

Byroads
Inspiring Escorted Journeys

MOROCCAN MOSAIC

Discover the many facets of this exotic and alluring destination

17 DAYS - STARTING CASABLANCA 24 APRIL 2019





MOROCCAN MOSAIC

Trip Outline

Morocco has experienced many waves of conquerors including Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans and Arabs, but it is the last of this group that has left the most enduring impression. Morocco is the oldest kingdom in the Muslim world and successive dynasties have left behind a rich culture and a wonderful heritage, including historic towns, ancient cities and spectacular monuments.

This exciting and comprehensive journey showcases the best of Morocco. We not only visit the celebrated cities of Tangiers, Rabat, Meknes, Fes and Marrakech but our tour encompasses lesser-known places we have discovered over the years including Sale, Chefchaouen, Tetouan and N’Kob, Merzouga and Ait Benhaddou in the south.

From Casablanca we travel to the capital Rabat and to the former pirate haven of Sale before following the coast to lovely Tangiers on the Strait of Gibraltar. Tangier has for centuries been Europe's gateway to Africa. Turning south we visit Tetouan, nestled between the Rif Mountains and the Mediterranean, and then the blue washed mountain village of Chefchaouen with its stunning Kasbah. Next is the imperial city of Meknes and the stunning Roman ruins of Volubilis and in due course we reach the amazing city of Fes, with its maze of medieval souks and there’s time for a side-trip to the historical town of Sefrou.

Driving across the dramatic Middle Atlas, we arrive at Merzouga, where we ride camels into the golden sands of the Sahara. We now deviate from the traditional tourist route, travelling first alongside the Jebel Saghro and then into the lovely Draa Valley. We experience stunning landscapes, explore atmospheric towns and villages and enjoy lunch in a historic kasbah at Tamnougalt. This region of Morocco is a particular ‘Byroads’ specialty, and a major highlight of the trip. Four days allows ample time to experience this incredibly scenic region without hurrying through. Heading to the Atlantic coast, we then spend two nights in the delightful walled medina of Essaouira before driving to Marrakech where we visit all the major sights.

Throughout this tour you will experience some charming and atmospheric accommodation, including historic riads and authentic kasbahs.

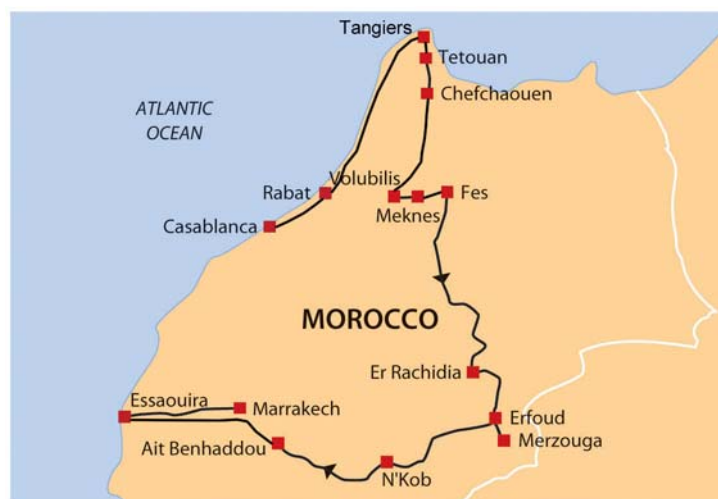
Tour Host – Steve Mortimer



Steve Mortimer heads up Byroads Travel and will be your host on this tour. Steve has nearly 30 years in the travel industry and has travelled to well over 100 countries. He has worked with a number of well-known Australian adventure travel companies. Most recently he has been involved in researching and developing holidays in several different regions of the world including Latin America and the Middle East where he lived for two years in Egypt.

Steve likes nothing better than getting out and about with like-minded travellers, sharing his knowledge and introducing participants to some of the world’s most interesting places. On this trip, there is a focus on the kasbah-studded valleys of Morocco’s deep south – a particular Byroads speciality.

With our itinerary you can be confident you’ll visit all the ‘must see’ attractions – and much more, however there are some days when you’ll have time to wander and make some of your own discoveries. Throughout the tour local guides are employed to provide a wealth of background information and share their extensive local knowledge.



ITINERARY STARTS IN CASABLANCA

WED 24 APR: CASABLANCA – Upon arrival at Casablanca Airport you are met and transferred to your hotel. Today is simply an arrival day and we will plan to meet up in the evening.

THU 25 APR: RABAT-SALE-TANGIERS – Having visited Casablanca's giant Hassan II mosque we head to nearby Rabat to view the Hassan Tower and the royal mausoleum. We explore Sale's old medina and slave market and then drive north to Tangiers on the Strait of Gibraltar. (B)

FRI 26 APR: TANGIERS – Rooted in an enduring eccentricity, Tangier's charm is undeniable. We'll visit the beautiful Kasbah museum with its collection of artefacts dating from Phoenician times and enjoy the great views of the harbour. Later we travel out to visit the Caves of Hercules before enjoying a free afternoon to explore the medina and fantastic cafes of the city. (B)

SAT 27 APR: TETOUAN-CHEFCHAOUEN – Today we head to the the old town of Tetouan, nestled between the Rif Mountains and the Mediterranean. Once the capital of the Spanish Protectorate the markets of this town are particularly interesting. Turning south we arrive at the charming 'blue' mountain village of Chefchaouen, where the balance of the day is free to explore. (B)

SUN 28 APR: VOLUBILIS, MOULAY IDRIS, MEKNES – Continuing South we explore the Roman city of Volubilis and stop for coffee in the holy city of Moulay Idriss before arriving in Imperial Meknes. Here we visit the great storerooms of Moulay Ismail, Dar Jamai, Bou Inania Madrasa – and take a walk through the atmospheric medina.

MON 29 APR: MEKNES-SEFROU-FES – Having finished our discoveries of Meknes we visit the picturesque little town of Sefrou where we have the opportunity to enjoy a traditional couscous meal with a local family before exploring the town's wonderful traditional medina. Later we travel to Fes where we settle into our traditional Riad where the remainder of the afternoon is free. (B)

TUE 30 APR: FES – Today we explore wonderful Fes visiting new Fes by bus and then on foot in the ancient city. We discover beautiful Bou Inania Madrasa, and the Funduk Neijarine and watch local artisans creating intricate Zellij tile mosaics. Later we explore the eastern end of the old city, including the coppersmiths' souk and the celebrated Tanneries. (B)

WED 1 MAY: FES-ER RACHIDIA – We drive south to the small town of Er Rachidia, passing through a variety of scenery between the Atlas and Anti-Atlas Mountains. We stop at Ifrane, a winter ski resort with quaint, 'alpine' houses, and visit Azrou with its small medina. We spend the night at a charming, family-run auberge in Er Rachidia. (BD)

THU 2 MAY: MERZOUGA & THE SAHARA – Near Erfoud we explore the ruined Ksar Maadid, and at Rissani we visit the busy Thursday souk. Reaching Merzouga we have time to relax and swim before a fun sunset camel ride into the dunes. (BD)

FRI 3 MAY: JEBEL SAGHRO/N'KOB – We now take a rarely travelled route towards the Jebel Saghro to the gorgeous Kasbah-studded town of N'Kob. In the afternoon we walk through the lush palmery with Ibrahim, a local character, and explore the village further. (BD)

SAT 4 MAY: N'KOB-AIT BENHADDOU – We drive through the stunning Draa Valley and visit the old ksar at Tamnougalt and nearby Kasbah of Caid Ali. We then continue via Ouarzazate and arrive at our fabulous kasbah-style hotel located in Tachdirt on the outskirts of Ait Benhaddou. (BD)

SUN 5 MAY: AIT BENHADDOU, TELOUET – After breakfast we travel through one of Morocco's most stunning valleys to visit the celebrated Glaoua family kasbah at Telouet. The afternoon is free to relax. In the late afternoon we visit the World Heritage-listed ksar at Ait Benhaddou. (BD)

MON 6 MAY: AIT BENHADDOU-ESSAOUIRA – We drive over the High Atlas and down across the hot plains to the lovely coastal town of Essaouira. It's a long day (9 hours) but we can look forward to a delicious dinner in one of the many seafood restaurants! (B)

TUE 7 MAY: ESSAOUIRA – Today is completely free to relax and explore this lovely old town. With its many quaint houses and covered alleyways, it reminds us a bit of Chefchaouen. (B)

WED 8 MAY: MARRAKECH – We drive to Marrakech. In the afternoon there's an optional cooking class or we can explore the amazing Jemaa el Fna and adjacent souks. (B)

THU 9 MAY: MARRAKECH – We enjoy a half day walking tour of Marrakech, including the Saadian Tombs and the Bahia Palace before we stroll through the souks to the superb Photographic Museum. The afternoon is free for a final burst of shopping! (B)

FRI 10 MAY: DEPARTURE – Our journey ends today, after breakfast. Airport transfers can be easily arranged from our Riad. (B)



Prices & Inclusions

17 Day Moroccan Mosaic

Price in Euros: EUR 2775 (per person twin-share)

Single Supplement: EUR 725

Price includes: Steve Mortimer as Tour Escort, local tour leader, local guides, arrival transfer, all transportation, 15 nights accommodation, meals as indicated.

Not Included: Visa fees, travel insurance (compulsory), flights, additional meals, drinks, departure transfer, optional tours, spending of a personal nature, laundry and tips.

Transportation: Our transport is in modern and comfortable air-conditioned minibuses.

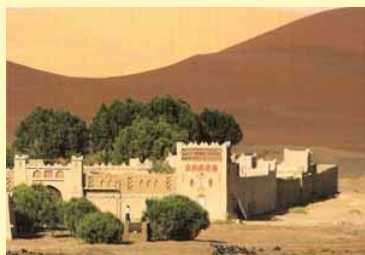
Accommodation: Our accommodation has been carefully selected and it's a highlight of our tour. In Fes and Marrakech we stay in traditional Riads, now converted into boutique hotels. In Chefchaouen we stay in a lovely village hotel. In N'kob we stay in an authentic Kasbah, and our two-night stay at Ait Benhaddou is always a huge hit. In Essaouira we stay in a boutique hotel just a few minutes walk from the main square. Some of our hotels have pools and all exude charm and character.



Village hotel, Chefchaouen



Stunning Riad hotel, Fes



Desert hotel in the Sahara



Authentic Kasbah, N'Kob



Boutique Kasbah, Ait Benhaddou



Boutique Riad, Marrakech

Food and drink: Breakfast is included every day and some other meals are included where there are no other options. Elsewhere, we enjoy the great variety of local food on offer. Soft drinks are widely available, but alcohol can sometimes be hard to find – particularly away from the major cities.

Group size: Maximum 16

Additional Expenses: Food is not expensive in Morocco. Allow around US\$10-\$15 for a light lunch and around US\$20-\$25 for dinner. In addition you should budget for any personal shopping you may wish to do. Please also allow extra funds to tip your local tour leader, driver, local guides and porters (full details will be provided in the pre-trip Field Guide).

Bookings: Travel on Q (Sydney) is the sole booking agent for this tour. Please register your interest ASAP in order to secure your place and note there are a limited number of single rooms available. A non-refundable deposit of AUD 750 per person is required, to secure your place, with final payment due 60 days prior to tour commencement.

Travel on Q (Carole Grassby and Tina Briggs)

Tel: (02) 9357 6800

Email: travel@travelonq.com.au

Currency: Due to the volatility of global currencies the tour price has been quoted in Euros (EUR) however you will pay for your tour in Australian dollars based on the buying rate set by Westpac Banking Corporation on the due date of your final balance.

Flights & Transfers: Emirates, Qatar and Etihad Airlines fly via the Gulf to Casablanca. There are regular flights and you can enjoy a stopover on route, if you wish. Alternatively, there are many other options if you are coming from, or continuing on to Europe. An arrival transfer is included; however the departure transfer is not and can be arranged on request. Travel on Q will be able to assist you with your flights and advise you on your best options.

Extra nights in Casablanca and Marrakech: Extra nights can be booked pre and post tour but you must advise Travel on Q well in advance to ensure availability.

Documentation: Upon receipt of your final payment, a comprehensive field guide will be mailed to you and you will be sent the relevant tour and accommodation vouchers prior to departure.

What next? Contact Travel on Q to discuss your travel plans and to make your booking. Further information is also available at www.byroads.com.au.

Byroads



www.byroads.com.au

Byroads Pty Ltd, Trading as Byroads Travel (ABN 88615738746)

BOOKING FORM

Byroads Travel is the operator of your tour. Byroads Travel (henceforth referred to as Byroads) is a registered trading name of Byroads Pty Ltd (ABN 88 615 738 746).

Travel on Q (Bonard Pty Ltd, ABN 40 059 566 184) acts as the sole booking agent for Byroads.

RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT

A deposit is payable on all tours. The amount payable is stated in the Byroads brochure. This deposit must be paid to Travel on Q and accompanied by a signed booking form. When paying a deposit for your tour and signing the Booking Form you accept these conditions.

Your Byroads tour will only be confirmed once the deposit and signed booking form have been received. This Booking Form forms the basis of your contract between you and Byroads.

Travel on Q is an agent of Byroads.

PAYMENT

Payments may be made to Travel on Q by direct deposit or by credit card. If paying by credit card the following surcharges will be applied to the cost of your tour arrangements: 1.65% for Visa and MasterCard, 2.26% for American Express, and 3.85 % for Diners Club.

FINAL BALANCE

The balance of your tour payment is due 60 days prior to the start of your tour. If, for any reason, the balance payment is not received by the due date, Byroads reserves the right to treat such failure to pay the balance as a cancellation and to apply the appropriate cancellation charges.

CANCELLATION BY YOU

If, for any reason, you cancel your tour booking, Byroads shall apply the following cancellation penalties. Charges are per person:

- *Cancellation up to 60 days prior to departure, forfeiture of the total deposit
- *from 59 to 45 days prior to departure, 30% of the tour price shall be retained
- * from 44 to 15 days prior to departure, 50% of the tour price shall be retained
- *within 14 days prior to departure, no refund will be made.

In addition to the above charges, cancellation fees may also apply to any domestic airfare component of your tour. No refund will be made after your tour has commenced or in respect of lost or unused tickets, hotel coupons, meals or any other services not utilised.

AMENDMENTS

Up to 60 days prior to the departure of your tour, any amendment to a confirmed reservation will incur a fee of \$50 per change per file, in addition to any change fees levied by Travel on Q, airlines, or any other service provider. From 59 to 30 days prior to departure, any amendment to confirmed travel arrangements will incur a fee, of \$100 per change per file. Once documents have been dispatched,

any amendment will incur a fee of \$150 per change per file.

TOUR PRICES

Byroads tour prices and provisional tour prices are based on tariffs and prevailing rates of exchange when tours were costed. Prices are subject to change without prior notice. In the event of fluctuations in currency exchange rates, service providers' tariffs, fuel prices or any other cost that affects the price of your tour, Byroads reserves the right to adjust tour prices at any time up to the day of departure.

TOUR OPERATION

Although Byroads will endeavour to ensure that tours are operated as advertised, an express condition of making a reservation is the acceptance by you that the tour itineraries, schedules, advertised accommodation, sightseeing and mode of transportation as outlined in the Byroads brochure and/or supplied in the pre-departure information are subject to change without prior notice. If for any reason Byroads is forced to cancel a tour before it commences, all monies paid in respect of the tour will be refunded in full less any credit card fees collected.

Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, adverse weather conditions such as floods or earthquakes, airline flight rescheduling, technical faults with transportation and road conditions may also have a consequential effect on the content of your tour after it has commenced. Any decision made in respect of tour services provided by Byroads to reroute or amend the itinerary due to the above or similar circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of Byroads. Byroads and Travel on Q shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events that affect the schedule and content of your tour

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Byroads operates soft adventure tours. All participants are required to be fit and healthy. Some of the hotels used by Byroads may not have lifts or porters so you must be prepared at times to carry your own suitcase. Before travelling with Byroads, it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with any health requirements applicable to areas through which you will be travelling.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that the nature of the trip is adventurous and participation involves a degree of personal risk. You will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. We use information from government foreign departments and reports from our own contacts in assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However it is also your own responsibility to acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information and the nature of your itinerary. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made in light of consideration of this information and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Australian passport holders must have at least 6 months validity on their passport after the date of return to Australia. Visas are

required for a number of our tours and it is your responsibility to obtain them. Travel on Q can assist with this process. Non Australian passport holders are asked to check passport and visa requirements at the time of booking.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

The cost of your Byroads tour includes hotel accommodation, transportation, transfers as specified, sightseeing and meals as indicated in the tour brochure. It does not include international airfares, airport departure taxes, unspecified meals, optional sightseeing, additional transfers, gratuities for hotel staff, guides and tour leaders, items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls etc. or any other incidental expenses.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is an express condition of travelling with Byroads that you have comprehensive travel insurance including full cover for repatriation. It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance at the time you pay the deposit to guard against any unforeseen circumstances. If on the first day of your tour you cannot provide evidence that you have purchased comprehensive travel insurance you will be required to purchase a policy before proceeding with your tour.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We contract with a network of companies, government agencies and individuals to assist in the running of our trips as agent for these third parties. We are not responsible for the acts and omissions of these third parties. To the fullest extent permitted by law:

- (i) any liability for any loss, death, injury or damage which you may suffer (directly or indirectly) in connection with or arising out of your participation in a trip, or any breach of the Booking Conditions, is excluded;
- (ii) Travel on Q acts only as agent for Byroads and accepts no responsibility for the acts and omissions of Byroads or any of its associated service providers for any inaccuracies in information provided, negligence, loss, damage, omission, accident, detention, diversion or theft in regard to luggage or any personal belongings whatsoever.
- (iii) you release Byroads and its officers, employees, agents and representatives from any liability and expressly waive any claims you may have against us arising out of or in connection with your participation in a trip; and
- (iv) any condition or warranty which would otherwise be implied by law into these Booking Conditions (Implied Warranty), is excluded

To the extent an Implied Warranty cannot be excluded, our liability in respect of the Implied Warranty is limited to (in our absolute discretion): (a) the provision of a similar trip to an equivalent value; or (b) a refund of the total amount received by us from you in connection with your booking.

Any claim by you is excluded to the extent that it is for indirect or consequential loss, loss of profits or economic loss, however it arises, or for indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages.

APPLICABLE LAW

The laws of Victoria, Australia govern these Booking Conditions to the fullest extent allowable. Any disputes in connection with a trip or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts Victoria, Australia.