Morocco
October 13 - 28, 2019
16 Days • 28 Meals
Escorted by Robert Craig
Located at the crossroads where Africa and Europe meet and where Christianity and Islam come face to face, Morocco transports us to another world and another time. On this journey we will explore the mysterious walled Imperial Cities as we lose ourselves in the intricate alleyways and exciting shops of the souks, while staying in a number of quaint riads, the traditional boutique hotels of Morocco. We shall venture out to the very edge of the vast Sahara, with an overnight in a deluxe tented camp and riding 4x4s over the sand dunes. We shall follow the caravan routes of the Berbers and marvel at the physical beauty around us.

In Fez and Marrakech, we will stay in intimate riads, located in the heart of each city. Each offers a truly unique experience. Space on this adventure is limited so book early!

### Inclusive Features
- Return economy group airfare from Canada to Casablanca
- 14 nights in first class hotels and comfortable riads, as indicated or similar
- 28 meals (B-14 breakfasts, L-4 lunches, D-10 dinners)
- Bottled water on the coach daily and at all included lunches and dinners plus tea/coffee at dinners
- Transfers and baggage handling
- Gratuities, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare
- Services of our tour escort plus a professional guide in Morocco

### Tour Highlights
- Visit the four Imperial cities of Morocco, Rabat, Meknes, Fez and Marrakech
- Two days in the world’s largest medieval city, Fez
- Overnight in a deluxe tented camp
- Venture to the edge of the Sahara with 4x4 excursions
- Visit Kasbah Country, the old Berber trading route
- Marrakech (4 nights) Churchill’s favourite Moroccan haunt
- Inside visit of Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca

**Tour Escort**

Robert Craig is of the third generation of the Craig family to pursue the love of travel and is Craig Travel’s Product Development Manager. In the last few years, he has travelled by rail, cruise ship, coach and car through and around three continents, exploring the fjords of Norway, the Alps of Switzerland, the islands of the Caribbean and the wilderness of Canada. Among his favourites were the slopes above Interlaken and the inland waterways of Norway. He is looking forward to sharing this Moroccan adventure with you!
October 13, Sunday
Depart Canada
Tour members from across Canada gather in Toronto and Montreal for the overnight flight to Casablanca.

October 14, Monday
Casablanca / Rabat
Welcome to Morocco! On arrival in Casablanca, we shall be met by our national guide and will transfer up the coast to Rabat and to our hotel. This evening we gather for dinner at our hotel. Villa Manadarine (2 nights)  D

October 15, Tuesday
Rabat
Today, enjoy an exploration of the city of Rabat which features the exquisite Tower of Hassan, the busy Kasbah des Oudayas, the impressive mausoleum of Mohamed V and the imposing Royal Palace, Chellah. The late afternoon and evening are at leisure.  BL

October 16, Wednesday
Meknes / Volubilis / Fez
This morning, we continue inland to Fez, the oldest and largest medieval city in the world. En route, we shall visit Meknes which once rivalled Versailles in its beauty and opulence. Built during a fifty year period by Moulay Ismail as his Imperial City, the city is a wealth of palaces and gardens surrounded by 40km of mighty walls. Enter through the massive gates of Bab Mansour to find the exquisite mausoleum of the city’s builder. Nearby we explore the Roman ruins at Volubilis. This UNESCO site dates back to AD40 and was the centre and capital of the entire Roman province of Mauritania. Later this afternoon, we arrive in Fez where we will spend two nights in the heart of the Medina with its bustling markets and heady mix of aromas, sounds and sights.

Riad Dar Bensouda (2 nights)  BD

October 17, Thursday
Fez
This is a day of enchantment as we visit the Medina, the ancient walled city of artisans, craftsmen and bustling markets. We then descend into the souks of Fez and enter yet another world. This is one filled with mingling odours of cedar, leather and spices as we discover the districts of tanners, engravers and merchants. You might also want to visit the Kairaouine Mosque, the Bou Jeloud Gardens and the Sultan’s Palace, each offering displays of classical Islamic art. To navigate, you will only have to follow one of the five themed tourist circuits.  BD

October 18, Friday
Midelt / Erfoud
Departing Fez, we cross over the Middle Atlas Mountains, into the heart of Berber country. En route, we pass Ifrane, a charming ski resort and Azrou, an important handicraft centre. Midelt is a pleasant town surrounded by huge pine trees and a tranquil mountain setting. This afternoon, enjoy the magical scenery as we head to the edge of the Sahara via Errachidia and the Ziz Valley dotted with palm trees. We will spend the night in Erfoud.

Kasbah Xaluca Maadid (1 night)  BD

October 19, Saturday
Erfoud / Merzouga
After a leisurely start to the day we continue to Merzouga and check into our hotel. This afternoon we plan to visit a local village and school, on the edge of the sands.

Auberge Tombouctou (1 night)  BD

October 20, Sunday
Merzouga
Be sure to rise early this morning and enjoy your breakfast before we switch to 4x4 vehicles for the last part of our journey to the Erg Chebbi dunes and the remote frontier. Our destination is to the Sahara and Marhaba, our deluxe tented camp surrounded by sand dunes. Each tent offers comfortable beds, a private en suite bathroom with hot and cold water and all the comforts you would not expect in a desert camp. There will be an opportunity to go for a camel back ride after which we will enjoy a desert sunset, a traditional meal with music and an amazing evening under the Saharan stars. Desert Luxury Camp (1 night)  BD

October 21, Monday
Todra Gorge / Dades
Following an early call to enjoy the sunrise over the dunes, we drive to Rissani, the holy city where Moulay Ali Cherif, ancestor of the Alaouite dynasty is buried. We will be able to view the remains of a 17th century Kasbah and the palace of Ksar Abbar. We continue our way to Tinghir to visit the magnificent Todra Gorge with limestone cliffs reaching 1,000 feet in height. Following lunch, we continue to Dades via the Dades Valley which is famous for its roses and the yearly Moussem (Rose Festival).

Xaluca Dades (1 night)  BD

October 22, Tuesday
Dades Valley / Ouarzazate
This morning we explore the Gorges du Dades in the Dades Valley, a green and fertile valley by the Dades River that flows through it giving life to a huge variety of colourful fruit and nut trees and extraordinary red rock formations. Known as “Kasbah Country” for the imposing forts that line the valley, this is the route followed by caravans of another century, from deepest Africa to the Moorish cities of the north. After lunch we tour the famous Aït-Ben-Haddou Kasbah, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where Lawrence of Arabia was filmed. Riad Ksar Ighnda (1 night)  BD

October 23, Wednesday
Ait Ourir / Marrakech
Today we travel through the Atlas Mountains. En route, we will make a small diversion to the village of Ait Ourir where we hope to meet the local Imam (head man) and visit the small school which serves about 90 children. You may wish
to bring a small gift for the school (school visit subject to confirmation). Continue to Marrakech, our final Imperial City and a favourite of Winston Churchill for his painting holidays. We are staying in the heart of the city in a riad, close to all the action. Riad Art Place (4 nights) BD

October 24, Thursday
Marrakech
Explore the sights, sounds and crafts of Marrakech. Begin with a stroll through the Jardin Majorelle, a favourite of Winston Churchill and a tranquil retreat from the bustle of the souks. Visit the adjacent Museum of Islamic Art before we take a break at La Maison Arabe (or similar) for a truly unique experience - a cooking class and lunch, eating the dishes that we have prepared. Step back in time as we explore the timeless world of Medina, its narrow streets leading to bazaars offering a bewildering array of goods, from copper to carpets, from slippers to hats. Highlights will include the Koutoubia Minaret, the Saadian Tombs, with their magnificent carvings, the Kasbah and the Jemaa el-Fna, the central square around which the city revolves. BL

October 25, Friday
Marrakech
Delve deeper into this fascinating city as we visit the Tiskiwin Museum, a traditional palace dedicated to Berber artifacts and culture, discover the art and architecture of the Bahia Palace, dating from 1880 and still used by the Royal Family. A special highlight will be our visit to the Amal Centre, founded in 2012 by Nora Fitzgerald to support local woman with disadvantaged backgrounds. BL

October 26, Saturday
Marrakech / Casablanca
A short drive from Marrakech is the mountain-top National Park of Toubkal. We begin our day with a drive up the mountain to the Berber village of Imlil where we will be taken on a gentle mountain walk exploring the park and the village, using country roads and local paths. Returning to Imlil we will be treated to lunch with a local family where we will experience and learn about traditional Berber lifestyles in the country. We will return to Marrakech in the late afternoon, with the evening free. BL

October 27, Sunday
Marrakech / Casablanca
This morning we make our way to legendary Casablanca, made famous by Humphrey Bogart. We will explore this port city, highlighted by the eclectically Medina, the Royal Palace, the magnificent Ain Diab Corniche and the stunning Hassan II Mosque. Our farewell dinner will be at Rick’s Café, recreated to fit the theme of “Casablanca,” set in 1942. Hotel Val D’Anfa (1 night) BD

October 28, Monday
Homeward Bound
This morning we catch our flights to Montreal and Toronto with connections to our homes across Canada. B

CT Rating 3.5 / 5 - Challenging: Members should be prepared for a relatively primitive country - with crowded cities and busy souks (bazaars). In the countryside services and facilities can be basic, especially in remote areas. This is a fast paced itinerary with several one night stays. This journey includes long walks, rough surfaces, stairs and crowded bazaars. Members must be in good health and physically fit to fully appreciate this adventure. A Riad is a traditional Moroccan house or palace built around a central courtyard that has been converted into a private boutique style hotel, with atmosphere and great locations, but often with limited restaurant and other facilities, no elevators or direct coach access.

Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars per person

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<th>Gateway Location</th>
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Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Tour price is based on sharing a twin room at hotels and on a minimum of 20 members, based on rates, taxes and fees effective September 2018 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted from Canada with a minimum of 20 group members.

Prices DO NOT INCLUDE the cost of insurance which is available and is highly recommended. Premiums vary with the cost, length of the trip, and the traveller’s age. For passengers up to and including 74 years on departure date, premiums will range from $278 to $346 pp plus applicable taxes. Cost supplements for travellers aged 75-85 will range from $196 to $385 pp plus applicable taxes. Premiums for singles are higher. This insurance is effective from the date of purchase and carries limitations on pre-existing medical conditions. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for general information and conditions.

Final payment will be due August 1, 2019
Deposit is $500 per person

To reserve your spot on this tour, complete the enclosed enrollment form, indicating the tour you wish to join and your home city, and forward it with your deposit to:

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