

10-Day Morocco Luxury Tour: Blue City, Sahara Desert & Oasis Experience



Indulge in Morocco's most enchanting destinations on this luxurious 10-day journey combining cultural discovery, culinary experiences, and natural wonders. This carefully curated tour begins in cosmopolitan Tangier, winds through the blue-washed streets of Chefchaouen, delves into ancient Fez, crosses golden Sahara dunes, discovers peaceful oasis life in Skoura, and culminates in vibrant Marrakech.

Experience the perfect balance of adventure and comfort as you explore UNESCO World Heritage sites, enjoy wine tasting at a Moroccan vineyard, participate in hands-on cooking classes, trek by camel to a luxury desert camp, and wander through palm groves in a serene oasis. Each accommodation has been selected for its character, comfort, and authentic Moroccan ambiance. From sampling traditional Fassi cuisine in an elegant riad to sleeping under Sahara stars, every element enhances your immersion in Moroccan culture while maintaining the highest standards of comfort and service.

Tour Facts

Group Size:

12

Duration:

10

Language:

English

Tour Type:

continuous

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 : Tangier Arrival and Welcome to Morocco

Welcome to Morocco! Your luxury Moroccan adventure begins upon arrival at Tangier Ibn Battouta Airport, where you'll be warmly greeted and transferred to your hotel in this historic port city. Tangier has long captivated visitors with its unique position at the meeting point of Africa and Europe, where the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean converge. After checking into your accommodation and settling in, you have the remainder of the day at leisure to begin exploring or simply relax after your journey.

If time and energy permit, take a stroll through Tangier's medina to get your first taste of Moroccan life. The city's cosmopolitan atmosphere reflects its history as an international zone that attracted artists, writers, and bohemians throughout the 20th century. Walk along the waterfront promenade where locals gather to enjoy ocean breezes and watch fishing boats returning with their daily catch. This evening, enjoy dinner at your hotel or at one of Tangier's seafood restaurants, savoring fresh catch prepared with Moroccan spices and Mediterranean influences that characterize the city's unique culinary identity.

Day 2 : Mountain Journey to the Enchanting Blue City

After breakfast, depart Tangier for one of Morocco's most photogenic and beloved

destinations—Chefchaouen, the Blue Pearl of Morocco. The drive takes approximately two and a half to three hours, winding into the Rif Mountains where the landscape becomes increasingly dramatic. As you approach Chefchaouen, the sight of its distinctive blue-washed buildings nestled against mountainsides creates an almost magical first impression that has enchanted travelers from around the world.

Upon arrival, check into your cozy riad or traditional guesthouse tucked within the medina's blue streets. After settling in, begin exploring this captivating town where nearly every building is painted in varying shades of blue—from powder blue to deep indigo. Wander through the peaceful alleys at your own pace, discovering hidden squares, artisan workshops, and countless photo opportunities at every turn. Visit Plaza Uta el-Hammam, the heart of the medina surrounded by cafes and restaurants perfect for people-watching. Browse local shops selling unique items like woven blankets, leather bags, and handmade jewelry. The relaxed mountain atmosphere and absence of aggressive touts make Chefchaouen feel like a different Morocco. Enjoy lunch at a café with mountain views before spending the afternoon continuing your exploration of this enchanting blue wonderland.

Day 3 : Wine Tasting at Vineyard and Arrival in Ancient Fez

Bid farewell to the Blue City after breakfast and journey south toward Fez, with an exceptional stop in the Meknes region that adds a surprising dimension to your Moroccan experience. Morocco has a long winemaking tradition dating to Roman times, and today's visit to a vineyard like Château Volubilia offers insight into this lesser-known aspect of Moroccan culture. Arrive mid-morning at the estate, set amid rolling hills covered with olive groves and grapevines.

Your experience begins with a guided tour of the vineyard and cellars, learning about the unique challenges and rewards of winemaking in Morocco's climate. The tour culminates in a wine tasting paired with a gourmet lunch featuring fresh local ingredients prepared with French-Moroccan fusion techniques. Savor multiple wine varieties while enjoying views across the countryside, this luxurious interlude providing the perfect contrast to yesterday's mountain atmosphere. After lunch, continue to Fez (approximately one and a half hours), Morocco's spiritual and cultural capital. Arrive by late afternoon and check into your traditional riad in the heart of the medina. These beautifully restored merchant houses feature ornate courtyards, carved cedar ceilings, and detailed tilework that create peaceful sanctuaries within the ancient city. Spend the evening relaxing at your riad or take a short walk to get oriented in the neighborhood.

Day 4 : Full-Day Immersion in Fez Medieval Medina and Artisan Quarters

Today brings comprehensive exploration of Fez el-Bali, the Old Medina that ranks among the world's largest living medieval cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After breakfast at your riad, meet your expert local guide for a walking tour through this labyrinthine ancient city where life continues much as it has for centuries. Begin with an exterior visit to Al Quaraouiyine University, founded in 859 CE and recognized as the world's oldest continuously operating university. While non-Muslims cannot enter, your guide shares fascinating history from key vantage points.

Continue to the stunning Bou Inania Madrasa, a 14th-century Quranic school open to visitors where you can appreciate its intricate carved plaster, carved cedar, and zellige tilework representing the pinnacle of Marinid architecture. Navigate the maze-like medina to artisan quarters where craftsmen practice trades passed down through generations—visit the famous Chouara Tanneries where leather has been dyed using medieval methods for over a thousand years, creating an unforgettable (if pungent) sight. The afternoon is dedicated to shopping in Fez's legendary souks, each section devoted to different crafts. Browse for exquisite ceramics featuring Fez's distinctive cobalt blue, handwoven Berber rugs,

buttery-soft leather goods, and countless other treasures. Your guide helps you navigate the souks, appreciate quality, and negotiate fair prices. This evening brings a special experience—an elegant dinner at one of Fez's most luxurious riads, where refined Fassi cuisine is served in sumptuous surroundings, celebrating this remarkable day.

Day 5 : Epic Journey Through Middle Atlas to Sahara Desert

Today brings one of Morocco's most memorable journeys as you depart early for the long but spectacularly scenic drive to Merzouga at the edge of the Sahara Desert. The route takes approximately seven hours with stops, traveling through dramatically changing landscapes from the green Middle Atlas Mountains to the arid pre-desert plains. First stop is Ifrane, Morocco's surprising Alpine-style town with European architecture, manicured gardens, and cool climate—nicknamed "Little Switzerland." Continue through cedar forests where wild Barbary macaque monkeys make their home among ancient trees.

As you travel south, the landscape gradually transforms from forests to arid terrain. Stop for lunch in Midelt or along the route, then continue through the stunning Ziz Valley where thousands of date palms create ribbons of green against red rock canyon walls. By late afternoon, arrive in Merzouga where the towering dunes of Erg Chebbi rise dramatically from the desert floor. As sunset approaches, mount your camel for a peaceful trek across the golden sands, experiencing the desert's magic as light transforms the dunes through shades of gold, orange, and pink. Arrive at your luxury desert camp as stars begin appearing in the vast sky. Your camp features comfortable Berber-style tents with real beds and private facilities. After freshening up, gather for a traditional Berber dinner followed by live music around the campfire. The absence of light pollution reveals countless stars rarely visible in cities—a truly unforgettable experience that connects you to ancient traditions of desert nomads.

Day 6 : Desert Departure Along the Road of a Thousand Kasbahs to Skoura

Wake early if you wish to witness sunrise over the Sahara dunes, when the first light transforms the sand from shadow to brilliant gold in just minutes—a photographer's dream and a spiritual moment for many travelers. After breakfast at camp, return to Merzouga village by camel or 4x4, then begin your westward journey along the legendary Road of a Thousand Kasbahs. This ancient caravan route passes through some of Morocco's most dramatic desert and mountain landscapes, where centuries-old fortified villages built from mud brick blend seamlessly into the surrounding terrain.

The drive takes approximately six hours with stops, following valleys dotted with palm groves and passing through small Berber towns where traditional life continues. Each curve in the road reveals new vistas—rocky desert plains, green oases, distant mountains, and those distinctive kasbahs rising from the landscape like medieval fortresses. Stop for lunch along the route before arriving in Skoura by mid-afternoon. This peaceful oasis town is filled with thousands of date palms, rose gardens, and ancient kasbahs, creating a lush green sanctuary amid arid surroundings. Check into your charming boutique lodge or kasbah-style hotel, typically set within palm groves with swimming pools and gardens. The afternoon and evening are yours to simply relax and decompress, perhaps lounging by the pool, strolling through the palmery, or reading in a peaceful garden setting. Tonight's dinner is served at your accommodation, featuring regional specialties. After days of travel, this quiet oasis provides welcome rest and the perfect setting to reflect on your desert adventure.

Day 7 : Cooking Class and Peaceful Oasis Exploration in Skoura

Today offers a perfect blend of hands-on cultural experience and relaxation in beautiful surroundings. Your morning is dedicated to a Moroccan cooking class that takes place at your accommodation or a nearby traditional home. Begin with an introduction to the essential spices, herbs, and ingredients that form the foundation of Moroccan cuisine. Under the guidance of an experienced cook, learn to prepare classic dishes such as tagine with preserved lemons and olives, hand-rolled couscous, fragrant zaalouk (eggplant salad), and perhaps traditional bread baked in a clay oven.

The cooking process reveals much about Moroccan culture—the importance of hospitality, the time invested in food preparation, the communal nature of meals, and the stories and traditions passed down through generations. After your cooking session, sit down to enjoy the delicious lunch you've prepared, often accompanied by your hosts who share more about daily life in the oasis. The afternoon is free for peaceful wandering among Skoura's palm groves and small family farms. Walk along irrigation channels that have watered these gardens for centuries, pass through date palm plantations where farmers tend their crops using traditional methods, and discover hidden kasbahs slowly being reclaimed by nature. The contrast between the lush oasis and surrounding arid landscape creates a magical atmosphere. Return to your lodge for another restful evening, perhaps enjoying the sunset from the pool or rooftop terrace while listening to the evening call to prayer echo across the palm groves.

Day 8 : Ait Ben Haddou Tour and Mountain Crossing to Marrakech

After a leisurely breakfast surrounded by Skoura's palm trees, depart for Marrakech with an essential stop at one of Morocco's most iconic sites. Ait Ben Haddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, represents the pinnacle of southern Moroccan earthen architecture. This ancient fortified village (ksar) has appeared in countless films including *Gladiator*, *Game of Thrones*, and *Lawrence of Arabia*, making it one of the most photographed locations in Morocco. Upon arrival, cross the shallow river (or use stepping stones when water is high) and begin exploring the winding passages, climbing toward the granary at the summit.

The views from the top reveal why this location was so strategic along ancient caravan routes connecting sub-Saharan Africa to Marrakech. Your guide explains the ksar's history, traditional building techniques, and how the community once lived within these walls. After descending, enjoy lunch at one of the restaurants with panoramic views of the site before beginning the ascent over the High Atlas Mountains. The route follows the famous Tizi n'Tichka Pass, reaching 2,260 meters altitude with breathtaking mountain vistas at every curve. Stop for photos at mountain viewpoints and perhaps browse the stalls selling fossils, minerals, and handicrafts. The landscape transforms as you descend toward Marrakech, arriving by late afternoon. Check into your centrally located riad in the medina and spend the evening at leisure, perhaps taking a short walk to get oriented or simply relaxing after the journey, preparing for tomorrow's exploration of the Red City.

Day 9 : Comprehensive Marrakech Discovery - Culture, Shopping and Cuisine

Today brings immersion in Marrakech's vibrant culture through expertly curated experiences combining history, shopping, and leisure. Begin your morning with a visit to Dar El Bacha Museum, a recently restored palace that showcases exquisite Moroccan craftsmanship through its painted ceilings, intricate stucco work, and magnificent zellige tilework. The palace now houses collections that tell stories of Moroccan artistic traditions. After exploring the museum, stop at the adjacent Bacha Coffee, an elegant establishment serving premium coffees and teas in a refined setting—the perfect spot for mid-morning

refreshments.

Continue with a guided shopping tour through the medina's best-kept secrets and most authentic souks. Your expert guide leads you beyond tourist areas to artisan workshops and reputable shops specializing in quality goods. Learn to identify genuine argan oil and understand its production, browse exquisite handwoven textiles and designer kaftans, select fragrant spices to bring home, and discover the finest leather goods and traditional crafts. The afternoon is yours at leisure—perhaps continue shopping independently now that you know your way around, pamper yourself with a traditional hammam and spa treatment, or simply relax at your riad's rooftop terrace. As evening approaches, prepare for your farewell dinner at a fine rooftop restaurant offering panoramic views across the illuminated medina and bustling Jemaa el-Fnaa square. Toast to your extraordinary Moroccan journey while savoring refined Moroccan cuisine and reflecting on the incredible experiences, friendships, and memories created over these ten remarkable days.

Day 10 : Marrakech Farewell and Airport Transfer

Enjoy a final leisurely breakfast at your riad or hotel, savoring the flavors that have become familiar over the past ten days—fresh-squeezed orange juice, crusty bread with honey and jam, creamy yogurt, and of course, that distinctive Moroccan mint tea. Depending on your flight schedule, you may have time for last-minute activities or simply relaxing at your accommodation before departure. If you have a few hours, consider visiting attractions you haven't yet seen, such as the tranquil Secret Garden with its lush plantings and traditional Moroccan architecture, or taking one final wander through the souks to pick up any last souvenirs.

Your riad staff can assist with any final needs—currency exchange, arranging last-minute purchases to be shipped, or simply answering lingering questions about Morocco. When it's time to leave, your private driver arrives for the transfer to Marrakech Menara Airport, located approximately 15-20 minutes from the medina depending on traffic. As you depart Morocco, you carry not just photographs and souvenirs, but a deep appreciation for this country's extraordinary diversity—from mountain villages to desert dunes, from ancient medinas to peaceful oases. The tastes, sounds, colors, and warm hospitality you've experienced have woven themselves into your memories, calling you to return and discover even more of Morocco's endless treasures.