

Imperial Cities Tour & Essaouira

Group Departure 05th – 13th September 2008
07 nights / 08 days

Day 1 Depart from Malta International Airport at 1405 for our Alitalia flight to Casablanca via Rome. Upon arrival in Casablanca Mohamed V airport at approx 22.45 we will proceed to the Atlas Hotel (or similar), which is located near the airport, for room allocation and overnight.

Day 2 Casablanca / Rabat / Meknes / Volubilis / Fez - 370km

Breakfast then departure to Rabat. City tour of the administrative capital of the kingdom. Here we visit the Mechouar, ramparts and walls surrounding the Royal Palace, the Oudaya Kasbah, the splendid Mohamed V mausoleum and the Hassan tower. Continuation to Meknes for a brief visit of its famous ramparts with 40 km long walls which still preserve the most beautiful gate of Morocco: the Bab Mansour. Continue to the holy city of Moulay Idriss, and visit of the ruins of the Roman city of Volubilis. Arrival in late afternoon to Fez, check in at hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 3 Fez

Breakfast followed by full day visiting Fez, the oldest Imperial City including the medieval Medina with its colorful souks the two main Medersas (religious Islamic Universities), Attarine and Bou Anania, the Nejjarine fountain and the Karaouine Mosque. After our free lunch, time permitting, visit Fez Jedid. Free evening, dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 4 Fez/Beni Mellal/Marrakech (470 km)

After breakfast depart to Marrakech passing by the Berber villages of Immouzer du Kandar, Ifrane and Beni Mellal the most important agricultural centers of Morocco. Upon arrival in Marrakech we check -in at hotel dinner and overnight.

Day 5 Marrakech

Breakfast followed by a full day visiting Marrakech, the second oldest Imperial city, known as the pearl of the South. The historical sightseeing includes the Menara garden, the Saadian tombs, the Bahia Palace, and the Koutoubia Mosque. Later visit the souks and handicraft quarters and the famous Djemâa El Fna square with its non-stop entertainment.

Optional: Oriental dinner and show at a Moroccan restaurant inside the old medina.

Day 6 Marrakech / Essaouira (180 km)

Breakfast and depart to Essaouira. Upon arrival check-in at hotel followed by a visit of this idyllic fishermen town with houses painted in blue and white, well known as the former Mogador and Portuguese stronghold. It is also famous for its wood carved handicrafts. The city is divided into three parts: the Medina, the Mellah and the Kasbah, all of which are surrounded by high ramparts. Free time for shopping or a stroll on the beach. Dinner and overnight.

Day 7 Essaouira / Safi / El Jadida / Casablanca (360km)

After breakfast depart to Casablanca via Safi and El Jadida both of which still bear the marks of Portuguese occupation. Time for relaxation in every city. Arrival in Casablanca, check-in, dinner and overnight in hotel.

Day 8

Breakfast at hotel then proceed to visit Casablanca, the economic capital of Morocco. The tour includes Mohammed V square, the central market, the Habous District, the residential district of Anfa & Ain Diab and outside of Hassan II Mosque. Dinner at a restaurant and free time on the promenade of Ain Diab (seaside) before transfer to airport in time for return flight.

Day9

Check in for flight to Malta via Rome with Alitalia departing at 01.50 arriving in Malta at about 13.15.

Price : **€790 per person in twin based on group of 20 participants**
 €150 single supplement

** The above rate is subject to a group minimum of 20persons. Should the group minimum be 15 persons there will be a supplement of €100 p /person.*

Price includes:

- Flight with Alitalia
- 7 nights accommodation in 4* hotels, 2nts on BB and 5nts on HB basis as above
- 1 dinner in a restaurant on Day 8
- Transportation with air-conditioned minivan with English speaking driver
- Local guides for sightseeing tours.
- Entrance fees to monuments indicated in the program except Hassan II Mosque on last day 15 €
- Tips for porters of luggage

Not included :

Taxes €140

Oriental Dinner in Marrakech €42

Travel Insurance

Hotels to be used or similar according to availability::

Casablanca: 1st stay at Atlas Hotel and 2nd stay Oum Palace

Fez: Wassim

Marrakech: El Andalous

Essaouira: Les Iles

Flights: 5th Sep AZ 887 MLA FCO 1405 1530
 AZ 876 FCO CMN 2130 2245

13th Sep AZ 877 CMN FCO 0150 0655
 AZ 886 FCO MLA 1145 1315

