University of Illinois
Alumni Association

Duration
10 days

Activity Level
Active Travel

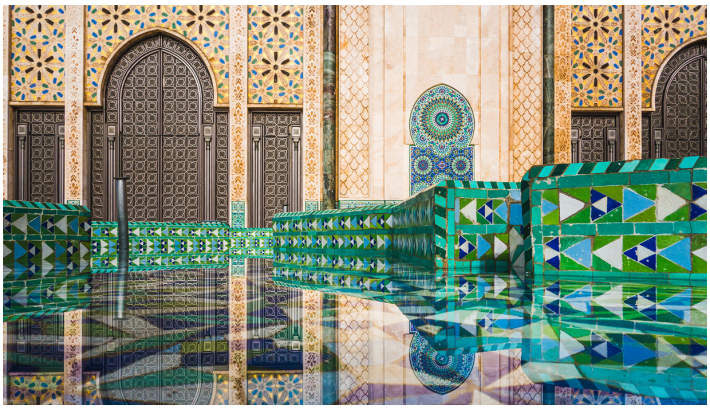
Journey Type
Land
Small Group

Moroccan Gems

October 7-17, 2027

Starting from $6,245/pp

Marvelous Morocco offers an exquisite fusion of cultures and mystique hidden within its shaded souks and bustling medinas. Awaken each day to explore red-earthen architecture and wander through elegant gardens and palaces etched with the imprint of past civilizations. With stays in Rabat, Fes, and Marrakech, witness timeless treasures and discover fascinating traditions. Along the way, savor cuisine that thrills your palate and visit architectural marvels that define these cities of antiquity. Come discover the distinctive spirit, historical roots and ever-welcoming people of this North African nation!



Day-by-Day Itinerary

Moroccan Gems

Air Program: 11 days/10 nights (includes 1 air night)

Land Program: 10 days/9 nights

Breakfasts: 9 | Lunches: 7 | Receptions: 1 | Dinners: 4

B | L | R | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches, receptions and dinners.
A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.

This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.

This ACTIVE program is designed for people who are in good health and can comfortably participate in a demanding daily schedule of physical activities. The itinerary may feature full days of ongoing activities. Excursions on this program require:

- walking distances of up to 3–5 miles
- walking on unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches, boats and/or trains

Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city
AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Casablanca, Morocco. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: CMN.

Day 2 | Casablanca, Morocco | Rabat

Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses

R | D
Arrive at Casablanca International Airport. Proceed through immigration and into the baggage claim area to retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the designated meeting spot, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer to Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses hotel in Rabat. Please note, if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner tonight. Meet the fellow travelers who will share in your upcoming Moroccan adventure!

Day 3 | Rabat

Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses

B | L
Savor a delicious breakfast at the hotel each morning of the program before embarking on the day's adventures.

Enrichment: Moroccan History. Learn about the country's fascinating history, from the Berber dynasty to modern-day Morocco.

Rabat Walking Tour. Head out to discover the many highlights of Rabat today! View the impressive façade and French-style landscaped gardens of the Royal Palace, the residence of Morocco's royalty. Continue to the Citadel of Chellah, which has been abandoned since the 1100s. For a thousand years before that, the enclave thrived as a port and city. Explore the grounds filled with Roman ruins, Islamic

artifacts, gardens of fig and orange trees and a magnificent doorway decorated with Arabic calligraphy. Next, witness two of Morocco's treasures located near the Bou Regreg River: the Mausoleum of Mohammad V and the Hassan Tower. Step inside the striking Mausoleum of Mohammad V, the resting place of past kings, to marvel at its opulent interior. Gaze in wonder at the impressive minaret of Hassan Tower, rising above the ruins of its mosque. Cap off your excursion at the Kasbah des Ouidaïas, a picturesque and quiet neighborhood with whitewashed houses and soul-stirring views of the Atlantic Ocean and Sale, Rabat's sister city.

Lunch is included today at a local restaurant.

Free Time: Spend this afternoon exploring Rabat at your leisure, and make your own plans for dinner. Throughout the program, your Travel Director is available to provide suggestions for dining and sightseeing on your own.

Day 4 | Volubilis | Meknes | Fes

Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace

B | L | D

Volubilis & Meknes. Uncover the fascinating ruins of Volubilis, a remarkably preserved, UNESCO-listed Roman city. You'll see ruins from the third century B.C. to the 11th century A.D., including the Triumphal Arch, Basilica and ornate villas, many filled with beautifully detailed mosaics.

Continue to a local winery for a vineyard tour and a special tasting, followed by lunch.

Travel to Meknes, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed imperial city. See the beautifully preserved royal palace and the stunning Bab Mansour, a massive and intricately tiled gateway to the city. Walk through El Hedim Square, the city's main plaza, built in 1672.

Continue to Fes and check in to the Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace. Settle in to your room, then join the group for dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Day 5 | Fes

Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace

B | L

Fes. Explore this diverse city shaped by more than 12 centuries of history and tradition. Begin in Fes el-Bali, the ninth-century district within the medina, where narrow alleyways wind through lively souks, artisan workshops, spice stalls and the city's iconic tanneries. Admire the Nejjarine Fountain, carved from cedarwood and adorned with zellij tilework. See the Quaraouiyin Mosque, the world's oldest university, before entering the Al Attarine Madrasa, a historic 14th-century school for Islamic studies.

Savor a Moroccan lunch at a local restaurant, then continue to Fes Jdid, known as "New Fes," to explore the historic Mellah, the former Jewish district, and view the impressive Royal Palace. Cap off the day with breathtaking panoramic views across the entire medina.

Day 6 | Fes | Casablanca | Marrakech

Les Jardins de la Koutoubia

B | L

Following an early breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart for Marrakech with a stop in cosmopolitan Casablanca.

Casablanca Discovery. Explore the modern city of Casablanca. Morocco's largest city is centuries old but looks modern, with its wide boulevards, public parks and white Art Deco architecture. Experience the vibe of city life in Casablanca's central piazza, Place Mohammad V. Surrounding the square are excellent examples of the city's unique Mauresque architecture. Among the beautiful structures to be seen include the Bank of Morocco, the Justice Palace, the French Consulate and the Post Building. Pause to admire the facade and stunning architecture of the Church of the Sacred Heart.

Enjoy lunch at Rick's Café, a re-creation of Rick's Café Américain, the timeless nightclub in the film "Casablanca."

Visit the Hassan II Mosque, one of the most spectacular religious buildings in Morocco with its 690-foot minaret and richly decorated interior. Nestled on a promontory on the edge of the city, the structure stands like a beacon against the horizon and the Atlantic Ocean.

Continue on to Marrakech and check in to Les Jardins de la Koutoubia.

Free Time: Settle in to your room and make your own plans for dinner. Spend the evening at leisure to enjoy Marrakech's many sights and sounds!

Day 7 | Marrakech

Les Jardins de la Koutoubia

B | L | D

Enrichment: Moroccan Culture. Learn how Arab, European and African influences created Morocco's captivating culture.

Monuments of Marrakech. Nestled against a stunning backdrop of the snowcapped Atlas Mountains, the exotic city of Marrakech has long been a melting pot of cultures. Today, begin your exploration at the Ben Youssef Medersa. Originally built in the 14th century, later expanded in the 16th century, the Ben Youssef Medersa once served as the largest religious schools for Islamic studies in North Africa, accommodating some 900 students at a time. Explore its exquisitely decorated courtyard and prayer hall and see some of the 130 dormitory cells that once housed the students. Continue your discovery at the shaded souks, a lively, colorful marketplace located in the heart of the city's medina. Uncover local culture while wending through the maze-like markets, passing stalls selling textiles, clothing and handicrafts. Next, thrill to the sight of Palais Bahia, a not-to-be-missed landmark. Constructed in the 19th century by architect El Mekki for Si Moussa, chamberlain of Sultan Hassan I of Morocco, the palace boasts an array of luxurious apartments, courtyards, zellij mosaic floors and serene gardens.

After your walking tour, relax over a delicious lunch, followed by some time to rest and reflect.

Early this evening, head to the beautiful Koutoubia Mosque, easily recognized by its towering minaret. Built in the 12th century, the mosque is a blend of Moorish and Islamic architecture. Continue to Jemaa el-Fnaa, a gathering place for locals and tourists and a performance space for fire-eaters, acrobats, storytellers and musicians. Over the years, this expansive main square has become the beating heart of Marrakech, showcasing a spectrum of daily life. Watch the action from above at a rooftop café; then join your guide for a walk through the square. From food stalls serving up aromatic grilled meats to amusing street performers to the melodic flutes of snake charmers, experience a feast for the senses! Take a walk through the square with your guide before sitting down to an authentic Moroccan dinner.

Day 8 | Marrakech

Les Jardins de la Koutoubia

B | L

Cooking & Calligraphy . Visit the Amal Targa Center, a nonprofit helping disadvantaged women develop cooking skills, gain roles in the hospitality industry and prepare for financial independence. Treat your palate to the flavors of Moroccan cuisine and learn about the country's storied food culture during an authentic cooking lesson. Learn how to prepare a selection of Moroccan recipes — such as salads, bread, tagine and dessert — using traditional ingredients.

While your lunch is cooking, enjoy a lesson on the intricate art of Arabic calligraphy. Recognized as an art worthy of special reverence, calligraphy is considered an artistic expression of the highest rank in the Islamic world. Discover the aesthetically appealing elements and elaborate methods of calligraphy, and try your hand at reproducing the beautiful patterns, lines and curves.

Free Time: Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure exploring beautiful Marrakech.

Day 9 | Atlas Mountains | Ourika Valley

Les Jardins de la Koutoubia

B | L

Atlas Mountains. Encounter another side of Morocco during an excursion to the gorgeous Ourika Valley, part of the Atlas Mountains, which is North Africa's greatest mountain range. Begin the day with a stop at ANIMA Garden, where art and nature meet. Created by Austrian artist André Heller, the lush botanic gardens feature works by Picasso, Rodin and Haring, among others, while offering stunning views of the Atlas Mountains. Continue through the scenic Ourika Valley before delving into the fascinating Berber culture. Berbers, whose

civilization reaches back more than eight millennia, are the original inhabitants of these mountains. Their lives are closely intertwined with the land, and they make a living herding livestock and using age-old farming methods.

AHI Connects: Berber Home Visit. Meet a local Berber family in their home and learn about their fascinating cultural traditions and experience their warm hospitality.

Enjoy lunch beside the rushing Ourika River, surrounded by sweeping mountain vistas.

Free Time: Return to Marrakech for an evening at leisure.

Day 10 | Marrakech

Les Jardins de la Koutoubia

B | D

Gardens & Souks. Discover Jardin Majorelle, an oasis of fountains, flora and vivid cobalt architecture created in the 1920s by French artist Jacques Majorelle and later restored by Yves Saint Laurent and his partner Pierre Bergé. Visit the Yves Saint Laurent Museum, featuring the designer's haute couture and a library. Return to the buzzing souks for a tour with tastings of local products and insights into the spices and herbs used in traditional meals.

Free Time: Discover more of Marrakech at your own pace. Your AHI Travel Director will be available to offer suggestions. You may wish to spend time people watching by the square with a mint tea or fresh orange juice in hand. Or pick up a variety of special souvenirs and spices to take home.

Toast your amazing Moroccan adventure during a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 11 | Depart for gateway city

B

Very early this morning (some in the middle of the night), bid farewell to Morocco as you depart for the Marrakech International Airport (RAK), where your international departure flight awaits. AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Marrakech Airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.

What's Included

Program Overview

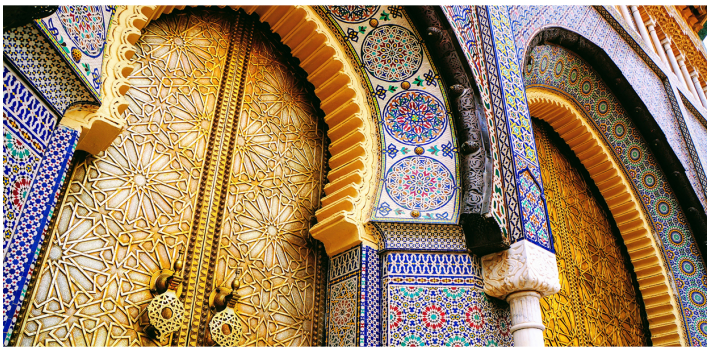
- Small group: Sized just right at 24 guests.
- 2 nights in Rabat, Morocco, at the first-class Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses.
- 2 nights in Fes at the first-class Marriott Jnane Palace.
- 5 nights in Marrakech at the first-class Les Jardins de La Koutoubia.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 4 dinners.
- Welcome Reception and Dinner and Farewell Dinner to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.

On-site Features

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program with baggage handling.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.



FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

Marriott Jnane Palace

Experience traditional Moroccan charm within this luxurious retreat, centrally located in upscale Fes. Savor freshly prepared Moroccan dishes and international cuisine, sip a craft cocktail and relax at any of the on-site restaurants and bars. Modern, inviting guest rooms and luxury amenities create a perfect oasis to refresh after a day of excursions. The Marriott Jnane Palace is sure to impress, offering an unforgettable stay in the heart of Fes.

Tripadvisor

Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses

An unforgettable experience awaits in the heart of Morocco's capital city. Moroccan architectural elements and design imbue the hotel with a warmth, inviting you to savor authentic or international fare in one of the restaurants or linger with friends in one of the lounges. Wander through the Andalusian garden, swim in one of the heated pools, practice your golf swing and visit the spa. Each guest room is an urban oasis, decorated with modern Moroccan flourishes.

Tripadvisor

Les Jardins de La Koutoubia

Beautifully set in the Medina of Marrakech, this renowned property offers a luxurious retreat just steps from the Jemaâ el Fna square. Relax on the beautiful terrace and savor panoramic views of the city with the Atlas Mountains painted in the distance. Whether you choose to unwind in the heated pools, delight in a cocktail at the Sky Bar or seek harmony at the prestigious spa, you’re sure to experience quality service within a serene environment.

Tripadvisor

Pricing

$500 Full Payment Discount expires May 10, 2027
$250 Special Savings expires November 24, 2026

Trip Price (USD)

Base Price	**$6,245**
Special Savings (Expires November 24, 2026)	**-$250**
Full Payment Discount *	**-$500**
Special Price	**$5,495**
You Pay	**$5,495 per person**

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; U.S. government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. To view Program Terms and conditions please click here. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

*Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 150+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.

Atlantic Ocean
Volubilis
Rabat
Fes
Casablanca
Meknes
Atlas Mountains
Marrakech
Ourika Valley
MOROCCO