

Intrepid Safari Adventure

Trip Name: Imperial Cities & Desert



Imperial Cities & Desert package contains a truly comprehensive highlights that will make touring Morocco such an amazing experience. The contrast of the imperial cities and the Berber villages is such a remarkable difference. Explore the typical structure of the Moroccan Kasbah and come into contact to the indigenous people of Morocco, the Berbers. Trek into one of the most scenic framing valleys in Morocco. Explore the magnificent square of Jamaa El Fna and enjoy your last few days in the windiest city of Africa, Essaouira.



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 1: Casablanca

Upon your arrival at Casablanca airport, you will be met by our representative guide and transferred to your hotel. The first day is mostly an arrival day since your arrival may be at anytime. Our tour leader will make contact in the evening and talk about the general notes regarding your tour. Meal included: breakfast.

Day 2: Casablanca- Rabat

Your tour starts here by visiting the impressive Mosque of Hassan II, the second largest mosque in the Arab world after Mecca. A guided tour will take you to the finely exquisite world of Islamic architecture that impresses visitors at first glance. Later we drive to Rabat, the elegant capital of Morocco and first Imperial City in your tour. Visit the earliest known settlement, Sala Colonia and continue your tour near the 11th century wall to the mausoleum of Mohammed V. Walk around the Andalusian quarter and visit the lovely Kasbah des Oudaiyas. Spend night in Rabat. Meal included: 1 breakfast.

Day 3: Volubilis- Meknes

You will travel towards Meknes; it's a scenic drive as you pass through several Berber villages around Zemmour area. This part is considered respectively Morocco's fertile zone as you will see hundreds of farms of vineyards and others. Visit the Roman site at Volubilis, a UNESCO world's heritage. Explore the Roman buildings and the preserved mosaic in many floors. Drive to Morocco's first Islamic state and have a lunch break in a local place. Walk to a vantage point as you can see the town of Moulay Idriss from a hilltop. You continue to Meknes as you go around the 17th century buildings of the great Alaouite builder- Moulay Ismail. Visit the huge and cool granary then go to the exquisite mausoleum of the same King. Finish your day around the famous Square of Lehdim, spend the night in Meknes. Meal included: 1 breakfast.

Day 4: Fes

Drive to Fes, have a full day tour in the most ancient of Imperial capitals and complete medieval city in the Islamic World. Start your tour exploring Fes on top of a vantage point, then drive to the spectacular Jewish quarter in Fes Jdid and stop by the Royal Palace. You will get another charm by getting to the old town and start your walk along the non finished alleyways that is undeniably fascinating with its evocative smell and visual splendor. Visit the 14th century Medrasa of Attarin, and the museum of woodwork in Nejjarine. You return to your hotel in the late afternoon. There's an optional suggestion to a dinner and show in the evening. Meal included: 1 breakfast.

Day 5: Moulay Yacoub

You drive in the morning to the nearby spa village of Moulay Yacoub. Here you can enjoy a swim or have a natural massage. Alternatively, you can spend the whole day exploring Fes on your own. Return to Fes in the late afternoon. Meal included: 1 breakfast.

Day 6: Fes- Medilt

After breakfast, drive towards the Middle Atlas Mountains passing numerous Berber communities. Stop by a lake and have a horseback riding and then continue to the so called Switzerland of Morocco-Ifrane, a cool and breathe taking town. Drive uphill towards the Cedar Forest and stop and feed the Macaque monkeys. The tour leader will suggest a nice place for a picnic in open nature. Continue to Medilt, check in and go for an easy walk to a Berber village called Berem. Finish your journey by getting back to your hotel. Meal included: 1 breakfast.

Day7: Medilt- Merzouga

Medilt is considered the main gate to the desert. Therefore, you will notice many arid areas and amazingly punctuated with fertile oasis. En route to Errachidia, pass through the 500-year ruins of small Kasbahs along the Ziz valley. You reach Merzouga and head into the desert on a camel safari to your berber desert camp. Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 dinner.

Day 8: Todra Gorges- M'goun Valley

Before heading to our Auberge for breakfast, enjoy the nearby sunrise walk. Head directly to the massive gorges of Todra, have a short walk around and then stop for a break. Continue to Boumalen Dades Valley, a very hard to avoid town. Arrive to the so called "the Valley of Roses" town of Kelaa M'gouna. There are several shops selling products and few souvenirs made from the local Persian Rose plants in the nearby. Continue your drive uphill to arrive to your next destination, Ait Bouteghrar village. You will be accommodated by a Berber family for two nights. Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 dinner.

Day 9: Exploring M'goun Valley

The M'goun valley is considered one of the most spectacular maize farming in Morocco, the best way to explore it is through trekking. It is a very scenic walk into the spectacular farms then to the nearby river that turns this small village into a living spot. Explore the old Kasbah where there's still a family living there. Walk back to your gite and spend the other half of the day exploring the nearby village on your own. Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 dinner.

Day 10: Skoura- Ait Benhadou

Driving throughout the "thousand Kasbah" valley will take you back to those times of the 19th century ruins. Arriving to Skoura, home of several Kasbahs, then explore an impressive and well preserved 17th century Kasbah in the oasis. Stop for lunch in Ouarzazate, the city that gains the international reputation of the Moroccan-American film-making. Arrive to Ait Benhadou, a spectacular Kasbah for dozens of American movies shot in here. Walk through the uphill alleyways and discover another world of mysteries. Meals included: 1 breakfast, 1 dinner.

Day 11: Ait Benhadou- Marrakech

Today's drive is another highlight of your tour as it contains passing via the impressive pass of Tizi n' Tichka. Stop for pictures in between the edges of the pass then continue to the massive mountains of the high Atlas to the Jewel of Morocco, Marrakech. Check in and why not head for a walk around the square of Jamaa el Fna at least to get yourself familiar with the daily performances in place. Meal included: 1 breakfast.

Day 12: Marrakech

After breakfast meet our local guide and go for a walking tour around the old Medina. The souks are so attractive with the sophistication of Moroccan artisans, the smell of natural spices, and the sound of hammers making brass works. Visit the beautiful Bahia Palace, the Jewish Mellah and then head to the tombs of Saadians in the 16th century. Stop for lunch and then continue your walk back to Jamaa el Fna Square. Meal included: 1 breakfast

Day 13-14: Essaouira

After breakfast, you head to Essaouira via Chichaoua. During the ride, explore another charm of an arid area with few and distant houses dated back to old sub-Saharan people who decided to settle from the nomadic lifestyle. By arriving to the province of Essaouira, you will be astonished by the predominant number of Argan and thuya trees around the area. Check in and go to the fish market and have local seafood. Go for a cultural tour with the guide exploring many city attractions. The second day of your stay is free; our tour leader will explain some few alternative options if possible. Meals included: 2 breakfasts.

Day 15: Essaouira- Marrakech

You drive back to Marrakech as you can have another day exploring the city on your own. Go back to the spectacular souks and do some few shopping activities then end up in the main square of Jamaa El Fna. Your tour officially ends today, so your tour leader will arrange for a last supper as it is a great way to end up your adventure.

Day 16: Departure

Your trip ends today after breakfast. Bear in mind that check out time is usually at 12 noon. Please check your departure time with your tour leader as he can still be on service to arrange a private airport transfer for you.

Enjoy your travel with Intrepid Safari Adventure