

Morocco

Textiles Arts & Crafts Desertscapes

March 15-27, 2022

With Optional Essaouira or Atlas Mountains

"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 mystique and enchantment are always waiting around the next corner

Stunning landscapes, beautiful architecture, and unique lifestyles are a given in this endlessly fascinating country. In addition, journey deep into a magical land of shifting sands where centuries of history have created a passionate crafts culture.

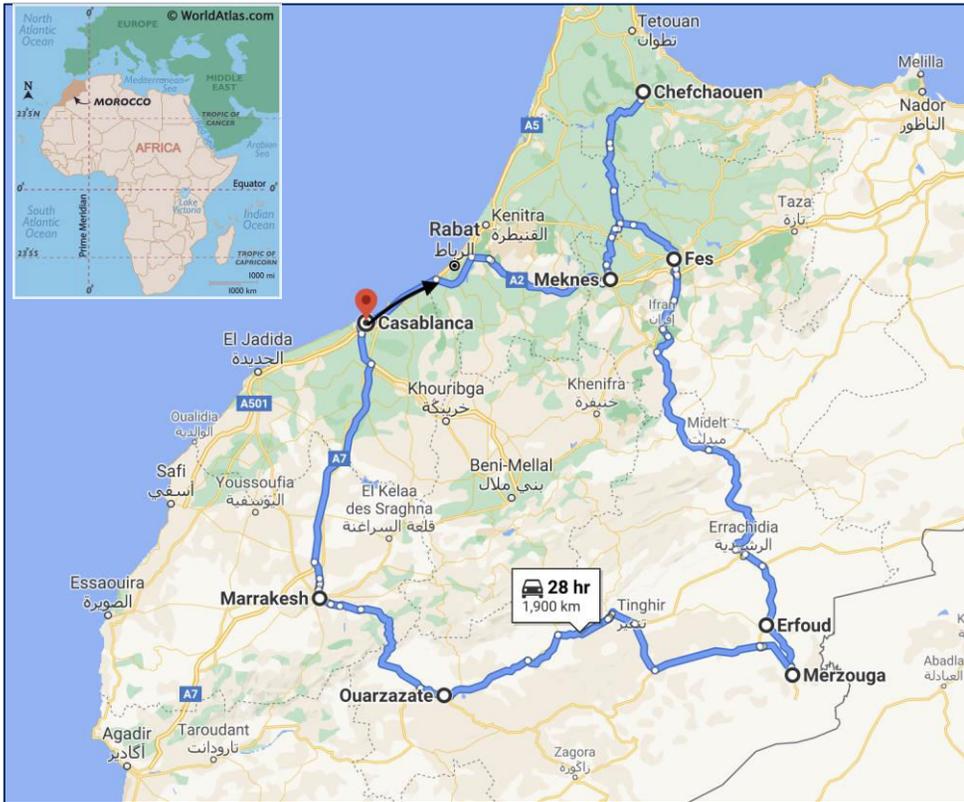
“Having a lovely time in Morocco – especially experiences off the beaten track . . . spectacular! Thank you, Dana, for introducing me to this trip.” – Susan Brown, Houston. Trip report – [click](#).

Highlights

13 days immersion in Morocco

- Intimate exploration of Morocco’s royal cities
- Luxury accommodations in 4-5* heritage riads
- Sahara luxury camp stay
- Majorelle Gardens
- Medina tours with expert guides
- Lecture by professor of Women Studies, Univ. of Meknes
- Sefrou rock caves
- Hassan II and Katoubia Mosques
- Route of 1000 Kasbahs
- Zellige demo
- Berber weaving demonstration and workshop
- 2 hands on textile workshops with women socio-preneurs
- Jemaa el Fna, Marrakech





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 instil 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 design, shape, form, colour, and texture.

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

What I love about this itinerary

What's not to love about the treasures of this veritable Aladdin's Cave of a country?

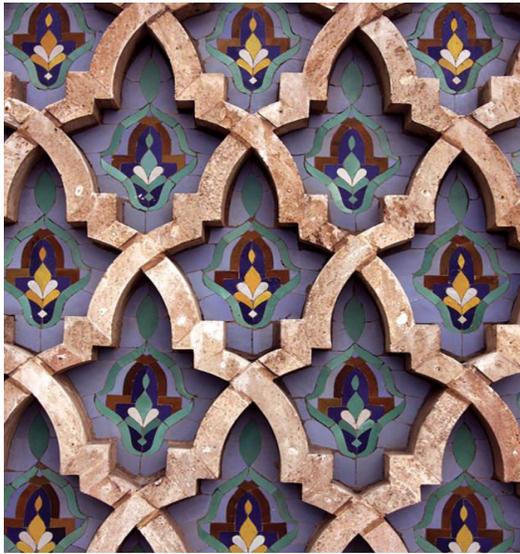
From fabled royal cities, charming mountain towns, the Sahara, Atlas Mountains, and the exotic chic that is Marrakech, we will explore it all. If that isn't enough, we will go deeper by camping with Berbers in the desert, and meeting artisans who craft exquisitely with their hands and hearts. We will work alongside women who have newly found their voice and vocation. Few attempt the scope of this itinerary, and even fewer do it well. With options for branching out later according to your desire, this trip promises to make your "best-ever" list.

~ Shila

13 days (12 nights)

- 1 night Casablanca
- 2 nights Chefchaouen
- 3 nights Fes
- 1 night Erfoud
- 1 night Sahara - Merzouga
- 1 night Ouarzazate
- 3 nights Marrakech

Note: International flights (not included) fly into Casablanca and return from Marrakech, or Casablanca



Day 1 – Tues Mar 15

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 a welcome briefing at 1pm. After, enjoy a tour of the Hassan II Mosque, one of the largest mosques in the world. Its handcrafted beauty is breathtaking. Following your mosque tour, we will transfer to the old city for a welcome dinner.

Meals: D



Day 2 – Wed Mar 16

Casablanca / Meknes/ Chefchaouen

After an early breakfast, depart for Meknes. Visit Volubilis, a partly excavated Berber city and ancient capital of the kingdom of Mauretania. Stop for lunch and carry on to Chefchaouen, set against the Rif Mtns and known for the striking, blue-washed buildings of its old town. Leather and weaving workshops line its steep cobbled lanes. Relax in the evening after a day on the road. Dinner in Chefchaouen.

Meals: B, D



Day 3 – Thu Mar 17

Chefchaouen

Start with a guided tour of the old medina, with its striking blue alleyways. Walking around the town with its whitewashed walls, originally decorated in this style by Jewish immigrants, is a relaxing start to our travels. Visit Ras el Maa waterfall, a meeting point for locals and climb up the hill to an old mosque Jamaa Bouzafar for picturesque views.

Opt for an evening hike into the Rif Mtns or relax in a hammam. Choice is yours! Dinner in the medina.

Meals: B, D



Day 4 – Fri Mar 18

Chefchaouen / Fes

Transfer 4 hrs to the cultural heart of Fes. After lunch in the medina, explore narrow streets lined with fresh fruit, mounds of spices, intricately woven Berber carpets and many other art objects, focusing on textiles, embroidery, and traditional clothing.

Take in an optional cooking class (\$) at our lovely riad. Learn about the unique combinations of spices and herbs that makes Moroccan cuisine so delicious.

Dinner served at the riad.

Meals: B, D

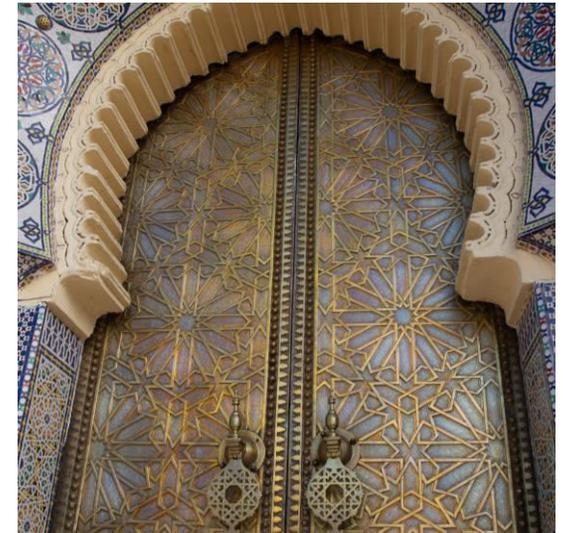


Day 5 – Sat Mar 19

Fes

After breakfast, set off for the small town of Sefrou at the base of Middle Atlas Mountains where many people make their homes in the rock caves on the mountainside. Visit a women's cooperative for a needle-weaving button workshop. Moroccan women have recently been emancipated and are flocking to artisanal entrepreneurship in numbers. Enjoy lunch with the artisans. Explore the small town and market before returning to Fes in the evening. Evening is free for you to further explore Fes or relax in our beautiful riad.

Meals: B, D



Day 6 – Sun Mar 20

Fes

Continue with a leisurely exploration of fascinating Fes. The oldest of Morocco's four imperial cities, it was founded between 789-809 CE. Visit the King's Palace, tanneries, pottery and zellige workshops to witness its spectacular crafts legacy.

Lunch in the medina. Free time to relax in our beautiful riad or further explore Fes with our guide.

Evening lecture on women's movement by a renowned Moroccan academician.

Meals: B, D



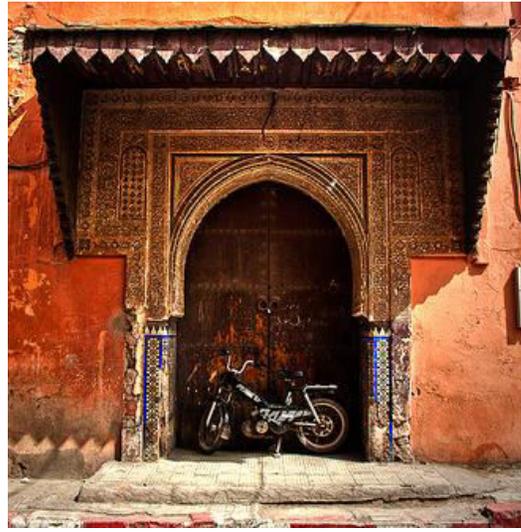
Day 7 – Mon Mar 21

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 8 – Tue Mar 22

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, D



Day 9 – Wed Mar 23

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 10 – Thu Mar 24

Ouarzazate / Marrakech

Today, we head to Marrakech! On the way, visit one of the jewels of Morocco: Kasbah Ait Benhaddou, a fantastical fortification that seems to rise straight out of the desert and is the setting for countless Hollywood films. Continue to 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. 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 11 – Fri Mar 25

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. Lunch in the beautiful café for a glimpse at life in French Morocco. In the afternoon, take in a hammam, cooking lesson (\$) or an embroidery workshop with disabled women's cooperative. As victims of Thalidomide, the courage of these women will deeply move you. Dinner at our riad.

Meals: B, D



Day 12 – Sat Mar 26

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. Farewell dinner.

Meals: B, D



Day 13 – Sun Mar 27

Departure

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to connect with your international flight out of Marrakech or transfer to Casablanca. If staying an extra night in Casablanca (\$) we suggest dining at the popular Rick's Café staged after the famous movie.

Or take a look at our suggestions to extend your love affair with Morocco!

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

Meals: B

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*)
- all monument and excursion fees
- Berber weaving workshop
- Needle-button making workshop
- Moroccan embroidery workshop
- All materials and instructions for workshops
- Zellige demo
- All breakfasts and all dinners
- local taxes and fees

What's not

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

Minimum 10 / Maximum 16



Accommodations

A sample of 4-5* accommodations chosen for location, 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.



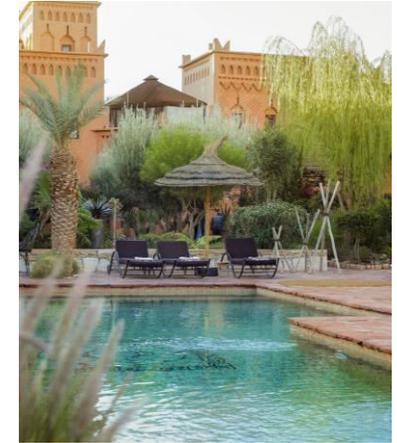
Riad Bouganvilliers, Marrakech

An oasis in the heart of Marrakech. Superb location from Jamaâ el Fna and souks, with rooftop terrace and views of the Medina, two patios, plunge pool and fountains. Combines a Moroccan flair with a contemporary style. On site hammam.



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.



Ksar Ighnda Ait Ben Hadou

In an authentic yet modern setting, this Ksar blends in with its stunning environment. In the village, discover Berber culture, local artisans and crafts. Spectacular location in the heart of Moroccan desert, next to Ksar Ait Benhaddou UNESCO site



Cost USD

	Double occupancy pp Min 10-11 pax	Double occupancy pp 12-16 pax	Single supplement
Cost per person in USD	\$4350	\$ 3980	\$1050

Registration with USD 800 deposit
Please write us at shila@eyhotours.com

Extend your love-affair with Morocco! *Essaouira* and *Berbers and Atlas Mountains* tours. Scroll down.

Enquiries

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Essaouira

27-30 Mar

Can be combined with Berbers and Atlas Mountains

UNESCO city's dual heritage can be seen in the mighty walls that surround this old Moroccan trade centre. Once a Portuguese fortress, its 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
- 4* riad
- Breakfast daily
- Transportation to and from Essaouira

Day 1 - Marrakech to Essaouira/ Dinner at the riad
Day 2 - Free day in Essaouira/ optional cooking class
Day 3 - Essaouira to Casablanca/ stop at Safi, El Jadidia (UNESCO)
Day 4 - Casablanca departure

USD 650 pp double occ/USD 250 single supplement

Please enquire shila@eyhotours.com



Berbers and Atlas Mountains

27-29 Mar

Can be combined with Essaouira

Travel from Marrakech into the Atlas Mtns to Lake Takerkoust and Berber farms. Descend through oak forests to the Toubkal national park and the Ouirgane Valley. In the afternoon take a walk through the Berber villages and forests. Next day, depart with guide and mule to carry lunch, trek through valley and hills around Ouirgane lake, watched over by highest peak in North Africa, Toubkal (at over 4000m) After a picnic in the afternoon wind your way through fields and past orchards of apples back to your guesthouse. On last day, return to Marrakech via Asni, with its egret nesting site. Transfer to airport for departure. (Casablanca transfer for a fee)

- 3 days, 2 nights
- Lodge style accommodation
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Trekking guide, mule, lunch picnic
- Transfer to and from Ouirgane (extra fee to Casablanca)

USD 670 pp double occ/USD 200 single supplement

Please enquire shila@eyhotours.com