

EXTENSION

# THE HISTORIC ROAD TO FÈS

Fès



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## The Historic Road to Fès

A medieval medina that hasn't changed since the 9th century. Ancient Roman mosaics that emerge from hills of silvery olive groves. The holy town where Islam was introduced to Morocco in 789. On this exciting expedition to northern Morocco, time doesn't just stand still – it pulls you backward through 2,000 years of the rise and fall of empires, the ebb and flow of exotic cultures and to the very origins of the country. Remarkably, all three highlights of this extension – Fès, Moulay Idriss, and Volubilis – are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It's as epic as walks on paths laid before the birth of Christ to the close-in intimacy of meeting coppersmiths and cobblers in their centuries-old workshops. Every moment is a revelation, whether you're peering down into the honeycomb of dye vats tended by the medina's tanners or sharing a quiet lane with pilgrims to the country's holiest shrine. Join us on the historic road to Fès...and into the heart and soul of Morocco.

## DAY 1

### VOLUBILIS, MOULAY IDRIS & FÈS

- Enjoy a wine-tasting and lunch at *Domaine Roslane*
- Stroll amid the Roman mosaics at *Volubilis*
- Visit the pilgrimage town of *Moulay Idriss*

After a morning flight to Casabalanca, you'll make the drive inland to *Domaine Roslane*, sited in the countryside just outside the gates of the imperial city of Meknes. With more than 1,700 acres of vines, the estate is considered one of the finest vineyards in Morocco. You'll have a chance to enjoy the views and learn about the history before a wonderful lunch and tasting of the fine vintages.

It's no wonder that wine is a long tradition in Morocco, given its ancient status as the Roman province of Mauretania beginning in the 3rd century B.C. The city of Volubilis was the capital, and remarkable traces of its importance remain, as you'll discover on a personally guided walk. The ruins boast stunningly large and intact mosaics for which the site is famous. You'll be close enough to marvel at the incredible detail, decipher the stories of gods and animals, and marvel at the good fortune that allowed them to survive for more than 2,000 years.

Look to the hills from Volubilis, and you'll see that they seem to take the shape of a camel. The gleaming white-washed town that blankets the "hump" is Moulay Idriss, namesake town of the ruler who brought Islam to Morocco. The village has long been one of Morocco's holiest places. It was only in the last century that non-Muslims were even allowed to set foot in the town. Today you have that privilege. The village feels barely touched by modern times. On a stroll, you share the streets with locals and pilgrims alike, and get a fascinating look at classic traditions and life in one of the country's most unique and revered places.

Your day ends in Fès. On arrival, the evening is yours for a stroll and dinner in one of the city's fine restaurants.

**OVERNIGHT: FÈS**  
**MEALS: B, L**

## DAY 2

### FÈS

- Explore the medieval labyrinth of the Medina
- Peer down into the tannery with its stone vats of vivid dyes
- Go for a privately guided walk of the Jewish Quarter and ceramic district

The Medina of Fès is one of the most remarkable places you'll ever experience. The medieval old town is a labyrinth

of 9,000 streets. To understand its tortuous and random plan, you begin with a drive to a high-up observation point for a look down into the medina. Fortunately for you, you'll be visiting with a local guide who calls this neighborhood home. The first word you'll be taught is "balek," the shouted signal for an approaching pack donkey that may be loaded with flowers or firewood or oranges. You'll appreciate that warning because donkeys have the right of way...and the lanes are so narrow that a tall person can touch both walls with outstretched arms.

One of those sights you'll never forget is the tannery. From one of the medina's highest buildings, you look down on a courtyard packed with stone vats full of vivid dyes. Tanners walk the precarious rims to tend the hides of cows, sheep, goats and camels that are being processed in traditional style. In the medina, you'll also be drawn by the scent of bakeries, the soft taps of shoemakers and the ting-ting-ting of one-man workshops where coppersmiths hammer out their wares. You'll also inhale the mingled scents of cinnamon, dried mint and paprika in the spice market where the powdery wares are displayed in perfect foot-high cones. It's authentic, a little gritty and utterly unforgettable.

Deep in the medina, you'll enjoy lunch at *Nejjarine Square*, before visiting the old Jewish Quarter and its 17th-century synagogue. Later, you stroll in the ceramic district where artisans share how they create fine tiles and intricate mosaics. After the exotic clamor of this medieval district, you have time to relax at your hotel. Your guide will be glad to recommend a favorite restaurant for your dinner this evening.

**OVERNIGHT: FÈS**  
**MEALS: B, L**

## DAY 3

### DEPARTURE

- Explore or shop on your own
- Depart for the airport for flights home

After breakfast, any free time before your flight is all yours to enjoy a final stroll in the medina or perhaps some shopping. Fès is famous blue and white pottery, jewelry, wood carvings, leather ware, lanterns, brass work, carpets, scarves, and bright *babouche* slippers. Finally, you'll transfer from the hotel to the Fès airport in time for your flight.

**MEALS: B**



## Tour Hotels



### Riad Fès

Located in the heart of Fès, this stunning Relais & Chateaux hotel is a majestic palace in the Hispano-Moorish architectural style. Rooms blend crisp modernity and classic Moroccan detail. The courtyard is regal, the views are breathtaking, and the restau

**OVERNIGHT: | NIGHTS: 2**

DAILY ITINERARY  
THE HISTORIC ROAD TO FÈS | FÈS | EXTENSION

## Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
March 13-15, 2020	\$1,295	\$1,690
March 20-22, 2020	\$1,295	\$1,690
May 8-10, 2020	\$1,295	\$1,690
June 19-21, 2020	\$1,295	\$1,690
June 26-28, 2020	\$1,295	\$1,690
October 9-11, 2020	\$1,295	\$1,690
January 1-3, 2021	\$1,395	\$1,790
March 19-21, 2021	\$1,395	\$1,790
May 7-9, 2021	\$1,395	\$1,790
June 25-27, 2021	\$1,395	\$1,790
October 8-10, 2021	\$1,395	\$1,790

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about private journeys.

### MARRAKECH TO CASABLANCA

\$150 per person (subject to change)

## Trip Essentials

**TRIP LENGTH:** 3 Days, 2 Nights

**START:** 7:30 AM Lobby of Marrakech hotel, Marrakech, Morocco Your internal flight is included from Marrakech to Casablanca (departing at 9:05 AM)

**END:** Lobby of Fès hotel, Fès, Morocco

**TERRAIN:** Easy to moderate

## What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 2 nights
- All breakfasts and 2 lunches
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip, handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- One internal flight
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events

READY TO BOOK?  
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

### Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)



### TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to a [whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# “Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



*EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.*

### **Congratulations! How did you get the news?**

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

### **And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?**

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

### **Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?**

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

### **What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?**

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

### **I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."**

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

### **Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?**

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



### **How can you top this?**

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

## **"I voted for you!"**

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

### **STAFF AND GUIDES**

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

### **ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS**

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

### **ACTIVITIES**

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

### **FOOD**

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

### **OVERALL VALUE**

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

### **Final thoughts?**

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.