

# WALKEUROPE

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Trips That Become Part of Your Life's Story!

## Morocco "Marrakech Immersion" History, Culture, Art/Design, Cuisine Discovery Tour October 2 - 8, 2022

### Arrival/Departure City & Airport

Marrakech, Morocco (MAR)

### ITINERARY SUMMARY:

7 Days / 6 Nights

- Oct 2 Sunday - Arrival • Welcome Reception
- Oct 3 Monday - Marrakech Medina & Souks • Al Bahia Palace • Saadian Tombs • Le Secret Garden • Dar el Bacha • Jemaa el-Fna
- Oct 4 Tuesday - Day Trip to Atlas Mountains & Ourika Valley • Berber Village • Moroccan Cooking Class
- Oct 5 Wednesday - Koutoubia Mosque • Marrakech Tanneries • Al Badia Palace
- Oct 6 Thursday - Jardin Majorelle & Berber Museum • Musée Yves Saint-Laurent • Agafay Desert Camp
- Oct 7 Friday - Marrakech Designer & Arts Day
- Oct 8 Saturday - Departure for Home or Continued Travels

### Day 1: Sunday, October 2, 2022

- Arrival - You will be met at Marrakech airport where you'll have a private car and driver **airport transfer** to our **5-star historic luxury hotel** located in the heart of central Marrakech, our Morocco home for the next six nights. The remainder of the day is to explore Marrakech at your leisure... take a walk through Place Jemaa el-Fna... visit Menara Gardens... relax around the pool.
- 6:30 PM - **Welcome Reception/Dinner** - With traditional Moroccan cuisine and wines hosted by Tom Harter, WalkEurope president... an opportunity to meet other guests and review the week's activities.

### Day 2: Monday, October 3, 2022

- For Early Risers - *Optional* before breakfast group pleasure walk through Marrakech city center.
- Breakfast - At the hotel.
- Morning - We'll join our local historian guide for a full day of seeing historic sights of Marrakech and a walking tour through **Marrakech's ancient and bustling medina and souks**. Our visit will include:
  - **Saadian Tombs** - Built in the 16th century as a mausoleum for Saadian rulers and entertainers, and neglected for more than two centuries, the tombs constitute some of the finest examples of Islamic architecture.

- **Palais Bahia** - A palace and a set of gardens built in the late 19th century, intended to be the greatest palace of its time. Andalusian, Islamic and Moroccan styles are represented.
- **Walking tour through the labyrinthine alleyways of Marrakech's ancient medina...** visiting historic souks with shops filled floor-to-ceiling with everything imaginable, from fabric to jewelry to slippers to spices to animal skins... observing metalwork, basketry and leatherwork craftsmen working in small stalls... seeing donkeys carrying goods.
- Lunch - On your own... or join a group lunch at a local restaurant located in the medina.
- Afternoon:
  - **Dar el Bacha** - Once the home for the famous Pacha Thami El Glaoui, Dar el Bacha is located in the medina. It was built at the beginning of the 20th century and is one of the most beautiful palaces of the red city.
  - **Le Secret Garden** - Located in heart of the Medina, a recently restored complex showcasing Islamic art and architecture. The garden and adjacent buildings date back 400 years.
  - **Jemaa el-Fna** - An afternoon stroll through Marrakech's unique and extraordinary main square (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) located at the heart of the Medina. In the late afternoon, food stalls appear next to rows of escargot sellers, snake charmers, musicians and story tellers.
- Late Afternoon - Relaxing at the hotel.
- Dinner - On your own... or join a group dinner at your own expense at a personally-selected Moroccan cuisine restaurant.

### Day 3: Tuesday, October 4, 2022

- For Early Risers - *Optional* before breakfast group pleasure walk through Marrakech
- Breakfast - At the hotel.
- Morning & Lunch - We'll head out to the countryside to a small village (approximately 40-minute drive from Marrakech) for a private, outdoor **Moroccan cuisine cooking class** hosted by a local chef. We'll learn about Moroccan spices... bake bread the Moroccan way using a traditional earthen wood-fueled stove... and prepare a tagine, a version of the classic Moroccan stew. The organic vegetables we'll use for the tagine are grown in the garden on site. While our tagine is cooking over the fire, we'll take a short walk in the countryside where sheep graze, wild cactus fruit grows, and the day goes untouched by modern life. Afterwards enjoying what we cooked for lunch!
- Afternoon - We'll take a short ride to the **Ourika Valley** at the foot of the **Atlas Mountains**. We'll visit a **Berber village** and see how the local population lives... and an afternoon stop for Moroccan mint tea.
- Late Afternoon - Relaxing at the hotel.
- Dinner - On your own... or join a group dinner at your own expense.

### Day 4: Wednesday, October 5, 2022

- For Early Risers - *Optional* before breakfast group pleasure walk through Marrakech.
- Breakfast - At the hotel.
- Morning - With our local historian local guide we'll visit:
  - **Koutoubia Mosque** - The masterpiece Moorish architecture pink-colored mosque has a 230' minaret (tower) that dominates the skyline of Marrakech. The 12th-century monument is one of the largest mosques in the Western Muslim world.

- **Marrakech Tanneries** - Marrakech is home to leather tanneries where local families have been employed for generations. The main tanneries and colorful Dyers' Souk are located on the edge of the Medina in the Bab Debbagh Quarter, where skins are dyed & hung to dry in the sun & warm air.
- Lunch - On your own... or join a group lunch at your own expense
- Afternoon - Visit to **Palais el-Badia**, the impressive palace built in the 16th century by the Saadian Dynasty that was once considered "one of the wonders of the Muslim world." It is an expansive masterpiece still standing high. From the arcades and columns encrusted with gold, turquoise and crystal, the ruins still tell the glory of the palace.
- Late Afternoon - Free time for... personal sightseeing to visit museums - **Musée d'Art Contemporain Africain Al Maaden (MACAAL,)** **La Maison de la Photographie de Marrakech** or **Mohammed VI Museum for the Water Civilization in Morocco**... visit Marrakech gardens - **Menara, Aguedal Gardens** or **La Palmeraie**... have a **Hamman massage**... relax poolside at the hotel.
- Dinner - On your own... or join a group dinner at your own expense.

#### Day 5: Thursday, October 6, 2022

- For Early Risers - *Optional* before breakfast group pleasure walk.
- Breakfast - At the hotel.
- Morning - We'll start our day by visiting:
  - **Jardin Majorelle** - The garden was a gift to Marrakech from the famous couturier, Yves Saint Laurent, and Pierre Bergé, who purchased the garden from the painter Jacques Majorelle. The garden is adorned with Majorelle blue, the color named for him. The garden, located in heart of Marrakech's Ville Nouvell (new town,) contains brightly colored flowers, over 400 varieties of palm trees ,1,800 species of cactus, and a pool of water lilies.
  - **Berber Museum** - Located in Jardin Majorelle in the former painting studio of Jacques Majorelle, the museum is dedicated to Berber traditions and presents Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint-Laurent's personal collection of Berber costumes, craftwork, jewels & musical instruments.
  - **Musée Yves Saint-Laurent** - Opened in October 2017, the YSL museum highlights the life work of the famous designer, displays works of his haute couture collection, and his connection to Marrakech. The museum's architecture has been recognized for its unique and innovative design.
- Lunch - On your own... or join a group lunch at your own expense.
- Afternoon - Free time for personal sightseeing, shopping, relaxing.
- Late Afternoon/Evening - We'll head inland to the arid and rocky environment of the **Agafay Desert** (approximately a 50-minute drive) for a taste of Moroccan desert culture. We'll be at an Agafay Desert Camp perched on a rocky expanse... welcomed with Moroccan tea and given a scarf to wear like those worn by Saharan nomads... we'll enjoy a camel trek (if you desire)... witness the beautiful desert sky at dusk and the glowing stars at night... have a private **festive traditional Moroccan cuisine dinner under a desert tent**. It's a magical evening you'll always remember!

#### Day 6: Friday, October 7, 2022

- For Early Risers - *Optional* before breakfast group pleasure walk.
- Breakfast - At the hotel.
- Morning - Today we'll have a special "insider's look" at the **Marrakech design and artisanship scene**. Led by an expat designer living in Marrakech for the last 18 years, we'll

visit ateliers and workshops tucked out of public view. These are personal connections of our designer host. We'll visit wholesalers and specialty shops which are off the beaten path known only to industry experts... we'll visit an atelier where local designers create their own twist on traditional home décor accessories... and we'll visit workshops to see new designs being created using traditional methods. This is a fun day with a little bit of Moroccan art & design education mixed in... and it's also a great day for shopping -- whether be textiles, indigenous jewelry or gifts for friends & family.

- Lunch - On your own... or join a group lunch at your own expense.
- Early Afternoon - We'll visit a bustling metal and brass workshop and get an up-close look at the design and creation process of large architectural works -- including lighting elements and furniture.
- Late Afternoon - Free time for last-minute sightseeing, shopping or poolside relaxing.
- **Farewell Dinner** - With traditional Moroccan cuisine & wines hosted by WalkEurope.

#### **Day 9: Saturday, October 8, 2022**

- For Early Risers - *Optional* before breakfast group pleasure walk through Marrakech.
- Breakfast - At the hotel.
- Say Our Goodbyes - Departure home or to onward destinations.
- **Airport Transfer** - Hotel to Marrakech airport.

Please Note: *WalkEurope strives to operate according to our published itinerary. However, in the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond our control or opportunities that would enhance the itinerary, adjustments may be necessary. Hotels and itinerary are subject to changes.*

#### **Cost:**

Classic Room:

\$5,975 Per Person Shared Accommodation / \$1,650 Added Cost for Private Accommodation

Deluxe Room:

\$7,425 Per Person Shared Accommodation / \$2,250 Added Cost for Private Accommodation

#### **WalkEurope Contact Info:**

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