

Capital Region Chamber *presents...*

# Colors of Morocco

November 28 – December 12, 2021



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**Small Group Travel** rewards travelers with new perspectives. With just 12-24 passengers, these are the personal adventures that today's cultural explorers dream of.

**15 Days • 24 Meals:** 13 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 8 Dinners

**HIGHLIGHTS...** Rabat, Fes, Sahara Desert Luxury Tented Camp, Camel Ride, Khamlia Music Village, Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou, High Atlas Mountains, Marrakech, Choice on Tour, Cooking Class, Casablanca, Hassan II Mosque

#### ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2, 3	ONOMO Hotel Rabat Terminus, Rabat
Days 4 – 6	Palais Sheherazade & Spa, Fes
Day 7	Kasbah Xaluca , Erfoud
Days 8, 9	Xaluca Luxe Bivoaucs Belle Etoile, Merzouga
Day 10	Hotel Xaluca Dades, Boumalne du Dades
Days 11 – 13	Es Saadi Hotel, Marrakesh
Day 14	Barcelo Anfa Casablanca , Casablanca
	<i>On some dates alternate hotels may be used.</i>

**Explorations:** These small group tours give travelers access to the world in a truly authentic way. On these active, immersive journeys, travelers connect with the cultures of the world on a deeper, more meaningful level in ways that are hard to replicate. The group size is kept small, allowing these journeys to be the most active, engaging, and rewarding experience possible.

**Day 1: Sunday, November 28, 2021 Overnight Flight** On a captivating adventure through a land of centuries-old culture and customs, discover the “Land of Sunset” and “Gateway to Africa” – the place they call Morocco.

**Day 2: Monday, November 29, 2021 Casablanca, Morocco - Rabat - Tour Begins** Welcome to Morocco! After you land in Casablanca you will transfer to Rabat. Depending on your arrival flights, you may join your local Tour Manager on a vicinity walk to get acquainted with the area around your hotel in Rabat, your home for the next two days.

**Day 3: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 Rabat** Come to know Rabat on an in-depth tour\* with a local guide who will share his knowledge of this city and its architectural wonders. Visit the Chellah Necropolis, a walled town containing both Roman ruins and a medieval necropolis. Explore the Mausoleum of Mohammed V., the epitome of modern Moroccan design. The mausoleum’s ornate woodwork, marble, and bronze ornamentations make this a tomb truly fit for a king. See the Kasbah de Oudaias and its whitewashed buildings. Enjoy free time to explore on your own in the afternoon. At the end of your day, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

**Day 4: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 Rabat - Fes** Depart Rabat for Fes this morning. En route to Fes, stop at a winery estate for a tour, tasting and lunch. Explore the winery’s lovely grounds on a guided tour through the vineyard and cellar, taking in sweeping views of vines and tasting some of the vintages. End your tour with a lunch in the estate. Then continue on to Fes where you will spend the next three nights at your *riad*. (B, L)

**Day 5: Thursday, December 2, 2021 Fes** Get ready to discover Fes, one of the holiest cities in the world. Learn about its history as a center of government, philosophy, medicine, and religion. Visit the Royal Palace and the Al-Qarawiyyin University, the oldest continuously-operating university in the world (UNESCO), admiring its high arches and Andalusian influences. On a walking tour of the 9th-century medina, explore the alleyways and stalls of this ancient market. (B, D)

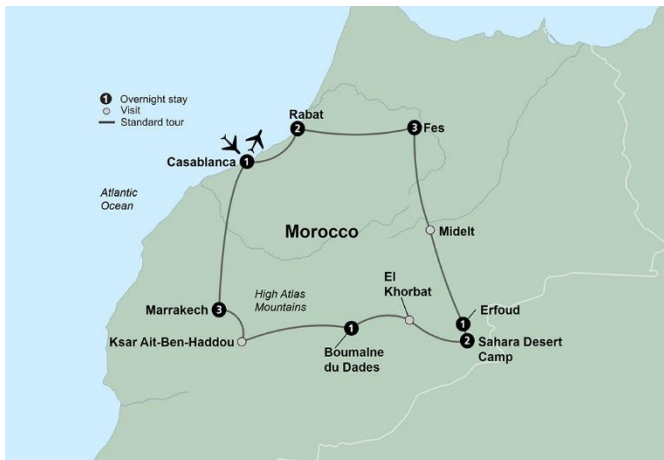
**Day 6: Friday, December 3, 2021 Fes** Enjoy your day at leisure in Fes. Explore the city further, strolling through marketplaces or visiting a museum. Perhaps you will join an optional tour to Volubilis and Meknes. On this full-day tour, experience Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with its impressive and well preserved Roman ruins. Then travel to Meknes, one of four Imperial cities in Morocco where you will see the Bab Mansour gate and have an included local Moroccan lunch. (B)

**Day 7: Saturday, December 4, 2021 Fes - Midelt - Erfoud** Cross some of Morocco’s most breathtaking desert landscapes on the way to the Sahara. En route, pause in Midelt to bask in majestic views of the Middle Atlas Mountains. Arrive in Erfoud, called “Door to the Desert,” and where many famous movies were filmed, including *The Prince of Persia* and *The Mummy*. (B, D)

**Day 8: Sunday, December 5, 2021 Erfoud - Sahara Desert** Enjoy your morning at leisure in Erfoud, taking in the peaceful desert landscape. Later in the day, visit a local date farm. Here, you will have the opportunity to interact with the farmer and learn about the process of farming in the desert. This evening, make your way by 4x4 jeep to your tented camp for a magical 2-night stay in the Sahara Desert. (B, D)

**Day 9: Monday, December 6, 2021 Sahara Desert** Rise early to watch the sun illuminate the Sahara in stunning hues of orange, yellow and red. View the expanse of the desert via camel this morning. Then, continue your day by traveling to the village of Khamlia. Meet with locals to have an eye-opening and meaningful discussion before





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\* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change, based on air inclusive package

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experiencing traditional sub-Saharan *Gnawa* music. Continue on your desert expedition and meet a nomadic community where we will learn more about this ancient way of living and how their traditions have changed. Return to your camp as the sun sets over the dunes. This evening, reflect on the serenity and beauty of the desert under a tapestry of twinkling stars. (B, L, D)

**Day 10: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 Sahara Desert - El Khorbate - Boumalne du Dades** Return to the edge of the desert this morning and marvel as the sun illuminates the vast sands. Visit the fortified village of El Khorbat Oujdid. Dating back to the 17th century, this village showcases Jewish and Muslim architecture and artifacts. Learn more about Berber culture while visiting the museum within the village. Later, arrive in Morocco's "Grand Canyon," Boumalne du Dades, where a golden sun lights up the gorge's river valleys, palmeries and burnished mud-brick homes. (B, D)

**Day 11: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 Boumalne du Dades - Ksar Ait-Ben-Haddou - Marrakech** Follow the rugged "Road of a Thousand Kasbahs," where turreted fortresses rise up like sandcastles along this ancient trading route. Arrive at the UNESCO site of the Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou and discover the earthen buildings, defensive walls, and corner towers that make the ksar a striking feat of Moroccan architecture. Before you reach the exotic city of Marrakech, continue along the Tizi n'Tichka Pass in the High Atlas Mountains, a scenic route through lush oasis valleys, imposing mountains and several Berber villages. (B)

**Day 12: Thursday, December 9, 2021 Marrakech** Among the mosques and palaces, souks and riads, visit the ancient El Bahia Palace, whose architecture is a distinct blend of both Islamic and

Moroccan styles. Embark on a walking tour with a local guide, stopping at shops along the way, or perhaps walk into the Jemaa El Fna Square, Marrakech's main square. Then **it's your choice!** Visit the Jardin Majorelle and the Berber Museum, two iconic sites that showcase the beauty and ingenuity of Morocco's cultural heritage - **OR**- explore the Musée Yves Saint Laurent and discover how the colors and textures of Morocco inspired this iconic designer. (B, D)

**Day 13: Friday, December 10, 2021 Marrakech** Today, join a local women's training center in an interactive cooking class. Head to *le jardin* to source your own herbs and vegetables and learn the secret to making the country's most celebrated dish: the tagine. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure. This evening, perhaps you will join an optional horse-drawn carriage through Marrakech, followed by dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L)

**Day 14: Saturday, December 11, 2021 Marrakech - Casablanca** Depart Marrakech for Casablanca this morning. Upon arrival in Casablanca, visit the largest functioning mosque in Africa, the Hassan II Mosque. Learn about the history and the significance of this mosque on a privately-led tour. Gaze upon the intricate, colorful artistry of ceramic tile and hand-carved stone of this architectural wonder. Then bid farewell to your Tour Manager and fellow travelers during a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

**Day 15: Sunday, December 12, 2021 Casablanca - Tour Ends** Your tour comes to a close this morning. (B)

For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/996929>

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Book Now rates valid until Apr 29, 2021, valid on air inclusive packages only.**

**IDENTIFICATION**

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require a minimum of 6 months passport validity from date of return home. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

**IMPORTANT:** We recommend that our clients traveling abroad take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

For your comfort, we recommend bringing walking shoes. If you require a walker or wheelchair, or have difficulty walking, you may not be able to access some of these areas and may want to consider an alternate program with us. Our travel counselors can provide additional information or assistance to help you determine the perfect trip for you.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

The fully equipped Berber-style tents offer beds, linens, pillows, flush toilet, running water, shower and solar lighting to make for an authentic yet enjoyable stay in the desert.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Triple and child accommodations are not available.

Due to luggage size and weight restrictions, please bring an overnight bag for the 2-night stay in the Sahara. Your main luggage will be stored during this stay.

\*The Rabat city tour may change due to Royal or Government official events.

***Travel with just 16-24 guests on this tour where a smaller group setting means a more personal travel experience.***

Days of features are interchangeable.

Smaller buses, which may not be lavatory equipped, may be used on this program. In this case, frequent stops are made during travel periods.

**The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3.** This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, Zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

**A deposit of \$600 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of April 22, 2021 are based upon availability. Final payment due by September 22, 2021. Deposits are refundable up until April 22, 2021.**

CST#2006766-20 UBN#601220855 Nevada Sellers of Travel Registration No. 2003-0279

For important reservation information visit

<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/996929>.

You can also find this information on your tour documents.