

BERBER TOURS

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Tour 2, MOROCCAN IMPERIAL CITIES TOUR PACKAGE

ARRIVE ANY DAY IN MARRAKECH – PRIVATE 4X4 TOUR

1-6 PEOPLE PER 4X4

FOR PRIVATE PARTIES OF MORE THAN 6,
CONTACT BERBER TOURS FOR PRICING

12 nights – 13 day 4X4 Tour

3 nights, 3-star or 4-star hotel accommodations

Transportation by TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 4x4

Dinner and breakfast with room accommodations

Services of one English speaking driver for the ENTIRE tour

Airport transfers

**ALL PRICES ARE BASED ON 3-STAR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
THIS 4x4 TOUR PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE AIRLINE COSTS**

OPTIONAL:

FANTASIA DINNER SHOW AT CHEZ ALI SUPPER CLUB :

\$75.00 USD PER PERSON. Arabian Nights-style entertainment: Chez Ali is the original, and is probably still the best. Catering for hundreds of guests each lunchtime and evening, it is a logistical phenomenon on the scale of a mini Disneyland. They may not be genuine cultural experiences, aimed as they are at the coach tour crowd, but the entertainments are fun and you can be sure children will love the *fantasia* horsemen and the camels, not to mention the laser projected girl on a flying carpet.

HIGH SEASON – September 1 to May 31

LOW SEASON – June 1 to August 31 – 30% Reduction in Price, excluding options

**4x4 TOURS SOLD BY BERBER TOURS ARE OFFERED AS "INDIVIDUALIZED OR
PRIVATE GROUP TOURS"**

CLIENTS MAY NOT PURCHASE "PLACES" ON SOMEONE ELSE'S 4X4 TOUR

THIS PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE AIRLINE COSTS

PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Day 1: Arrival in Marrakech

Arrive in Marrakech

Day 2: Marrakech

Today visit the great *souk*, where you can shop till you drop. Marrakech is probably the most exotic city in Morocco, for it is the meeting place of cultures and continents. It was the first capital of a united Morocco in the 11th century and it is where tribesmen from the so-called Bled El Siba (Land of Lawlessness) meet those from the Bled El Makhzen (Land of Government). Situated at the geographical center of the country, it is the first great city north of the Sahara.

Visit the Koutoubia Mosque, the original of which was destroyed by the Almorvides' successors, the Almohads, who descended from Tin Mal in the High Atlas and captured the city in 1147. The Almohads soon built their own Koutoubia Mosque, but evidence suggests that this may have been wrongly aligned to Mecca, for a second mosque was completed in 1158 as an extension of the first.

The Kasbah Mosque and the Saadian Tombs are due south of the Koutoubia, and most easily approached from Bab Agnaou. The mosque is from the 12th century and is the second Almohad monument in Marrakech, although practically nothing of what you see today belongs to the original construction. Rebuilt for the first time about 30 years after the Koutoubia, but before Rabat's Tour Hassan, it is built from brick rather than stone and is decorated with tiles that have benefited from much restoration.

Next door to the mosque are the Saadian Tombs, built by Ahmed el Mansour, the second Saadian sultan, on the site of an older cemetery which was reserved for descendants of the Prophet. The Saadians emerged from Tamegroute in the Draa Valley during the 16th century, when Morocco was in turmoil after the collapse of the Merinids. On a wave of religious fervor and nationalist sentiment, they swept through the country, capturing Marrakech in 1524. When the religious leaders of Fez rebuffed their claims of Sheriffian descent (from the Prophet), they made Marrakech their capital instead of Fez. Night in Marrakech.

Day 3: Casablanca

Upon our arrival in Casablanca visit the Habous Quarters, the Justice Palace, the Town Center and the Sea side including the Hassan II Mosque. We will continue on to our hotel in Casablanca where we will enjoy a welcome dinner as a group this evening. Night in Casablanca.

Day 4: Rabat

We depart Casablanca early this morning and travel to Rabat for an orientation tour to include a visit to Oudaia Kasbah. The most recent of the imperial capitals, Rabat has less in the way of historic *madrassas* and mosques than Fez, Meknes or Marrakech nonetheless an appealing city, with an attractive medina and Kasbah, a good choice of restaurants, and a lovely setting on the Oued Bou Regreg. It also has one of the great monuments of Islam in North Africa, the Tour Hassan, one of a trio of minarets built by the Almohads (the other two are the Giralda in Seville and the Koutoubia in Marrakech), as well as a merinid necropolis outside the city walls. We travel on to Meknes, one of Morocco's Imperial Cities. Night in Meknes.

Day 5: Meknes

Meknes was founded in the 11th century and is a city that offers unity of style which lends its undeniable charm. Meknes is further enhanced by the beauty of the surrounding countryside. Meknes offers fine variety of mosaics and sculptures as well as a wonderful *souk* (market) and the old town is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. While in Meknes we will visit the Imperial city of Moulay Ismail with its Gates and Mednia, the Jewish Quarter, Royal Stables and a visit to the Musee dar Jamaï. Night in Meknes.

Day 6: Volubilis and Moulay Idriss

We continue on to visit the Roman Ruins of Volubilis. The Roman ruins of Volubilis, stretched out over 40 hectares, are the most well preserved ruins in Morocco. We conclude our day with a drive to Fez where we will enjoy our dinner and overnight. Night in Fez.

Day 7 and 8: Fez Touring

Fez was founded in 790 AD and is the religious center of Morocco. The beautiful city of Fez will dazzle as we view its visual details, haunting sounds and rich aromas. Among the sites we will visit today are the Medieval Medina, the elaborate Karaouiyne Mosque, the colorful Nejjarine Fountain, a walking tour of the Al-Bali historic quarter, the Bou Inania Medersa and a local residential college/university. Night in Fez.

Day 9: Fez – Sefrou – Ifrane – Azrou

Leave Fez and travel to Sefrou. Sefrou, rarely disturbed by tourists, was once a major center for Morocco's Jews and its walled white pedestrian medina is still characterized by their houses with wooden balconies. The medina is dissected by the River Aggai, that enters the town via a small waterfall above the separate walled *ksar*. Beside the Bab Makame, the Cooperative Artisanale offers good quality handicrafts at very reasonable prices.

Travel on to Ifrane. Ifrane, a short drive northeast from Azrou on the P24, is something of a shock. Cool and tranquil with manicured lawns and the outward appearance of a Swiss alpine resort, it seems out of place, particularly as it is overlooked by the gray hulk of the royal château. Scratch the surface of the town, however, and you soon realize that few of the hotels or services quite live up to Swiss standards. The population appears to be very young and very chic. The celebrated Al Akhawayn University (where courses are taught in English) is on the edge of town.

Azrou, the impressively clean French-era Place Mohammed V, is bordered one side by the Hotel Restaurant des Cedres and the Relais Forestier Restaurant. The other side of the square gives onto a small souk. Night in Azrou.

Day 10: Beni-Mellal – Cascades d'Ouzoud

Beni-Mellal, on the P24 to Marrakech, is a large market town, offering several places to stay. The town also marks the frontier proper between the High and Middle Atlas mountains. Going north towards Khenifra, the Middle Atlas branch out on their own, an ever-increasing distance separating the two ranges as the Middle Atlas reaches north. Beni Mellal is a good stop-over for motorists wishing to visit the Cascades d'Ouzoud, an impressive waterfall as high as Niagara Falls in North America off S501, a detour off the main P24. The good road twists up to the vast Bin el Ouidine reservoir and then on to Azilal, a market town with a basic hotel, bank and modest restaurants.

The Cascades d'Ouzoud are signposted off to the right about 10km (6 miles) beyond Azilal. From the road's end, an easy path snakes through trees to the base of the falls, passing low-key cafes on the way. There are no restrictions on swimming; people simply strip off to their bathing costumes and plunge in. Rock climbing is also popular. There will always be a few visitors around, but the falls only get busy on weekends and holidays, when locals head here from Beni Mellal and Marrakech. Night in Beni-Mellal.

Day 11: Beni-Mellal – Marrakech

Return to Marrakech with a half-day free in the city. Toyota Land Cruiser 4x4 and driver are at your disposal.

Day 12: Marrakech

Free day in Marrakech. Toyota Land Cruiser 4x4 and driver are at your disposal.

OPTIONAL: Dinner and Fantasia Show at Chez Ali's in Marrakech.

Day 13: Departure from Marrakech

Departure from Marrakech International Airport

INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE:

12 day Program from arrival in Marrakech to departure from Marrakech

All 3-star or 4-star hotel accommodations

Transportation by TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 4x4

Dinner and breakfast with room accommodations

Services of one English speaking driver for the ENTIRE tour

Airport transfers

Note: Breakfast and dinner are included in the in the cost of this package. However, if the clients wish they are not obligated to have dinner or breakfast “when or where” Berber Tours says that they must. The clients are free to go somewhere else if they choose, but there will be NO REFUND or DEDUCTION to the base price should the clients choose to have dinner or breakfast on their own and that is not supplied by Berber Tours.

NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PRICE:

Tips and portage for Berber Tours Employees: Five percent (5%) of the TOTAL TOUR COST

Additional entrance fees: Not able to quote, depends on where you go. However, the “average price” is \$2.50 to \$6.00 USD PER PERSON

Additional Guide Services: Cost depends on what is required. For example, a guide in Marrakech averages approximately \$40.00 USD - \$50.00 USD per day for a 7 hour day. **Due to restrictions set by the Moroccan Government, ONLY those guides who live and work in the city visited are allowed to guide any clients and they set their own rates.** This is the reason why Berber Tours does not include guide services in the cost of a 4x4 tour. However, if given prior notice, Berber Tours will arrange for a guide but it is the responsibility of the client to pay for the guide services at the time the services are provided.

Lunches during tour: \$7.00 to \$13.00 USD PER PERSON. This is considered a “free time” for the clients to explore the towns and villages that we visit.

Incidentals: such as soft drinks, wine or beer with meals; personal purchases, or tips.

Single room supplement: \$45.00 USD per room, per day

Airline costs are not included and Berber Tours does not supply other information such as airline cost; hotel costs; transportation not directly supplied by Berber Tours.

RATES FOR MOROCCAN IMPERIAL CITIES TOUR PACKAGE:

HIGH SEASON: SEPTEMBER 1 TO MAY 31

OFF SEASON: JUNE 1 TO AUGUST 31 – 30% REDUCTION IN PRICE, EXCLUDING OPTIONS

Prices are based on 3-star hotel accommodations with double occupancy:

\$5,280.00 USD total package cost: 1 person, 3-star hotel accommodations

\$6,480.00 USD total package cost: 1 person, 4-star hotel accommodations or a combination of 4-star hotel/riad – 4-star hotel rates will be charged

\$4,980.00 USD total package cost: 2 people, dbl. occ. w/1 room, 3-star hotel accommodations

\$6,168.00 USD total package cost: 2 people, dbl. occ. w/1 room, 4-star hotel accommodations or a combination of 4-star hotel/riad – 4-star hotel rates will be charged

For a 3rd person add \$250.00 USD total

\$4,680.00 USD total package cost: 4-6 people, triple occ., w/2 rooms, 3-star hotel accommodations
\$5,880.00 USD total package cost: 4-6 people, triple occ. w/2 rooms, 4-star hotel accommodations or a combination of 4-star hotel/riad – 4-star hotel rates will be charged

OPTIONS:

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HOTELS IN MOROCCO:

Berber Tours uses a variety of different 3-star and 4-star hotels around the country for our 4x4 tours. While we cannot guarantee a specific hotel, we can guarantee that ALL of the hotels we use are clean and comfortable and will have many of the amenities you would expect to find in any hotel. The hotels we use also offer either breakfast or dinner, but usually both, as part of the hotel stay. Where available, as in Marrakech, we can also offer at the 4-star hotel package rate, the option of staying at one of the many quaint and comfortable riads within the Medina. However, at a riad, usually only breakfast is offered as part of the cost for staying there.

Hotel standards in Morocco and Europe DIFFER from those in the United States; in most cases, a “3-star” hotel by U.S. standards is the same as a “4-star” hotel in Morocco and Europe.

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