

# Morocco

## Textiles Arts Crafts Desertscapes

*October 12-23, 2018*

*"To visit Morocco is still like turning the pages of some illuminated Persian manuscript all embroidered with bright shapes and subtle lines." – Edith Wharton*





*Experience a place where a hint of magic is always hiding around the next corner...*

*Immerse yourself in unforgettable sights, sounds and scents of an ancient cultural crossroads*

## Highlights

### 12 days immersion in Morocco

- Hassan II Mosque
- Medina tour
- Cactus silk weaving
- Sefrou rock caves
- Berber weaving demonstration
- Route of 1000 Kasbahs
- Jemaa el Fna
- Koutoubia Mosque
- Majorelle gardens
- Select accommodations in 4-5\* heritage riads

**And much more!**





## Your destination awaits . . .

From the rugged, breathtaking face of the Atlas Mountains to the shifting golden dunes of the Sahara, Morocco is a place of unparalleled natural beauty. Not to be outdone, Morocco's craftspeople imbue their work with the rich palette and texture of their surroundings. E.Y.H.O. will take you into the homes and workshops of Morocco's many talented artisans to learn of their sense of shape, form, colour, and texture.

We will also visit medinas, mosques, villages carved from rock, experience a night under the stars in deluxe Berber tents, and afternoons spent wandering lush gardens. This trip is a veritable "best of" this enchanting country.

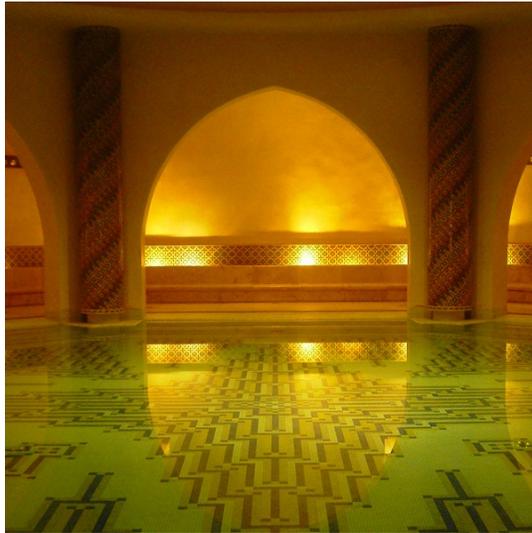
## What I love about this itinerary . . .

Stunning landscapes and unique lifestyles are a given in this sweeping journey across an endlessly fascinating country, taking in Fes, the Sahara Desert, Atlas Mountains, Casablanca, and Marrakech. If that alone isn't enough, we will go deeper into the cultural fabric by camping with Berbers in the desert, and meeting with, and working alongside, artisans who craft exquisitely with their hands and hearts. Few attempt the scope of this itinerary, and even fewer do it really well. With options for branching out later according to your desire, this trip promises to make your "best-ever" list forever. ~ Shila

## 12 days (11 nights)

- 2 nights Casablanca
- 3 nights Fes
- 1 night Erfoud
- 1 night in deluxe Berber tents on the Sahara
- 1 night Ouarzazate
- 3 nights Marrakech

Note: International flights to/from Casablanca not included



## Day 1 - Fri October 12 Casablanca

*Note: arrivals before noon will require an extra night*

Upon arrival in Casablanca, the economic capital of Morocco, your driver will greet you at the airport and escort you into the city. Welcome to Morocco! You will check into your hotel and have some time to relax or take in a visit of the Musee Abderrahman Slaoui. In the later afternoon, you will gather for a welcome briefing led by Shila, and review your tour.

A welcome dinner will be served at the hotel.

**Meals: D**

## Day 2 - Sat October 13 Casablanca / Rabat / Fes

After breakfast, enjoy a tour of the Hassan II Mosque. It is one of the largest mosques in the world and its handcrafted beauty is breathtaking! Following your mosque tour, depart for Fes. En route, stop in Rabat, the capital city and residence of the King. Here, enjoy visiting the Royal Palace and the Kasbah of the Oudayas in this beautiful coastal city. In the afternoon, continue on to Fes, the spiritual and cultural capital of Morocco!

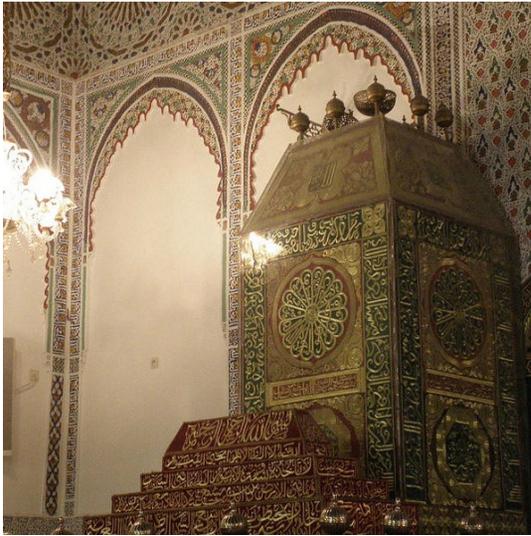
**Meals: B, D**

## Day 3 - Sun October 14 Fes / Sefrou

Set off for the small town of Sefrou, located at the base of the Middle Atlas Mountains, where many people make their homes in the rock caves on the side of the mountains. Visit a women's cooperative where you will learn to make needle-weaving buttons (pictured above). Enjoy lunch with the artisans.

Then, explore the small town and market with your guide, before returning to Fes. Take in a late-afternoon lecture on Moroccan culture and history (\$) or enjoy a restful evening at your riad.

**Meals: B, D**



#### Day 4 - Mon October 15

##### Fes

Start with a guided tour of the medina, one of the worlds largest walled in cities! Explore the narrow streets lined with fresh fruit, mounds of spices, intricately woven Berber carpets and many other art objects of Morocco. A visit to the King's Palace, the tanneries, and potters are in store. For lunch, dine in a traditional restaurant in the heart of the medina.

Later, you will visit cactus silk weavers for a demo and perhaps try your hand at weaving.

**Meals: B, D**



#### Day 5 - Tue October 16

##### Fes / Erfoud

After an early breakfast, begin your ascent across the Middle Atlas Mountains. Most of the day will be spent winding your way through the beautiful forests, jagged rock faces, and Berber villages as you cross the Atlas Mountains and begin to descend towards the Sahara Desert. Stop for lunch in the town of Midelt, famous for its fossils and rocks. On arrival at the Kasbah in Erfoud, a hot shower or dip in the swimming pool (depending on the weather) will be a treat after the drive.

Dinner will be served at the Kasbah.

**Meals B, D**



#### Day 6 - Wed October 17

##### Erfoud & Rissani / Sahara

After breakfast, visit the artists' retreat at Café Tissardmine in nearby Rissani, where you will enjoy lunch and a traditional Berber weaving demonstration & workshop.

In the mid-afternoon, head off in some 4-wheel drive vehicles across the barren land to the majestic Sahara sand dunes. From here, set off by camel for a 1/2-hour trek out into the dunes to watch the sunset. Spend the night in deluxe Berber tents.

**Meals: B, L, D**



Day 7 - Thu October 18  
**Sahara / Skoura**

In the morning, return to the 4x4s and head back to Erfoud. From Erfoud, set out behind the High Atlas Mountains on route to Ouarzazate, along the Route of 1,000 Kasbahs, with a chance to visit the ancient Kasbahs in the palmaries. You will drive into the rural region of Skoura, to visit the women's textile cooperatives and explore the marketplace. In the late afternoon, continue to Ouarzazate, nicknamed "the door to the desert."

**Meals: B, D**

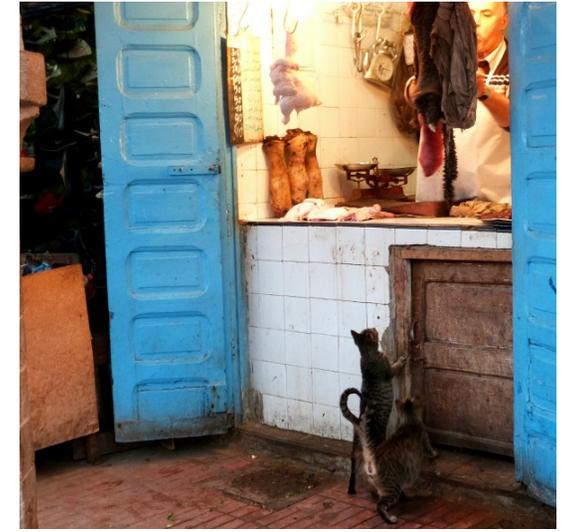


Day 8 - Fri October 19  
**Ouarzazate / Marrakech**

Today: en route to Marrakech! On the way, visit one of the jewels of Morocco: Kasbah Ait Benhaddou. In typical Moroccan fashion, the true treasures must be searched out and discovered...usually off the beaten path.

Once in Marrakech, check into your riad and head off to the Jemaa el-Fna, the center square of the medina. Coming alive at night with the local storytellers, entertainers, and mouth-watering barbeque pits, the square is well worth a visit. A quiet cup of tea on the terrace of an adjacent café provides a spectacular aerial view of the bustling square.

**Meals: B, D**



Day 9 - Sat October 20  
**Marrakech**

Start the day with a guided tour of Marrakech, the southern pearl of Morocco. You will discover the Palace of the Bahia, the Saadian Tombs, and many other hidden treasures. After lunch, continue to the magnificent Koutoubia Mosque and the famous Djemaa el-Fna, one of the center attractions of Marrakech. The tour will conclude with an exploration of the souk (market) lined with fresh fruit, mounds of spices, intricately woven Berber carpets and many other art objects of Morocco.

Later, partake in a Moroccan embroidery workshop and marvel at the intricate handiwork.

**Meals: B, D**



### Day 10 – Sun October 21 Marrakech

After breakfast, visit the beautiful Majorelle Gardens & Museum, designed by Yves Saint Laurent. The grounds are washed in a vivid blue with pops of yellow, giving the impression of being inside a splendid painting.

In the afternoon, visit some other textile specific sites, including a craft marketplace and handicapped women's handicraft co-operative.

Meals: B, D



### Day 11 – Mon October 22 Marrakech / Casablanca

Enjoy a free morning in Marrakech to relax and explore on your own schedule. Take one last lunch in this gem of a city, then drive to Casablanca and check into your hotel.

Dinner will be served at Casablanca's famous restaurant, Rick's Café, or another local restaurant.

Enjoy your final evening in Morocco!

Meals: B, D



### Day 12 – Tue October 23 Departure

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to connect with your international flight.

Or take a look at our suggestions for extending your love affair with Morocco!

Thank you for travelling with E.Y.H.O!

Meals: B

# Itinerary

## What's included

- hosted by E.Y.H.O Tours owner, Shila
- expert English-speaking destination guides
- air-conditioned ground transport
- accommodation in riads (boutique heritage 4-5\* accommodations)
- all monument and excursion fees
- Berber weaving workshop
- Needle-button making workshop
- Moroccan embroidery workshop
- All materials and instructions for workshops
- All breakfasts and all dinners
- local taxes and fees
- portage gratuities

## What's not

- International airfare
- Tipping guides, drivers, meals, personal spending
- Travel insurance

Minimum 12 / Maximum 20 people



# Accommodations

A sample of 4-5\* accommodations chosen for comfort, ambiance, superior service, and cultural relevance



## Riad Myra, Fes

Located in the heart of the medina, this exquisitely appointed palace is renowned for its interpretation of Fes cuisine. Meals are served in the inner courtyard in the traditional style. Steps from shops and the buzz of Fes markets.



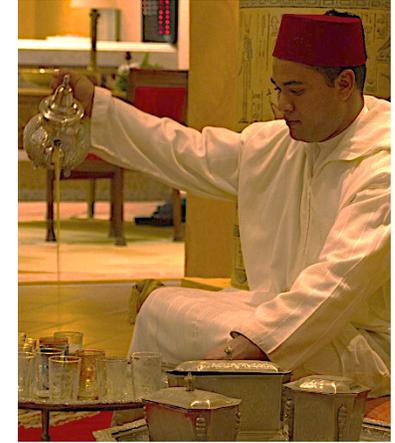
## Kasbah Xaluca, Erfoud

On the edge of the Sahara is a hidden oasis, rising like a mirage with traditional architecture and furnishings. There is no shortage of pampering opportunities within, or fascination excursions just outside.



## Jamais Madu Luxury Berber Tented Camp

From atop a camel, you will arrive at a very special place in the desert. Live like a Berber royal in this tented camp with plentiful hot water, fine dining in Moroccan tents with floors covered by Berber rugs. Afterwards admire the milky way.



## Kasbah Ait Ben Moro

An authentic Kasbah renewed in perfect traditional style and located in by the Skoura "palmeraie". Panoramic terrace overlooks the oasis and snowy Atlas mountains. Exquisite dining and beautiful grounds, you will want to lose yourself here.

# Costs



Rates in USD

	Double occupancy pp 12-15 people	Double occupancy pp 16-20 people	Single supplement
Cost per person in USD	\$3880	\$3790	\$1430

Registration with USD 500 deposit

Please write us at [shila@eyhotours.com](mailto:shila@eyhotours.com)

Extend your love-affair with Morocco! *Essaouira* and *Berbers and Atlas Mountains* tours on next page.

## Enquiries

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[www.eyhotours.com](http://www.eyhotours.com)

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## Essaouira

The city's dual heritage can be seen in the mighty walls that surround this old Moroccan trade centre. Once a Portuguese fortress, rusting cannons between the ramparts still point out to sea. Narrow winding streets are filled with the sound of Gnaoua singing, women in white haiks weave their way through the alleys of the old medina, and palm trees cast their shadows across the walls of whitewashed houses. At its heart Essaouira is, and always has been, a Moroccan city.

- 4 days, 3 nights (October 23-26, 2018)
- 4\* riads
- 2 meals/day
- English speaking guide
- Entrance fees included
- 4 days transportation
- Portage tips

Day 1 - Marrakech to Essaouira/ Dinner at the riad

Day 2 - Free day in Essaouira/ cooking class or chosen activity

Day 3 - Essaouira to Casablanca/ stop at Safi, El Jadidia

Day 4 - Casablanca departure

Please enquire [shila@eyhotours.com](mailto:shila@eyhotours.com)



## Berbers and Atlas Mountains

Take a Tour from Marrakech to the Sahara Desert and discover a Morocco full of hospitality, everchanging scenery and starlit nights. Explore desert dunes on a camel, spend a night in a desert camp under dozens of shooting stars, discover the beauty of the Atlas mountains, visit pristine Ourika valley, understand the unique lifestyle of Berbers.

- 3 days, 2 nights (October 23-25, 2018)
- 4\* riads/desert camp
- 2 meals/day
- English speaking driver/guide
- All excursion fees
- 3 days transportation
- Portage tips

Day 1 - Atlas Mountains

Day 2 - Day in the Life of a Berber

Day 3 - Marrakech departure/ or private transfer to Casablanca for a fee

Please enquire [shila@eyhotours.com](mailto:shila@eyhotours.com)