

# G-RAP Morocco Global Experience Program with Gate 1 Travel

## Highlights

11 nights First Class accommodations

- 2 nights Rabat
- 2 nights Fez
- 2 nights Erfoud
- 1 night Ouarzazate
- 3 nights Marrakesh
- 1 night Casablanca
- Hotel portorage
- All transfers
- 16 meals: 11 breakfasts, 5 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Farewell dinner
- Supervision by G-RAP Director, CU Professor Artemi Romanov

## Special Features

- View Hassan II Mosque, build to commemorate the former king's 60th birthday
- Admire the 12th century Koutoubia Minaret, used as the prototype for Seville's La Giralda Tower
- Visit the ancient Roman ruins of Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Join a Fez family in their home and enjoy a home hosted dinner
- Explore Ait Benhaddou, an ancient desert village on an old caravan route
- Take a short bus tour of the imperial city of Fez

### **DAY 1 - Depart for Morocco, March 18, 2019**

Depart for Morocco

### **DAY 2 - Arrive in Casablanca & Travel to Rabat**

Arrive in Casablanca and transfer to your hotel in Rabat where you have the rest of the day at leisure to explore the capital city of Morocco. This evening, enjoy a complimentary welcome Moroccan mint tea with an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager

**Overnight:** Rabat

### **DAY 3 - Rabat Morning City Tour**

This morning, take a city tour of Rabat, Morocco's capital and second largest city. Rabat, which

means “Fortified Place” displays all of the fine architecture one might expect to see. View the Royal Palace and the ancient ruins of Chellah, a city that traces its origins to the Carthaginians and Phoenicians. Also visit the Oudaya Kasbah, and the Hassan Tower. Spend the afternoon at leisure

**Overnight:** Rabat

**Meals:** Breakfast

#### **DAY 4 - Travel to Fez**

Today, depart for Fez. En route, stop and visit the ancient ruins of the Roman city of Volubilis where you will get a chance to see the wonderfully preserved original mosaics, Roman Road, and city layout. As you travel through the Moroccan countryside, pass by the Holy City of Moulay Idriss for a photo opportunity. Upon your arrival in Fez, enjoy a breathtaking view of the ancient city of Fez from a hill overlooking the medina. Take a short bus tour of the imperial city conducted by your Tour Manager on the way to the hotel. This evening, enjoy a special dinner hosted by a local family and learn about Moroccan culture and traditions\*

*\*Home hosted dinner in Fez may be moved to another day, according to your host's availability.*

**Overnight:** Fez

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 5 - Full Day in Fez**

Enjoy a full day at leisure to bravely wander the old medina yourself or, choose to take to guided *optional* tour where you will visit the many hidden treasures of the medina that only a Moroccan guide will know. Fez served as the capital of Morocco for more than 400 years and is home to the University of Al Karaouine, the oldest operating university in the world. It is particularly famous for its tanneries and the Fes el Bali Medina. A short visit to the surrounding leather shops gives you the best view of the tanneries. See the Attarine Medersa, Moulay Idriss mausoleum, and visit the Nejjarine Fountains and Museum. Opportunities for shopping for authentic Moroccan carpets will be provided. Finally, view the exterior of the Royal Palace and walk through the famed Jewish quarter of the medina. Though the city has endured periods of hardship, it has emerged more vibrant than ever, boasting its own distinctive culture, art, and even cuisine

**Optional:** Full Day Fez (AM)

**Overnight:** Fez

**Meals:** Breakfast

#### **DAY 6 - Sightseeing en route to Erfoud**

This will be a long and rewarding touring day. After breakfast, depart for Erfoud via the montane cedar woods of the middle Atlas Mountains, passing by Ifrane, a charming ski resort. Continue to Erfoud via Errachidia and the lush Ziz Valley. Arrive to your Erfoud hotel in the early evening

**Overnight:** Erfoud

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 7 - Rissani City Tour**

This morning, depart to explore the small city of Rissani, on the edge of the Sahara. En route, stop at a fossil factory to learn more about this unique activity which is famous in the region. Time permitting, we will visit a local community center and learn about the community first hand. Upon arrival to Rissani, tour the lively souk and visit an 18th-century ksar. Next, discover the ancient ruins of Sijilmasa on the River Ziz, once a bustling Berber city and medieval trade

depot. Return to Erfoud for an afternoon at leisure or, join the *optional* tour of the Sahara, including a camel ride into the desert. After sunset, return to your hotel for dinner and overnight

**Optional:** Full Day Sahara with Lunch

**Overnight:** Erfoud

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 8 - Sightseeing en route to Ouarzazate**

This morning, continue your journey to Tinghir via the Tinjdad Road. Stop to visit the magnificent Todgha canyons, which rise to a towering 800 feet. After a brief stop in the Dades Canyons, continue to Ouarzazate via the road of the thousand Kasbahs, and the Dades Valley, famous for its roses and the yearly Rose Festival. Arrive at the hotel in Ouarzazate later this evening

**Overnight:** Ouarzazate

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 9 - Ouarzazate City Tour, Travel to Marrakesh**

Enjoy a city tour of Ouarzazate, a desert city at the gates of the Sahara. Its strange name means "without noise" in the Berber language. Walk in the Taourirt village, which was constructed in the 12th century and still inhabited today. It was an important village located at the crossroads between the Sahara Desert and the north of Morocco. Your tour also includes the Kasbah Taourirt, an impressive structure that was built to house hundreds of people. Finally, visit Ait Benhaddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This afternoon travel to Marrakesh via the highest road point in Morocco, the Tichka Pass, offering an impressive landscape in the heart of the Atlas Mountain range

**Overnight:** Marrakesh

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 10 - Marrakesh City Tour**

After breakfast, enjoy a morning tour of the city. Visit the Saadian Tombs, dating back to the 16th century, where Saadian royalty found their final resting place. Your tour also includes the Koutoubia Minaret, as well as the beautiful Bahia Palace. Finally, end the tour by walking through the medina, getting a chance to admire all of the different artisans performing their craft before arriving at the Djemaa el Fna Square. Spend the afternoon at leisure or, choose to take the *optional* tour where you will have a chance to watch couscous being made, while enjoying a traditional lunch, as well as visiting the Majorelle Gardens. Tonight, attend the *optional* dinner with horse-drawn carriage ride. Take a ride through the lively streets of Marrakesh and delight in the tastes of typical Moroccan fare while live music and an elegant belly dancing performance cap off the night

**Optional:** Marrakesh Culinary Demonstration & Majorelle Gardens with Lunch (PM)

**Optional:** Dinner with Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride (PM)

**Overnight:** Marrakesh

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 11 - Full Day in Marrakesh**

Enjoy a full day at leisure in Marrakesh. See the bustling Medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and experience the vibrant street life of the city firsthand, or, perhaps join the *optional* tour to Essaouira, whose medina is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an excellent example of a fortified North African town. Walk along the city's ramparts just north of Moulay Hassan Square

where local artists sell their paintings. Continue on to the Skala de la Ville, which is a fortification built along the cliffs that defended the city from sea attacks, but now provides visitors with an unparalleled view of the port and its bright colored fishing boats. Explore the many souks in the medina, including the spice and jewelry souks

**Optional:** Full Day Essaouira (AM)

**Overnight:** Marrakesh

**Meals:** Breakfast

### **DAY 12 - Depart Marrakesh, Travel to Casablanca**

This morning, travel to Casablanca, the commercial heart of Morocco. Upon arrival, enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of Casablanca, which includes the exterior of the Hassan II Mosque ▲ and the Corniche seaside. Continue on a short drive through the residential areas of Casablanca to the city center to visit the Mohamed V Square, the Habous quarter and the Notre Dame de Lourdes Cathedral. Tonight, enjoy a Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant\*

*\*Please note: The Farewell Dinner ends around 10:30 pm. Departure flights scheduled shortly after midnight may require missing part of the dinner*

**Overnight:** Casablanca

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 13 - Depart Morocco, March 30, 2018**

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

**Meals:** Breakfast

The cost of the land program in Morocco \$1,349 per person. Denver-Casablanca-Denver flight, airport transfers, optional tours are not included.

**Estimated total cost per person is \$2,499.**