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MOORISH MOROCCO

13 DAY SOLO TOUR
MAY/JUNE 2019

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At the crossroads of Africa, Europe and the Middle East, Morocco is a melting pot of culture and custom. You can feel it in the bustle of the crowded souqs and you can taste it in every aromatic tagine. It’s floating in the air above the High Atlas Mountains and it’s caught in the grains of the endless Sahara. It’s a vibrancy, an urgency, an assault on the senses.

It is the essence of Morocco. Play it again, Sam.

**Will you join us?**

Don’t forget, if you fancy even more adventure, our Portugal and Morocco Tours can be booked as ‘back to back’ tours!
Day 1 - 31 May 2019

CASABLANCA

Welcome to Casablanca! Upon arrival you’ll be met and transferred to your hotel where you have the remainder of the day at leisure, before our welcome dinner that evening, where you’ll meet your fellow travellers and Tour Host. If you arrive with time to spare, then a visit the art deco Villa des Arts is well worth it. This gorgeous gallery dates back to the 1930s and holds numerous exhibitions of contemporary Moroccan and international art. Or discover a unique and fascinating part of Moroccan history at the Museum of Judaism.

Optional Activities

- Villa des Arts - art gallery & museum - Free
- Jewish Museum - MAD40

Accommodation: Hotel Kenzi Basma or similar

Day 2 - 1 June 2019

CASABLANCA - RABAT – MEKNES (B)

After breakfast Casablanca beckons and we set off on a 45-minute guided tour of the Hassan II Mosque. Completed in 1993, this extraordinary monument was the late king’s most ambitious project and his legacy to the city. Its 200-meter-high minaret is the tallest in the world. Hassan II Mosque can accommodate 25,000 worshippers and is one of the only religious sites open to non-Muslims. Next we take a drive to Rabat. Rabat’s history is long and colorful, having been host to Roman settlements, pirates and more recently the Moroccan parliament. It contains numerous fine Arab monuments, some dating from the 10th to 15th century Almohad and Merenid dynasties, and others that are far older. The earliest known settlement is Sala, occupying an area now known as the Chellah. Spend a few hours strolling through the city’s old quarter, then walk up to Kasbah des Oudaiaas and enjoy views over the Atlantic Ocean, before we continue on to Meknes (approximately 2 hours), the sixth largest city in the kingdom, and former capital of Morocco.

Included Activities

- Guided Tour of Hassan II Mosque – Casablanca
- Rabat Guided Tour
- Chellah – entrance
- Kasbah Les Oudayas Rabat

Accommodation: Hotel Tafilalet or similar

Day 3 - 2 June 2019

MEKNES - VOLUBILIS – FES (B,L)

This morning is free to explore Meknes. In the 17th century Sultan Moulay Ismail turned Meknes from a provincial town to a spectacular Imperial city. Visit his immense Heri es Souani Granary, a mammoth architectural feat, and the city's now crumbling imperial palaces. Try a camel burger for lunch at friendly local restaurant in the medina. Later we board a private minibus and travel through rolling hills and olive groves to the archaeological site of Volubilis. World Heritage-listed Volubilis was once a provincial Roman capital, a distant outpost of the empire, and the remains make an undeniably impressive sight. We’ll take a tour around the ruins with a local guide. Don’t forget your camera as the town is filled with fantastic mosaics along the Decumanus Maximus, many of which remain intact. Next we head to Fes, where we’ll spend the next two nights. Fes is the spiritual and cultural heart of Morocco; vibrant, noisy, fascinating and overwhelming – a visual and pungent feast for the senses – with a huge, well-preserved medieval old city that’s the mother of all medinas.

Accommodation: Hotel l’escale or similar
Day 4 - 3 June 2019

FES (B,D)

Today we enjoy a walking tour of the old city, known locally as Fes el Bali. Step back into the Middle Ages in the labyrinth of the Medina, which is alive with craftsmen, markets, tanneries and mosques. Pass donkeys piled high with goods (this is one of the largest car-free urban zones in the world) and explore the specialty sections that divide the souk. Visit the Medersa Bou Inania, one of the city’s most beautiful buildings, which has recently been restored and is now open to tourists. Visit the splendid Fondouk Nejjarine, a beautifully restored 18th century inn. We’ll also see the famous tannery, known for the iconic view overlooking its dye pits, and a ceramics factory where you can see potters working in the traditional way. In the evening, we’ll enjoy a delicious group dinner of Moroccan specialty - the famous chicken pastilla!

Included Activities

• Guided walking tour Fes

Optional Activities

• Fondouk Nejjarine
• Medersa Bou Inania - Entrance - Fes
• Guided walking tour Fes

Accommodation: Hotel l’escale or similar

Day 5 - 4 June 2019

MIDELT (B,D)

Today we leave the intensity of the city behind for the simplicity of the High Atlas Mountains. We drive south, inland through a variety of spectacular scenery – fertile valleys, cedar and pine forests and barren, rocky landscapes – to the small town of Midelt (approximately 3.5 hours). Midelt is a market town, originally built as a base for mining in the area, and is nestled between the Atlas and Anti-Atlas Mountains at an elevation of just over 1,500 meters. It’s a perfect spot to break up the journey to the Sahara, and is a great base for some easy walks. Many of the locals are Berber, and the town can offer an insight into their way of life. After lunch, stretch your legs for a few hours on an easy hike in the nearby hills. Be prepared for some astonishing views of the Atlas Mountains, with snowy peaks almost touching the sky. Wander through plantations of apple trees on the way back to your accommodation for a relaxing evening.

Accommodation: Hotel Taddart or similar
Day 6 - 5 June 2019
MERZOUGA DESERT (B,D)

This morning there's time to haggle for carpets (mainly Kilims), take another refreshing walk, or visit a nearby Franciscan convent where local girls and women learn weaving, tapestry and embroidery before we set off on our journey to Merzouga. With a backdrop of the orange-colored Erg Chebbi sand dunes, the charming Saharan village of Merzouga feels wonderfully isolated, like the modern world has left it behind. The Erg Chebbi dunes are the most stunning in the country and an essential part of any visit to Morocco.

An erg is a vast sea of shifting wind-swept sand that's formed into picturesque, undulating crests and valleys. The Erg Chebbi is one of the world’s iconic landscapes, with towering dunes up to 150 metres in height. Located at the end of a sealed road and just 20 kilometres from the Algerian border this really feels like frontier country. You will leave your gear at a simple auberge and then ride camels into the edge of the Sahara Desert, enjoying a spectacular sunset along the way. The dunes are stunning, especially as the evening light plays across them and sets off the colours.

Tonight, we’ll camp in traditional style, with the chance to try some fantastic local cuisine while we sit around an open fire, enjoying lively music, drumming, Bedouin stories and some dancing under the stars.

Notes: The camp is set up for private use of our group. We’ll enjoy the comfort of private tents, with proper size standing beds, coffee table and chairs. Each tent has a private shower and toilet provided. While there is also a dining tent provided, most travelers prefer to dine outside, under the stars and sitting around an open fire. Blankets and mattresses are provided, however, during the cold winter months from November to March, you may consider bringing your own sleeping bag for extra warmth and comfort. The entire camp is set up by our crew while you relax and enjoy the mighty Sahara Desert.

- **Accommodation: Desert Camp**

Day 7 - 6 June 2019
TODRA GORGE – DADES VALLEY – M’GOUN VALLEY (B,D)

Enjoy a real Lawrence of Arabia moment this morning with a sunrise camel ride across the desert on the return journey to the auberge. Next we drive to Todra Gorge (approximately 4.5 hours), a massive trench that rises over 250 metres to form one of the most dramatic and spectacular natural sights in Morocco. The limestone stacks make a perfect area for trekking, and so today we’ll take a short walk through the sheer cliffs, before continuing on to the beautiful Dades Valley, where we’ll stop for a break and have some time to take in the remarkable scenery – sprawling green valleys and rocks sculpted into stunning formations by the wind. Then we head inland to M’goun where we’ll have a chance to observe the customs and lifestyle of the Berbers.

- **Accommodation: Ksar Kaissar or similar**
Day 8 - 7 June 2019

AIT BENHADOU (B,D)

Today we head to Ait Benhaddou. The scenic drive will take us past ancient kasbah ruins, former colonial military outposts, austere mountains and valleys of palm trees and irrigated fields. We stop for lunch in Ouarzazate, where productions such as Lawrence of Arabia, The Sheltering Sky and Black Hawk Down were filmed. Then we head to Ait Benhaddou. Centuries ago, this was an important stop for caravans carrying salt across the Sahara. Today its grand kasbah, a fine example of clay architecture, has been listed as a World Heritage site. In the late afternoon, why not enjoy a cooking demonstration to learn the secrets behind Morocco’s most famous cuisine: couscous and tagine.

Optional Activities
- Atlas Movie Studios - MAD50
- Kasbah Taourirt - MAD20
- Accommodation: Riad Ksar Ighnda or similar

Day 9 - 8 June 2019

MARRAKECH (B)

Today we drive through the winding roads of the Atlas, bound for Marrakech, an ancient, exotic city wrapped in European modernity. The scenery through the High Atlas Mountain passes is magnificent, and there’s plenty of opportunity to grab a photo along the way. This evening, we head to the great square of Jemaa el Fna, one of the largest public spaces in the world and unique to Marrakech. When night falls it transforms into a hive of activity. Henna-painters, performers and storytellers share the square with a street food bazaar, packed with stalls loaded with Moroccan delicacies. Enjoy a dinner on this magical square with your new friends on one of the outdoor street food vendors and then finish your day with a cup of tea on one of the roof-top restaurants overlooking the square.

Optional Activities
- Marjorelle Gardens - MAD70
- Palais Badi - MAD10
- Saadian Tombs - MAD10
- Medersa Ben Youssef - MAD40
- Museum of Marrakech - MAD40
- Accommodation: Opera Plaza or similar

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Day 10 - 9 June 2019

MARRAKECH (B)

After breakfast we set off on a morning tour of the old medina, through the bustling souks that are the lifeblood flowing through the city. Explore tranquil courtyards filled with the scent of orange blossom, and the many salons and chambers that make up Bahia Palace. This splendid mansion was built in 1866 for a former slave who rose to power within the government. Stop by the Koutoubia Mosque; its famous minaret is the prototype for others of its kind around the world, including La Giralda in Seville. Then walk back through the streets of the old medina to the Jemaa el Fna. The rest of the day is free to explore further or shop in the bazaar. Perhaps visit the tropical gardens of the French painter Jacques Majorelle or check out the ruins of the Palais Badi, once one of the most beautiful palaces in the world. Or head back into the medina and watch skilled artisans perfect their craft, practice your haggling skills or take a break from the hustle to sip on tea or share a tajine, filled with the pure scent of Morocco.

Included Activities

- Marrakech - Guided walking tour
- Marrakech - Palais Bahia

Accommodation: Opera Plaza or similar

Day 11 - 10 June 2019

ESSAOUIRA (B)

Today we head westwards towards the Atlantic Coast and the old fishing town of Essaouira, a city where the medina brushes up against the Atlantic Ocean. Sandstone walkways contrast with whitewashed houses, bright blue sky and the sand of the surrounding beaches and dunes. This artists’ town was once home to sizeable British and Jewish populations, and its charm has seduced people like Orson Welles and Jimi Hendrix. It is one of North Africa's most attractive places, and you will soon find yourself slipping into the easy-going rhythm. Join a local guide for a walking tour through the old medina, Jewish mellah, port and skala (sea wall). The narrow streets of Essaouira are ideal for casual exploration. Their size discourages cars, and on a walk through the town it feels as though little has changed since the days of sea pirates. The fishing port is a serious commercial operation and there’s much fun to be had observing the daily catch and its subsequent auction. Your riad is beautifully designed and decorated in traditional Moroccan style, cozy yet historical and has a great vue. This is likely to be one of the most memorable stays of your journey!

Included Activities

- Guided tour of Essaouira

Optional Activities

- Hamam (public baths) - MAD200
- Berber massage - MAD350
- Horse riding - MAD250
- Seafood Market Lunch - Essaouira - MAD80

Accommodation: Palais Des Remparts or similar
Day 12 - 11 June 2019
CASABLANCA (B)
This morning there’s time for a walk by the beach or to admire the medina before departing to Casablanca where you’ll spend your last night on this magical journey.

- Accommodation: Kenzi Basma or similar

Day 13 - 12 June 2019
CASABLANCA DEPARTURE (B)
There are no activities planned for the final day and you can depart the accommodation at any time, saying goodbye to new friends and this spectacular country.
Tour Inclusions:
- 12 nights accommodation in your own room — always!
- Qualified English speaking local guides for all your sightseeing excursions.
- Two’s a Crowd tour host from Australia.
- All transfers in a chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicle, which is private to your travelling party.
- All sightseeing and excursions as per your itinerary, completely private for your travelling party unless otherwise stated.
- Representatives, drivers or guides assistance for check in to hotels/trains/planes, where applicable.
- Entrance fees to the sites that are listed as included on your itinerary.
- All meals specified as included on your itinerary (12 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners).
- All currently applicable taxes.
- Comprehensive Travel Insurance underwritten by CHI Travel Insurance (Underwritten by Allianz) or QBE. Additional premium may be payable if over 69 years, have an existing medical condition or wish to extend your travel dates. Refer to the CHI or QBE PDS for more information on policy terms and conditions.

Tour Exclusions:
- International airport departure tax
- Any visas required
- Services not mentioned in the itinerary
- Late check out at hotels
- Meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary
- Drinks with included lunches and dinners
- Tips for leaders, guide and driver
- Expenditure of personal nature
- Personal Insurance
- Optional activities

NEED MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT THE TEAM:

☎ Phone: 1300 55 45 01 (AUS) or 0800 895 145 (NZ)  ■ Email: team@twosacrowd.com.au

ABOUT TWO’S A CROWD: We are an award winning tour company exclusively dedicated to the needs of solo travellers. At Two’s a Crowd, single and solo travellers have access to fantastic itineraries at great prices without ever feeling like a third wheel to someone else’s private getaway. Our travellers enjoy the best of both worlds: private time, personalised attention, low single supplements, as well as the camaraderie of like-minded travellers. For your peace of mind we are ATAS accredited (No A13850)

Our commitment is to make solo travel more enjoyable and affordable.

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