



DESERT STORM

SPRING BREAK 2024



PACKING LIST

- Best walking shoes
- Light layers of clothing, to protect from the sun during the day and changes in altitude.
- A sweatsuit/warmer set of clothing for two nights in the desert. Long socks are necessary.
- Sunscreen and sunglasses. A bathing suit for hotel pools
- Entertainment (headphones, books, ipads) for wifi equipped long bus rides.

LUXURY ACCOMMODATIONS

DAY 1

Hotel Farah Rabat

DAYS 2-3

Marriott Fez

DAYS 4-5

Nomad Palace Hotel

DAYS 6

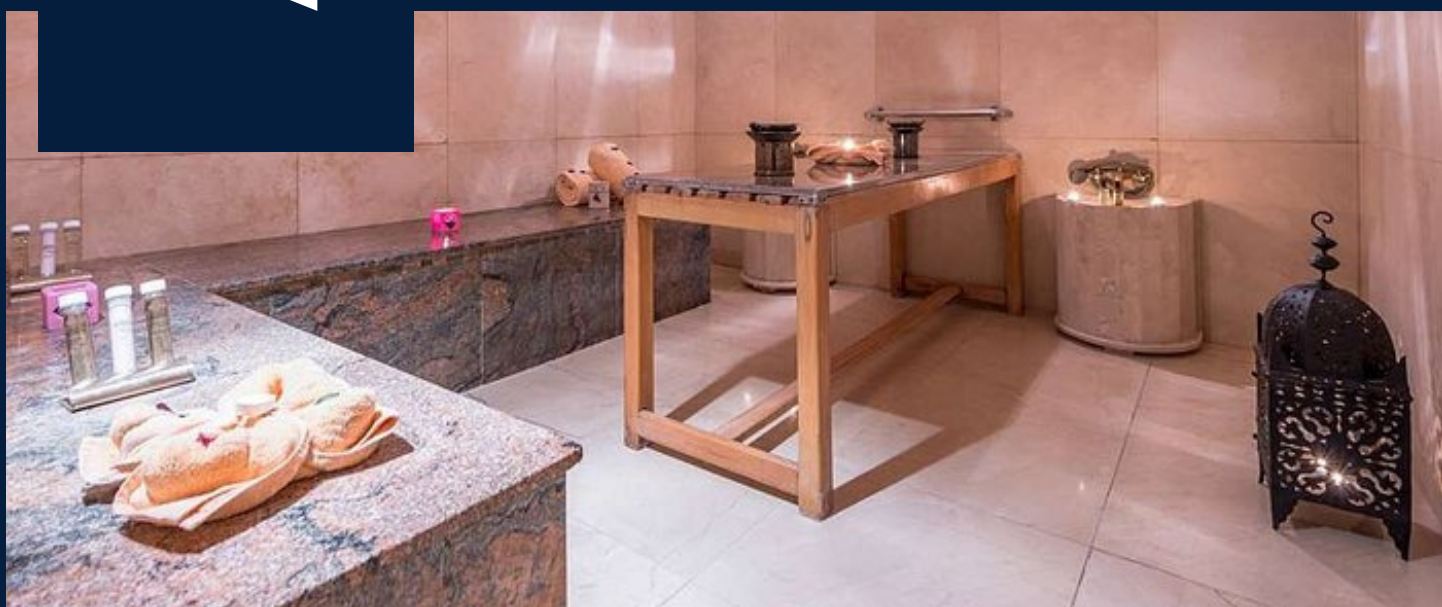
Dar Chamaa

DAYS 7-8

Kenzi Rose Garden



LUXURY ACCOMMODATIONS



THE BASICS

WEATHER

Weather in May is arid, breezy and warm - think Southern California in the summer. During the day, temperatures rarely drop below 70 or rise above 100. Loose fitting and light layered clothing is ideal.

LAUNDRY

Most hotels on our journey offer laundry services for an additional charge. Please see websites for fees.

FITNESS CENTERS

Most hotels on our journey have a fitness center and pool for guest use.

INTERNET & PHONE

Travelers will receive complimentary Wi-Fi at all hotels, as well on our coach bus. However, certain areas along the way may have spotty service. If this will be a concern to you, we recommend enabling low data modes with your cellphone company, and turning off data roaming and hotspots. Additionally, you could also purchase additional international data service through your provider or bring a portable Wi-Fi device if you need service when not at the hotel or on the bus.

WHATSAPP

One of the best ways to stay in touch with loved ones is to use WhatsApp. This app is free to download. You can use it via data or Wi-Fi to call or send messages across the globe, 100% free. It is also how our group will stay in contact throughout our trip. We ask that you please download this app before arrival.

CURRENCY

The best option is to exchange your money once you arrive in Morocco. There are many exchange houses spread across Morocco and you will be able to exchange throughout the trip. Fortunately, they usually offer a similar exchange rate so no need to obsessively check for the best rate (exception is the airport). ATM/Debit Cards also work well for withdrawing money while in country.

BEFORE YOU FLY

PASSPORT

All guests must have a valid passport for ID and immigration clearance. We recommend that all passports have an expiration date of more than 6 months following the trip's end date and have sufficient blank pages for entry stamps. Your passport name must match exactly with your air ticket name. For more information on obtaining and renewing a passport, visit the state department's travel website at www.travel.state.gov/passport.

COVID REQUIREMENTS

Moroccan Authorities lifted the restrictions (PCR and Vaccine Requirements) for entry. Only a health form must be completed. The form is distributed by airlines upon arrival.

FINAL PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

In the week prior to departure, you will receive a reminder email with the final details, including any necessary updates if applicable, that you need to know before you depart on your journey!

RETURN FLIGHT

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

On the final day of travel (23 May), transportation is provided from the Kenzi Rose Garden Hotel to Casablanca Airport (CMN - 2hrs 45min drive), departing at 8 AM and to Marrakesh Airport (RAK - 15min drive), departing at 8 AM.

ITINERARY

MAY 15 | MARRAKECH, CASABLANCA, RABAT

- This morning, once conference activities have concluded, please check out of the Kenzi Rose Garden Hotel.
- Our group will have a private transfer to Casablanca - the largest city in Morocco and the country's economic and business center.
- This afternoon, tour the French Quarters, the location of where "Casablanca" takes place and the Hassan II Mosque, the largest mosque in Morocco and the 10th largest in the world. Its minaret is the world's tallest at 210 meters.
- Continue on to Rabat, where we will settle in for the night,

MAY 16 | RABAT, FEZ

- Rabat, Morocco's capital, rests along the shores of the Bouregreg River and the Atlantic Ocean. It's known for landmarks that speak to its Islamic and French-colonial heritage, including the Kasbah of the Udayas. Grand French-designed gardens surround the Berber-era royal port and ocean overlook.





ITINERARY

- Tour some of Rabat's historical monuments including Kashbah Kasbah of the Udayas, located at the mouth of the Bou Regreg River (previously the Barbary coast pirates republic), the Mausoleum of Mohammed V (featuring elaborately dressed royal guards), and the Hassan Tower (intended to be the largest minaret in the world but never completed).
- Visit the King Mohammed VI Modern Art Museum.
- Later, we'll drive to Meknes - one of the four Imperial cities of Morocco, located in northern central Morocco, and the sixth largest city by population. Tour the Bab el-Mansour, the grandest of all Moroccan imperial gateways, as well as Lahdim square, and the mausoleum of Moulay Ismail.
- Tonight we'll continue on to Fez, and stay overnight.

MAY 17 | FEZ

- After breakfast at our hotel, switch into your best walking shoes and prepare for a full day of exploration in Fez.
- Tour the three distinct parts of Fez: Fez El Djede, also known as Fez the New, which was established in the 13th Century, has the most royal palaces, gardens, and museums. Next, we'll head to The Ville Nouvelle, also known as the Modern City, built in the 20th Century. It has tree-lined avenues packed with cafes, juice shops, patisseries, and restaurants. The third portion will be Fez el Bali, known as Old Fez. Founded in 800 BC by Moulay Idriss II, this is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

ITINERARY



- Decorated with elaborate cedar carvings and ornate tile work, this labyrinth has over 900 narrow, twisting, and turning lanes. Wandering through the local souks is like stepping back into the Middle Ages, as the locals do their work the same way they would have 1200 years ago.
- Travelers will return to the hotel. Please enjoy downtime and dinner on your own tonight.

MAY 18 | FEZ, ERFOUD

- This morning, settle in and rest on our seven-hour drive to Erfoud. We'll have ample stops during this journey. The caravan begins heading southeast, following the Caravan roads toward Merzouga. Enjoy some glimpses of the Middle Atlas and Higher Atlas Mountains. Stop at the Cedar Forest, the largest in Morocco and continue on, passing through the Middle Atlas Mountains, where there is a possibility of seeing Barbarian apes.
- We'll drive to Ifrane "Switzerland of Morocco" and make a lunch stop in Midelt, continuing on through the large open high desert, where the scenery changes to reveal hints of the desert. As you approach Er Rachidia, drive through the Ziz Valley and Aziz canyons to the Tafilalet palm grove oases, famous for date cultivation.
- Arrive in Erfoud for our overnight stay.



ITINERARY

MAY 19 | ERFOUD, CAMP MERZOUGA

- Spend a couple of hours exploring the nearby oases, as well as the famous ruined city of Sijilmassa, and the northern stop of the trans-Saharan caravan route. We'll quickly stop in Khamlia, the traditional Gnawa Music village, and meet the Gnawa tribes.
- The journey continues onto Merzouga, arriving early afternoon. Get ready for an exciting venture into the desert! Meet with the desert camp guides and switch to 4x4 vehicles at the Luxury Dunes Camp.
- Rev the engine and drive through the Erg Chebbi Desert and Merzouga Dunes.
- Soak in the scenery of the majestic orange dunes, nomadic tents, and vast open terrain. Later, catch the sun setting over the high dunes of Erg Chebbi.
- Travelers will sleep in luxury desert tents at Camp Merzouga tonight.

MAY 20 | CAMP MERZOUGA, SKOURA, OUARZAZATE

- In the morning, following breakfast, return to Merzouga via 4x4s and switch back into our primary vehicle. Continue the journey through the desert, driving through the Tinghir and Todra gorges - Morocco's highest and narrowest gorges. Pass through the Dades Valley, where you see the majestic sandcastles. Stop for a local lunch during transit. Finally, continue through the Valley of the Roses to arrive in Skoura oasis late afternoon.
- Check into our hotel in Ouarzazate.



ITINERARY

MAY 21 | CARAVAN, MARRAKECH

- Travelers will commence the caravan back to Marrakech, crossing through the High Atlas Mountains, the gateway to the Sahara Desert.
- Travelers can see the Taourirt Kasbah, home to a 19th-century palace with views over the rugged local landscape.
- Just to the northwest is the fortified red-earth city of Aït Ben Haddou, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Finally, continue on the winding highway through the Tizi n Tichka pass at 2200m to arrive in Marrakesh.

MAY 22 | MARRAKECH

- Tour the historical highlights of Marrakech. See Jamaa el Fnaa Square, the imposing Koutoubia Mosque, the crumbling El Badi Palace, the 15th-century Jewish Quarter, and the Saadien Tombs, where the bodies of Sultans and their families have rested for centuries.
- Our guide will educate travelers on local culture, food, and customs. In the early evening, travelers will watch the main square Djemaa El Fna come to life. Street performers draw in crowds, and open-air restaurants serve freshly cooked food.

MAY 23 | DEPARTURES

- Transportation is provided from the Kenzi Rose Garden Hotel to Casablanca Airport (CMN - 2hrs 45min drive), departing at 8 AM and to Marrakesh Airport (RAK - 15min drive), departing at 8 AM.



INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations for 9 days and 8 nights
- Most meals and drinks
- Private tours of museums, UNESCO world heritage sites, gardens, and palaces
- All listed activities and excursions
- Locally made souvenir for all travelers
- All listed transfers

EXCLUSIONS

- Airfare Travel insurance
- Additional gratuities
- Any meals/drinks not specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Expenses of a purely personal nature

KEY DETAILS



