

ROM

The Best of Morocco

April 30 to May 14, 2024

A ROMTravel Art and Culture Trip



Figure 1: Ksar of Ait Ben Haddou, Morocco. © Penelope Hughes, 2023.

What does Morocco make you think of? Romantic medinas, colourful markets, the Atlas Mountains, snake charmers in Marrakech, camels in the Sahara Desert? We'll see all of these and much more as we explore the best this wonderful country has to offer. The trip will feature exclusive tours and less-visited sights. A series of local guest speakers will enrich our experience.

We will start in Casablanca, with a visit to one of the largest mosques in the world open to non-Muslims. Then on to Rabat, the capital, and Tangier, which formerly had a reputation for exotic decadence. Less well-known is charming Chefchaouen, with many houses painted a distinctive blue. The ruins of Volubilis remind us of how important this Roman city once was. Fes, where we will stay in a traditional style riad, feels like Morocco

from the past. A stroll around the medina reveals many delightful scenes, such as a zellij-tiled fountain or metalware market but watch out for cargo-laden donkeys!

On our drive through the Atlas Mountains, the scenery will amaze us. We'll spend a night in a luxurious camp in the Sahara and imagine the camel caravans that once transported gold and salt across the desert. We'll also stay in a ksar, a Moroccan castle or caravanserai, on our way to Marrakech. There we'll take in the highlights, including the bustling Jemaa el Fna Square and the Majorelle Garden, restored by Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge.

Morocco's justifiably famous cuisine will be featured throughout the trip, and we'll enjoy a variety of entertainment including traditional music. Do join us. It will be unforgettable!



Figure 2: Hassan II Mosque, Casablanca, Morocco. © Penelope Hughes, 2023.

Trip Itinerary and Highlights

Note: This trip involves some long drives and considerable walking, often on uneven surfaces and slopes. It is not suitable for anyone who has difficulty walking or climbing stairs.

Day 1 Arrivals in Casablanca

Individual arrivals at Casablanca Mohamed V Airport (CMN). Morning group transfer to meeting point for those arriving on suggested flight. Visit to Hassan II Mosque and lunch at Rick's Café. Drive to Rabat.

Day 2 Rabat

Guided tour of the highlights of Rabat, including the medina, Oudaia Kasbah, Hassan Tower, Chellah and Archaeological Museum. Welcome dinner at Villa Mandarine.

Day 3 Rabat to Tangier

Drive to Tangier with stops at the Punic-Roman site of Lixus, Asilah's medina and murals, the Caves of Hercules and Cap Spartel.



Figure 3: Looking south from Cap Spartel, Morocco. © Penelope Hughes, 2023.

Day 4 Tangier

Guided walking tour of Tangier, including Saint Andrew's Church, the Grand Socco, the American Legation, and medina. Dinner at Villa Josephine.

Day 5 Tangier to Chefchaouen

Drive to Tetouan, where we will visit the medina, Archaeological Museum, and have lunch. Continue to Chefchaouen, "The Blue Pearl of Morocco" and a walk in the medina.



Figure 4: Chefchaouen, Morocco. © Penelope Hughes, 2023.

Day 6 Chefchaouen to Fes

Morning at leisure or time for shopping in the Chefchaouen souk before departing for Fes. En route, we will visit N'zala Bni Amir, a women's textile cooperative.

Day 7 Fes

Special tour of the Karaouine University Library. Walking tour of Fes El Bali to see its beautifully decorated medersas, vibrant souks and busy tanneries. Dinner with musical entertainment at Mnebhi Palace.

Day 8 Fes

Day trip from Fes for a walking tour of the Roman site of Volubilis, with its wonderful mosaics. Tour of the Imperial City of Meknes. Lunch and wine tasting at Chateau Roslane.



Figure 5: Volubilis, Morocco. © Penelope Hughes, 2023.

Day 9 Fes to Erfoud

Drive through the Atlas Mountains, with stops at Ifrane, with its Swiss-style chalets, Midelt and the Ziz Gorge.

Day 10 Erfoud to Desert Camp

Visit an Amazigh village and learn to make "medfouna" for lunch. After a sunset camel trek, arrive at the camp for dinner and traditional music.



Figure 6: Sunset camel ride on the Merzouga dunes, Morocco. ©Penelope Hughes, 2023.

Day 11 Desert Camp to Ait Ben Haddou

Drive via Tinghir, the Todra Gorge and Skoura to Ait Ben Haddou for our stay in the Riad Ksar Ighnda.

Day 12 Ait Ben Haddou to Marrakech

Walking tour of Ait Ben Haddou before driving to Marrakech. Evening walk to Jemaa el Fna Square when it is at its most vibrant.

Day 13 Marrakech

Tours of the Majorelle Garden, Berber Arts, Yves Saint Laurent (YSL) and Dar El Bacha Museums. Lunch will be at the famous La Mamounia Hotel. Remainder of the day free.



Figure 7: Walking in the medina of Marrakesh, Morocco. © Penelope Hughes, 2023.

Day 14 Marrakech

Walking tour of the medina, including the Saadian Tombs, El Bahia Palace, and souks. Afternoon at leisure. Farewell dinner.

Day 15 Departures

Group transfers to Casablanca Mohamed V Airport (CMN) and Marrakech Airport (RAK). Individual departures.

Hotels

Casablanca (Meeting Point only)

Hyatt Regency Casablanca

Rabat

Hotel La Tour Hassan Palace

2 nights

Tangier

El Minzah Hotel

2 nights

Chefchaouen

Hotel Vancii

1 night

Fes

Riad Arabesque

3 nights

Erfoud

Hotel Xaluca

1 night

Desert Camp

Auberge du Sud Deluxe Camp

1 night

Ait Ben Haddou

Riad Ksar Ighnda

1 night

Marrakech

Les Jardins de la Koutoubia

3 nights

ROMTravel Coordinator

Penelope Hughes is Co-Chair of ROMTravel. She has explored more than 40 countries and enjoyed a range of experiences from a polar dip in Antarctica to gorilla trekking in Uganda. She is a sailor and Rear Commodore at a Toronto sailing club.

Travel Agency Tour Manager

Abdellah Bakhouch travelled with ROM in 2023. He is an Amazigh (Berber) who divides his time between his family home in the High Atlas Mountains and Marrakech. He will introduce us to a range of authentic experiences.

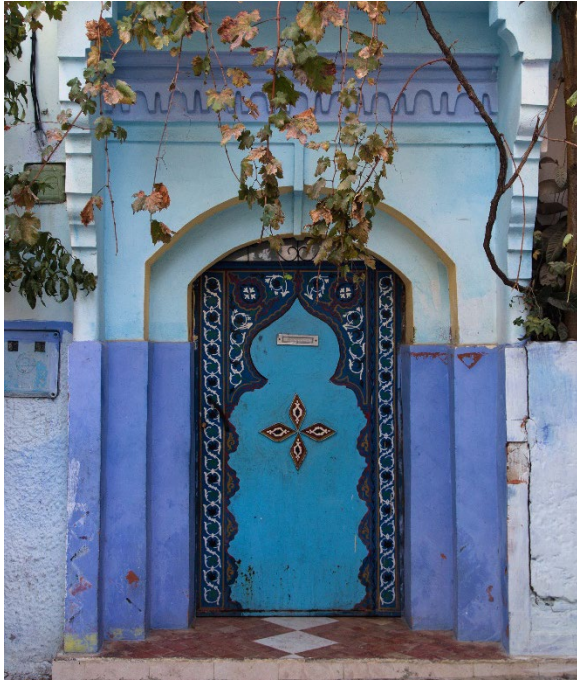


Figure 8: Door in the Blue Medina, Chefchaouen, Morocco. © cat_collector, Wikimedia Commons, 2015.

Trip Cost Per Person

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

Double Occupancy: \$ 9,595

Single Supplement: \$ 2,200

Tour begins at Casablanca Mohamed V Airport (CMN).

Tour ends at either Casablanca Mohamed V Airport (CMN) or Marrakech Airport (RAK).

International flight costs not included.

Contact Information

Penelope Hughes
ROMTravel Coordinator
Phone 416.686.3787
Email penhuws@gmail.com

Worldwide Quest International
Laurielle Penny
Phone 416.633.5666 or 1.800.387.1483
Email laurielle@worldwidequest.com

TICO Registration Numbers 2667946
and 1667953



Figure 9: Jemaa el Fna Square, Marrakech, Morocco. © Lviatour, Wikimedia Commons, 2013.

Terms and Conditions

The Best of Morocco
April 30 to May 14, 2024

Worldwide Quest International requires all participants on this trip to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. All trip leaders, guides and drivers will be fully vaccinated.

Living standards and practices at the destination and the standards and conditions there with respect to the provision of utilities, services and accommodation may differ from those found in Canada.

Trip Cost Per Person

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

Double Occupancy: \$ 9,595

Single Supplement: \$ 2,200

Trip cost does not include international flight costs between your home and Morocco. Worldwide Quest International can assist with booking flights.

Tour begins at Casablanca Mohamed V Airport (CMN). Tour ends at either Casablanca Mohamed V Airport (CMN) or Marrakech Airport (RAK).

Trip Cost Includes

Group arrival transfer from Casablanca Airport (CMN) to meeting point on Day 1. Group departure transfer from hotel to Casablanca Airport (CMN) or Marrakech Airport (RAK) on Day 15.

Porterage of one standard sized suitcase per person at the hotels.

Ground transport in private air-conditioned coach for transfers and excursions as per itinerary and in 4 by 4 vehicles at the desert camp.

Shared accommodation in double occupancy room with private facilities and free WiFi access.

Meals: Buffet breakfast daily, 8 lunches and 11 dinners. All meals include choice of bottled water, coffee, tea or soft drink. Welcome and farewell dinners with wine. Other dinners include two glasses of wine or beer, when available, as some restaurants do not serve alcohol. Bottled water daily on the bus.

All visits, entrance fees, speakers' fees and events as per itinerary.

Headset listening devices throughout the tour.

All taxes and tips for all goods and services, drivers, hotel, restaurant, and guiding staff related to the basic trip.

All hotel and local taxes.

Services of a ROMTravel Coordinator, English-speaking local guides, and Worldwide Quest International, including a tour manager.

Pre-trip orientations; post-trip reunion.

A trip handbook.

Not Included

International flight costs. Fuel surcharges.

Internet access outside the hotels.

Items of a personal nature such as laundry or phone calls.

Airline baggage or video camera fees, if any.

Visa fees, if any.

Meals, snacks, beverages, and other services unless specified.

Additional meals and accommodations due to delays for any reason.

Emergency evacuation costs.

Trip cancellation, interruption, baggage and out of province health insurance.

Costs associated with any additional requirements for entry to Morocco or Canada (or transit points in between) to comply with COVID-19 regulations (RT PCR tests, antigen tests, proof of vaccination, and so forth). In the event of a positive COVID-19 test result, costs related to flight re-scheduling, additional land transportation, quarantine or self-isolation accommodation and food.

Costs

All costs quoted herein are based on rates, fees, and taxes as of May 31, 2023. Costs are subject to change without notice. Should trip costs increase, Worldwide Quest International (as per TICO regulations) reserves the right to increase the cost accordingly up to a

maximum of 7%. Worldwide Quest reserves the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond their control. Any change to itinerary will not result in eligibility for a refund.

ROM Membership Requirement

Participants must be members of Royal Ontario Museum. For a full list of membership levels and benefits, visit the [ROM website](#). Only one person per room must be a member.

Deposits and Final Payment

An initial non-refundable deposit of \$1,050.00 per person is required at the time of booking. A second non-refundable deposit of \$2,000.00 is due on October 30, 2023. The balance of payments of \$6,545.00 per person, and if applicable, single supplement of \$2,200.00, are due on January 30, 2024.

Reservations

As the number of participants is limited, reservations should be made as soon as possible. In the event of oversubscription, a waiting list will be maintained.

Physical Limitations or Disabilities

Any physical limitation or disability requiring special attention or treatment must be reported when reservation is made or when it occurs, if later. ROMTravel, Worldwide Quest International and/or its agents reserve the right to decline to accept or to retain anyone who may in their sole judgment

require care and attention beyond that which can be provided.

Cancellations

All cancellations must be made in writing to Worldwide Quest International. All payments are non-refundable. No refunds will be given for payments made or unused services.

This trip follows Worldwide Quest International's "Tour-Ready" criteria. This trip will only proceed when all of the following "Tour-Ready" criteria are met:

1. The Canadian government does not have an "Avoid All Travel" advisory to the country or region within a country for any part of the trip.
2. No region of the trip has any significant COVID-19 related restrictions.
3. There is reliable airline access for arrival and departure.
4. Worldwide Quest International and its in-country partners are confident that your trip can operate safely and enjoyably.

You may transfer without any fee or penalty from any of Worldwide Quest International's land trips at any time if your trip is not 'Tour-Ready'.

For more information, read Worldwide Quest International's [Trip Cancellation and Refund Policy](#).

Documents

A passport valid for six months after the return date is required. It is the individual

participant's responsibility to ensure proper visas, affidavits, COVID-19 test results, proof of vaccination and/or any other documents that may be required to enter and or to not have to quarantine at the destination or upon returning to your home. Neither Worldwide Quest International nor ROMTravel is responsible for missing or incorrect travel documents. Note that public health entry and quarantine requirements for any country may change with little notice. Entry to another country may be refused even if the required information and travel documents are complete.

ROMTravel values your Privacy

Your contact information will be published in the trip handbook unless you advise not to do so. It is for the sole use of trip participants, ROMTravel and the travel agency, and will not be shared with anyone else. For this trip, Worldwide Quest International will not publish a list of participants. For this trip, Worldwide Quest International will not use photographic images of you for future promotional purposes.

Insurance

Travel insurance is available and is highly recommended. Insurance can be purchased from many different insurance providers. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that they have adequate out of province medical, hospital, trip cancellation and interruption insurance and baggage insurance to cover

changes in health or other circumstances prior to, or during, the trip, including coverage related to COVID-19 or other transmissible diseases. All losses suffered or additional costs incurred associated with failure to have insurance, or to have sufficient insurance, are the sole responsibility of the participant. Insurance purchased through Worldwide Quest International is underwritten by Manulife Financial. The insurance premium is non-refundable. Insurance may be purchased up to the time the initial deposit is processed, or at a later time but, if purchased later, would be subject to any changes to the premiums and/or to the participant's health or other circumstances at the time of purchase. Travellers may provide their own travel insurance or purchase travel insurance through another provider. A ROMTravel waiver of insurance will be required if the participant does not purchase insurance through Worldwide Quest International. Worldwide Quest International requires proof of medical insurance. For coverage options and complete coverage details, limitations and exclusions, please contact Worldwide Quest International for a quote.

Royal Ontario Museum Responsibility

Neither Royal Ontario Museum nor the Department of Museum Volunteers of Royal Ontario Museum, or any member thereof, assumes any responsibility for the financing, arranging or the

conducting of the trip, nor shall be liable for damages or loss to person or property that might occur in connection with this trip however arising, whether by negligence or otherwise, and whether or not a member of Royal Ontario Museum staff or the Department of Museum Volunteers accompanies the trip. The applicant by applying to join the trip hereby agrees to this limitation of liability on the part of Royal Ontario Museum, the Department of Museum Volunteers or any member thereof.

Responsibility and Jurisdiction

The Terms and Conditions herein concerning publication of a list of participants and use of photographic images of you supersede any such Terms and Conditions set by Worldwide Quest International.

Worldwide Quest International has additional [Terms and Conditions](#), which you must accept when completing Worldwide Quest International's online registration form.

Contact Information

Penelope Hughes
ROMTravel Coordinator
Phone 416.686.3787
Email penhuws@gmail.com

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Laurielle Penny
Phone 416.633.5666 or 1.800.387.1483
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TICO Registration Numbers 2667946
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Internet Link for this Trip

This document contains an internet link to become a ROM member. It can be clicked when viewing the document on a smartphone, tablet or computer screen.

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/join-us/membership/become-a-member>



Figure 10: The Pierre Berge Museum of Berber Arts at the Majorelle Garden, Marrakech, Morocco. © Viault, Wikimedia Commons, 2010.

ROMTravel
100 Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M5S 2C6

Phone 416.586.8034
Email travel@rom.on.ca
Website www.rom.on.ca

ROMTravel is organized by ROM's Department of Museum Volunteers to provide support for the Museum. ROM is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

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