

Tastes OF MOROCCO



Extend your trip in Fes and the Sahara Desert



Tastes OF MOROCCO

To complement your culinary trip in Morocco, adding a few extra nights in the country to visit Fes and the stunning Sahara Desert would be the perfect way to discover the true essence of this charming part of the world.

OUTLINE

Wednesday 2nd October 2019: Volubilis and Fes evening food tour

Thursday 3rd October 2019: Fes city tour

Friday 4th October 2019: Transfer to the Desert

Saturday 5th October 2019: Merzouga Desert excursion

Sunday 6th October 2019: Dades gorge and Skoura

Monday 7th October 2019: Depart Royal Air Maroc flight AT460 from Ouarzate to Casablanca

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Transfer from Rabat to Fes via Meknes and Volubilis

After your farewell from the group depart Casablanca after breakfast and **travel inland to Fes**. The first stop is the hill town of **Moulay Idriss**, named for Morocco's most famous saint, great grandson of the Prophet Mohammed. He was the heir to the Caliphate in Damascus and



fled to Morocco around 787, where he was welcomed as a spiritual leader. He is buried in the town, so it is a revered cultural pilgrimage site. After exploring the town, **head to Volubilis**, a Roman ruin surrounded by farmlands. Enjoy a tour of this ruined city, Rome's provincial capital in Morocco. It has structures dating to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD as well as an impressive array of stunning and well-preserved mosaics. Stroll through the towering columns and fine mosaics of Volubilis. Your tour then continues to Fes. Evening will be at leisure with your guide and driver at your disposal.

Day 2 – Tour of Fes and food tasting tour

After breakfast, you will have a guided city tour of Fes, discovering some of the monuments and history of the medina as well as the modern part. One of the most important centres



of learning in the world during centuries, and **home to the oldest university in History, Fes was founded by in 789 AD.** It started as two separate cities or medinas, stretching on both banks of the river Jawhar, facing each other. They were united in 1070 by the Almoravids, who erected the city ramparts and built bridges across the river Jawhar to connect both sides. The reign of the Almohads, and the settling of Andalusian muslims expelled from Spain, brought an important development to Fes, which **became the largest city in the world during the second half of the 12th Century, with an estimated population of 200,000.** In the 13th and 14th Centuries, Fes reached the pinnacle of its importance, replacing Marrakech as capital of the empire.

Lunch today is independent. In the evening, winding your way through the alleys and souks **visit three different food souks** to try traditional street food including dried meats, *milawi*, *harsha*, *brivats*, spicy sardines, spicy potato cakes, soups, olives and more. At the honey souk you'll be able to taste an array of delicious wild honeys. Next, see traditional cooking methods visiting a *furnatchi* where the water for the communal bath house 'hammam' is also heated, and a 400-year-old 'furan' or communal oven and bakery.

Day 3 – Transfer from Fes to Merzouga

This morning leave behind the ancient city and **head to the Sahara Desert** stopping for photo opportunities along the way. Lunch will be independent.

On arrival in the desert frontier town of **Erfoud**, continue to the camp by 4WD. **Watch the sunset over the Sahara Desert on a camel** before the party enjoys a **private candlelit dinner** and entertainment.



Day 4 – Merzouga

Today explore the sand dunes Merzouga in 4WD. **Visit the Dunes of Erg Chebbi** and Hassi Labied. Pass through the **Khamlia Village** where Gnawa music originated. A picnic style lunch will be prepared for you in an oasis before visiting the fossil mines and the meeting Nomads of the Sahara Desert.

In the evening before sunset head back to the camp for a **camel ride and private dinner with entertainment.**



Day 5 – Transfer from Merzouga to Skoura

Transfer from Merzouga to Skoura via the **Dades Gorges**, a series of rugged wadi gorges carved out by the Dades River. The river originates in the High Atlas Mountains, flowing 350km southwest before joining the Draa River at the edge of the Sahara. Lunch today is independent. On arrival at your hotel, evening is at leisure. Dinner is included.



Day 6 – Departure to Casablanca

Depart from your hotel to Ouarzazate airport for your onward flight. Royal Maroc flight AT460 departs Ouarzazate at 08:20 arriving in Casablanca at 09:20 to connect with your onward flight.

The price for the extension is **\$ 2845 AUD** per person sharing a room (single supplement \$ 895 AUD), to include:

Accommodation:

- 2 nights at the Palais Faraj, Fes
- 2 nights at the Imperial Glory Lodges, Merzouga
- 1 night at Ksar El Kabbaba, Skoura

Activities:

- Guided visit of Volubilis
- City tour of Fes
- Evening street food tour of Fes
- Excursion to Erfoud
- 4WD excursion to Sahara camp
- Private dinner for party in the dunes
- Full day exploration of Sahara including oasis lunch, fossil mine and nomads
- Camel ride and dinner entertainment
- Excursion to Dades Gorge
- Domestic flight to Casablanca

Full support:

- Service of local guide throughout
- Transportation including water during visits

Tastes OF MOROCCO

Accommodations

5* Palais Faraj suites and spa, Fes, October 2nd to 4th



Set **in the heart of Fes** in a former Arab-Moorish palace, Palais Faraj Suites & Spa offers a view of the medina. It features an outdoor pool, spa, hammam, massage treatments and beauty salon. The reception is open 24 hours a day. Each air-conditioned, modern suite is decorated with Moroccan Zellige tiles and has free Wi-Fi, minibar and flat-screen TV with satellite channels. All have a private bathroom and some have a terrace.

Desert Glamping Imperial Glory Lodges, Merzouga, October 4th to 6th

Experience the enchanting magic of the desert, while staying in stunning luxurious lodges. With a unique touch of elegance and style, Imperial Glory Lodges are the perfect destination if you are looking for a serene getaway in the midst of the Desert of Merzouga, while having a taste for luxury and sophistication.



Tastes OF MOROCCO

4* Ksar El Kabbaba, Skoura, October 6th to 7th



Offering an outdoor pool and a spa and wellness centre, Ksar Elkabbaba is located in Skoura. Free Wi-Fi access is available. Rooms here will provide you with a TV, air conditioning and a seating area. Private bathrooms also come with a shower. At Ksar Elkabbaba you will find a restaurant and a fitness centre.