



# ACANELA MOROCCO



**Location:** Fez, Sahara, Marrakech, Morocco (6 nights, 7 days)

**Inclusions:** Accommodations, Transfers, Professional Guided Activities and Experiences, and 2 meals/day

**Price:** \$1800/person *\*based on double occupancy ( \$300 single occupancy supplement)*

**Day 1: USA / CASABLANCA, MOROCCO**

**Meals: D**

**Arrival Airport:** Casablanca International Airport, Morocco

**Introduction:** Few places in the world are as unique and beautiful to travelers as the country of Morocco. Desert fortresses rise out of the sands of the Sahara, sapphire oceans caress white sandy beaches, and purple mountain glitter with snow. Visit Morocco to see all of these sights and more! Behind every city wall exposes you to rich experiences in art, architecture, and cuisine. The winding alleyways of the Medina give way to bustling souks, and tent after tent is filled with brightly colored silks and baskets of spices. Morocco is made up of four different areas: the Sahara Desert, full of Berber towns and oases; the Atlas and Rif Mountains, perfect for hikers; the plains which are home to the imperial cities of Marrakesh and Fez; and finally, the sandy coastlines of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, graced by small beach towns and the cities of Rabat and Casablanca.

**Afternoon:** Arrive at Casablanca International Airport in Casablanca, Morocco. After clearing customs and immigration, please proceed to the baggage claim area to collect your belongings. Given the recent airport



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policy change, your driver is not able to meet you in the arrival hall and instead will be waiting to greet you just outside the main doors by the tented area (which has some shade) outside. For any assistance in locating the driver pickup area, please ask the airport help desk. Your driver will be waiting by the tented area with a sign reading "**ACANELA EXPEDITIONS**". Your driver will greet you and assist you with the transfer to Fes. If you have any difficulties finding your driver or if your flight is delayed please contact your in-country director (number above) for assistance. In each of the primary locations throughout your tour you will have a local guide to introduce you to the main sights and places to visit in addition to your driver who will support you throughout your journey. Once you've connected with your driver, you will depart. During the 3-4 hour private van ride through the majestic Rif Mountains, enjoy the stunning view as rolling hills meet the famous Imperial City of Fes. Upon arrival, we will check into the beautiful Riad.

**Dinner:** Following check-in, we will dive into our experience in Morocco with a delicious welcome dinner & Trip Introduction with our Guide and Group! Our accommodations are located in the lovely medina of Fes, so after dinner feel free to explore the markets into the late evening. Fes is known for its nightlife and markets typically stay open until 10 or 11pm.

**Accommodation:** *Riad Myra or similar*

**Address:** *13 Rue Salaj, Batha, Fès 30000, Morocco*

**Phone:** *+44 20 3355 6302*

### Day 2: FEZ, MOROCCO

Meals: B, D

**Breakfast** Enjoy Breakfast at your Riad

**Morning** After a morning breakfast at your accommodation, we'll head out to visit the colorful and complex tanneries of Fez, learning about the century-old techniques that are still used today. We'll visit the honey souks, carpet weavers, bustling markets, and maze-like passageways of this imperial city.

We'll also have the opportunity to stop by the Ech Cherabliyyine Mosque (Mosque of the Slipper makers), and visit many souks to learn about how a variety of local products are made, such as: henna, slippers, caftans, silks, spices, and jewelry.

Fez is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and also the largest city in the world that doesn't permit cars. Because of this, Fez's streets are famously narrow and warped, creating dusky markets that feel untouched by the passing centuries, which produce brilliant opportunities to take beautiful photos. You will be given a tour of the city and experience a local lunch from one of the many delicious restaurants.

**Lunch** Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant

**Afternoon** The first stops on your afternoon tour will be the Royal Palace, Moulay Abedallah Quarter, and the Mellah (Jewish Quarter). Continue on to visit Fez el-jadid, to visit the monumental Kasabah in the city center and the southern Tower to visit the "Musée des Armes", a fortress that is used to shelter Fez city.



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Led by your local guide, you will enter Rue Talaa Kebira, the main street leading to the old legendary medina. Due to the narrow streets, cars cannot pass through and so you'll see many merchants and porters using donkeys and mules for transport. As you reach the old medina, you will visit the Karaouiye mosque. This is one of the oldest mosques in the world, that historically operated as one of the largest universities in the Moroccan Empire. You will also stop by Bou Inania Madrasa - one of the most elaborate, extravagant and beautiful of all Merenid monuments.

**Dinner** Tonight dinner will be held at a local restaurant featuring delicious Moroccan food. To many travelers, Fez has become the 'new' culinary capital of Morocco and you'll experience this in the many dishes you'll get to try.

**Accommodation:** *Riad Myra or similar*

**Address:** *13 Rue Salaj, Batha, Fès 30000, Morocco*

**Phone:** *+44 20 3355 6302*

### Day 3: Fez – Merzouga

Meals: B, D

**Breakfast** Enjoy Breakfast at your Riad

Wake up early, enjoy a delicious breakfast, and check out of your hotel before departing through the beautiful mountainous landscape to Merzouga, the entrance to the beautiful Sahara Desert.

**Morning** The journey will take several hours (7-8 hours), so be sure to stock up on snacks, water, and other trip necessities. You'll have plenty of breaks along the way, but it is always nice to have a favorite snack on a long trip!

Our trip will take us through the Atlas Mountain Region. On our way, you will drive through many villages in the middle of the Atlas mountains such as Immouzer and Ifrane, and have the opportunity to observe the rural life in Morocco. We will even make a brief stop by the top of the cedar forest of Azrou where you will experience the homeland of Barber apes (Moroccan Makak).

**Lunch** Enjoy lunch stop in Midelt on the way to your next destination

**Afternoon** Enjoy the beautiful scenery of Morocco as you traverse the country North to South before arriving in the Oasis towns on the outskirts of the Sahara Desert and the Erg Chebbi Dunes known as Erfoud and Merzouga. By the end of the day you will have traversed the entire Atlas Mountains, arriving in the scenic Ziz Valley and Erfoud Oasis!

**Dinner:** You will dine on a traditional Moroccan meal with your guide and safari crew before setting out into the Sahara in the morning.

**Accommodation:** *Chegui Erfoud*

**Address:** *N13, Morocco*

**Phone:** *+212 5355-78504*



## DAY 4: MERZOUGA – Sahara desert

Meals: B, D

**Breakfast** Enjoy Breakfast before heading towards the Sahara Desert

**Morning** As a group, we will drive towards the picturesque Sahara Desert that continues to capture the imaginations of people around the globe. At a small town on the edge of the desert, we'll eat an early lunch and board camels and embark on a journey deep into the epic dunes of the Sahara.

**Afternoon** The camel journey will take us approximately an hour until we arrive at a Bedouin campsite where we'll be spending the night sleeping under the stars.

**Dinner** In the evening we'll witness a traditional dance and enjoy a delicious welcome dinner, play drums, sip mint tea, and lounge under the stars.

**Accommodation:** *Merzouga Jaimas Madu (Bedouin Tent)*

**Address:** *Hassilabied, Morocco*

**Phone:** *+212 661-352895*

## DAY 5: MERZOUGA – MARRAKECH

Meals: B, D

Long before the sun rises above the dunes, we'll set our alarms for an early wake-up in order to climb a sand dune near the camp to catch the sunrise from a high vantage point, as the desert is flooded with color and glorious golden light.

**Breakfast** Enjoy breakfast at your Bedouin Sahara Camp

**Morning** After we've had our fun playing in the sand and filling our camera memory cards, we'll hop in our vehicle (or board our camels once again) to head back to the town on the outskirts of the desert. We will have a long drive today as we make our way to Marrakech. We will make plenty of stops along the way to take in the scenery and stretch our legs.

**Afternoon** After lunch we will spend the early to late afternoon traveling through the beautiful Tichka pass of the High Mountains where we will drive through the mountain hillsides covered with "mud-made" houses of Berber families on our way to Marrakech. Make a stop at Telouet, a kasabah on historical stop on the caravan route from the Sahara desert through the high Atlas Mountains to Marrakech.

**Dinner:** Enjoy an authentic dinner at your Riad in Marrakech. Relax at your beautiful Riad as we unwind after a long day of travel.

**Accommodation:** *Riad Jardin Secret*



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**Address:** Marrakech 40000, Morocco

**Phone:** +212 5243-76606

## DAY 6: MARRAKECH

**Meals: B, D**

**Breakfast:** Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before setting out for a city tour of Marrakech!

**Morning:** Take a tour of the gorgeous city of Marrakech, once an imperial city, and delight in the intricate architecture, incredible food and colorful markets! Take a guided tour of Marrakech, visiting a number of local shops and historical city sights. Marrakesh is a mecca for smoky night markets, winding cobblestone streets, rooftop cafes, and vibrant storefronts selling anything from Berber carpets to exotic animals. There are endless sights to see and areas to explore in the city.

Visit the Lower Medina including sites such as the Al Mansour mosque, the sixteenth century Saadian Tombs, the Mellah (the Jewish quarter), and the 19th century Bahia palace (originally built for Si Moussa, a slave who became King Moulay Hassan's chamberlain).

**Lunch:** Take in the aromatic smell of Moroccan food as you move further into the souks and make sure to sample some of it for lunch!

**Afternoon:** Continuing on, find a huge number of Berber carpets, silver jewelry, artisan workshops, handmade shoes, and tanneries. Be sure to purchase any souvenirs you want to take home as this will be a wonderful opportunity to bring the treasures of Morocco back with you. If your airline carrier's baggage limit allows, we recommend bringing back an authentic Moroccan tagine.

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and savor some local favorites! After dinner, enjoy the stunning sunset over the city and prepare for the amazing day ahead of you tomorrow.

**Accommodation:** Riad Jardin Secret

**Address:** Marrakech 40000, Morocco

**Phone:** +212 5243-76606

## DAY 7: MARRAKECH/USA

**Meals: B**

**Breakfast** Enjoy Breakfast at your Riad

**Morning** After breakfast, we will set out to explore the beautiful city of Marrakech as we spend our final morning in Morocco.

**Afternoon** In the early afternoon depart for the Marrakech airport to catch our flight back to our homes.



**Departure Airport:** RAK (Marrakech International Airport) Morocco

Traveler Name:

Flight Number:

Departure Time:

## OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS OR ADD ONS:

**Optional 3-day, Pre-trip Extension to Casablanca: \$800/person**

### DAY 1: CASABLANCA/ RABAT

**Meals: D**

**Arrival:** Arrive at Casablanca International Airport in Casablanca, Morocco. After clearing customs and immigration, please proceed to the baggage claim area to collect your belongings. Given the recent airport policy change, your driver is not able to meet you in the arrival hall and instead will be waiting to greet you just outside the main doors. For any assistance in locating the driver pickup area, please ask the airport help desk. Your driver will be waiting by the tented area with a sign reading "**ACANELA EXPEDITIONS**". Your driver and/or guide will greet you and assist you with the transfer to your hotel. If you have any difficulties finding your driver or if your flight is delayed please contact your in-country director (number above) for assistance. In each of the primary locations throughout your tour you will have a local guide to introduce you to the main sights and places to visit in addition to your driver who will support you throughout your journey.

*\*Please note that the in- country director is not your guide, and that in each city you will have a different local guide for each of your experiences.*

**Afternoon:** Following check-in, we will dive into our experience in Morocco with a Casablanca city tour, experiencing this incredible city at its finest!

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and savor some of the best dishes that Morocco has to offer.

**Evening:** After dinner, enjoy the short drive to Rabat where our accommodations are located. Rabat is the stunning capital of Morocco and is full of incredible adventures! After dinner feel free to explore the city or to rest and relax in your lovely riad.

### DAY 2: RABAT

**Meals: B, D**

**Breakfast:** Fuel up on a delicious breakfast at your riad before heading out for the day's adventures!

**Morning:** Start the day off with a city tour of Rabat. Visit important religious, historical and cultural sites and taste test delicious Moroccan food! Rabat lies near the shores of the Bouregreg River and the Atlantic Ocean. It is highly notable for its many landmarks that speak to its Islamic and French-colonial heritage, including the





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Kasbah of the Udayas. As a Berber-era royal fort, it is surrounded by formal French-designed gardens and a stunning ocean view. The city's iconic Hassan Tower, a 12th-century minaret, soars above the ruins of a mosque.

**Lunch:** Stop for a bite to eat at a local restaurant before making your way to the coast for some vitamin sea!

**Afternoon:** Morocco's white sand beaches are famous the world over! Spend some time relaxing and enjoying the sparkling sapphire waves and warm sun.

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and savor some of the best dishes that Morocco has to offer.

**Evening:** Overnight in your riad.

### DAY 3: RABAT/ CASABLANCA

Meals: B

**Breakfast:** Fuel up on a delicious breakfast at your riad before heading out for the day's adventures!

**Morning:** Depart Rabat for Casablanca to meet up with the start of the regular 7-day Morocco tour and get ready for more amazing adventures!

### Optional Post-Trip, 1-day Extension to Essaouira: \$300/person

### DAY 1: MARRAKECH/ ESSAOUIRA

Meals: B, L

**Breakfast:** Fuel up on a delicious breakfast at your riad before heading out for the day's adventures!

**Morning:** Begin the day with a drive to Essaouira to see the amazing tree climbing goats (2.5-3 hour drive). The goats are attracted to just one type of tree- the Argania spinosa- generally referred to as the argan tree. Argan trees are prickly and thorny and they produce small yellow flowers that develop into a small fruit with a nut inside. The fruit is what attracts the cloven-hoofed goats to the trees and entices them to climb up into the branches for a meal that no other animal will compete with them for. While humans do not eat the fruit, the nut, which the goats leave behind, is used to produce prized argan oil.

**Lunch:** Stop by a local restaurant for a burst of local flavors!

**Afternoon:** Morocco's white sand beaches are famous the world over! Spend some time relaxing and enjoying the sparkling sapphire waves and warm sun before driving back to Marrakech for the evening.

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and savor some of the best dishes that Morocco has to offer.

**Evening:** Overnight in your riad



## Optional Day-Trip, 1-day Extension to Chefchaouen: \$300/person

### DAY 1: DAY TRIP TO CHEFCHAOUEN FROM FEZ

Meals: B, D

**Early Morning** We will start our journey early to the ancient city of Chefchaouen, enroute we will traverse the RIF Mountain pass Volubilis and Meknes, ancient Roman ruins and cities that were established as Roman civilizations in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. The drive is roughly 3 hours to Chefchaouen.

**Late Morning** We'll start our morning getting acquainted with Chefchaouen-witnessing the architecture of Chefchaouen – known for its turquoise buildings, topaz walls, and rich navy cobblestone streets. As we walk the streets, we will become acquainted with one of the most visually stunning and unique cities in all of North Africa. Our guide will instruct us on the city's history and we'll glean insight into daily life in the town as we walk the cobbled streets. Our first stop on our tour is the historic Museum of Kasbah, built in 1471. The museum features a number of stunning pieces from ancient Morocco, and is often highlight for visitors. From the rooftop of the museum our group will get a birds eye view of daily life of this bustling town. The rooftop is an ideal location for capturing photos of the Hispanic flavored town with its white and blue houses, little balconies, terracotta tiled roofs, and porches garnished with citrus trees. Our next stop will be Plaza Uta el-Hammam, a center bustling with a fusion of Arab and Spanish influence and site of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Grand Mosque, with its famed octagonal tower.

**Lunch** Choose your own adventure for lunchtime, either accompany the guide to his or her personal favorites and popular locations, or feel free to explore the lively markets and eat from several local stands.

**Afternoon** The markets of Morocco have been used by locals for hundreds of years and the afternoon will give us time to wander the winding streets, and shop for world-famous textiles (rugs, carpets, scarves, etc.) as well as Moroccan lanterns, leather, woodwork, and pottery. Many local Artisans do not operate professional shops, choosing instead to use their homes as storefronts. The guide knows many of the artisans and your travel experience will be enriched by interactions with the artisans in their homes.

In the afternoon we'll enter the various food markets in Chefchaouen. By afternoon, the markets are vibrant with activity, and venture out into the markets to see the variety of native fruits and vegetables, handmade breads, and other local culinary delights. A guided tour through the markets will aid in the discovery of new foods, different streets, and having the opportunity to meet more artisans.

**Dinner** After sunset we will enjoy a delicious dinner in Chefchaouen before returning to fes for the night.

**Evening:** Return to Fes (arriving late)