

MULTISPORT

MOROCCO

Marrakesh, Coast & Desert



Classic
JOURNEYS



Coast, Desert & Mountains in Six Curated Days

For most people, Morocco is a top bucket list destination. Its position as a crossroads of cultures and civilizations for centuries makes it one of the most interesting, engaging and varied places you'll ever explore. From soaring sand dunes to dramatic coastlines and fantastically frenetic market squares— there's no question why Morocco has been in the top 10 places to travel year after year. And when you explore with Classic Journeys, you're not an average tourist. Following along a meticulously curated journey, you'll see more than just the highlights of Morocco. With your own personal caravan of guides, friends and colleagues in-country, you'll get an immersive look into the generous hospitality and vibrant culture that Morocco is famous for—all the while staying in extraordinary accommodations, from opulent hotels to your own tented encampment!

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

— *Travel + Leisure*

DAY 1

ESSAOUIRA

- Explore the medieval Medina
- Wander with your guide through the souks

You can trace Essaouira's origins to its settlement in the 8th century as a small Phoenician village. But it was in the 15th century that the Portuguese occupied it and built the impressive walled fortifications around the harbor. They called it "Mogador," from the Berber word meaning "well-protected." In the Middle Ages, the town fell into decline until the 18th century, when sultan Sidi Mohammed transformed it into an important commercial port. Since then, Essaouira—with its colorful medina filled with stonework and blue-shuttered houses—has drawn poets, scholars and craftsmen from all over Morocco.

You'll see this firsthand, as you explore with your guide on foot through the medina—now a UNESCO World Heritage Site—with its art galleries and wood workshops where craftsmen create carpets and silver jewelry. As you stroll through the medina, don't be surprised if you feel a sense of déjà vu—the city is so cinematic that it was used as the setting for Astapor in "Game of Thrones."

ESSAOUIRA
MEALS: D

DAY 2

ESSAOUIRA / VAL D'ARGAN

- Choose your own adventure this morning
- Cooking instruction and lunch OR Stand Up Paddle Board
- Afternoon visit to a Val d'Argan winery

This morning, you have the enviable conundrum of choosing your own adventure from two very different and equally enjoyable options: paddle or tagine.

If you choose to paddle, you join one of our local guides for a walk down to the sandy beach for a lesson and water-based exploration of the beautiful bay on a stand-up paddleboard. Essaouira is known for the quality of its waves for surfers. But it's also known for its calm bay where an easy paddle offers terrific coastal views of the Medina walls and Mogador Islands.

Choose tagine and you'll discover the traditions of the Moroccan table and why it's internationally recognized for its fascinating scents and subtle flavors. The wide variety of dishes from the Jewish, Arab and Berber traditions make up a diverse cuisine of 1001 colors. Moroccan cuisine is considered a national heritage and recipes are passed down by word of mouth from mother to daughter in the privacy of family kitchens. Happily for you, they're also shared with friends, as you will become with your chef. Learn how to prepare an authentic couscous and tajine step by step. More than just a cooking class, this is an invitation to immerse yourself in a genuine experience of traditional Moroccan cuisine. As you cook and eat, the rhythms of Berber music accompany the tasting.

After lunch, a short drive outside of the city walls leads into fascinating and ever-changing landscape. South of the city lies the ancient Berber tribal territory, the Haha country covering old Mogador to the south of Taghazout. The old Amazigh ways of life are perpetuated with the Essaouiran Berbers enriching the hinterland with an extraordinary crop

dating back centuries—Argan. Just a few miles inland from coastal Essaouira, you'll discover an authentic and completely unique environment of limestone cliffs, rocks, plains, hills and wadis. Here you meet Berber families in their villages in the Argan planted foothills of the Atlas, between the mountains and the sea.

Also nestled in a valley in this cinematic inland plain, the Val d'Argan benefits from the mixed climate of ocean breeze and Saharan heat, producing excellent wines. Cap your afternoon with a visit to a private estate carpeted in vineyards, olive and Argan trees, which gives the domain its name. These trees grow only in Morocco and yield an olive-like fruit. The estate also produces Argan oil. Enjoy a wine tasting in the company of the cellar master.

ESSAOUIRA
MEALS: B, L

DAY 3

KASBAH ABDERAZAK / DESERT ENCAMPMENT

- Taste the local cheeses at Fromagerie Meskala
- Ride camels to your luxury tented encampment

Just a few short minutes after leaving Essaouira, you'll find yourself in beautiful countryside and at the doors of the ancient Kasbah Abderazak. Open the door of the old building, and you'll find yourself in a beautiful patio created from the old stables that now house Fromagerie Meskala. Here, our friends follow ancient cheese-making traditions to produce a delicious goat's cheese that they invite you to taste with them. It's also where you'll enjoy a picnic lunch.

Later in the afternoon, channel your inner Lawrence of Arabia, as you learn the proper way to tie a headscarf before climbing aboard your own camel... piled high with colorful Moroccan blankets and led by your own camel guide wearing a long blue robe, the traditional dress of the Berber men. As you ride, imagine arriving at an incredible site: a charming bivouac of a dozen or so oriental-inspired tents in one of the most beautiful corners of Morocco. As evening envelops the camp in inky blackness, the dining tent is aglow on the hillside, inviting you with the sounds of conversation and clinking glasses. Dinner might include spicy eggplant, tomato and carrot salads, perhaps followed by a trio of tagines: lemon chicken, beef with stewed dates and apricots, fragrant potato and bean, all accompanied by a light Moroccan cabernet sauvignon and a dessert of sticky orange tart. And when dinner concludes, enjoy the incredible stargazing.

AGAFAY DESERT
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 4

MARRAKESH

- Half day hike (or mountain bike) with a mountain guide (picnic at a picturesque spot)
- Afternoon exploration of Marrakesh

As you wake in your luxury tented encampment you're less than an hour from Marrakesh, but by the look of things, civilization might as well be a million miles away. Located in the desert of Agafay, your camp's siting offers stunning 360° views of the Agafay's barren grandeur and beyond to the

snow-capped Atlas Mountains. The photos you take of that scenery are going to be very post-worthy. But then, too, are the ones you capture of the encampment and your tent itself.

But, wait. To call it a tent would be an insult. Woven jute rugs cover the ground, your proper double bed is covered in linens and a Moroccan wool blanket, and the room is decorated with artfully stacked vintage suitcases, iron lanterns, an antique globe and a silver Moroccan tea table—all of which gives an old-school safari vibe. Separated from your sleeping area by a thick white cotton panel is your bathroom—comprising a shower (it even has hot water on demand), a vanity with a hammered silver urn and a toilet. You'll wonder how the space was so perfectly designed until you learn that your host is a photographer and his wife was a graphic designer.

Fueled with a delicious breakfast of local specialties, you have your second opportunity to choose your own adventure. This time the choice is boots or pedals. Whether you choose to lace up your hiking boots or hop on to the saddle of a mountain bike, your scenic mountain path leads you past herds of sheep and goats. The path concludes at an oasis of palm and olive trees that marks the outskirts of your destination, the small mud hut village of Laroussiene. With your guide, explore the village, keeping an ear out for the sound of children playing and the opportunity to chat with the locals, all of whom know your guide on a first name basis.

After lunch in the countryside, you arrive into Marrakesh later in the afternoon, where your visits include a stroll through Djemaa el-Fna square. This is the heart of Marrakesh—an exhilarating mix of snake charmers, monkey tamers, storytellers, magicians, acrobats and other performers.

MARRAKESH
MEALS: B, L

DAY 5

MARRAKESH

- Take a guided city walk past monuments and through souks
- Celebrate over a farewell dinner at a palatial private home

Marrakesh, one of Morocco's imperial cities, has long been a center of African Islamic civilization. The most famous scholars and philosophers in the world converged in Marrakesh in the Middle Ages, and the wealth that flowed into the city helped create outstanding architecture and public gardens. As you explore the home of famed fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent and his eclectic Majorelle garden, you'll understand why Marrakesh is in the midst of an artistic renaissance. You'll also wander through Dar el Bacha Palace and the Jewish quarter on your way to Koutoubia mosque.

The afternoon is saved for a guided tour of the Souks, which is where you'll be able to shop for Berber carpets, tribal jewelry, or other Moroccan crafts. Tonight, cocktails and your farewell dinner are in a private home featured in Moroccan Interiors, a book that profiles the best interior design in Morocco.

MARRAKESH
MEALS: B, D

DAY 6

MARRAKESH

- Enjoy a final morning at leisure
- Depart for Marrakesh airport for flights home

Morning to night, Marrakesh is just about perfect. So, take time this morning for a final stroll on your own or sleep in. When you're ready to head home, Marrakesh Airport, with excellent connections to Europe and Casablanca for flights to the US, is just minutes from downtown.

MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



L'heure Bleue Palais

Like a pearl in an exceptional setting, the Heure Bleue Palais is a house steeped in history at the heart of the bay of the ancient Mogador. This superb riad palace has for word of order the well-being of its guests as a member of Relais and Chateaux.

OVERNIGHT: ESSAOUIRA | NIGHTS: 2



Scarabeo Camp

Located in the desert of Agafay, your camp's siting offers stunning 360° views of the Agafay's barren grandeur and beyond to the snow-capped Atlas Mountains.

OVERNIGHT: AGAFAY DESERT | NIGHTS: 1



Les Jardins De La Koutoubia

In the heart of the Marrakech medina, this hotel is both elegant and authentic. In graceful Moroccan style, most rooms face an inner patio that contains a gorgeous pool. The hotel also boasts a serene Clarins spa.

OVERNIGHT: MARRAKESH | NIGHTS: 2

Tour Dates & Prices

Tour Dates	Price per Person	Price per Person
	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
March 15-20, 2020	\$4,195	\$4,890
May 3-8, 2020	\$4,395	\$5,090
October 4-9, 2020	\$4,395	\$5,090
Dec 27, 2020-Jan 1, 2021	\$4,495	\$5,190
March 14-19, 2021	\$4,295	\$4,990
May 2-7, 2021	\$4,495	\$5,190
October 3-8, 2021	\$4,495	\$5,190
Dec 27, 2021-Jan 1, 2022	\$4,595	\$5,290

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE to learn more about private journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 6 Days, 5 Nights

START: 2:00 PM Lobby of Hotel, Essaouira, Essaouira, Morocco

END: Marrakesh hotel lobby, Marrakesh, Morocco

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 5 nights
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners
- 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
- 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



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.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Morocco...

- Sipping wine at a private estate carpeted in vineyards, olive and Argan trees
- Riding a camel in the Agafay desert sunset, then spending an unforgettable night in a luxury tented encampment amid the stars
- Dining on an over-the-top dinner at one of the leading restaurants in the heart of Marrakesh
- Meandering with your guide through the souks meeting with local artisans selling traditional Moroccan wares
- Joining your own personal caravan led by amazing guides who coordinate an entourage of local experts to handle everything for you

"Driving through the dunes and riding camels while looking at the scenery seemed surreal and was topped off with live music around a fire and watching shooting stars. It was unlike anything I have ever experienced."

—Bethany B., San Diego, CA

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS

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For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/ecuador/>.



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Morocco

Marrakesh, Coast & Desert

Family

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring the maze-like streets of an ancient Medina
- Seeing the Berber life in tiny country villages
- Riding a camel to a luxury desert encampment

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- Exploring a kasbah, rest-stop of caravans

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/morocco/>.



SIX
SWEET
DAYS
IN

MOROCCO

FROM ESSAOUIRA TO MARRAKESH, THE EXOTIC IS EXCEPTIONALLY EASY ON OUR NEWEST MOROCCO ITINERARY

That morning in Essaouira, we knew we'd struck gold. A contingent of our group split off with one of our guides to go paddle boarding on the bay. The Mediterranean sun felt fantastic. The views of the city walls and Mogador Islands left us with no doubt that we were in Morocco. But we were seeing it in a totally unique way. Meanwhile, the others were just as absorbed in a kitchen where a local chef gave a cooking instruction in tagine, Morocco's classic stew.



It was a homey, lively, sensory session that was full of laughs and a chance to dig in to local culture. When we came back together, the debate over who had the best morning ended in a draw. In Morocco, everybody wins.

Those early moments on our newest Morocco itinerary proved a lot. The trip came to be because a private group asked if there was a practical way to explore Morocco in just one week. Indeed, there is! Exotic as it feels, Morocco is nearer than many travelers realize. Casablanca is closer to most U.S. gateways than Rome, and it's roughly the same distance as Paris. Plenty of travelers go to Europe for a week... so the same is eminently doable in Morocco. Add to that the fact that Classic Journeys has more than 22 years worth of friends, contacts and wonderful experiences in Morocco, so handcrafting this new itinerary was as easy as sliding down a desert sand dune. That special trip was such a success that we are now offering it as a second Morocco travel option to complement our incredibly popular 9-day trip from Fès to Marrakesh.

The six days are a leisurely cascade of quintessentially Moroccan cultural experiences. In Essaouira (aka Astapor in "Game of Thrones") the medina is a time-stands-still place where a guided stroll includes centuries-old fortifications and shops spilling over with silver and carpets. You meet the Amazigh Berbers on a walk in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. Out there, argan trees that grow only in Morocco yield nuts whose oil is used for everything from drizzling on couscous to moisturizing shampoo. You'll "come wiz us to ze Kasbah" as well. That's the Kasbah Abderrazak in this case, an old fort where today a craftsman turns goats' milk into cheese.

As far as we're concerned, no visit to Morocco is complete without an excursion into the desert ... and the only way to go is on a camel. A Berber blue man will meet you with his mounts. You tie on a headscarf, and then sway into the Agafay Desert in the shadow of the Atlas Mountains. Your ride ends at a luxury desert encampment with gleaming white tents, cushy beds, and all the amenities. A feast of a dinner is on the fire, and it tastes all the better because you enjoy it while watching dusk turn into starlit night. When the new day dawns you have another choice of activities — either a bike ride or a guided walk on paths ending at an oasis of palm and olive trees.

As any trip to Morocco must, yours makes its way to Marrakesh where you shop the souks, explore quiet water-splashed gardens, and sit down to an extravagant farewell dinner in a palatial private home that's world-renowned for its interior design.

Back at home we had a dozen opinions about which moment was the best. But then that's the hallmark of a vacation so full of exceptional and exotic experiences. The one thing that everyone agreed on is that six days is absolutely enough time to fall in love with Morocco.

HAVE YOU BEEN TO MOROCCO WITH US BEFORE? Would you like to go back without repeating yourself? This new 6-day itinerary visits different regions of the country and offers an array of fresh experiences to welcome you back.





The Comforts of Morocco

On your visit, days full of a rich variety of activities and cultural experiences end in the quiet elegance of some of the country's finest lodgings.

■ ESSAOUIRA

L'Heure Bleue Palais

Set in an 18th century riad in the city's heart, this Relais & Chateaux property focuses inward on its private courtyard. The rooftop pool overlooks the medina and the sea.

■ AGAFAY DESERT

Scarabeo Camp

Snow-white tents rise from the sands and offer 360° views of the desert and Atlas Mountains. The luxurious tents include proper beds, a traditional Moroccan lounge and carpeted floors.

■ MARRAKESH

Les Jardins de La Koutoubia

In the heart of the medina, this elegant property perfectly captures the style of the city. In graceful Moroccan style, most rooms face an inner patio where the centerpiece is a gorgeous pool.