



## MOROCCAN CARAVAN, LLC. TANGIER & NORTHERN MOROCCO TOUR ITINERARY

### **DAY 1: ARRIVE TO TANGIER**

Today, all participants arrive to the port city of Tangier. We meet at our hotel and, if time allows, we may visit Cap Spartel, Africa's northwestern tip, which is located eleven kilometers west of Tangier. Cap Spartel is a scene spot where the waters the Mediterranean Sea mix with those of the Atlantic Ocean. Dinner together and overnight in Tangier. (D)

### **DAY 2: EXPLORE TANGIER**

Today we explore Tangier, a city that has been the gateway between Africa and Europe since ancient times. Today Tangier is a bustling and modern port, but it has retained its deep-rooted charm. As we enter the ramparts of the old city, one can't help but sense the centuries of history that it contains. Within its old city is the American Legation Museum, the first American public property located outside of the United States. Morocco was the first country to recognize the United States as an independent country in 1777. The museum documents the early diplomatic relations that existed between the United States and Morocco and the life of many Americans who made Morocco their home. (B, D)

### **DAY 3: TETOUAN – CHEFCHAOUEN**

Today, we head to Chefchaouen, Morocco's blue city. On the way we make a stop in Tetouan to do some exploring of this white-washed town. Tetouan was once an important point of contact between Morocco and Andalusia in Spain, and its importance continued after both Muslims and Jews were expelled from Al-Andalus during the Spanish Reconquista. We continue to the mountainous city of Chefchaouen, a gem tucked into the Rif mountains. Founded in 1471, this small, relaxed town will not fail to charm you. It is known for the many shades of blue that adorn the city's walls. Dinner and overnight. (B, L, D)

### **DAY 4: CHEFCHAOUEN**

Spend the day delving deeper into Chefchaouen's blue streets, a true photographer's paradise. In late afternoon, we enjoy a leisurely hike up the hill to the Spanish mosque and enjoy the breathtaking view and sunset overlooking the valley of Chefchaouen. Dinner and overnight. (B, L, D)

### **DAY 5: VOLUBILIS - FES**

After breakfast, we visit to Dar Batha, which features the Museum of Arts and Traditions of Fes and an

Andalucian garden. We have a rare invitation to attend a Sufi ceremony at a family's home that features soothing chants. After lunch in the Fes medina. we depart to Midelt making a stop in a Ifrane at the cedar forest. (B, L, D)

#### **DAY 6: EXPLORE FES**

We start our day with a visit of Fes el Jadid or “new Fes,” which, despite its name, is not very new. In fact, “new Fes” dates to the 13th century and was constructed when the Merinid Dynasty decided the old city of Fes was too small for their new mosques, schools, markets and gardens. The Merinids also protected the city's large Jewish population and built them their own district called the *mellah*, which we will visit. We also see *la ville nouvelle* (the new city), which was built during the colonial period by the French and features wide café-lined boulevards that stand in stark contrast with the winding streets of the older parts of the city. We continue with a panoramic tour of the city's ramparts. Roads outside the city take us to the ceramic and mosaic factories that make Fes famous. We spend the second half of the day in the old city, also called the *medina* or Fes el Bali. Fes is an exciting city and a wonderful place to see artists actively making such exquisite items as hand engraved brass plate and handmade silk weavings, using centuries-old traditional techniques. Also included in the visit is the city's famous tanneries, 14th century Qur'anic schools, and the 10th century Karaouiyine mosque and university, the oldest continually operating university in the world. The night concludes with a special dinner party in an authentic mansion located in Fes el Bali where we will enjoy a show of Morocco's lively music and dancing. Overnight at hotel. (B, L, D)

#### **DAY 7: RABAT**

Travel west to Rabat, the current capital of Morocco. Upon arriving, we spend the afternoon discovering the city, including the mausoleum built to honor King Muhammed the fifth, who led Morocco in the struggle for independence from European colonization. From his mausoleum, we will gaze upon the remains of the 12th century mosque of Hassan - a mosque that was intended to be the largest in the world but was never completed. Also, we visit the Kasbah of the Oudayas, a fortification that dates to the 13th century. This area is particularly scenic and we will meander through winding streets that end with a beautiful panoramic view of the Atlantic. This visit gives you the rare opportunity to compare and contrast medieval and contemporary Arab architecture in Morocco in close proximity to each other. Also of interest is the Mohammed VI Museum of Contemporary Arts. While Rabat has ancient remains that date back to the 3rd century B.C., it also is a thriving, contemporary city. We will explore Rabat's wide, European inspired boulevards, open-air cafes, and dine at one of its most dynamic restaurants. (B, L, D)

#### **DAY 8: RABAT – ASSILAH – TANGIER**

Today we head north, taking the coastal road that goes by Larache and Asilah in order to return to Tangier. Larache is a little town located on the Atlantic near the archaeological site Lixus, which was once a trading post for the Phoenicians, the Carthaginians, and finally the Romans. After our visit of see Larache, we head to Asilah, a coastal town about 40 kilometers south Tangier. Asilah shares with Larache a deep history that stretches back to the Roman era. Asilah has also been through Portuguese and Spanish occupations during recent history. Evidence can be seen in the Portuguese architecture, the ramparts, and towers that still remains. Portuguese fortifications enclose an ancient town with

white-and-blue-washed houses and a noticeable Mediterranean feel. By the end of the day, we must return to Tangier where we started the tour. We will have a farewell dinner before we officially end our tour.