

Marrakesh, Coast & Desert

Morocco Wildlife Walking Adventure



Classic
JOURNEYS™

DAILY ITINERARY

Morocco: Marrakesh, Coast & Desert | Wildlife Walking Adventure



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

— *Travel + Leisure*

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!

DAY 1

MARRAKESH

- Explore the famed Djemaa el-Fna square with its amazing performers
- Celebrate over a welcome dinner

Begin your visit to Morocco with an afternoon spent strolling through the famous streets of Marrakesh, one of the country's four original imperial cities. You'll walk through the Djemaa el-Fna square, the heart of the Marrakesh, where you'll see an exhilarating mix of snake charmers, monkey tamers, storytellers, magicians, acrobats and other performers. Tonight, you'll look forward to a welcome dinner in one of the city's most famed restaurants.

Overnight: Marrakesh

Meals: D

DAY 2

MARRAKESH

- Ride a horse drawn carriage to Yves Saint Laurent's gardens
- Take a guided city walk past monuments and through souks

Marrakesh 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 the old medina and stunning Dar el Bacha Palace, one of the medina's finest examples of riad architecture. You'll also stroll through 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.

Meals: B, L

DAY 3

ESSAOUIRA

- Wonder at one of Morocco's most bizarre sights
- Explore the medieval Medina and souks

After breakfast, you'll make your way to the medieval port city of Essaouira, but not before making a stop to see one of Morocco's most puzzling sights. On the top branches of the prickly, thorny argan tree, you'll find goats who've mastered a balancing act as they search for budding flowers that hold tasty fruit.

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."

Overnight: Essaouira

Meals: B, D

DAY 4

ESSAOUIRA / VAL D'ARGAN

- Choose your own adventure this morning
- Cooking instruction and lunch OR Horseback riding

• 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: tagine or horseback riding.

If you choose to horseback ride, get ready to saddle up and spend a magnificent morning trailing the city's coastline both on land and by sea as you'll lead your horse along Essaouira's beautiful beaches.

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.

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.

Overnight: Essaouira

Meals: B, L

DAY 5**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.

Overnight: Agafay Desert

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6**DEPART**

- Half day hike (or mountain bike) with a mountain guide
- Transfer back to Marrakesh for your departure

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.

DAILY ITINERARY

Morocco: Marrakesh, Coast & Desert | Wildlife Walking Adventure

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.

You'll make your way back to Marrakesh late morning where you part company at the airport for return flights home or continued travels.

Meals: B



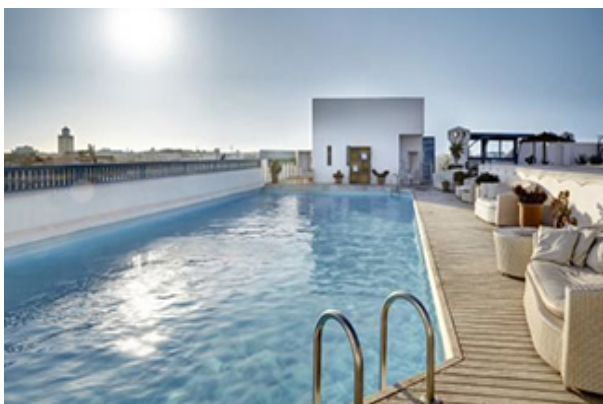
Tour Hotels



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: Marrakech | **NIGHTS:** 2



L'heure Bleue Palais

A palace preserving the character of a traditional Moroccan house, the rooms are located around the patio, where a fountain sings and the heart of the Riad beats. The panoramic outdoor pool on the roof terrace overlooks the medina and the ocean.

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

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	6 Days, 5 Nights
START	Lobby of Les Jardins De La Koutoubia, Marrakesh, Morocco
END	Marrakesh (RAK) International Airport, Marrakesh, Morocco
TERRAIN	Easy to moderate.

What's Included

- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience
- 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

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

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!

Samuel
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

"Group and guide were great! Diversity of sights excellent. Stay in the tent and camel ride were spectacular."

-Amy D., New York, NY.