



Jewels of Morocco

A COX & KINGS PRIVATE TRAVEL JOURNEY

Marrakesh ✧ High Atlas Mountains ✧ Skoura ✧ Erfoud ✧ Fez

TOUR DETAILS

10 Days / 9 Nights

START

Marrakesh

FINISH

Fez

Price:

November 1, 2011–October 31, 2012

\$ 6245 per person double occupancy

*Holiday Supplement may apply
Prices subject to change*

WHAT'S INCLUDED

All hotel accommodations as noted
Breakfast daily, other meals as indicated
All drives, transfers and sightseeing by private car and driver
Entrance fees into historical sights and museums
Services of a Cox & Kings tour escort/guide throughout
Baggage assistance at all airports and hotels

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

International air travel
Travel insurance
Airport departure taxes
Personal items and alcoholic beverages
Gratuities to escort, guides, drivers, hotel services



The Kingdom of Morocco has long held a romantic allure for the westerner. Since the 18th century some of Europe's greatest writers and painters have sought inspiration here. Known to the Arabs as '*al-Maghreb al-Aqsa*' meaning the 'farthest land of the setting sun', Morocco boasts stunning natural beauty and an extraordinarily rich and varied cultural heritage. In this magical land of legend and color, the souqs and thousand-year-old labyrinthine medinas of fabled Marrakesh and Fez await your discovery. Cross the high passes of the Atlas Mountains, discover the magnificent scenery and crumbling Kasbahs of the pre-Sahara. Throughout your journey experience the warm hospitality of Moroccans at the small character hotels featured in this program.

Day One Arrive Marrakesh

Arrive today in Marrakesh. Part Berber, part Arab, part African, Marrakesh is the heartbeat of Morocco. You will stay at Riad Kniza. This boutique riad reflects the Moroccan artisan richness and style of architecture seen in the Morocco of old.
Riad Kniza [Junior suite]

Day Two Marrakesh B, D

Today tour the Saadian Tombs, El Badi Palace and the 12th century Koutoubia mosque. Meander your way through the medina, exploring an endless procession of souqs, mosques and medersas. Just before sunset visit the Djemaa el-Fna, the enormous square and atmospheric wonderland of torch-lit food stalls, snake charmers, storytellers and acrobats.

The evening enjoy dinner at Marrakesh's famed Yacout Restaurant housed in a stunningly decorated old villa and serving traditional Moroccan cuisine

Day Three Asni day trip B, L

COX & KINGS, The Americas, 8060 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90046 1-800-999-1758

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This morning drive outside of Marrakesh to Asni, in the Atlas Mountains. Here you will meet your mountain guide, cook and muleteer for a scenic four hour walk followed by a picnic lunch. Climb gently through juniper forests, admire the views from the Tinzert pass and have tea in a traditional berber house. Late afternoon return to Marrakesh.

Note: If visiting Asni on a Saturday there is a charming and quaint Market held in the village square which can be visited during your visit.

Optional: Cox & Kings Culinary Signature Event – see details listed separately.

Day Four Marrakesh to Skoura B, D
This morning you will drive to Skoura, 'the gateway to the Sahara', via the Kasbah of Ait Benhaddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. [4 to 5 hour drive] On arrival at the fertile oasis town of Skoura, you will check-in at your hotel.
Les Jardins de Skoura [Junior suite]

Day Five Skoura B, D
Today explore the beautiful Dades Valley, also known as the 'Valley of the Thousand Kasbahs'. The drive is a very scenic one, with the rich ochre of the desert contrasted with the winding clear blue waters of the Dades River, and the pastel hues of the palm trees and orchards. A sense of history is also given by the many, elaborately decorated and slowly crumbling kasbahs.

Day Six Skoura to Erfoud B
Your drive today takes you to the oasis region of the Tafilalt, one of the last areas to succumb to French control, its tribes putting up sporadic resistance until 1932. This drive takes approximately 6 hours. You will visit the nearby town of Rissani and prior to sunset drive by 4x4 out to the Merzouga dunes, which typify much of the Algerian Sahara. Enjoy views over this magical landscape, the dunes themselves changing color from pink to gold to red.
Kasbah Xaluca [Junior suite]

Day Seven Erfoud to Fez B
Your journey today takes you through the small towns of Midelt and Errachidia enroute to Fez. Stop at the Ayachi Hotel in Midelt for lunch [payable locally]. This area is classic Berber country, the people being semi-nomadic, owning homes but spending a great deal of time following their flocks. This drive takes approximately 6 hours. On arrival in Fez you will checkin to your boutique riad.
Riad Maison Bleue [senior suite]

Day Eight Fez B
Cultural and symbolic heart of Morocco, Fez el-Bali is the world's largest and most beautiful living medieval city. A thousand year-old labyrinth of 300 mosques and 9,400 winding streets and alleyways that is home to countless ateliers, and markets. Tour the 14th century Medersa Bou Inania (theological college) famous for its Koranic scriptures in stucco, zellij tiles and carved wood. Explore the 13th century tanneries and henna and spice souqs (markets) as you wind your way through hidden squares, such as the Place an-Nejjarine.

Day Nine Meknes, Volubilis B
Today you will drive through Moroccan countryside past fields of wheat, mint, mimosa and cork trees towards Meknes. A cultural center of Morocco for more than ten centuries, Meknes boasts a fascinating medina (old city) and maze of streets filled with colorful stalls and architectural delights such as the Bab el-Mansour. Continue to Moulay Idriss, Morocco's holiest city, and then onto the Roman ruins at Volubilis, famous for the Triumphal Arch and exceptionally fine mosaics depicting colorful scenes from classical mythology. Following, return to Fes and the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

Day Ten Fez – Home B
Transfer to Fez Airport for your homeward bound flight.

End of Tour Arrangements

Tour Notes:

- As this tour is operated on an individual basis, hotel accommodations availability is based on clients' date of travel. Please be aware that minimum night stay requirements and supplement may apply during the Christmas & New Year holidays.
- Morocco enjoys both a temperate and desert climate. Travel is best done from September through May.
- Cox & Kings uses deluxe boutique riads in Marrakesh and Fez. However, outside of these cities the standard of hotel should be considered first class.
- Certain monuments and tourist attractions in Morocco are closed for religious holidays. If in the event your visit to any of these cities falls on a day when these sites are closed, your tour will be adjusted accordingly. Please also note that this program requires extensive walking over uneven and rocky terrain and some long days of touring with early morning starts.
- No visas are required for US Passport holders visiting Morocco. Other nationalities should check with the Moroccan Embassy in their country.

A Cox & Kings 'Culinary Signature Event'

Moroccan food is rightly recognized as one of the world's great cuisines, and within the city of Marrakech can be found several restaurants that excel in their culinary creations. The location of many of these kitchens is magical: either in traditional restored houses or tucked away down small alleyways. Known in the past as one of Africa's most famous and legendary restaurants, La Maison Arabe today offers cooking workshops designed for visitors to Marrakech, both amateurs and professionals alike, an opportunity to discover the pleasures and delights of preparing and becoming familiar with one of the great cuisines of the world.

