

# Morocco Private Journey

IMPERIAL CITIES, THE GREAT SAHARA, AND MARRAKESH



## WHEN TO GO

March to May  
September to November

For our Private Journey trips, you choose your own group and your preferred dates—there are no set departure dates. Private Journeys are available to groups as few as two people or as large as you like. While many guests choose to book this tour exactly as is, our Area Specialists can work with you to customize it to your wishes. Contact us for availability, questions, or to book your adventure!



*Wilderness Travel*

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## *Morocco Private Journey*

### IMPERIAL CITIES, THE GREAT SAHARA, AND MARRAKESH

Morocco's sensuous beauty is legendary, from imperial cities with labyrinthine souks to the awesome grandeur of the Sahara. Our Private Journey discovers this graceful land in Fez—a walled city suspended in a medieval dream—and in the storied casbahs of Marrakesh, in the red-rock canyons of the High Atlas, and in a stunning desert oasis where dunes stretch to the horizon. You have a private guide with you from Day 1 through the afternoon of Day 8, and your accommodations are in hotels as well as riads, traditional mansions that have been converted into boutique hotels of character, with charming Moorish and Andalusian architecture, tiled central courtyards open to the sky, and peaceful rooftop gardens. Each riad is unique and has its own special personality and decor. At journey's end, you can extend your travels to the enchanting walled town of Essaouira on the edge of the sea.

#### ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—even if it's just the two of you—yet still enjoy a guided adventure.



*Wilderness Travel*

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# Itinerary

## DAY 1

### CASABLANCA / RABAT

Morning arrival in Casablanca, where you are met by your guide and escorted for a visit to the huge Hassan II Mosque, with its exquisite Moorish architecture of traditional hand-crafted decorative tiles and marble. Massive in scale, it was designed by the French architect Michel Pinseau as a modern rendition of classical Moorish architecture. Every inch of it is exquisitely detailed, hand crafted in tile, marble, metal, and wood by traditional Moroccan artists. It is open to all and you can explore the interior, where as many as 20,000 people can worship at once.

Drive north along the coast to Rabat, the capital, facing the Atlantic. After lunch in the city, head out to explore this very walkable capital full of historic sites. Stroll through the picturesque Oudaia Kasbah, partly enclosed in ramparts, and visit the Mausoleum of Mohammed V (the current king's grandfather), with its costumed royal guards and brilliant marble surface. Explore the Chellah, one of the most beautiful ruins in all of Morocco, a walled and towered royal necropolis atop the ancient Roman town of Sala Colonia. The spectacular Chellah is the legacy of Abou El Hassan (1331-1351), the great Marenid sultan and prolific builder. Overnight at the Villa Mandarine... BL

The Berbers: Two thirds of Moroccans are Berbers (or Imazighen, as they call themselves), a group with a mixed origin that includes European and Saharan peoples. Not a homogeneous group, the Berbers arrived in Morocco (and other regions of North Africa) at different times. Morocco's Berbers found refuge in the High Atlas and Middle Atlas, thus surviving various invasions by Mediterranean civilizations. Today they retain a distinctive tribal culture that breaks into three major groups: the Sanhaja live in the central and eastern High Atlas, the Middle Atlas, and the Rif and speak the Tamazight dialect. The Masmouda are settled people who live mostly in the western High Atlas and speak the Chleuh dialect; it was a Masmoudian tribe that in the 12th century founded the Almohad Empire, a dynasty strong enough to have controlled Spain along with much of northwest Africa. The Zenets, the herders of eastern Morocco, speak the Znatiya dialect. They founded the Marinid Dynasty in the 13th century. The blue-robed Tuaregs of the Sahara are also a branch of the Berber family. Berbers are Muslims, but their conversion to Islam took centuries and in many areas was not dominant until the 16th century. Berber Islam tends to incorporate traditional beliefs of former religious practice.

## DAY 2

### MOULAY IDRIS / VOLUBILIS / FEZ

Depart Rabat and travel inland through countryside dotted with wheat fields, vineyards, and olive groves to Moulay Idriss, a rural hill town named for Morocco's most famous saint, Moulay Idriss, great-grandson of the Prophet



### TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

<b>Length:</b>	9 days
<b>Arrive:</b>	Casablanca, Morocco
<b>Depart:</b>	Marrakesh, Morocco
<b>Lodging:</b>	8 nights in hotels (or optional upgrades to traditional riad-style hotels)
<b>Meals:</b>	All meals included except 5 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
<b>Activity:</b>	Cultural Adventures, Walking
<b>Trip Level:</b>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Easy to moderate cultural exploration, city and village walks, optional camel ride

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Roam the labyrinthine medina of medieval Fez and the bustling bazaars of Marrakesh
- Explore the spectacular Dades Gorge and meet the Berbers of the Atlas Mountains
- Enjoy authentic riads, perfectly-located boutique hotels, and a private guide throughout your trip
- Tailor your activities to your interests: music, markets, hiking, desert camping

Muhammed. He is buried here, and thus the town is a revered pilgrimage site year round. Enjoy lunch in town, then stroll the hilly lanes and walk through the small souk. Later head to nearby Volubilis, a romantic Roman ruin surrounded by rolling farmlands. Volubilis was Rome's provincial capital in Morocco, with structures dating to the second and third centuries AD and an impressive array of stunning mosaics. Continue to Fez and transfer to the Riad Fes (or upgrade to the Riad Maison Bleue)...BL



Classic Accommodation: Riad Fes  
Optional Upgrade: Riad Maison Bleue  
(See Lodging pages for descriptions and photos)

### DAY 3 FEZ

The most evocative of Morocco's imperial capitals, ancient Fez is nestled in a high valley and resplendent with minarets and domes. Its evocative medina is one of the most perfectly preserved medieval cities in the world, hauntingly beautiful and full of infinite visual delights. Enter the dazzling 12th century medina through one of its four medieval gates and discover a mile-long network of souks, open-air cafes, courtyards, hammams (traditional steam baths), and gardens. Explore on foot in a honeycomb of twisting alleys of Arabic-Moorish architecture, visit the nearby mellah (Jewish quarters), savor the scent of spices, orange blossoms, sizzling lamb kabobs, and sweet honey cakes, and watch scenes unchanged in centuries, from donkeys laden with leathers bound for tanneries to children carrying boards of bread dough to communal ovens. The walking tour can be customized to suit your special interests. Some of the finest Berber carpets in Morocco are found in this medina. A private English-speaking guide is available for a day tour of Fez. Enjoy lunch at a fine restaurant in the medina. Overnight at Riad Fes (or upgrade to Riad Maison Bleue or the Palais Faraj)...BL

Medinas, Souks, Casbahs, and Ksour: The word medina means "town" in Arabic. It refers to Morocco's old pre-20th century cities, many of them enclosed within defensive walls. A medina has several monumental gates through which it can be entered and a mosque at its heart. Medinas are separated into quarters according to social and commercial hierarchies. Each quarter usually has its own communal oven, hammam, and grocery shop within its network of streets and alleys. Craftsmen work in the area of the medina known as the souk (market), often with separate souks for separate crafts. A casbah is a fortress-style building with crenelated towers. In rural Morocco, representatives of the ruler lived in and governed from casbahs; a casbah can be inside a ksar. A ksar is a fortified rural village surrounded by solid walls set with crenelated towers.

"We can't say enough good things about our guide's knowledge, personal skills, warmth—and most of all his patience. He dealt with five different people with different needs, who often asked questions that had already been answered—and never did he show anything but the utmost care and good will. He is a treasure—Wilderness Travel should be very proud."

*Marty and Paul S., Falls Church, VA*

#### DAY 4 ERFOUD

Drive across the craggy Middle Atlas Mountains. En route, visit the old French hill station of Ifrane, built in the early 1930s by French colonials and now a university town. Along the way, you may see some of the “Barbary apes” (actually macaque monkeys) that inhabit the cedar forests of the Middle Atlas. After lunch, cross the High Atlas and descend a winding road through the stunning canyon of the Ziz Gorge, which carves its way through an oasis of date palms to the desert frontier town of Erfoud. Total driving time is about six and a half hours—a long journey but a beautiful one. Overnight at Kasbah Xaluca (or upgrade to our Private Sahara Desert Camp)...BLD

Classic Accommodation: Kasbah Xaluca  
Optional Upgrade: Private Sahara Desert Camp

#### DAY 5 GOLDEN DUNES OF ERG CHEBBI / ERFOUD

From Erfoud, head by 4WD to the village of Merzouga, set at the foot of Erg Chebbi, the highest dunes in Morocco. Erg Chebbi is one of the country’s greatest natural wonders, its vast, golden, rolling sands endlessly shaped and reshaped by the wind. Here you meet with your Berber guides for a chance to ride a camel for a few hours (or walk if you prefer) to enjoy the atmosphere and stunning vistas of this great sand sea. After lunch among the dunes, return to Merzouga, bid farewell to the Berbers, and return to Erfoud in the late afternoon. Overnight at Kasbah Xaluca (or upgrade to our Private Sahara Desert Camp)...BLD

#### DAY 6 TODRA GORGE / DADES GORGE

Depart Erfoud for the spectacular Dades Gorge. En route, visit the Todra Gorge, a narrow canyon with tiny villages and fertile fields set along a river. The rock walls of this gorge rise to 900 feet and attract climbers from around the world. After lunch and time for a stroll, continue toward the Dades Valley along the “road of the casbahs,” visiting a casbah en route. In the late afternoon, arrive in Boumalne, a small town at the entrance to the Dades Gorge and check in at the Hotel Xaluca Dades...BLD



“This was truly one of the best travel experiences I have ever had. No need was overlooked. Every detail was planned and executed effortlessly.”

*D. Gauthier, Miami, FL*







“We loved the way you tailored the personal trip to suit our time frame, which was shorter than the usual trip in Morocco. It was a wonderful experience to see so much in such a short time; we really felt we got to know the country much more than if we had tried to figure it out ourselves!”

*Therese O., Berkeley, CA*

### DAY 7

#### DADES GORGE / AIT-BEN-HADDOU / MARRAKESH

The dramatic Dades Gorge is famed for its scenery of limestone cliffs, lush fig orchards, and eroded rock formations reminiscent of the red-rock canyons of the American Southwest. The whole region is a paradise for photographers. After enjoying vistas of the valley and a lunch stop in the town of Ouarzazate, continue to Ait-Ben-Haddou, a citadel-like village where scenes from *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Man Who Would Be King*, and *Gladiator* were filmed. Enjoy a walk through this picturesque casbah before continuing to Marrakesh, known as the “red city” for its rose-tinted buildings. The city has Berber rather than Arab origins and for centuries has been the central marketplace for Berber tribes. At its heart is an 11th century medina and the Djemaa el Fna, the central square and colorful gathering ground for acrobats, musicians, and snake charmers. Overnight at the Hotel Es Saadi (or upgrade to the Riad Dar Karma, La Maison Arabe, Villa des Orangers, or La Mamounia)...BL

Classic Accommodation: Hotel Es Saadi

Optional Upgrade: Riad Dar Karma, La Maison Arabe, La Villa des Orangers, or La Mamounia

### DAY 8

#### MARRAKESH

With the High Atlas providing a beautiful backdrop, Marrakesh remains a city of immense charm. On foot and by caleche (horse-drawn carriage), enjoy a half-day tour with your private local guide. Visit the medina and various souks, and a labyrinth of side streets. Your afternoon is at leisure. Overnight at Hotel Es Saadi (or upgrade to the Riad Dar Karma, La Maison Arabe, Villa des Orangers, or La Mamounia)...BL

### DAY 9

#### MARRAKESH / DEPART (OR JOIN ESSAOUIRA EXTENSION)

Transfer to Marrakesh for departing flights...B only

# Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

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## TRIP COST

### Prices are for 2019

\$3795 (6-8 members)

\$3995 (4-5 members)

\$4295 (3 members)

\$4695 (2 members)

Single supplement: \$490

Optional hotel upgrades are available at supplementary pricing as indicated in the itinerary.

Please Note: Riads are small properties and are often booked well ahead during certain seasons. Confirmation of specific riads is based on availability during your requested dates of travel.

### Make it Your Trip!

The prices above are for the ready-to-book adventure outlined in this Detailed Itinerary, a popular option that has been handcrafted by our Area Specialists to include the best of every destination. While many travelers choose to book this tour as is, our Area Specialists are also happy to work with you to customize this Private Journey to suit your specific interests and style of travel. We can arrange for longer or shorter stays, offer hotel upgrades (see below for sample costs), or add an extension to additional places of interest. We can even add special activities or customize excursions depending on your interests. We invite you to contact us to discuss your options!

### Optional Hotel Upgrades

*All upgrade pricing is per person per night, based on double occupancy. Please call for single occupancy pricing.*

Fez: Riad Maison Bleue, from \$75

Erg Chebbi: Private Sahara Desert Camp, from \$275

Marrakesh: Riad Dar Karma, from \$30

Marrakesh: La Maison Arabe, from \$60

Marrakesh: La Villa des Orangers, from \$220

Marrakesh: La Mamounia, from \$400

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Accommodations in riads and hotels
- All meals included except 5 dinners
- Sightseeing as described, with private English-speaking guide/driver throughout
- Airport transfers, land transportation, and entrance fees as noted
- One three-hour camel ride (or walk if you prefer) at the Erg Chebbi dunes

## TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, beverages at restaurants, riads, or hotels, any activities described as optional, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to staff, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule changes or other factors, pre-trip expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas; and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

## SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early sign up is recommended since many lodges and camps in Africa sell out early. Please call 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Africa Manager or email [africa@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:africa@wildernesstravel.com) with any questions about this trip. To reserve your Private Journey, you can call us and give us your preferred dates of travel. We will check availability and send you a proposed itinerary with exact pricing for your trip. We can typically hold a provisional booking for one week. At that time we need to receive the non-refundable first deposit or the lodges will release the space. We accept Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Upon confirmation, we will send you a Welcome Packet with information to help you prepare for your trip, including a Trip Application form for each participant that must be signed and returned to Wilderness Travel prior to departure.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation	25%
90 days prior to departure	Balance

## CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: 25% of trip cost

90 days or less: 100% of trip cost

\*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

<http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/travel-insurance>

## Optional Extension: Essaouira

### DAY 9 ESSAOUIRA

From Marrakesh, a three-hour morning drive bring you to Essaouira (pronounced essa-weera), a charming seaside town enclosed within 18th century ramparts. After checking in at your hotel, enjoy a typical seafood lunch at the fishermen's market hall at Essaouira's small port. Fishermen sell their catch here—just-caught fish on display range from fresh scampi to sardines—and you can have it cooked in small stands nearby. After lunch, enjoy a guided tour (approx. 2.5 hours) that includes the waterfront, where wooden fishing boats are still built the traditional way, and the old 16th century Portuguese fort, with its cannons and battlements. Much of the town you see today was laid out in the 17th century by a French architect at the request of Sultan Sidi Mohammed ben Abdallah. Essaouira's whitewashed houses, with their blue shutters and ornate doors under the bright Moroccan sun, give it a picturesque Mediterranean atmosphere. Orson Welles filmed scenes for his film *Othello* in this town in 1949, and here is a small bust of him in a tiny garden square. Jimi Hendrix and other musicians spent time in Essaouira in the 1960s. Overnight at the Riad Mimouna (or upgrade to the L'Heure Bleue Palais), with dinner on your own...BL

**Riad Mimouna:** This traditional riad, set on the town ramparts right above the beach, has 33 guest rooms and suites decorated in Moroccan design. Start the day with breakfast on the rooftop terrace—with its 360-degree views of the sea and town—and end it with a massage at the hotel's spa center.

**L'Heure Bleue Palais (Optional Upgrade):** A member of the Relais & Chateaux group, this hotel nestled within the walls of the medina is a converted 19th century palatial residence with 35 rooms and suites. The rooftop pool and terrace offer panoramic views of the medina and port.

Upgrade supplement: \$275-\$575. Confirmation of optional upgrade is based on availability. We suggest you book well in advance to ensure your choice of accommodation.

### DAY 10 ESSAOUIRA

Enjoy a day of independent exploration on your own in this lovely little town. You can visit the bustling fish market and explore the great little artisan shops that line the narrow lanes. There are outdoor cafes along the beach that serve excellent fresh seafood. Overnight at the Riad Mimouna (or upgrade to the L'Heure Bleue Palais)...BL

### DAY 11 MARRAKESH

Morning transfer to Marrakesh, with the afternoon at leisure. Overnight at the Hotel Es Saadi (or upgrade to the Riad Dar Karma, La Maison Arabe, Villa des Orangers, or La Mamounia—see descriptions on page 6)...B

### DAY 12 DEPART

Transfer to the airport and depart on homeward-bound flights...B

### 2018 EXTENSION COST

\$995 per person, double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$225 per person

Optional hotel upgrades are available at supplementary pricing, as indicated in the itinerary.

Discount for groups of 4 or more. Please call for details.

Trip Cost Includes: Accommodations, meals, afternoon tour as noted, private transfer Marrakesh-Essaouira and return. Not Included: Meals as noted, drinks, any activities described as optional, optional gratuities.





# *Arrival & Departure*

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## **ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE**

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

Casablanca is the starting point of the trip. You will be met and escorted for a sightseeing excursion of Casablanca before continuing to Rabat. At the end of the trip on Day 9 you will be transferred to the airport in Marrakesh for departure. Those on the Essaouira Extension will be transferred to the airport in Marrakesh for departure.

## **FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS**

Trip members are responsible for making their own arrangements for air transportation. Please do not purchase your airline tickets until you are confirmed on the trip and have reviewed your proposed air schedule with our office. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so that we can send it on to the local guide (make sure to include your trip name and trip dates on it). Note: The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly; otherwise you may be denied boarding. Please remember this when reserving your flights. In addition, your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US (in most cases).

# Lodging

## DAY 1 (1 NIGHT): RABAT, MOROCCO



### VILLA MANDARINE

Set in three acres of beautifully landscaped gardens laced by walking paths, this 36-room riad, a former private home, is an oasis in Rabat's residential district. Rooms are spacious and furnished in traditional decor, and each has its own terrace or private garden. The heated swimming pool is a great place to cool off after a day of exploring, and there is also a spa, fitness center, and bar.

## DAYS 2 TO 3 (2 NIGHTS): FEZ, MOROCCO

In Fez, we stay at one of the following properties:



### RIAD FES

A member of the Relais & Chateaux hotel group, the 26-room Riad Fes is tucked away behind the medina and close to one of its main gates. The common areas are comfortable and inviting and feature traditional Moroccan tile work, carved wooden screens, and intricate plasterwork. Like most riads, it has its own hammam where you can get a relaxing massage.



### RIAD MAISON BLEUE(OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

Located in a historic quarter of the medina, the riad's main courtyard with its swimming pool and gardens is a tranquil place to relax after exploring the medina. The riad features 13 tastefully decorated guest rooms, each with private bath, and three terraces offering views over the medina. There is also a spa and gym.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Morocco Private Journey* webpage and click on the "Lodging" tab.



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## DAYS 4 TO 5 (2 NIGHTS): ERFOUD, MOROCCO

In the Erfoud area, we stay at one of the following properties:



### KASBAH XALUCA

Surrounded by desert sands on the edge of the Moroccan Sahara, this newly built kasbah-style hotel is very atmospheric, with its numerous adobe courtyards and stylish guest rooms decorated to resemble nomads' tents. The main interior courtyard centers around a lovely swimming pool and bar shaded by palms. Breakfast and dinner are buffet style.



### PRIVATE SAHARA DESERT CAMP (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

Our luxury tented camp, exclusive to our group, is set in the dunes of Merzouga near Erg Chebbi. The canvas interiors are hung with bright fabrics and carpeted with richly-hued Moroccan rugs (you'll forget you're in a tent—this is more like a sheik's hideaway). Comfortable beds are covered by cozy duvets—perfect for cold nights in the desert—and you'll have a washstand with a copper-plated sink (there are shared separate shower and toilet tents). Meals are served in a large dining tent, complete with tables with white tablecloths, china, silver, and wine glasses, and there is also a comfortable sitting area outside. Our camp is quiet and you'll appreciate the tranquil solitude of the desert.

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## DAY 6 (1 NIGHT): DADES GORGE, MOROCCO



### HOTEL XALUCA DADES

This 110-room hotel is situated between the Todra and Dades Gorges at an altitude of 5,290 feet. Spacious guest rooms feature a unique African decor, while the hotel terrace overlooks the beautiful Dades Valley. An outdoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, hammam, spa, and fitness room are among the hotel's amenities.

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## DAYS 7 TO 8 (2 NIGHTS): MARRAKESH, MOROCCO

In Marrakesh, we stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:



### HOTEL ES SAADI

With a convenient location in the new section of the city, the Es Saadi is a 15-minute walk from the bustling medina. A five-story hotel built in the 1950s and still managed by its original owners, a local Moroccan family, the Es Saadi offers spacious, updated rooms and a swimming pool perfect for a cooling dip. Lunches can be enjoyed in the terrace restaurant opening onto the pool and gardens.



### RIAD DAR KARMA (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

Set within Marrakesh's medina walls, the stylish yet down to earth Riad Dar Karma combines traditional Moroccan charm with modern amenities. With just six guest rooms, the riad is small but welcoming and has a cozy feel. The terrace and sun deck offer views of the Atlas Mountains and the town, while orange trees and a fountain grace the largest of the riad's two patios, a pleasant place to relax after an active day of exploring.



### LA MAISON ARABE (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

This elegant riad is situated in the heart of the medina, just minutes from the Djemaa el Fna, mosque, and souks. It features 26 guest rooms, most with private terraces and fireplaces, a new spa and hammam, and a swimming pool in a patio filled with olive trees and rose bushes. The riad has a fine restaurant and popular cooking school.



### LA VILLA DES ORANGERS (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

This classic hotel, a member of the prestigious Relais & Chateaux hotel group since 2001, is a secluded retreat from the outside world. Twenty-seven guest rooms overlook the interior garden patios, and there is a rooftop terrace, two pools (one on the sun terrace and one in the courtyard), traditional Moroccan hammam, and restaurant serving fine food. The staff is warm, friendly, and efficient.



### LA MAMOUNIA (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

This exclusive hotel is a member of The Leading Hotels of the World. Acknowledged as Morocco's "Grand Dame" and Winston Churchill's favorite, it recently underwent an extensive three-year renovation. Its more than 200 bedrooms (and three private riads, complete with their own pools) are decorated in a French/Moroccan style. The hotel grounds include an outdoor swimming pool and a 20-acre garden, an oasis of green in the heart of the city, with fruit trees, vibrant flowers, and 100-year-old olive trees.



## Trip Leaders

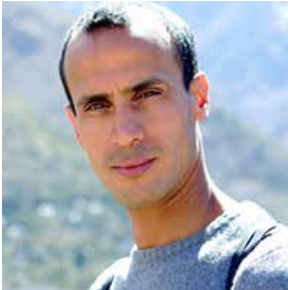
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Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. Once your Private Journey is confirmed, we will confirm the name of your private guide. The Trip Leaders scheduled for this journey are listed below (please note that leader assignments are subject to change). *Morocco Private Journey* webpage: <http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/morocco/morocco-private-journey>



### **ALI AIT ICHOU**

Ali Ait Ichou was born in the heart of Morocco's High Atlas and spent his childhood up in the high mountains of Berber country. Coming down to the modern side of the Moroccan kingdom, he attended high school in Marrakesh, majoring in English at the University of Marrakech. Ali began working in tourism when he was 18 years old, serving as a trekking guide in the High Atlas of his Berber homeland during summer holidays from school. He has guided for Wilderness Travel in many parts of Morocco and says "It was always my dream and is still my passion to share everything I have learned about my culture with travelers." Ali is an extremely responsible, soft-spoken, and knowledgeable guide and a fun Trip Leader. He lives in Marrakesh and speaks excellent English, French, Berber, and Arabic and is currently learning Spanish.



### **MOHAMED HJIRA**

Mohamed Hjira was born in the classic Berber town of Azilal in Morocco's High Atlas. His hometown, gateway to the Central High Atlas, was often visited by travelers because of its proximity to the spectacular Ouzoud Waterfalls, so during his childhood he met people from all around the world, which led him to want to make a career as a guide. Mohamed moved to Marrakesh and graduated from the University of Marrakesh with a degree in economics, then obtained his guide license. He has guided for us in the High Atlas as well as many other regions of Morocco since 2010 and has a wide knowledge and an infectious passion for the ancient cultures and natural beauty of his home country. He speaks fluent English as well as French, Berber, and Arabic.

# Trip Details

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## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 2, Easy to Moderate, according to the Wilderness Travel trip rating system. It is an overland touring trip with optional hikes of two to four hours on some days and can be enjoyed by anyone in good health who has no mobility restrictions.

## WEATHER

Morocco has wide range of climatic variations. In the Atlas Mountains, temperatures can drop below zero and mountain peaks are snow-capped throughout most of the year. On the Mediterranean coastal plains, temperatures are moderate and subtropical. March through May and September through November are the best seasons for travel; Marrakesh daytime temperatures average in the 70s and 80s during these months, and quite a bit cooler at night. Winters (November to February) are generally mild, although temperatures at night can get down to the 40s and be rainy (especially along the coast).

Note: Ramadan, the Islamic month of daytime fasting, occurs from approximately May 15 to June 15 in 2018, May 5 to June 4 in 2019, and April 23 to May 23 in 2020. During Ramadan, there may be reduced restaurant/bar facilities in hotels.

## PRIVATE JOURNEY GUIDED SERVICES

You will have an English-speaking Moroccan guide and driver from Day 1 to the afternoon of Day 8.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Africa Manager or email us at [africa@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:africa@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—even if it's just the two of you—yet still enjoy a guided adventure.

## TOUCAN CLUB

Please note that Toucan Club discounts do not apply for our Private Journeys. However, your participation on these trips will count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular expeditions. For more information regarding our Toucan Club bonus program, please visit our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan).

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and special WT Expeditions that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access a complete library of our detailed itineraries and browse the customized reading guides for each of our adventures.

## HELPFUL LINKS

Wilderness Travel has compiled a list of useful websites for travelers. Find the Client Forms & Helpful Links page of our website: (<http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/links>).



## *Travel Notes*

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## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Voted #1 Tour Operator:** *AFAR Magazine*

**Best Outfitter in the World Award:** *Outside Magazine*

**World's Best Awards:** *Travel + Leisure*, 9-time winner

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.