delicious level
- It is excellently located close to Rabat's airport for both international and domestic flights
- **Our top tip:** staying in the magnificent three-bedroom residence gives you access to a large private terrace. This sun-trap of a spot is perfect for enjoying a pe-dinner cocktail with family or friends

Palais Amani, Fes



One of the city's largest and arguably most beautiful restored palaces, Palais Amani, is a serene escape. Situated in the ancient medina, the hotel nudges the heritage-rich Golden Triangle of Fes.

Carved arches and orange trees hark back to old world opulence with bells and whistles fit for royalty – 24-hour concierge, zellij-tiled fountains, and a decadent spa. Rooms enjoy hand-woven Moroccan rugs, cedar wood doors and art-deco hints.

Sip on fresh mint tea among the citrus scented courtyard. You could even request a personal hammam experience in the spa. The hotel offers cooking classes for Moroccan feasts and two-hour henna parties. Or why not learn how to belly dance wearing traditional garb.

If relaxing is on the agenda, simply sun yourself on the rooftop and order a cocktail to your lounge. The restaurant serves delicious Fes staples from a seasonal menu with spiced lamb tagine or even local bastila – pigeon wrapped in delicate filo.

Why we like it

- Beautifully restored palace
- Moroccan cooking classes
- Idyllic courtyards
- Rooftop bar

Les Jardins de la Medina



An authentic Moroccan riad dating back to the 19th century, this Eden's garden is shaded by orange, olive and jacaranda trees and flowered balconies. This hotel is a tranquil oasis a few minutes' walk from the main square.

The rooms and suites are spacious, light and airy, opening onto terraces and balconies, which are ideal for a relaxed breakfast. The hotel also features an Ecole de Cuisine, where guests can learn the skills and techniques required to create authentic Moroccan dishes.

Why we like it

- The perfect, peaceful escape from the bustling city of Marrakech
- 36 Comfort, Superior and Privilege rooms each have a terrace or a balcony
- Serenity of a riad with the services of a more conventional boutique hotel
- An outdoor heated swimming pool and hammocks hang from the age-old trees
- The restaurant and bar are a short stroll away, and serve mouth-watering Moroccan cuisine

Abercrombie & Kent

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