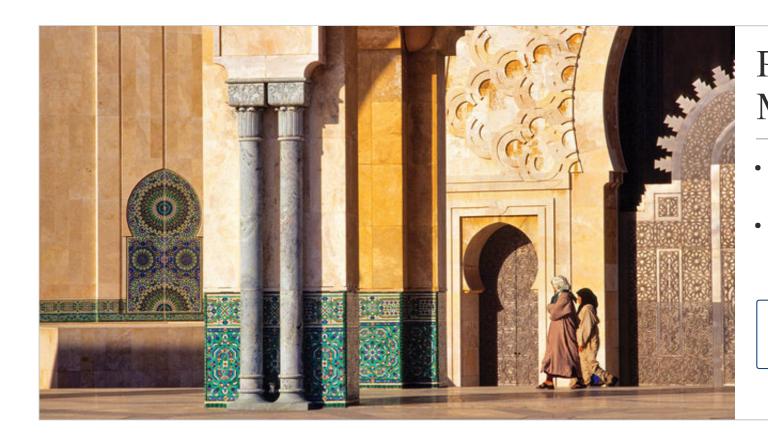
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DESTINATIONS AFRICA PRIVATE EXPEDITION: MOROCCO



Expedition Details

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Walled clay villages and ornate palaces behind grand tiled gates, colorful medinas lined with rows of exotic spices, Berber families carrying on ancient ways of life high in the mountains—this is the enchanting mix that is Morocco. Wander the narrow alleyways of Fez, exploring the lively bazaars of its bustling medina. Head into the Atlas Mountains on foot with a local guide, and stroll among the exquisite Roman mosaics of Volubilis. Experience Marrakech, once a stop on the ancient caravan routes, and still infused with the magic of a cultural crossroads.

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traditional Moroccan guesthouse. Spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure, soaking up the vibrant colors and intoxicating scents of the medina's ancient maze of covered bazaars.

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Riad Maison Bleue

Day 2 - Fez

Delve deeper into Fès el-Bali on a private tour of this UNESCO World Heritage site. Peruse the medina's markets and craft workshops and stroll the arcades of Al-Karaouine, the longest continually operating university in the world. Contrast the twisting lanes of the old guarter with the plazas and palaces of Fez el Jdid, or "New Fez," a district built during the Marinid dynasty in the 13th century. Admire the opulent entrance to the Royal Palace, the one-time imperial seat of the city. Then take in aerial views of the city on a stroll atop the old town walls, stopping at the Blue Gate to see its intricate mosaic design.

Riad Maison Bleue (B, D)

Day 3 - Meknes/Volubilis/Rabat

Today, as you ride across the plains that stretch from the Middle Atlas Mountains, you'll make stops at two World Heritage sites. The medieval walled city of Meknes served as Morocco's imperial capital in the 17th century and features grand, tiled gateways and mausoleums. Just outside of the city are the partially excavated Roman ruins of Volubilis. Admire the well-preserved mosaic floors of this city, dating back to the 3rd century B.C. Arrive in Rabat, Morocco's political capital. Step through the spectacular Moorish gate of the oceanfront Kasbah of Ouadaya and continue to the stunning marble Mausoleum of Mohamed V.

Villa Mandarine (B, L)

Day 4 – Marrakech/High Atlas Mountains

Journey to the High Atlas Mountains, stopping for lunch in Marrakech. Continue to the Kasbah du Toubkal, a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World and your home for the next two nights. Perched on a hilltop amid the soaring peaks of Toubkal National Park, this stunning retreat was built from the ruins of a kasbah and celebrates the customs and traditions of the local Berber people. National Geographic travelers have an exclusive invitation to enjoy a village walk with a lodge staff member followed by a traditional mint tea in his or her home. *Kasbah du Toubkal (B, L, D)*

Day 5 - High Atlas Mountains

This morning, set out to explore the slopes of Jbel Toubkal, the highest peak in the Atlas Mountains. On a range of hikes, walks, and donkey rides, discover a landscape of vast plateaus carved by deep ravines, waterfalls, and dramatic cliffs. Afterward, sip tea with a local Berber family as you learn about their daily rituals. Tonight, settle into the cushions and carpets of the lodge's traditional restaurant and savor local specialties.

Day 6 - Aït Ben Haddou

Kasbah du Toubkal (B, L, D)

Travel through the canyons of the High Atlas Mountains to the

Kasbah Telouet, a deserted fortification on an age-old caravan route between Marrakech and the Sahara. Experience the faded and crumbling grandeur of this rose-colored palace before continuing to the ancient village of Aït Ben Haddou. Meander the narrow lanes of this medieval adobe village and meet with a Berber family that calls it home.

Ksar Ighnda Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 7 - Marrakech

Delve into to legendary Marrakech, a cultural melting pot of Berber, African, Mediterranean, and Arab influences. Discover hidden neighborhoods as you peruse artisan quarters and souks off the beaten path. Then immerse yourself in the magic of Djemaa el-Fna, the city's lively main square. Listen to the tales of storytellers, warm up to fire-eaters, and delight in the beguiling music of snake charmers as you wander through this enchanting plaza.

Villa des Orangers (B, L)

Day 8 - Marrakech

Visit Marrakech's cultural and historic highlights on a full-day tour of the city. Start at Koutoubia Mosque's iconic minaret tower and then stroll through the lavish colonnades and courts of the Bahia Palace. Continue to the Saadian Tombs, the final resting place for the Saadian royal family. Pass through the imposing Bab Agnaou Gate, the entrance to the royal Kasbah. End your day at the Majorelle Gardens, a collection of exotic plants set among elegant ornamental lakes and a colorful Art Deco villa. *Villa des Orangers (B)*

Day 9 - Marrakech/Depart

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

(B)