



MOROCCAN CARAVAN, LLC. SKETCH MOROCCO TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART USA TO CASABLANCA/MOROCCO

Today, travelers fly to Morocco. Passengers book their own flights. Suggest only nonstop service flights to take from the US to Casablanca Morocco are with Royal Air Maroc:
From Washington DC, Dulles international airport (IAD) From New York (JFK) From Boston, Logan airport (BOS) From Miami (MIA) From Montreal (YUL)

DAY 2: CASABLANCA - FES

Arrive at Casablanca airport, meet your tour leader and transfer on a private bus to Fes. (L, D)

DAY 3: EXPLORE FES

Morning departure for a guided tour to explore one of Morocco's most historic and important cities - Fes. As we explore, we will have sketching opportunities. We will start with a panoramic view over Fes to a general introduction to Fes. We will then continue into the medina ("old city") to see different sections. Each section specializes in certain types of handmade arts and crafts, such as ceramics, leather work at the ancient leather dyeing vats at one of the oldest and still operating tanneries, embroidery, weaving and more. We will also visit a very old Medrassa or school. We will have a traditional lunch and sample a wide variety of local cuisines at a beautiful old home turned into a restaurant. Continue our exploring.

Our day will conclude with a special dinner at a local restaurant specializing in authentic Moroccan cuisine with a show featuring a variety of musicians and dancers representing different areas and ethnic groups. As a special treat, we will have a presentation of a Moroccan wedding celebration with our group members participating in the ceremony to get very close to the culture, including dancing for all. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: FES - VOLUBILIS - MIDELT

After breakfast, we go to a family home inside the old medina for a special Sufi ceremony, mint tea and Moroccan pastry before we head out of Fes to Volubilis, a Roman site that preserves its original mosaics. We will have a guided visit. After lunch at a small holy town in the nearby slopes, we depart for Midelt via Ifrane and the cedar forest. Today is a great day for sketching ruins, villages, and varied landscapes. (B, L, D)

DAY 5: MIDELT - SAHARA DESERT - TAFILALET PALM GROVE

Drive south through the Ziz Valley to the Tafilalet Oasis/ Palm grove. We will make stops for sketching. In late afternoon, we visit the town of Rissani, a former hub for trans-Saharan trade. We will visit the local traditional market. These locations present perfect places for quick sketching of architectural elements and people in motion. We will spend the night at a local family home for a different experience. Tonight, make sure you prepare an overnight bag and don't forget your bathing suit for May 18 camel trekking and desert camping. (B, L, D)

DAY 6: SAHARA DESERT - CAMEL RIDE AND OVERNIGHT AT A SAHARAN CAMP

We will explore a seventeenth century adobe village to learn about life in this area, sketch architecture and feel the passage of time. We then go have a delicious regional specialty lunch and a presentation by a local to learn about different textiles of Morocco. In late afternoon, we go on a magical camel ride across the sand dunes for an overnight with dinner and music. Be prepared to join the drumming and dancing circle at our Saharan camp! (B, L, D)

DAY 7: RETURN FROM CAMP, HASSI LBIED VILLAGE, KHAMLIA VILLAGE & MEZGUIDA

After returning from our camel excursion, we spend time at an adobe guest house at the foot of the sand dunes. Participants can rest and enjoy time by the pool, also an opportunity for sketching in the dunes or the garden. Lunch will be served then leave to go explore a Saharan oasis and agricultural fields, witness how locals extract water from the dunes for drinking and irrigation of their gardens. We also will visit an adobe pueblo inhabited by a community with sub Saharan origins. (B, L, D)

DAY 8: TODRA GORGE AND BOUMALEN DADES VALLEY

Today's ride is full of unique scenes, such as the khuttaras, an ancient underground system of irrigation. On the way, we will stop for sketching opportunities. When in Erfoud, if time allows, we will learn about fossils that this area is known for. We will stop for lunch and along the way, we will see Todra Gorge (canyon) after passing through a lush valley surrounded by many villages and filled with date palms. Here will be an opportunity to sketch in the valley of the mountains. Then we continue our spectacular ride to spend the night at a guest house in the Amazigh town of Boumalen in the Dades Valley. (B, L, D)

DAY 9: KALAA MEGOUNA - OUARZAZATE - KASBAH AIT BEN HADDOU

We enjoy a leisurely morning, sketch and paint before we head out in the direction of the rose valley. We will be treated to lunch and a special music and dance performance from this area. We will then drive through Ouarzazate, a town known for film production. One of the highlights is the world heritage site Kasbah Ait Ben Haddou. Overnight in Ait Ben Haddou. Dramatic sketching opportunities throughout this day! (B, L, D)

DAY 10: MARRAKECH

Today, we will cross the amazing High Atlas Mountains. The scenery in the mountains is striking and unique, as one can see dozens of Amazigh (Berber) villages accented with terrace gardens built by

local villagers. We will make stops for sketching /painting. Also, we will visit a women's cooperative that specializes in making the famous rich argan oil. Overnight in Marrakech. (B, L, D)

DAY 11: EXPLORE MARRAKECH

We will explore Marrakech, including the 19th century Bahia Palace. The 11th century Koutoubia Mosque and gardens are a must see. These are great sketching sites. We will have lunch then enter the souks ("markets") to enjoy its colors and its smells. The souks, also, are filled with sketching opportunities. (B, L, D)

DAY 12: EXPLORE MARRAKECH

Today, we will go for a 10:30 am visit to the hidden garden ("Jardins Secret"), a garden created on the grounds of a historical site. Spend some time at the gardens for sketching. After, we go explore more of the souks. (B, L)

DAY 13: MARRAKECH

Today, Participants can enjoy a free day or go on an optional visit to Anima gardens located in Ourika Valley, 40 minutes south of Marrakech. If anyone is interested in an optional day trip to the coastal town of Essaouira, 3 hours ride each way, we can assist with booking and logistics. Decision for optional activities can be made once we are in Marrakech. (B)

DAY 14: TRANSFER TO CASABLANCA AIRPORT

Transfer to Casablanca airport for those leaving today. (B) Bon Voyage!!