

Byroads
Inspiring Escorted Journeys

MOROCCAN MOSAIC

Discover the many facets of this exotic and alluring destination

18 DAYS - STARTING CASABLANCA 1st October 2024





MOROCCAN MOSAIC

Trip Outline

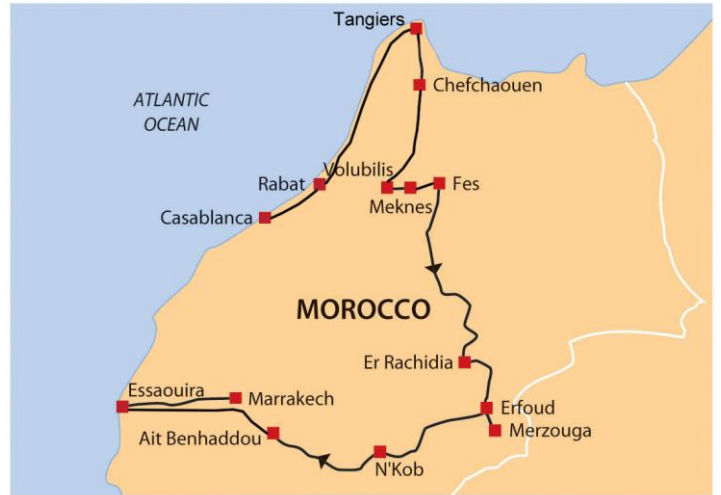
Morocco has experienced many waves of conquerors including Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans and Arabs, but it is the last of this group that has left the most enduring impression. Morocco is the oldest kingdom in the Muslim world and successive dynasties have left behind a rich culture and a wonderful 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 Chefchaouen, N’Kob, Merzouga, Ait Benhaddou and Essaouira in the south.

From Casablanca we travel via the nearby capital of Rabat to lovely Tangiers on the Strait of Gibraltar. Tangier has for centuries been Europe's gateway to Africa. Turning south we travel to the wonderful mountain village of Chefchaouen with its stunning blue houses, nestled amongst the Rif Mountains. Next are the Roman ruins of Volubilis and the imperial city of Meknes, 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, travelling through atmospheric towns and villages and enjoy a visit to the 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 and where our trip will come to an end.

Our Byroads accommodation is a real highlight of this tour. You will stay in atmospheric hotels, including beautiful historic riads and authentic kasbah style accommodation.



Tour Highlights

- Hassan II Mosque
- Hassan Tower & Mausoleum
- Kasbah Museum – Tangiers
- Caves of Hercules
- Village of Chefchaouen
- Roman Ruins of Volubilis
- Holy City of Moulay Idriss
- Imperial Meknes
- Sefrou Village
- Fes Old City
- Madrassa & Funduk Nejarine
- Copper Souk & the Tanneries
- Alpine Village of Ifrane
- Rissani Local Market
- Desert Sunset Camel Ride
- Kasbah-studded Town of N’kob
- Ksar Tamnougalt – Draa Valley
- Kasbah of Caid Ali
- World Heritage Ait Benhaddou
- Blaoua Family Kasbah – Telouet
- Coastal Essaouira
- Marrakech & Jemma el Fna Sq
- Saadian Tombs & Bahia Palace
- Marrakech Photo Museum

Your Byroads Tour Hosts



Every Byroads tour is accompanied by a tour host, and this is shared by siblings Steve Mortimer and Bronny Nicholas. Each tour is also accompanied by an experienced local guide.

Steve heads up Byroads and has worked in the travel industry for more than 30 years designing and operating holidays to some of the world’s most fascinating destinations.

Like her brother, Bronny shares a keen curiosity about the world and an unrequited passion for adventurous travel. Independently, she has journeyed far and wide; and has worked as a tour leader throughout Europe, Asia and Australia.

2024 ITINERARY STARTS IN CASABLANCA

TUE 1 OCT: 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.

WED 2 OCT: RABAT-SALE-TANGIERS – Having visited Casablanca's giant Hassan II Mosque we head on to Rabat to view the Hassan Tower and the royal mausoleum. We then drive north following the Atlantic Ocean to Tangiers, overlooking the Mediterranean and the Straits of Gibraltar (B)

THU 3: 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)

FRI 4 & SAT 5 OCT: TANGIERS-CHEFCHAOUEN – We leave Tangiers behind and enter the Rif Mountains, travelling to the quaint village of Chefchaouen. Famous for its blue washed houses we have two nights here to relax and soak up the wonderful atmosphere. For the more adventurous, you can hike up into the surrounding hills for wonderful views over the village. (B)

SUN 6 OCT: 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 7 OCT MEKNES-SEFROU-FES – Having finished our discoveries of Meknes we visit the picturesque little town of Sefrou, with its friendly locals and traditional medina including the nearly deserted Jewish quarter. Arriving in Fes we check into our traditional Riad and later explore the old city (Fes el Bali), visiting the beautiful Bou Inania Madrasa and Funduk Nejjarine. (B)

TUE 8 OCT: SEFROU, FES – After breakfast we continue our exploration visiting local artisans creating intricate Zellij tile mosaics and in the eastern end of the old city we visit the coppersmith's souk and the celebrated Tanneries. The afternoon is then free to make your own discoveries (B)

WED 9 OCT: 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 10 OCT: MERZOUGA & THE SAHARA – Today is market day in the town of Rissani. It's well known for its busy souk and animal market, and it is here that locals come to shop for amazing fresh food and vegetables and wonderful spices. Reaching Merzouga on the fringes of the Sahara we have time to relax and swim before a fun sunset camel ride into the dunes. (BD)

FRI 11 OCT: JEBEL SAGHRO-N'KOB – We now take a rarely travelled route towards the Jebel Saghro to the Kasbah-studded town of N'Kob. Here we discover the village and lush palmery with a local guide before relaxing around our Kasbah hotel's pool. (BD)

SAT 12 OCT: N'KOB-TAMDAKHT – We drive through the stunning Draa Valley and visit the old ksar at Tamnougalt and nearby Kasbah of Caid Ali. We then continue to our fabulous kasbah-style hotel located in Tamdakht village near to Ait Benhaddou. (BD)

SUN 13 OCT: TELOUET-AIT BENHADDOU-TAMDAKHT – This morning we travel through a stunning valley to visit the celebrated Glaoua family kasbah at Telouet. Returning to our hotel there is free time then to relax and in the late afternoon we visit the World Heritage-listed Ait Benhaddou. (BD)

MON 14 & TUE 15 OCT: AIT BENHADDOU-ESSAOUIRA – We cross the High Atlas and drive down to the plains to the lovely coastal town of Essaouira. It's a lengthy drive but we can look forward to a delicious dinner in one of the many seafood restaurants! While here we have a guided tour of the old walled medina and then you are free to relax and explore this lovely old town. (B)

WED 16 OCT: MARRAKECH – Following breakfast 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 17 OCT: 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 18 OCT: DEPARTURE – Our journey ends today, after breakfast. Airport transfers can be easily arranged from our Riad. (B)



Prices & Inclusions

18 Days Moroccan Mosaic

Provisional Price in Euros: EUR 3895 (per person twin-share)
Single Supplement: EUR 820

Price includes: Byroads tour host, national guide, local guides, arrival transfer, all transportation, 17 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 near 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 14 Guests

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 national tour guide, driver, local guides and porters (full details will be provided in the pre-trip Field Guide).

Bookings: To secure your place on the tour complete our easy on-line [Booking Form](#) or you can fill out the attached booking form and email it to Byroads. A non-refundable deposit of AUD \$750 per person is required to secure your place, with final payment due 60 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

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. You can book flights on-line through the respective airline's website or through your local travel agent. An arrival transfer is included; however, the departure transfer is not and can be arranged on request.

Visas: Visas are not required for many nationalities including Australians and New Zealanders. Other nationalities should check with Byroads closer to departure.

Extra nights in Casablanca and Marrakech: Extra nights can be booked pre and post tour, but you must advise Byroads 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 your relevant tour and accommodation vouchers prior to departure.

What next? If you require further information prior to booking, please email us at travel@byroads.com.au or you can call us on +61 481326193.

Byroads
Inspiring Escorted Journeys

www.byroads.com.au

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18 Tara Boulevard, Officer, Vic, 3809, Australia

** To complete the Byroads on-line booking form [Click Here](#) or you can fill out the form below and email to travel@byroads.com.au.



Tour Name: _____ Starting Date: _____

Room Type: Twin Double Single

Surname: _____ Given Names: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Nationality: _____ Passport No: _____ Issue Date: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Email Address: _____

Postal Address: _____

Emergency Contact - Name & Phone No: _____

Any medical dietary or other special requests: _____

Travel Insurance Provider: _____ Policy No: _____

Emergency Assistance Phone No: _____ Advise Policy Details Later

Payment

The tour deposit paid at the time of booking and the final balance payment is required to be paid by direct bank deposit to Byroads. Final balance payment is due 60 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

Account Name: Byroads Pty Ltd BSB: 033-047 Account Number: 708648

Declaration

I have read and I understand all the information in the respective Byroads tour brochure and agree to abide by the Standard Booking Conditions attached to this booking form. I also confirm that I am fit to travel.

Signature: _____ Name: _____

Date: _____

STANDARD BOOKING CONDITIONS

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 88615 738 746).

RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of \$750 is payable on all tours. This deposit must be paid to Byroads and each participating client must complete the Byroads Booking form. When paying a deposit for your tour and completing the Booking Form you agree to accept these conditions. Your Byroads tour booking will only be confirmed once the deposit and completed booking form have been received. These Booking Conditions forms the basis of the contract between you and Byroads.

PAYMENT

All payments must be made directly to Byroads by bank transfer.

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 and including 60 days prior to departure, forfeiture of the total deposit
- From 59 to 45 days prior to departure, 30% of tour price shall be retained
- From 44 to 31 days prior to departure, 50% of tour price shall be retained
- Within 30 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 utilized.

CANCELLATION BY BYROADS – Prior to Travel

If for any reason Byroads is forced to cancel a tour before it commences Byroads may offer a transfer to an alternate departure or all monies paid by you in respect of the tour will be refunded less any unrecoverable costs. Unrecoverable costs may include but are not limited to monies paid to service providers, airlines, transportation companies, travel agencies and hotels associated with your tour.

AMENDMENTS

Up to and including 60 days prior to the departure of your tour, any amendment to a confirmed reservation may incur a fee of \$50 per change per file. From 59 to 30 days prior to departure, any amendment to confirmed travel arrangements may incur a fee of \$100 per change per file. Once documents have been dispatched, any amendment may 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.

Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, epidemic, pandemic, adverse weather conditions, floods, earthquakes, airline flight rescheduling, technical faults with transportation and road conditions may also have a consequential effect on the content of your tour. 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 shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events that affect the schedule and content of your tour.

If after your trip has commenced and Byroads is forced to cancel your travel arrangements due to reasons outside of its control, Byroads will provide you with a refund of recoverable third party costs only.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Byroads operate soft adventure tours. All participants are required to have a reasonable degree of physical fitness and to be healthy. Before travelling with Byroads it is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with any health requirements applicable to the areas through which you will be travelling. This includes obtaining any compulsory vaccinations or medical tests that may be required for entry into your country of travel.

It is your responsibility to have the correct entry and exit documents to the countries that you are visiting. Byroads will assist in providing up-to-date information but cannot be responsible for any changes that may be made by individual governments.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that the nature of the tour is adventurous and participation involves a degree of personal risk. You will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes can 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

Make sure your passport has a minimum of six months validity remaining, as this is an entry requirement of many countries. Visa requirements will be advised at the time of booking once Byroads has received your passport details. Visas are required for a number of our tours and it is your responsibility to obtain them.

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 to cover you for the duration of your tour. This should include full cover for any medical expenses and repatriation if required. It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance at the time you pay the deposit to guard against any unforeseen circumstances which can lead to your need to cancel your tour. If you are relying on complimentary travel insurance offered through your credit card company or your bank you should ensure that it is suitable for your tour. Some of the policies offered by these institutions may not offer adequate cover. You must provide the policy number, Insurance supplier details and emergency contact number to Byroads prior to the issuance of your documents.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We contract with a network of companies, government agencies and individuals to assist in the running of our tours 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 tour, or any breach of the Booking Conditions, is excluded;

(ii) 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 tour; and.

(iii) 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 tour 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 tour or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts of Victoria.

