



# Splendors of Morocco

A COX & KINGS PRIVATE TRAVEL JOURNEY

Marrakesh ♦ Asni ♦ Skoura ♦ Erfoud ♦ Fez

## TOUR DETAILS

12 Days / 11 Nights

### START

Marrakesh

### FINISH

Fez

### PRICE

November 1, 2011 thru October 31, 2012

\$ 8695 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 luxury character hotels featured in this program.

### Day One

### Arrive Marrakesh

Arrival today in Marrakesh. Part Berber, part Arab, part African, Marrakesh is the heartbeat of Morocco. You will stay at the famed Relais & Chateaux luxury property, **Villa des Orangers [Deluxe room]**, a former private residence once belonging to a noble family of Morocco. This boutique riad reflects the Moroccan artisan richness and style of architecture enjoyed by aristocrats and royalty of old.

### Day Two

### Marrakesh

### B

Today tour the Saadian Tombs, El Badi Palace and the 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Day Three Marrakesh BD**  
 This morning board your private horse-drawn caleche for a tour of Marrakesh's beautiful gardens, including the Majorelle Garden, one of the city's most delightful gardens, owned by the late Yves Saint Laurent and wherein is a small villa now housing a museum of Islamic art. Continue on to Menara Garden with its peaceful lagoon and villa-style pavilion, all ensconced in an immense olive grove. From here one can glimpse the Atlas mountains in the distance.

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

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

**Day Four Marrakesh to Asni B**  
 Journey to the picturesquely located town of Asni, located in the High Atlas Mountains, and dominated by Jebel Toubkal, the tallest mountain in North Africa. Here you will stay at one of Sir Richard Branson's famed resorts, **Kasbah Tamadot [Deluxe room]**. Originally a Berber chieftain's private palace built in the kasbah style, its 18 rooms and suites are a mix of Moroccan furnishings with Asian antiques. The resort facilities include a luxurious Spa, pool, fully equipped fitness center and nearby tennis courts.

**Day Five Asni BL**  
 This morning meet your mountain guide, the 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. The afternoon will be at leisure.

*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 stay in Asni.*

**Day Six Asni to Skoura BLD**  
 This morning you will be driven to Skoura, 'the gateway to the Sahara', via the Kasbah of Ait Benhaddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On arrival at the fertile oasis town of Skoura, check-in at the Dar Ahlam hotel, an extravagantly renovated 19<sup>th</sup> century Kasbah whose name means 'House of Dreams'. Each of the sumptuous suites has been decorated differently, making creative use of unusual antiques, silk drapes and a palette of soft mauve, deep purple, raspberry-pink and pistachio-green. The Parisian landscape architect Louis Benech was in charge of the gardens where you'll find a heated, T-shaped stone pool surrounded by date palms and olive trees, outdoor massage tents and a mosaic Jacuzzi and hammam.  
**Dar Ahlam [suite]**

**Day Seven Skoura BLD**  
 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 Eight 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 Nine 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 at Fez, check in to your boutique riad.  
**Riad Fes [Junior suite]**

**Day Ten 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 14<sup>th</sup> century Medersa Bou Inania (theological college) famous for its Koranic scriptures in stucco, zellij tiles and carved wood. Explore the 13<sup>th</sup> century tanneries and henna and spice souqs (markets) as you wind your way through hidden squares, such as the Place an-Nejjarine.

**Day Eleven Meknes, Volubilis BL**  
 Today 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 Fez and the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

**Day Twelve 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 according to the clients' requirements. Please be aware that minimum night stay requirements may apply during the Christmas & New Year holidays.
- Morocco enjoys both a temperate and desert climate. Travel is best done from September through May.
- 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 American passport holders. Other nationalities should contact their Moroccan Embassy for regulations.

For information on this or our other tours to Africa, the Indian Oceans Islands, Asia & the Pacific, India & Beyond, Latin America, Arabia & Northern Africa please phone us at 800-999-1758, or email us at: [tours@coxandkingsusa.com](mailto:tours@coxandkingsusa.com) or log on to our website at: [www.coxandkingsusa.com](http://www.coxandkingsusa.com)

***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.

