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**KIPLING & CLARK *family* MOROCCO PRIVATE TOUR ITINERARY**  
**9 DAYS: RABAT/ FEZ/VOLUBILIS/ERFOUD/MERZOUGA/OUARZAZATE/MARRAKECH**

## DAY 1: DEPART U.S.

DAY SUMMARY: Depart U.S bound for Casablanca

## DAY 2: ARRIVE CASABLANCA, MOROCCO/RABAT

Upon arrival you will be met by your private guide and driver and transferred via private vehicle to Rabat. (Approximately 1 hour drive)



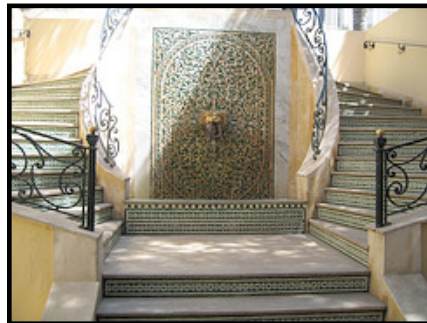
Rabat's most famous site is the 12th Century Hassan Tower (an excellent example of the gorgeous Mauresque style), the incomplete minaret of the great mosque built by Yacoub al-Mansour. Located alongside is the mausoleum dedicated to Mohamed V, the founder of modern Morocco and grandfather of the current king.

Another interesting site is the Oudaya Kasbah, which is built on a bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Its gate is one of the most beautiful surviving in the Moorish world. Beyond the city walls are the remains of the ancient city of Sala, also known as Chella.



At the conclusion of your sightseeing, you are transferred to your hotel.

La Tour Hassan is located in the heart of Rabat - Morocco's political capital and close to its Medina. The hotel, which was built in 1914, is Moorish in style and luxuriously decorated with marble and mosaics. The hotel also boasts a splendid Andalusian garden with fountains.



*Meals: Breakfast*

*Accommodation: La Tour Hassan - Deluxe Room*

## DAY 3: RABAT/MEKNES/VOLUBILIS/FEZ

After breakfast, you depart overland to Meknes (a UNESCO World Heritage site), one of the Imperial Cities of Morocco. **Your drive will take approximately 3 hours. (Please be advised you will be driven in Mercedes VITO vans throughout your trip – 6 seater plus driver and guide.)** In Meknes, the impressive monuments recall the splendor of a city,

first built in the 17th Century by the powerful sultan Moulay Ismail, to rival the court of his contemporary Louis XIV of France.

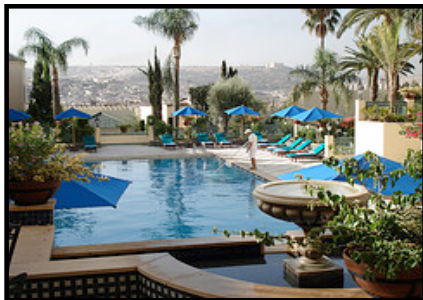
During your visit to Meknes you will see the monumental Bab Mansour gateway - considered one of the finest of the great gates of Morocco, the Granaries and the Royal Stables, which were built to accommodate some 12,000 horses. You will also see Moulay Ismail's Mausoleum, one of the few shrines in Morocco that can be visited by non-Muslims. While in Meknes, enjoy a break with a light lunch.

You continue on to **Volubilis (also a UNESCO World Heritage site)**, home to the largest and most well



preserved Roman ruins in Morocco, including Triumphal Arches, Basilicas and Capitols, the Volubilis skyline is peppered with examples of Roman architecture.

Most historians consider the most noteworthy treasure of Volubilis to be the superb mosaic floors, which have been excellently preserved and left in situ. Three outstanding examples include: Orpheus charming animals with his lyre, nine dolphins signifying good luck, and a portrait of Amphitrite in a chariot drawn by a seahorse.



At days end you are transferred to the Palais Jamaï. Considered one of Morocco’s most famous establishments, the Sofitel Palais Jamaï is situated just inside the walls of the great city, perhaps the most dramatic location in Fez. This traditional hotel was once the palace of the Prime Minister and contains intimate public rooms full of carved wood, elaborate stucco and mosaics.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

*Accommodation: Sofitel Fes Palais Jamaï – Deluxe Medina Room*

### DAY 4: FEZ

Today should be a special treat for you as you will take a step back in time to the Middle Ages when you visit one of the most imperial, timeless and untouched cities in the world - Fez El Bali (Old Fez) – the cultural heart of Morocco. You will explore some of the 9000 narrow lanes (fun!), alleys and souks that make-up the labyrinth of the city’s old quarter, originally founded in the 8th Century AD by Moulay Idriss I.

The Imperial capital was a renowned center of medieval learning and at its heart still remains the Karaouine, one of the oldest, still functioning universities in the world. In the neighboring building is the Attarine Medersa (Koranic college), a jewel of Hispano-Moorish architecture, built in the 14th Century.

You also visit Fez El Jedid (New Fez), built by the Merinid Dynasty in the 13th Century. Here you will see the Royal Palace, mosques, medersas, souks and the city wall. Most notably, Fez El Jedid is home to the Mellah, the old Jewish quarter, which provides an interesting insight into Jewish architecture. The wrought iron decorated windows and splendid carved wood balconies of the old mansions are particularly outstanding. The medieval Medina is a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Your day of sightseeing also includes visits to the Nejjarine Square, with

its beautiful fountain with elaborate tile-work mosaics, the nearby Fondouq (Caravanserail), now converted to a museum of carpentry artifacts, Dar Batha Palace which houses the Museum of Moroccan Arts and its collections of wood carvings, embroidery, tribal carpets and ceramics.

*Meals: Breakfast*

*Accommodation: Sofitel Fes Palais Jamaï*

### DAY 5: FEZ/ERFOUD/MERZOUGA

Camals + desert + Bivouac tent!

This will be the longest drive of your trip, crossing the desert from Fez to Erfoud with your private driver and English-speaking guide (approx. 8 hours). In Erfoud you get a powerful sense of the proximity of the desert. Erfoud is one of the largest oases in Morocco. From the East Fort overlooking the village there are splendid views over the date palms, the Ziz Valley and the desert.

Continue on to your camp in Merzouga in a 4x4, an approximate 45 minute drive.

Upon arrival, enjoy a reception with mint tea and pastries before setting off on your camel trek to enjoy a sunset over the sand dunes. Back in camp you are accommodated in a traditional nomad tent and enjoy a dinner around a campfire. Please be advised that other guests staying at the camp will join you for dinner. Relax and enjoy your surroundings as you take in the sunset (hopefully a good one!) over the sand dunes of Erg Chebbi.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

*Accommodation: Desert Camp (Bivouac Tent)*



## DAY 6: MERZOUGA/ OUARZAZATE

The morning drive is through romantic empty desert of the south to the towering Todra Gorges. Continue through the southern slopes of the High Atlas range, following the Dades Valley to the city of Ouarzazate, founded by the French in the 1920's as a garrison and regional administrative center. (Total driving time – approximate 5 hours 45 minutes)



The Berbere Palace rests on a hillside overlooking the town. The terracotta lobby features mosaic pillars, a central fountain and an abundance of rugs and fresh flowers. Accommodations are decorated with handsome fabrics in local motifs, tiled floors topped with rugs, coordinated painted furniture.

Guests can dine in their low-key restaurant (terrace seating available). Our clients have enjoyed their stay here!

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

*Accommodation: Berbere Palace – Junior Suite*

## DAY 7: OUARZAZATE/ MARRAKECH (APPROXIMATE 4-HOUR DRIVE)

Today you tour the area in and around Ouarzazate with your private vehicle and English-speaking guide. Ouarzazate, which was originally built as a French garrison in the 1920s, is today as a regional trade center, known for its pottery and carpets. Your sightseeing includes visits to the Glaoui

Kasbahs of Taourirt and Tifoultoute. The Glaoui brothers were the most powerful tribal leaders at the turn of the century.

The Kasbah Taourirt, which is situated on the edge of the town on the road to Er Rachidia, is considered to be one of the most beautiful kasbahs of Morocco. It consists of a network of luxury apartments, simple clay houses and crenellated towers which are beautifully decorated with geometric motifs. The Kasbah of Tifoultoute lies about 3 miles north of Ouarzazate. This structure was originally constructed approximately 250 years ago and has since been very tastefully converted into an inn which offers its guests a splendid view across the valley of the Oued Ouarzazate and the Jebel Sarhro.

Your guide will share the history of Aït Benhaddou which once served as the former caravan route between the Sahara and Morocco. Aït Benhaddou was once a significant stop for traders carrying gold, salt and slaves along the famous Southern Caravan route moving through the Sahara. You will browse the village shops then climb back and head to the village of Tamdaght which is only six miles away dominated by the canyon walls of a Glaoui Kasbah. You may enjoy a walk outside the Kasbah's lush terraced gardens and behold the same desert scenery used in *Gladiator* and *Alexander the Great* of Tamdaght.

After your tour, continue on to Marrakech. Pearl of the South, Jewel of the South, The Rose City -- just a few of the nicknames Marrakech has acquired over the years. The pearl and the jewel symbolize its importance as the center of Morocco ever since it was a trading and resting place on the crossroads of ancient caravan routes from Timbuktu. The rose attests to a city still painted entirely in salmon pink, in keeping with the red-clay earth below. Once called Morocco City by foreign travelers, Marrakech

eventually lent its name to the country itself. Part Berber, part Arab, part African, Marrakech is considered the heartbeat of Morocco, where palaces and monuments of unrivaled refinement sit calmly alongside the snake charmers and Gnaouan drums pulsing constantly from **Djemâa el Fna Square – the most exuberant marketplace in the world.**



*Located approximately ½ hour from Marrakech, Amanjena is AMAN Resorts only property in Morocco. With only 32 sunset-red colored private pavilions, Amanjena offers wonderful views of the snow-capped Atlas Mountains, adjacent to authentic Berber villages and the Medina of Marrakech.*

*Whereas Peninsula and Four Seasons rule the 5 star deluxe hotel category, AMAN Resorts alone occupy the highest elite level of luxury hospitality. Each Aman property is small (typically less than 50 rooms), integrating a minimalist aesthetic to complement the location's natural surroundings and culture. You see no traditional lobby bellboys or reception desk. The Aman goal is to create an atmosphere of staying in a private residence, not a hotel and is the preferred boutique resort among celebrities and noteworthy international businessmen. Although Bev, Zen and I have stayed at various AMAN properties in Asia, we have not had the opportunity to stay at Amanjena. Clients, however, have given rave reviews! (R. L.)*

*Meals: Breakfast*

*Accommodation: Amanjena - Pavilion*



## DAY 8: MARRAKECH

This morning, you set out for private touring of Marrakech. **Most of the city’s architectural attractions are inside the Medina, the old walled section of the town.**

Built in the 12th Century, the Koutoubia minaret is the most perfect Islamic religious structure in North Africa. This famous landmark dominates the local skyline and can easily be spotted from all of Marrakech.



Hidden away behind high walls are the Saadian Tombs. The Mausoleum displays a very high level of decoration, using traditional stucco and delicate Granada-style carving, which is typical of classical Moroccan buildings.

**The Bahia Palace** is a masterpiece of domestic architecture which provides a good insight into of how the privileged lived in the Imperial city in 19th Century. The use of marble, stucco and mosaics predominates in the

apartments, opening on to courtyards filled with fountains and plant life.

Dar Si Said, one of the most beautiful palaces, is now home to the museum of Moroccan Arts and Crafts. **Inside are stunning collections of traditional woven carpets and Berber silver jewelry.**

This afternoon, after a light lunch beside the pool at your hotel, you visit the labyrinthine souks of the old town. This maze of colorful alleys and small squares are home to a bewildering array of stalls and ateliers devoted to specific crafts.

Optional visit to the Djemâa el Fna to hear storytellers and musicians perform, be wooed by herbalists and acrobats.

Late afternoon/early evening private transfer from Marrakech to Casablanca Airport for early morning (2:05am!) departure. Approximate 3 hour drive.

*Meals: Breakfast*

*Accommodation: Amanjena - Pavilion*

## DAY 9: MARRAKECH/ CASABLANCA/DEPART.

Transfer to airports and depart back to U.S.

— END OF SERVICES —



*For more information or to book your customized journey, please contact:*

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