

Splendors of Morocco

11 days priced from \$6,295

Limited to 18 guests

Visiting Casablanca, Rabat, Fez, Volubilis, Meknes, Erfoud, Merzouga, Ouarzazate and Marrakech

Essaouira Post-Tour Extension

4 days priced from \$1,695

& A&K ADVANTAGES

- › Discover all that wonderful Morocco has to offer, from the historic cities in the north to the mysterious desert, ending with three nights in Marrakech
- › Experience the Sahara in style when you sleep under the stars at an A&K Exclusive Desert Tented Camp alongside the stunning Erg Chebbi dunes
- › Experience life like a local with a ride on camelback and by horse and carriage; you also learn the secrets of Moroccan cuisine at an exclusive Chef's Table experience
- › Explore Meknes and Volubilis, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites, to unveil Morocco's unique culture and past
- › Stay in the "Red City" at the luxurious Four Seasons Resort Marrakech, your home for three nights

DAY 1: Arrive Casablanca, Morocco

Fly to Casablanca, where you clear customs and immigration and transfer to your hotel. After settling in, spend the rest of the day at leisure in this romantic city, its tropical setting the inspiration for the eponymous, 1943 Humphrey Bogart film. Gather tonight for a special cocktail reception hosted by Abercrombie & Kent. *Hyatt Regency Casablanca*

DAY 2: Rabat & Fez | *Ancient Traditions, Rich Heritage*

Begin the day exploring the port city of Casablanca, Morocco's largest metropolis and its industrial hub. Visit the Hassan II Mosque, which accommodates up to 25,000 worshippers; its minaret stands as the tallest religious structure in the world. Continue to the Moorish city of Rabat and the Mohammed V Mausoleum, dedicated to Mohammed V, the founder of modern Morocco and grandfather of the current king. See the stunning Mauresque-style Hassan Tower and Oudaya Kasbah, along with its scenic Andalusian garden. Travel to Fez for a special welcome dinner at a traditional *riad*, hosted by A&K.

Palais Faraj | Meals: B L D

DAY 3: Fez | *Timeless Medieval City*

Explore Fez el-Bali (Old Fez), the cultural heart of Morocco, originally founded in the eighth century AD by Moulay Idriss I. The imperial capital was a renowned center of medieval learning; at its heart still remains the Karaouine, one of the



In Marrakech, shop for locally-made treasures among the *medina's* many souks

oldest, still-functioning universities in the world. Stroll the labyrinthine old quarter, with its 9,000 narrow lanes, alleys and *souks*. Visit the 14th-century Karaouine, the Hispano-Moorish Attarine Medersa (Koranic college) and Nejjarine Square. You also see the Royal Palace, *madrasas* and *mellah* (Jewish quarter) in Fez el-Jadid. *Palais Faraj* | Meals: B L



EXPERIENCE MOROCCO'S DESERT LANDSCAPE AND STAY OVERNIGHT IN AN EXCLUSIVE, REMOTE DESERT TENTED CAMP IN THE SHADOWS OF THE TOWERING ERG CHEBBI DUNES.

DAY 4: Meknes & Volubilis | *Mausoleums & Roman Ruins*

Journey overland to Meknes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the imperial cities of Morocco. Its impressive monuments recall the splendor of a city, first built in the 17th century by the powerful sultan Moulay Ismail, to rival the court of his contemporary Louis XIV of France. See the monumental Bab Mansour gateway — considered one of the finest great gates of Morocco — as well as the Granaries and the Royal Stables, which were built to accommodate some 12,000 horses. Also, see Moulay Ismail's Mausoleum, one of the few shrines in Morocco that may be visited by non-Muslims, continuing to the Roman ruins of Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that is home



Explore the fortified city of Ait Benhaddou, Ouarzazate

to some of the best-preserved Roman ruins in North Africa. With its triumphal arches, basilicas and capitals, the Volubilis skyline brims with iconic examples of Roman architecture. Among the site's greatest treasures, however, are the stunning mosaic floors, which include Orpheus charming animals with his lyre, nine dolphins signifying good luck and a portrait of Amphitrite in a seahorse-drawn chariot. At day's end, return to Fez. *Palais Faraj* | *Meals: B L*

DAY 5: Erfoud | Desert Oasis

Travel to small, desert-fringed Erfoud, pausing for lunch in Midelt en route and marveling at everyday life as you pass Berber villages, endless palm plantations and the majestic Atlas Mountains. Settle into your hotel, set amid dunes and lush vegetation, with the remainder of the day to spend at leisure. Join fellow guests for dinner this evening.

Kasbah Hotel Chergui | *Meals: B L D*

DAY 6: Merzouga | Saharan Desert Dunes

This morning, set out to discover the fortified desert town of Rissani and explore the quarry, site of fossilized fish. Set off for the desert dunes of Erg Chebbi by four-wheel-drive vehicle, where a reception with mint tea and pastries awaits at your nomadic tented camp. Erg Chebbi's stunning dunes can reach up to 500 feet high, creating an otherworldly landscape.

Experience it like a local on camelback. Then, return to your camp for a traditional meal before a campfire, along with local entertainment. This evening, slumber in comfort as the sounds of the Sahara lull you to sleep.

A&K Exclusive Desert Tented Camp | *Meals: B L D*

DAY 7: Ouarzazate | Road of a Thousand Kasbahs

Journey overland to Ouarzazate, once a stopping point for African traders travelling to the cities of Morocco and Europe. En route, absorb views of the High Atlas' southern slopes, intersecting the Dades Valley's flourishing crops, irrigation canals and palm trees. As you travel along the "Road of a Thousand Kasbahs," view the 17th-century Amerhidl Kasbah, one of the grandest in the regions, its facade appearing on the Moroccan 50-dirham note. *Le Berbère Palace* | *Meals: B L D*

DAY 8: Ouarzazate | Door of the Desert

Begin the day by exploring Ouarzazate, a city originally built as a French garrison in the 1920s. Today, the city is a regional trade center, known for its pottery and carpets. See the Taourirt Kasbah, which now consists of simple clay houses and crenellated towers that are beautifully decorated with geometric motifs. Continue to elaborate Ait Benhaddou, site of the region's most exotic kasbahs, where structures all but defy the laws of gravity as they perch upon the steep slope. (Some of these



Roam the lively stalls at Djemaa el-Fna, Marrakech

buildings have been featured in films, including *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Gladiator*.) Proceed to the fascinating “Red City” of Marrakech. During tonight’s dinner at your luxurious hotel, meet the chef during a discussion about the nuances and history of Moroccan cuisine.

Four Seasons Resort Marrakech/Selman Marrakech | Meals: B L D

DAY 9: Marrakech | *Exhilarating Medina*

Unearth the secrets of Marrakech, beginning in the *medina*, the old walled section of town and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This thousand-year-old city was long a political, economic and cultural center. Marvel at its architectural jewels, including the soaring Koutoubia minaret and Dar Si Said; housed in a palace, it is among the most beautiful of its kind in the world. Continue to the Bahia Palace, an exemplary specimen of privileged life in the 19th century. Visit Djemaa el-Fna, Marrakech’s main square, which is filled with orange juice stalls and vendors, along with fire-eaters, mime artists, snake-charmers and street musicians performing at every turn. You may also take the opportunity to explore the city’s fabled, labyrinthine *souks*, their bustling alleyways brimming with all manner of wares.

Four Seasons Resort Marrakech/Selman Marrakech | Meals: B L

DAY 10: Marrakech | *Historic Gardens*

Absorb the beauty of the 12th-century Menara Gardens. Set

against the backdrop of the Atlas Mountains, olive groves, orchards and reflecting pools, scenic vistas abound. Continue as a local would by horse-drawn carriage to Jardin Majorelle, a picturesque garden created by French painter Jacques Majorelle. The remainder of the day is at leisure. 🌿 You may also choose to visit Al Karam, a rewarding opportunity to interact with Moroccan children; A&K Philanthropy is proud to support this meaningful organization that assists homeless children. Tonight, attend a special farewell dinner with entertainment by a local *gnaoua* band.

Four Seasons Resort Marrakech/Selman Marrakech | Meals: B D

DAY 11: Depart Marrakech

Transfer to the airport and board your international flight home, or join an Essaouira Post-Tour Extension. *Meals: B*

NOTE: Long drives should be expected on this itinerary. This is the only way to experience the magical scenery that this exotic country has to offer.

TAKE THIS
JOURNEY
PRIVATE

This itinerary is available as a private journey, **Signature Morocco & the Desert**, which departs regularly throughout the year. **Priced from \$7,595.** See pg. 166 for more details.

Essaouira Post-Tour Extension

4 days, priced from \$1,695



DAY 1: Arrive in Essaouira and transfer to your hotel.

L'Heure Bleue Palais | Meals: L

DAY 2: Meet your guide and set out to explore the town of Essaouira, seeing its *medina* (old town) filled with artisan's workshops and boutiques. *L'Heure Bleue Palais* | Meals: B L

DAY 3: Drive along dramatic coastline past stunning cliffs and ocean waves to Casablanca. Check into your hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure. Gather tonight for a special farewell dinner. *Hyatt Regency Casablanca* | Meals: B D

DAY 4: Transfer to the airport to depart Casablanca. Meals: B

Available on the Feb 22, Mar 8, Mar 15, Apr 12, May 3, May 24, Sep 6, Oct 4, Oct 25 and Nov 15 departures.

YOUR INSPIRING ACCOMMODATIONS

Here is a preview of your journey's best-in-class accommodations.



A&K Desert Tented Camp

An exclusive Berber-styled desert camp near the dunes of Erg Chebbi.



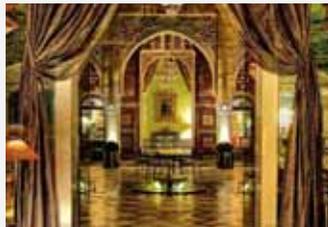
Le Berbère Palace

Lodge in a spacious, comfortable Junior Suite at this desert oasis.



Four Seasons Resort Marrakech

Enjoy a luxurious stay in an elegant Deluxe Room.



Palais Faraj

Stay in an Ambassador Suite at this palatial property.



Kasbah Hotel Chergui

Surrounded by lush vegetation in the middle of the desert.

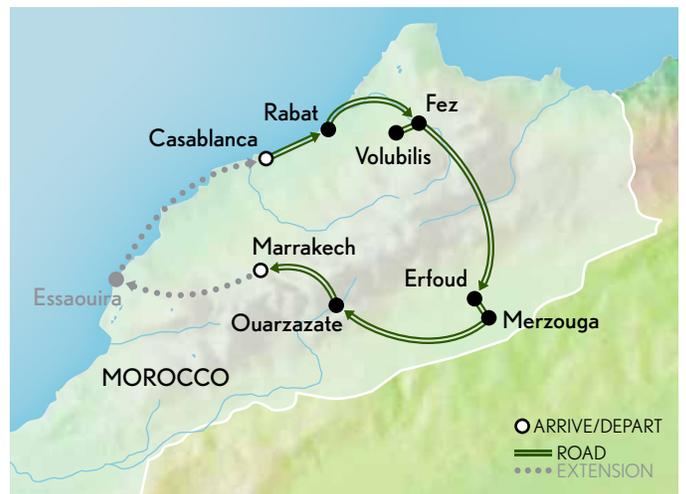


Hyatt Regency Casablanca

Ideally located in the city center, steps from the Old Medina.



Marvel at the ornate tile entryway to the Royal Palace, Fez



DATES & PRICING

All departures are guaranteed to operate.

Departure Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Supplement
Jan 25-Feb 4, Feb 1-11, Feb 22-Mar 4, Mar 1-11, Mar 8-18, Mar 15-25	\$6,295	\$1,995
Apr 12-22, Apr 19-29, Apr 26-May 6, May 3-13, May 24-Jun 3	\$6,495	\$1,995
Jun 7-17, Aug 30-Sep 9, Sep 6-16, Sep 20-30, Sep 27-Oct 7	\$6,295	\$1,995
Oct 4-14, Oct 18-28, Oct 25-Nov 4, Nov 15-25, Nov 29-Dec 9	\$6,495	\$1,995
Dec 12-22, Dec 19-29	\$6,995	\$2,795

Minimum age 10 years old.

CONTACT A&K TO ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

- Book your international air at preferred rates through our carrier partners
- Make your journey more relaxing with pre- and post-tour hotel nights
- Safeguard your journey with the A&K Guest Protection Program