



# *Magical Morocco*

*16 Days 17 April - 2 May  
2018*

WINGS AWAY  
& CRUISELAND *travel*

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# Magical Morocco 17 April - 2 May 2018

Is there a more exotic destination than Morocco? It is truly a land of dreams, a land of romance and legend, and B&W Hollywood classics: Of glorious sunsets, crumbling Kasbahs and cool, luxurious Riads. We invite you to join us on this very special, deluxe journey through Magical Morocco.

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## 17 April CASABLANCA

Arrival in Casablanca where you will be welcomed by your driver and transferred to your hotel. In the evening, you have the opportunity to join your fellow travellers for a welcome drink and an exploration of the old Medina.

### *Overnight in Casablanca*



## 18 April FES (B,D)

On our way out of the city, we'll pass the Mosque Hassan II, dramatically sited at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. This astounding edifice is larger than Saint Peter's in Rome and capable of holding 80,000 worshippers. We'll make a visit to Rabat, the country's capital and visit the famous blue and white houses of the Kasbah des Oudaias and the impressive 12th Century Hassan Tower. Then on to Fes where we spend 3 nights in our deluxe Riad, situated in the most intact and ancient of Morocco's Medinas. A tasty Moroccan dinner will be served in the courtyard.

### *Overnight in Fes*

## 19 April FES (B,D)

Time to explore the marvels of Fes and highlights of your full day visit include The Old Medina; this UNESCO World Heritage Site was founded in the 9th Century and is the most intact medieval marketplace in the world. Artisan workshops in the medina are as active today as 100 years ago and the original ramparts still protect the ancient city and its 9000 passageways and narrow streets. The Medersa is the most beautiful of buildings; inside, the marble floors, sculpted cedar, and carved stucco walls have held up since

this masterpiece university was built in 1350. The famed Tanneries are where leather has been tanned and dyed in Fes for hundreds of years. Interesting, beautiful and smelly. This is one of Fes' most iconic images.

### *Overnight in Fes*

## 20 April FES (B)

This morning we take the short drive to the extensive Roman ruins at Volubilis which has some outstanding mosaics still in situ. Our afternoon is spent exploring the Imperial city of Meknes known as the "Moroccan Versailles" and founded in the 17th century by King Moulay Ismail.

Famous for its 25-mile-long walls, the impressive el Mansour Gate and the vaulted imperial stables; Meknes will surprise and delight.

### *Overnight in Fes*

## 21 April ERFOUD (B,D)

An early start as we move south through the scenic cedar forests of the Middle Atlas Mountains, following the green Ziz River Valley until we reach the Sahara Desert and the Tafilet Oasis. Check in at the Xaluca Maadid, considered the best in Erfoud and enjoy a dip in the pool to cool off and relax.

### *Overnight in Erfoud*

## 22 April SAHARA DESERT (B,D)

Morning at leisure to enjoy the shady poolside palms and endless blue Moroccan skies. Mid-afternoon, begin your 4x4 adventure into the Sahara desert. Explore once grand Kasbahs, now half-buried by sand, for centuries these fortified outposts were the first signs of civilization for

desert caravans. Especially notable is Sijilmasa where crumbling ruins only hint at its glorious past. Venture further towards the legendary dunes of Erg Chebbi. Considered by desert aficionados to be perhaps the largest dunes in the Sahara. Our 4x4's will bring us to our desert encampment for a true Berber feast. From here, you can climb the dunes to watch the glorious sunset. After dinner, relax and enjoy the beauty of the Saharan sky before returning to our resort.

### *Overnight in Erfoud*

## 23 April DADES VALLEY (B,D)

Today we drive west along the millennium-old trading route to the scenic Todra Gorge. By afternoon, we'll arrive at the palm-fringed Dades Valley with time to relax in comfort and enjoy the view from the pool terrace.

### *Overnight in the Dades Valley*

## 24 April AIT BENHADDOU (B,D)

This morning we travel through the scenic Ouarzazate region – the Hollywood of Morocco and setting for dozens of movies and TV shows from Gladiator to Game of Thrones. Our day ends at the UNESCO-restored Kasbah of Ait Benhaddou. Perhaps Morocco's most spectacular icon.



We've built extra time into our itinerary here to allow us to explore the site thoroughly and we'll stay the night at our family run hotel with a view you won't believe. Chosen so we can enjoy the changing colours well into the evening and early morning.

[Overnight in Ait Benhaddou](#)

#### 25 April HIGH ATLAS MOUNTAINS (B,D)

Head west through the High Atlas Mountains and the dramatic pass of Tizn Tichka en route to our luxury village stay in the mountain village of Imlil. The exclusive Kasbah du Toubkal, built as a summer palace for the Pasha El Glaoui, is a feature of our journey and is sited on a hilltop with commanding views of the surrounding valley and mountains.

It is now a wonderful place to experience Berber hospitality and a great base from which to explore the village below or relax and enjoy the scenery.

[Overnight at Kasbah Du Toubkal](#)

*"Climb the dunes to watch the glorious sunset."*

#### 26 April HIGH ATLAS MOUNTAINS (B,L,D)

Enjoy a full day at leisure in this most spectacular of locations. Feel free to venture out into the village, hike a mountain trail, refresh yourself in the private hamman or just sit back and enjoy the stunning vistas of Mount Toubkal and the surrounding mountains.

[Overnight at Kasbah Du Toubkal](#)

#### 27 April ESSAOUIRA (B)

Today we leave the mountains and continue west to the Atlantic Ocean and 2 nights in the former Portuguese colony of Essaouira - another picturesque UNESCO World

Heritage Site. The seaside location, long Atlantic beaches and abundance of fresh seafood gives travellers the opportunity to experience a

completely different side of Morocco.

[Overnight in Essaouira](#)

#### 28 April ESSAOUIRA (B)

A full day at leisure to independently explore Essaouira. A walk along the ocean-side ramparts and a pastry in an al-fresco café are a must. Perhaps

indulge in a Berber massage? Tim will assist those looking for more adventure.

[Overnight in Essaouira](#)

#### 29 April MARRAKESH (B, D)

Today we reach our final destination; exotic Marrakesh, the social and spiritual capital of Morocco. We'll immerse ourselves in the local culture with a wonderful 3 night stay in a luxury Riad where we can step out at leisure to explore the colourful souks (marketplaces) of the medina and its heady mix of local handicrafts and fragrant spices. The nightly medieval style atmosphere and performances in the Jemaa el Fnaa have to be seen to be believed. Marrakesh also has an eclectic selection of galleries, cafes, rooftop bars and restaurants and it would be remiss to not experience the time honored practice of sipping Moroccan mint tea whilst watching the world pass by.

[Overnight in Marrakesh](#)

#### 30 April MARRAKESH (B)

The World Heritage listed medina of Marrakesh is packed with amazing sights, smells and experiences and today our walking tour will introduce you to the best of them. Life in the



medina carries on as it has done for centuries and we'll pass ancient minarets and royal palaces as we wind our way through the ancient lanes packed with the commerce of Morocco. Highlights include: The 12th Century tiled minaret of the Koutoubia mosque and the Jemaa el Fnaa square. The recently rediscovered Saadian Tombs, the ancient Jewish quarter, Yves Saint Laurent's Jardin Majorelle, the El Bahia Palace and the crumbling 16th century Badi Palace. We'll return to the Jemaa el Fnaa at dusk as the square becomes a venue for alfresco eating and bizarre entertainment with troupes of costumed acrobats, snake charmers, storytellers and traditional dancers.

*Overnight in Marrakesh*

#### 1 May MARRAKESH (B, D)

Today is yours to enjoy. Consider a full day of relaxation on our roof top terrace, haggle a bargain or head further afield – the choice is yours. Be sure to take one last exploration of the colourful souks. Each trade; spices, carpets, jewellery, enamel, copper, brass and cedar are situated in its unique quarter with many a bargain to be had. You might even see villagers bringing in their hand-made rugs to sell to the merchants, or observe

artisans hand-tooling crafts the way it has been done for centuries.

*Overnight in Marrakesh*

#### 2 May HOMEWARD BOUND (B)

Time to say goodbye to Magical Morocco and depart for your onward flights.

*“Explore the colourful souks ...the heady mix of local handicrafts and fragrant spices.”*

#### *Personalise your journey:*

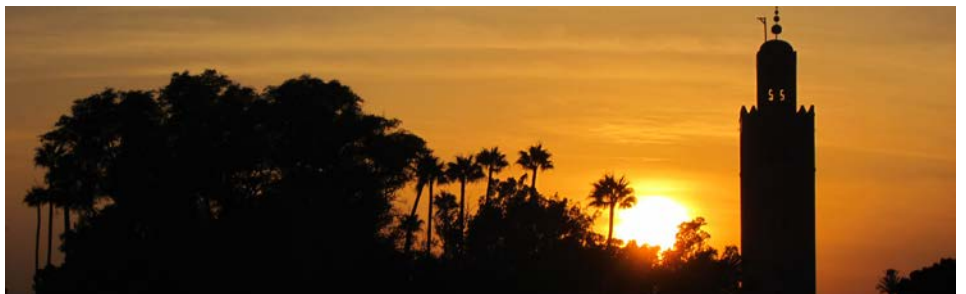
Consider extending your time in our Riad or journey further afield to Portugal or Spain.

#### *PRICED FROM \$4595 per person*

(Based on Twin share accommodation. Excluding airfares.)



Escorted by Wings Away's own Tim Beckensall. *Tim is a seasoned traveller and tour leader and rates a visit to Morocco amongst the world's best experiences. Tim has designed this very special itinerary and will be on hand to make sure you see the best of Morocco, experience hand-picked accommodation and visit some of Morocco's hidden secrets.*



## *Package inclusions*

Wings Away Tour Manager – Tim Beckensall

- 16 days touring, transportation and entrance fees
- Visits to 6 UNESCO World Heritage sites
- English speaking national guide throughout
- Local Expert Guides
- Group departure and arrival transfers
- 15 nights accommodation featuring 4 Riads, 1 desert resort and 1 mountain retreat
- Multi-night stays in Fes, Marrakesh, Erfoud and Essaouira
- 26 meals including breakfast daily
- Gratuities for guide and driver
- Air conditioned vehicle throughout
- 4WD Saharan Desert Safari and sunset experience
- PLUS ADDITIONAL WINGS AWAY BONUS SURPRISES

## *General information*

A non-refundable deposit of \$1,200 per person is required at time of booking. For sole occupancy and availability contact Wings Away Travel. This tour is restricted to a maximum of 14 passengers and requires a minimum number of participants to operate. Itinerary and price changes may occur due to local legislation, currency changes and availability of services. Fitness: This tour includes coach touring in remote locations and walking tours on uneven surfaces, making this tour unsuitable for those with reduced mobility.

Full terms and conditions can be found on our booking form.