

# Moroccan Exploration

Wondrous Escape  
into the Heart of the Maghreb  
October 4 – 19, 2019



Slumber in the Desert



Hospitality, Moroccan Tea



Culture, Souks of Fez



Sights, Sounds, Smells



Chefchaouen, Blue Village



Discoveries, Ait Benhaddou

## Few places on earth capture your senses as well as Morocco

**Chefchaouen** – Known as the “Blue Pearl of Morocco,” this ancient Moorish/Jewish village is nestled in the Rif Mountains and is awash in blue.

**Desert Slumber** – Lounging comfortably by your bivouac with a lingering of your Berber dinner on your mind, behold the stunning night sky in the desert.

**Marrakesh** – Bustles with its own rhythm of life, colour, and aura of ancient mystery.

**Souks of Fez** – The eldest of Moroccan imperial cities and cradle of a millennial monarchy, brims with life, from its medieval charm to the edges of the Medina.

**Culture & Cuisine** – Immerse yourself in local culture and landscapes while retaining the comforts you desire; savour local specialities for a delicate mix of local and familiar.

### Why do we encourage you to reserve now?

As guests introduce their friends to us often and more guests return every year, our journeys fill very quickly.

**Reserve Early and Save up to 5%. Ends January 31, 2019**

**Be the first to know! [Join our private email newsletter today!](#)**

## Moroccan Exploration

### Your 16-Day Journey

#### Day 1 Depart for Casablanca, Morocco

Enjoy your private car home pick up service. Guests departing from the Toronto airport are assisted with their check-in. Meet your Journey Manager and fellow guests, and board your flights to Casablanca, Morocco. Our Journey Manager travels with you to take care of all the details throughout the journey, enabling you to concentrate on your experience.

*Overnight flight*

#### Day 2 Casablanca

On arrival in Casablanca, our local guide greets us with a warm, friendly smile. Following a morning drive around this coastal city, we have lunch, and then the afternoon will be at your leisure to relax in comfort and elegance at your hotel. Enjoy dinner at our hotel and exchange with fellow guests on your shared excitement for this upcoming adventure in one of the world's most interesting countries.

*Overnight Casablanca, Kenzi Tower, 2 nights*

(L,D)

#### Day 3 Exploring Casablanca

Experience the economic capital and discover the central market, the district of Habous, Royal Palace, Mohammed V Square, the residential district of Anfa, and the exterior of the Hassan II Mosque, whose minaret soars 175 metres above the city. A casual welcome lunch brings your new family of travellers together to indulge in each other's experiences. This afternoon and evening are free for you to wander, relax, or slumber.

(B,L,D)

#### Day 4 Rabat

A scenic journey takes us to the administrative capital of Rabat to witness the archaeological museum, the splendid Mausoleum of Mohammed V, the Hassan Tower and the Garden of the Oudayas; the Chellah. Your afternoon is free to do as much, or as little as you please.

(B,L,D)

*Overnight Rabat, Tour Hassan, 1 night*

#### Day 5 Charming Chefchaouen

Explore the medina and the winding alleys of this charming blue and white village, reminiscent of the small Andalusian villages of southern Spain. Look into the past at the Ethnographic Museum, also known as the Kasbah Museum. As part of UNESCO's Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve of the Mediterranean, Chefchaouen is vastly worthy of a few more minutes to stop, listen, feel, and ponder. At the Ras el Maa, the water source that supplies all of Chaouen with drinking water, enjoy a visit of the wash houses where locals hand-wash their laundry. Our path takes us to the hilltop Bouzaafer Mosque for a visit with lunch. The afternoon is yours to discover.

(B,L,D)

*Overnight Chefchaouen, Dar Echchaouen, 1 night*

#### Day 6 Fez, Imperial City

A relaxing morning brings us to Fez followed by a panoramic tour of the city. Enjoy some free time to wander and let yourself be seduced by the charm of this lively city, where old lingers and modern beckons around every corner. Your Journey Manager is on hand to offer lunch recommendations. After a day of exploration and shopping, enjoy dinner back at our hotel.

(B,D)

*Overnight Fez, Palais Amani, 3 nights*

## Moroccan Exploration

### Day 7 Moulay Idriss, Volubilis

This morning, we explore the holy town of Moulay Idriss. Spread over two hills at the base of Mount Zerhoun, it holds a special place in the hearts of the Moroccan people. A new dynasty began here with Moulay Idriss bringing the religion of Islam and starting the construction of this marvelous city. At the archaeological site of Volubilis, our guided tour exhibits the partly excavated Roman city commonly considered the ancient capital of the Roman-Berber kingdom of Mauretania. Savour lunch in Meknes, followed by a visit to the old imperial capital. Enjoy the famous Bab Mansour Gate, the royal stables, the Jewish quarter, and vast El Hedim Square. Return to Fez later this afternoon. (B,L,D)

### Day 8 Fez

An exhilarating day in the religious capital of Morocco. Cradle of a thousand-year-old monarchy, Fez shares her memories of 12 centuries of history and expresses the extreme refinement of Hispano-Moorish culture. The cultural and spiritual centre of traditional Morocco, Fez is unique in its splendour. Visit the Medina, Medersa Attarine or Medersa Bou Inania, the Nejjarine Fountain, the Moulay Idriss Mausoleum, and the exterior of the Karaouine Mosque before dining on local fare in the heart of the Medina. The souks of Fez remain a labyrinth of culture, sights, sounds, and smells not to be missed. Thankfully, our guide is an expert and shares the charms of this vast medieval gem. Dinner at a riad in the Medina. (B,L,D)

### Day 9 Merzouga

Our morning departure takes us on an idyllic route to the edge, and into, the desert. Along the way, admire and enjoy the sumptuous parade of mountains, valleys, forests, canyons, and desert. In Midelt, a town in the high plains between the Middle Atlas and High Atlas mountain ranges, we enjoy lunch and transfer by 4x4 to Merzouga, a small town in the desert. Here, we enjoy dinner and prepare for an unforgettable desert experience – a luxurious night of music, food, and entertainment amongst the sand dunes. Spend the evening gazing up at the vast star-filled sky. (B,L,D)

*Overnight in a Desert Camp, La Belle Etoile Bivouacs, 1 night*

### Day 10 Boumalne Dades

If you choose, rise early to admire the sunrise from a unique vantage point, the back of a camel on top of a sand dune. Behold a scrumptious breakfast back in your bivouac before departing for the Todra Gorge. This is, literally, being stuck between a rock and a hard place. This 300-metre deep fault of orange limestone offers just enough space for a crystal-clear river and a small path for travellers to squeeze through. After lunch, our senses come alive in the bustling village of Boumalne Dades. Enjoy time to relax before dinner. (B,L,D)

*Overnight Boumalne Dades, Xaluca Dades, 1 night*

### Day 11 Ouarzazate, Aït Benhaddou, Marrakesh

On our way to Ouarzazate, the Hollywood city of Morocco, we become immersed in the impressive Valley of Roses. In the ancient ighrem (fortified village) of Aït Benhaddou, discover the ancient method of earthen clay architecture while visiting the famous Kasbah. This is a most impressive venue for lunch. Travel along the famous camel caravan route and over Tizi n'Tichka, the highest mountain pass in Morocco before arriving in Marrakesh. (B,L,D)

*Overnight Marrakesh, La Maison Arabe, 2 nights*

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### Day 12 Marrakesh

Originating from the Amazigh (Berber) words, ‘amur kush,’ Marrakesh means ‘Land of God.’ One of the Imperial cities of Morocco, its location and contrasting landscape make it an enviable destination in Morocco. Our exploration is vast and includes a visit of the Menara Garden, the Gardens of Marjelle, the Saadian Tombs, the Bahia Palace, the famous Koutoubia, and the Dar Si Saïd Museum. Lunch is in a chic and casual setting in the Hivemage neighbourhood. Explore the souks and the famous Jemaa el-Fna Square. Enjoy dinner at a trendy local restaurant this evening.

(B,L,D)

### Day 13 Essaouira

This ancient Phoenician trading post, which became Mogador under the Portuguese rule, remains a unique citadel. This is the Moroccan cradle of varied artists and boasts an intense market full of activity and a picturesque fishing port with ancient views of the Atlantic. See the bronze guns, smelted in Spain, Portugal, and Netherlands, of the old battery at the Sqala of the Kasbah. Relax over lunch before an afternoon free to explore this little paradise.

(B,L,D)

*Overnight Essaouira, Atlas Essaouira & Spa, 2 nights*

### Day 14 Essaouira

A day dedicated to relaxation, exploration, or quiet time. This endearing seaside resort and fishing port extends on a narrow peninsula, ensuring rapturing views from all angles. Your lunch and afternoon are free. This evening, we dine this evening in a lovely setting in Relais de Paris.

(B,D)

### Day 15 Safi, El Jadida, Casablanca

In Safi, discover this ‘non-tourist gem,’ nestled on the shores of the Atlantic. Safi has two beating hearts; one in the old town, lined with shops offering the beautiful blue Safi ceramics, all lying in the shadows of the gorgeous Portuguese Citadel, and the new, bustling with modern energy. In El Jadida, discover the famous Portuguese fortified city of Mazagan. This afternoon, we arrive in Casablanca with free time to relax at your leisure.

(B,L,D)

*Overnight Casablanca, Kenzi Tower, 1 night*

### Day 16 Home

Today, we bid “wadaeaaan” to our new friends and make our way to the airport for our flights home. Guests arriving at the Toronto airport are greeted and assisted to their private car home.

(B)

*All information contained in this itinerary is correct at time of printing and is subject to the terms and conditions as listed on our web site at [www.jerryvandyke.com](http://www.jerryvandyke.com) or available from our office on request. We must reserve the ability to make improvements.*

## Early Reservation Bonus – Save up to 5%\* Ends January 31, 2019

Since we first started our company over 38 years ago,  
we have been rewarding our guests for reserving early.  
We call this our Early Reservation Bonus (ERB)!

Reserving early avoids disappointment by ensuring  
first pick of dates, staterooms, and flight options as our journeys do fill up quickly.  
It also ensures you peace of mind since your fare will not increase\*.

### ERB: Save 5%

Reserve prior to the Early Reservation Bonus date  
and pay 95% of the published fare at time of your reservation  
by cheque or electronic bank transfer,  
and we will deduct the remaining 5% off your journey fare.

### ERB *flex*: Save 2%

Reserve prior to the Early Reservation Bonus date  
and pay 98% of the published fare at the time of your reservation  
by Visa, Mastercard, or American Express,  
and we will deduct the remaining 2% off your journey fare.

Should you not take advantage of the Early Reservation Bonus  
and decide to pay by cheque or electronic bank transfer at time of final payment,  
we will deduct **\$200 off** your journey fare.

**Early Reservation Bonus ends January 31, 2019**

*\*All journeys are subject to supplier fuel surcharges and new/increased government fees/taxes, should they arise. Please note: A deposit cheque and a post-dated final payment cheque are not considered payment in full. Final payment date is 120 days (or more, depending on journey) prior to departure. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer, unless noted otherwise.*

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### Your Journey Includes

#### Outstanding Accommodation

- Kenzi Tower, Casablanca, 3 nights
- Tour Hassan, Rabat, 1 night
- Dar Echchaouen, Chefchaouen, 1 night
- Palais Amani, Fez, 3 nights
- La Belle Etoile Bivouacs, Merzouga, 1 night
- Xaluca Dades, Boumalne Dades, 1 night
- La Maison Arabe, Marrakech, 2 nights
- Atlas Essaouira & Spa, Essaouira, 2 nights

#### Air Travel

- International flights in economy with Air Canada
- Toronto to Casablanca
- Casablanca to Toronto
- Guests join us from across Canada. Contact our office for additional air gateways.

#### Discover, Learn, Explore on Included Experiences

- Exploring Casablanca with Welcome Lunch
- Rabat – Archaeological Masterpiece
- Chefchaouen – Blue & White Village
- Ras el Maa, Lunch at Bouzaafer Mosque
- Fez – 2,000 year old Imperial City
- Holy Town of Moulay Idriss
- Archaeological Site of Volubilis
- Midelt, Merzouga, & Bivouacs in the Desert
- Camels to the Dunes for a Desert Sunrise
- Todra Gorge
- Village of Boumalne Dades
- Ouarzazate – Impressive Valley of Roses
- Ait Benhaddou
- Tizi n'Tichka – Highest Mountain Pass in Morocco
- Magnificent Marrakech
- Phoenician Trading Post, Mogador
- Two Beating Hearts of Safi
- Portuguese Fortified City of Mazagan

#### Necessities – *Know your total journey cost before you leave home!*

- All taxes incl. HST, PST, VAT
- Private car home pick up & return service (where available), or a credit or hotel overnight
- All fees, port & service charges
- Gratuities on all included items: Journey Managers, local sightseeing guides, coach drivers, porters, etc.
- Branded overnight carry-on bag or backpack
- Porterage for one piece of baggage
- Services of a professional Journey Manager throughout the journey
- Services of local guides & coach drivers, for the local perspective
- Complete pre-trip information & assistance
- Most meals included: 14 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 14 dinners
- All sightseeing & entrance fees as listed

#### Journey Fares from Toronto – Canadian dollars per guest

<u>Twin/Double</u>	<u>Single</u>
\$7,450	On Request

**Fuel surcharges** – *These journey fares include the current known fuel surcharges. Additional supplier fuel surcharges may apply at final payment date.*

### Outstanding Accommodation

#### **Kenzi Tower, Casablanca**

A true emblem of Morocco, this hotel impresses with its magical visual cues and high quality service. Its comfort and elegance make it Casablanca's preferred address for discerning guests.



#### **Tour Hassan, Rabat**

A tribute to the splendour of Moorish architecture, which combines elegance and an atmosphere filled with unique majesty. Those who don't know may pass by without realization, but those who enter are transformed into another world of history, culture, and comfort.



#### **Dar Echchaouen, Chefchaouen**

A truly unique hotel which combines the charm of a traditional Medina guest house with the proximity of the mountains. Guest rooms boast all the modern comforts yet highlight a traditional character complemented by local Moroccan crafts.



#### **Palais Amani, Fez**

This opulent riad provides fifteen spacious bedrooms and refined dining close to the Golden Triangle in the ancient Medina in Fez. Relax with a cocktail in the living room, have a drink at the rooftop bar, take a Moroccan cooking class, or experience a traditional Hammam in the spa.



#### **La Belle Etoile Bivouacs, Merzouga**

*A Magical Place on the Edge of the Dunes*

A spectacular space, strategically located in the middle of the big dunes of the Sahara Desert, especially attractive with its collage of bivouacs of camel skin tents. Marvel at the vibrant and remarkable warm colours of the sunset, and experience a night in the desert.



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### **Xaluca Dades, Boumalne Dades**

Surrounded by majestic mountains with panoramic views in every direction, Xaluca Dades is a paradise in the middle of this stunning valley. Each of the beautifully-designed, welcoming rooms is exquisitely decorated with materials from different African countries.



### **La Maison Arabe, Marrakech**

Boasting a legendary status in Marrakesh, it is ideally situated in the medina featuring 26 rooms and suites, most with private terraces and fireplaces. The hotel also has three restaurants, a piano bar, and a new spa with a traditional hammam. Walk through the hotel's flower-filled patios, and admire the traditional Moroccan craftsmanship.



### **Atlas Essaouira & Spa, Essaouira**

With its exceptional location on the beach front facing the mythical Mogador Island, this luxurious hideaway features contemporary, well-appointed guest rooms with delightful views of Andalusian-style gardens and panoramic beach vistas.





Personal Notes & Questions