

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



Morocco

Marrakesh, Sahara & Fes



“

*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

TRAVEL + LEISURE

A Forbes Magazine Luxury Walking Favorite

Entering a desert encampment after a sunset camel ride, you see only the glowing Berber tents carpeted with kilims. Cumin-scented stew simmers over a campfire. The night sky is simply amazing, but it's not until the morning that you see in full light how stunning your desert setting is. Morocco is full of surprises and this is just one of the many we share with you. Colossal Saharan dunes. Cool cedar-forested mountains. Narrow gorges with ribbon-like oases in their depths. The marvelous news is that, for all its surprises and adventure, Morocco also delivers everything you expect. Take in the vivid, noisy markets as you travel and enjoy the warm hospitality from a culture accustomed to the diversity of Berber, Arab, Jewish, African and Mediterranean influences. You may also be surprised to know that the climate is moderate, as this is the coolest and most welcoming of the African nations.

DAY 1 »

Fès - A Journey Through Time

- Explore the ancient Medina of Fès, immersing yourself in its 9th-century charm and labyrinthine alleys
- Engage with local artisans in their workshops, witnessing firsthand the traditional craftsmanship of copper and brass shaping

As you step into the ancient city of Fès, you're immediately transported back in time. Your adventure begins with a guided walk through the largest Medina in the western world, a labyrinth of narrow pedestrian alleys that has remained largely unchanged since the 9th century. You'll begin in the old Jewish Quarter and its 17th-century synagogue, a testament to the city's rich cultural tapestry. This neighborhood is populated by everyday residents of Fes, so you have opportunities to connect with them and see what real life is like as they go about their daily activities. As you continue through the Medina, you'll witness artisans at work, and then with your expert local guide making introductions you'll engage with them as their hands skillfully shape copper and brass in small workshops.

Midday, you'll savor a delightful lunch in the vibrant and characteristic part of Fes, surrounded by the city's traditional architecture and atmosphere. Refreshed and refueled, your walk leads to a highlight of the afternoon, a visit to the iconic tannery, where leather is created and dyed using centuries-old techniques. As the day winds down, you'll retreat to your boutique hotel. Here, you'll enjoy a serene dinner, the perfect contrast to the day's vibrant explorations.

MEALS: L, D

OVERNIGHT: FÈS

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

Fès - Rural Charms and Culinary Delights

- Walk through a picturesque Berber village, immersing yourself in rural Moroccan life amidst apple orchards and olive groves
- Create traditional Moroccan flatbread alongside local villagers, experiencing an authentic culinary tradition firsthand

Today, you'll venture into the picturesque countryside surrounding Fès. Your journey begins in a quaint Berber village, where you'll follow a forested footpath past locals leading donkeys laden with wood. As you walk, the landscape unfolds before you - apple orchards, olive groves, truffle oaks, and ochre-colored villages dot the scenery. Late morning brings you to the farm of our long-time friends, where you're welcomed into their family home for tea, locally grown almonds, and homemade pastries with apricot jam and honey grown on the farm - an authentic experience unique to Classic Journeys.

Refreshed, roll up your sleeves and join them to learn how to make traditional Moroccan flat bread. Join a local Berber village woman as she bakes it in an open-air earthen oven, then head out to their terrace for a lunch on featuring fresh goat cheeses, bread, olives and other local specialties, before you'll return to Fès to explore the ceramic district. Here, skilled artisans will share their techniques for creating intricate tiles and mosaics. Your day culminates with a truly special dinner at La Maison Bleue, one of Morocco's finest restaurants. Housed in an exquisite example of Arabo-Andalusian architecture, it features intricate floral and geometric patterns carved in plaster and beautiful mosaic-laden fountains. You'll savor centuries-old recipes prepared nowhere else, serenaded by talented Gnaoua musicians playing hypnotic, traditional Moroccan melodies on instruments like the oud and drums. It's an enchanting atmosphere that perfectly complements your dining experience.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: FÈS

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

Middle Atlas Mountains - From Cedar Forests to Desert's Edge

- Hike through majestic cedar forests in the Middle Atlas Mountains, encountering Barbary apes and local shepherds along the way
- Share tea with a nomadic shepherd family in their tent, gaining 'only with Classic Journeys' access and rare insight into their traditional way of life

Today's journey takes you through the breathtaking Middle Atlas Mountains, offering some of Africa's most spectacular scenery. Just outside Fès, you'll embark on a walk through majestic cedar forests, where Barbary apes and local shepherds may cross your path. As you traverse high plateaus, you'll encounter a village with Swiss chalets and stork nests perched atop rooftops, with snowcapped mountains providing a stunning backdrop.

In the afternoon, your drive across the canyons of the Ziz River between Midelt and Errachidia showcases the stunning diversity of Morocco's countryside. A highlight of the day is a truly 'only with Classic Journeys' experience, a visit to a nomadic shepherd family, where you'll be welcomed into their tent for tea - an experience that brings the real Morocco to life. Your day ends at your luxury boutique hotel on the edge of the Sahara, where you'll be surrounded by beautifully landscaped grounds.

Atlas Crossing = Divide and Discover

The Atlas Mountains are the key to unlocking Morocco's true diversity. These ancient mountains, once part of vital caravan routes, have shaped Morocco's identity as a vibrant melting pot. From the Imperial cities of Fes and Marrakesh on the western side to the Saharan Desert on the east, you'll witness dramatic shifts in landscape, climate, and culture as you cross from one side to the other. From majestic cedar forests to arid plateaus, from bustling medinas to nomadic encampments, this unique perspective reveals Morocco's rich tapestry. By experiencing both sides of the Atlas, you'll gain a comprehensive understanding of the country's multifaceted charm - from its medieval walled cities to its Berber villages, from lush oases to the edge of the Sahara. Join us like the caravans of old to experience the essence of Morocco in one unforgettable adventure, and see for yourself how the mountains have created the geographic, climatic, and cultural differences that make Morocco truly extraordinary.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: ERFOUD

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 4 »

Rissani & Merzouga - Desert Adventures and Berber Hospitality

- Explore the 17th-century walled village of Rissani, engaging with locals and visiting a kindergarten for a unique glimpse into Moroccan village life
- Ride camels across the magnificent red sand dunes of Merzouga, culminating in a luxurious champagne welcome amidst the Sahara

Your day begins with a morning walk through the countryside around the 17th-century walled medieval village of Rissani. Your views include dramatic desert landscapes, verdant oases, and ancient ruins. Lush palm groves and agricultural lands nourished by the Ziz River and its tributaries provide a stark contrast to the surrounding arid expanses, with the majestic Erg Chebbi sand dunes looming on the horizon. The walk leads into Rissani. As you stroll through the ancient streets, you'll have the opportunity to chat with locals, gaining insights into their daily lives. A highlight of your morning is a visit to a local kindergarten, offering a heartwarming glimpse into Moroccan village life and the country's commitment to education. As you interact with the curious children and their dedicated teachers, you'll witness firsthand the emphasis placed on early childhood education, bridging cultural divides through the universal language of play.

The Berbers are the indigenous people of Morocco who have inhabited North Africa from as early as 3000 B.C. After lunch, you'll embark on a thrilling hour long SUV ride to the magnificent red sand dunes of Merzouga, the home of the Blue Men, an ethnic group whose tribal territory stretches over a large part of the western edge of the Sahara. As the sun begins to set, you'll mount camels for an unforgettable ride across the dunes. Before reaching your camp, you'll pause for a champagne welcome on a sand dune, complete with appetizers and carpets laid out with pillows - a touch of luxury in the midst of the desert. Traditional Berber camps are decorated with colorful fabrics and carpets from different tribal origins. Your day culminates at our luxury camp, where you'll experience a refined version of the traditional nomadic lifestyle. The camp's beautifully appointed tents create a magical atmosphere that transports you to another era. And the areas between the tents are covered with Berber kilims and decorated with lanterns-creating an otherworldly and magical world.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: MERZOUGA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

Tineghir - Oasis Walks and Mountain Vistas

- Walk through the lush oasis of Tineghir, observing local farmers and villagers as they go about their daily lives
- Savor an 'only with Classic Journeys' home-cooked meal with a local family

Awaken to the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and the stunning beauty of the desert at sunrise. After a memorable open-air breakfast, you'll journey along the mountainous edge of the desert to Tineghir. Here, you'll embark on a walk through the lush oasis with your local guide, Jouet. You'll pass small-scale farms, witnessing daily life as men work in the fields and women traverse the footpaths with their donkeys.

The highlight of your day is lunch at Jouet's family home. You'll be welcomed by his parents, sister, and young son, experiencing true Moroccan hospitality. The simple home offers a charming glimpse into local life. Jouet's mother and sister prepare an amazing meal, and you'll have the chance to interact with the family, even playing soccer with the children. In the afternoon, you'll continue to Ouarzazate, known as the Hollywood of Morocco.

Regenerative Travel: Experiencing Morocco Through Local Eyes

One of the most remarkable aspects of exploring with Classic Journeys is our commitment to regenerative travel, where we collaborate with local families to ensure you experience the authentic heart of Morocco. Today, you'll discover the essence of regenerative travel. Your local guide, Jouet, will lead you through winding footpaths in the lush oasis of Tineghir, revealing the region's hidden wonders and daily rhythms of local life. The day's highlight is lunch at Jouet's family home, where you'll be warmly welcomed by his wife, parents, sister, and young son. As you savor a meal prepared by Jouet's mother and sister, you'll engage with the family, learning from them firsthand about their lives in an oasis, and perhaps even joining a friendly game of soccer with the children. Because of his family's relationship with Classic Journeys, Jouet's family doesn't need to move to larger cities like Ouarzazate or Marrakesh to earn a living. And that's the miracle of regenerative travel, where we and our guests are helping to sustain the people, cultures, and ways of life of the places we explore.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: OUARZAZATE

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

Ait Ben Haddou - Cinematic Landscapes and Caravan Routes

- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ait Ben Haddou, immersing yourself in its ancient architecture and cinematic history
- Experience a unique guided walk with local experts, crossing a river and gaining panoramic views of the kasbah and Atlas Mountains

Your day begins with a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ait Ben Haddou, one of the most well-preserved kasbahs in the Atlas region. You'll start with a panoramic view of the ancient town before meeting your local guides, Hassan and Mohammed. They'll lead you on a unique walk that includes fording a river (on foot when it's dry and by donkey when flowing) and circumnavigating a hill with stunning views of Ait Ben Haddou and the High Atlas Mountains.

As you approach the ancient walled city, you might spot movie crews building sets for upcoming films. Your guided walk through Ait Ben Haddou takes you past homes once owned by Jewish, Arab, and Berber peoples, up to the ancient granary at the top. A special treat is a visit to the home of one of the five remaining families who still call this historic site home. In the afternoon, you'll drive over the High Atlas Mountains to Marrakesh, where you'll be welcomed with a hammam spa experience at your hotel. Hammam is a traditional Middle Eastern bathing ritual that involves relaxing in a steam room, followed by a vigorous full-body scrub. It's a perfect way to refresh and rejuvenate after your days in the desert.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: MARRAKESH

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 7 »

Marrakesh - Gardens, Souks, and Culinary Adventures

- Create authentic Moroccan dishes in a hands-on cooking class, guided by a skilled local chef
- Enjoy a tour of Yves Saint Laurent's gardens and museum, then contrast the quiet of the morning with the vibrant souks in an afternoon exploration

Your Marrakesh exploration begins with a horse-drawn carriage ride to the Yves Saint Laurent botanical gardens. After touring the Majorelle Gardens, Berber Museum and Yves Saint Laurent Museum, you'll be whisked away to for a unique cooking class. Under the guidance of a skilled chef, you'll learn to prepare traditional Moroccan dishes. The best part? You'll get to enjoy your culinary creation for lunch.

In the afternoon, it's your choice to explore the vibrant souks or relax by one of your hotel's pools. As you wander through the vibrant spice market and labyrinthine souks of Marrakesh, your senses are overwhelmed by the kaleidoscope of colors, aromas, and sounds. Whether exploring on your own or with your expert local guide, the shopping opportunities are unlimited and you're sure to discover hidden gems among the stalls selling everything from intricate carpets to aromatic spices and handcrafted lanterns. As the day winds down, make your way to the bustling Jemaa el-Fna square, where the air fills with the rhythms of

traditional music, the enticing scents of street food, and the mesmerizing performances of storytellers and acrobats, creating an unforgettable sensory tapestry of Moroccan culture.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: MARRAKESH4

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 8 »

Ourika Valley - Berber Village Encounters

- Walk through the picturesque Ourika Valley, engaging with local Berber communities in remote villages rarely visited by outsiders
- Indulge in a farewell feast at an 11th-century riad, savoring Moroccan cuisine while serenaded by local musicians

Today is one of terrific juxtapositions, as this morning, you'll venture into the picturesque Ourika Valley and this afternoon return to Marrakesh. You'll begin the day in the Berber hamlet of Tamzenddirt, following the river and winding hillside paths to the village of Anins. This curated and 'only with Classic Journeys' walk offers a rare glimpse into rural Moroccan life and the opportunity to interact with local Berber communities. We're quite literally the only westerners the residents here see, and we are often invited into a private home for tea, surrounded by curious village children.

Returning to Marrakesh, you'll cap off your Moroccan adventure with a farewell dinner at a magical 11th-century riad, hidden behind an unassuming wooden door in the medina. As you are welcomed into the garden, you'll encounter a stunning garden and pool. You'll enjoy cocktails on the rooftop terrace before descending to the beautiful dining room, where musicians serenade you as you savor your Moroccan feast.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: MARRAKESH

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 9 »

Marrakesh - Fond Farewells

- Savor a leisurely morning in Marrakesh, perhaps opting for a hammam spa treatment, or
- Return to the labyrinthine souks, immersing yourself in a sensory tapestry of colors, aromas, and sounds

On your final day, take the opportunity to sleep in and enjoy a leisurely breakfast at your own pace. Perhaps you'll take one last stroll through the gardens or the vibrant souks, soaking in the sights and sounds of this enchanting city. When it's time to depart, you'll make your way to the airport, carrying with you the rich experiences and memories of your Classic Journeys cultural walking exploration through Morocco.

MEALS: B

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

Tour Hotels



Hotel Sahrai

On a hill between the Fes Medina and the New Town, this boutique hotel has unparalleled views. Light-flooded rooms are decorated with a contemporary twist on Moroccan design. Facilities include an infinity pool, fitness center and Givenchy spa.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



L'HOTEL by Château de Sable

Featuring an outdoor swimming pool and fitness center, L'Hotel by Chateau de Sable is located in Erfoud, 22 miles from the Celestial Ladder Hannsjörg Voth sculpture. All rooms have a flat-screen TV, garden view and terrace.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



Madu Encampment

The luxury Madu encampment is situated in the dunes of the Sahara and offers accommodation in large nomadic tents made of hand-woven camel and goat hair. Tents include en suite bathroom, mattresses, colorful fabrics, Berber kilims and lanterns.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



Berbere Palace

Considered the best in the desert, this hotel is designed as a typical walled Moroccan village. Rooms are scattered throughout the beautifully manicured gardens, while the main building houses props from the many movies shot in and around Ouarzazate.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



Les Jardins De La Koutoubia

Perfectly situated, close to the heart of the Marrakech medina, this hotel is both elegant and authentic. In graceful Moroccan style, most rooms face an inner patio that contains a gorgeous pool. The hotel also boasts a serene Clarins spa.

NIGHTS: 3 nights

Curated Walks

CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY

	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Day 1	3.5	4	5.5
Day 2	3.5	4.5	6.5
Day 3	3.5	3.5	3.5
Day 4	5	6.5	8.5
Day 5	3.5	3.5	5
Day 6	3.5	3.5	4
Day 7	3.5	4	5.5
Day 8	4	6.5	9
Day 9	*	*	*

*No scheduled walks

ROUTE NOTES

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved and cobblestone streets in Fes and Marrakesh, as well as well-maintained countryside trails and shepherds' paths of compressed dirt and stone. Generally, the walking paths through oases and the countryside outside of Fes and Marrakesh are mostly level; in the Middle Atlas and High Atlas Mountains there will be some elevation gain and loss.

THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:
CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may loosely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of Hotel Sahrai

CITY: Fès, Morocco

TIME: 9:00 AM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Marrakesh - Les Jardins De La Koutoubia

CITY: Marrakesh, Morocco

TIME: 11:00 AM

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 8 nights
- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 5 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip, handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip
- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience

Above & Beyond Benefits

- ▶ **INVISIBLE CHECK-IN**
When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately.
- ▶ **PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS**
One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.