



Christmas in Morocco

Classic Tour | 16 Days | Physical Rating 1

CASABLANCA – RABAT – TANGIER – CHEFCHAOUEN – FEZ – MARRAKECH – AGAFAY
DESERT – CASABLANCA

Celebrate Christmas with this culturally rich escape, embarking on an evocative adventure through the deserts, mountains and age-old medinas of Morocco. Packed with authentic experiences and the breathtaking sights of Fez, Chefchaouen and Marrakech, prepare yourself for a festive whirlwind of colour and culture.

- Discover the delights of Chefchaouen
- Experience Fez's famous tanneries
- Wander through Marrakech's Majorelle Gardens
- Meet Berbers in the High Atlas
- Venture into the Agafay Desert

TOUR MAP



CHRISTMAS IN MOROCCO INCLUSIONS

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Morocco on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. Travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 1:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

‘Christmas in Morocco’ falls under a Physical Level 1 category. This indicates a level of fitness that allows you to comfortably remain on your feet with occasional rest. Expect to effortlessly navigate boarding and disembarking from various modes of transport. You'll be walking around remarkable sites and ascending steps to capture those awe-inspiring views!

Please consider:

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time.
- While exploring the medinas, you'll encounter uneven, rocky pathways.

Our National Escort provides a high level of service and support throughout your journey. However, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour. They are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travellers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY**Days 1-2 Arrive Casablanca****Meals: D**

Fly overnight to the coastal city of Casablanca. Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport by an English-speaking representative before transferring to your hotel, which would take approximately 45 minutes.

Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure and start soaking up the local culture that surrounds you, perhaps with a relaxing stroll along the city's vibrant Corniche.

On arrival, please make your way outside the airport building where your guide will meet you.

Please note: Early check in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation consultant.

Please note, a cold plated dinner will be prepared in your room should you be arriving on a late flight.

**Destination Information**

Casablanca – Casablanca is Morocco's largest city and economic hub, located on the country's Atlantic coast. Known for its modern architecture blended with French colonial heritage, it features landmarks like the iconic Hassan II Mosque - one of the largest mosques in the world. The city boasts a vibrant blend of tradition and innovation, and serves as a centre for business, culture, and international trade in North Africa.

Day 3: Rabat**Meals: B, L, D**

Today, journey approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes to Rabat where you will spend the full day exploring.

Discover the Royal Palace and the Hassan Tower. Continue on and discover the juxtaposition of traditional and modern at the Mausoleum of Mohammed V before a visit to Kasbah Des Oudaïas, all conveniently located within proximity of each other. **1h30 min walking Tour**

Afterwards, visit a female-run weaving cooperative in the old medina, and learn how they preserve ancestral techniques and empower women. Explore the medina further before a tea and pastry break in a beautiful riad whilst listening to a local expert speak on Moroccan traditions, hospitality and women's roles.



Destination Information

Rabat – Rabat is the capital of Morocco and is one of the country's four imperial cities that rests along the shores of the Bouregreg River and the Atlantic Ocean. Founded in the 12th century by Abd al-Mu'min, the first Almohad ruler, Rabat is known for its stunning landmarks that speak to its Islamic and French-colonial heritage, including the Kasbah of the Udayas.

Royal Palace – Also known as Dar al-Makhzen and located in the heart of the capital, the Royal Palace is the official residence of the King of Morocco. Built in 1864, it showcases a blend of traditional Moroccan and Islamic architecture, surrounded by lush gardens and guarded by ceremonial troops.

Hassan Tower – The minaret of an incomplete mosque, the Hassan Tower is widely considered the symbol of Rabat that was built during the reign of Yacoub El Mansour, a sultan of the Almohad Dynasty from 1184 AD.

Mausoleum of Mohammed V – Completed in 1971, the mausoleum houses the tombs of King Mohammed V, the beloved father of Moroccan independence, and his sons, King Hassan II and Prince Abdallah.

Kasbah Des Oudaias – Once a fortified military base, the Kasbah has since developed into a charming residential quarter with distinctive whitewashed houses painted with blue accents by Andalusian refugees.

Day 4: Rabat – Tangier

Meals: B, L, D

Today, you will board the Al Boraq high-speed train from Rabat to Tangier. The journey time is approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Upon arrival, you'll begin your journey through the city's highlights. The first stop will be Cape Spartel. Breathe in the salty sea air as you take in panoramic views from this iconic cape.

Next, venture to the Hercules Caves and the atmospheric Kasbah of Tangier, a labyrinthine maze of narrow alleys, ancient gates, and hidden courtyards steeped in centuries of history and culture. [1 hour 30 minutes walking tour](#)



Stop for a mint tea at the iconic, clifftop Café Hafa, looking across the Strait of Gibraltar, before a wander through the colonial-era Marshan district. After lunch, check in to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of your day at leisure.

Please note, your luggage will remain on coach, in which case, we recommend taking a small bag, if required, with you for the train journey. Snacks can be bought on the train or at the station.

Destination Information

Tangier – Sitting just 20 miles from Spain, Tangier has acted as a gateway between Africa and Europe for centuries, holding much Spanish, Portuguese and French influences in its architecture, food and cosmopolitan way of life.

Cape Spartel – Where the Atlantic meets the Mediterranean, Cape Spartel is a mesmerizing display of nature's grandeur. Overlooking Gibraltar, Cape Spartel, formerly known as Cape Ampelusia, is the site where the Battle of Cape Spartel took place and is now home to the iconic lighthouse that has been in operation since 1864, being the first of its kind along the Moroccan coastline.

Hercules Cave – A natural grotto where myth and legend meet dramatic geology. Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the cave is said to be the place where the mythical hero Hercules rested during his labours. Its iconic sea-facing opening, resembling the shape of the African continent, adds to its mystique and visual allure.

Kasbah of Tangier – The Kasbah of Tangier dates to the late 17th century and once served as Tangier's military and political centre.

Day 5: Tangier - Chefchaouen

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, transfer approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes to Chefchaouen, perched high among the peaks of The Rif and famous for its blue-washed buildings.

Embark on a guided tour around the renowned Blue City of Chefchaouen. Walk through the winding streets of the medina, adorned in shades of blue that paint a picture-perfect backdrop at every turn. Visit the picturesque Ras El Ma, a tranquil spot nestled beneath the towering mountains. Continue to the historic Outta Hammam, a popular local gathering spot, before a stop at the Kasbah. [1 hour 30 minutes walking tour](#)



Dinner this evening will be in a riad and followed by a Hadra Chawnia music performance, a sacred Sufi ceremony. Performed exclusively by women from Chefchaouen, this stunning ritual, accompanied by hand drums or tambourines, involves hymns, incantations and prayers that offer a greater insight into the spiritual heritage of the region.

Please note that on arrival in Chefchaouen, you will be taken by taxi (3 per taxi) to the medina, as coaches are not allowed beyond a certain point. Sightseeing will be approximately 3 hours today.

Destination Information

Chefchaouen – Located high in the Rif Mountains and commonly referred to as The Blue City of Morocco due to its numerous city walls and houses draped top to bottom in blue, Chefchaouen is instantly recognisable for its unique charm. Many believe the iconic blue painted walls and floors originated from the end of World War 2, as the Jewish community in the area grew, and painted the walls, floors and steps as a religious practise to represent the colour of the sky, connecting the city to heaven and God.

Outta Hammam – This is the bustling heart of the medina which is lined with cobbled shaded streets, cafes and restaurants. It is also where you'll find the kasbah and Grand Mosquée.

Day 6: Chefchaouen

Meals: B, L, D

Today, you will take part in an indigo dying workshop, where you will learn how natural dyes have coloured the city's walls for centuries using traditional techniques. [2 hour activity](#)

After enjoying an authentic lunch in the medina, you have the afternoon to explore the 'Blue City' at your own pace.



Day 7: Fez

Meals: B, L, D

Journey approximately 3 hours to Volubilis, one of Morocco's oldest and most celebrated Roman archaeological site and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here, you can admire ancient mosaics that have been preserved in situ and stroll the streets while listening to tales told by a local historian. [1 hour tour in Volubilis](#)

After lunch, continue to Fez, the spiritual and cultural heart of Morocco, with a journey of approximately 1 hour. Upon arrival, venture out to start soaking up the city's vibrant atmosphere.



Destination Information

Volubilis – Amidst the ancient ruins, trace the footsteps of emperors and citizens of a bygone era, marvelling at the architectural wonders that have stood the test of time.

Fez – One of Morocco's oldest and most culturally rich cities, Fez is known as the spiritual and intellectual heart of the country. Founded in the 9th century, the city's ancient medina, Fes el-Bali, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site filled with narrow, winding streets, traditional souks, and historic mosques and madrasas. Fez is also famous for its traditional crafts, especially leatherwork, with the iconic Chouara Tanneries.

Day 8: Fez

Meals: B, L, D

Today, you will embark on a guided city tour of Fez.

Start with a visit to the Chouara Tanneries, where the age-old leather industry comes to life. Meet a skilled artisan and gain insights into the meticulous process of crafting Moroccan leather artifacts, through the vibrant colours and techniques that have been passed down through generations.

Afterwards, go on to explore the UNESCO-listed old medina, where you'll see renowned madrasas, theological colleges, intricately decorated mosques and bustling souks. [2 hour waling tour](#)



Destination Information

Chouara Tanneries – The largest of the medina's several tanneries, Chouara is one of the city's most iconic sights and smells. Operating since at least the 16th century, the area was heavily renovated in 2016, but the scene, viewed from the surrounding balconies, remains remarkably medieval.

Souks – The markets of Marrakech, with each stall selling its own unique ware, from food and drink to jewellery, leather and art, no visit to Marrakech would be complete without getting lost in the souks.

Day 9: Fez

Meals: B, L, D

Today, you will take part in a 3-hour long cooking class, where you will create your own rendition of traditional Moroccan dish. Join the chef on a visit to the market, and immerse yourself in the vibrant colours and aromatic scents of fresh ingredients. With the chef's guidance, select the finest produce and spices for your cooking class. After your culinary endeavours, savour the flavours of your own creations during a delicious lunch.



In the afternoon, engage in a hands-on experience at a pottery workshop, where you will meet with skilled artisans who will share insights into the craft, guiding you in how to shape pottery.

Day 10: Christmas Eve in Marrakech**Meals: B, L, D**

It's Christmas Eve! Journey approximately 5 hours and 30 minutes today to Marrakech, a vibrant city known for its bustling souks and historic landmarks

This evening, sip a drink on a rooftop overlooking the bustle of the city, before sitting down to a special Christmas Eve dinner accompanied by traditional Moroccan music, in a warm and elegant Andalusian atmosphere.

**Destination Information**

Marrakech – Home to a rich collection of traditional Arabic structures, bustling souks and invigorating flavours, Marrakech remains as the country's cultural hub, perfectly blending a mixture of African, Middle Eastern and European influences in day-to-day life.

Day 11: Christmas in Marrakech**Meals: B, L, D**

Merry Christmas! Christmas day starts with an immersive walking tour through the medina, where Marrakech's fast-paced bustle surrounds you. [1 hour 30 minutes walking tour](#)

Christmas lunch today will be in restaurant in the medina.

Go on to wander the Majorelle Gardens, a botanical masterpiece and psychedelic vision of cobalt blue and 300 species of plants, where you will learn about its creator Jacques Majorelle and its connection to Yves Saint Laurent. [1 hour to visit Majorelle Garden](#)



Tonight, conclude your Christmas festivities with a festive dinner inside a 16th-century former sugar factory restored into an opulent palace, reminiscent of Arabian Nights.

Destination Information

Majorelle Gardens – A vibrant botanical oasis created by French painter Jacques Majorelle in the 1920s and 1930s, the Majorelle Gardens is known for its striking cobalt blue buildings and exotic plant collection. It features cacti, palm trees, bamboo, and tranquil water features. The garden was later restored by fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent, and now houses the Berber Museum, showcasing the rich heritage of Morocco's indigenous people.

Day 12: Atlas Mountains**Meals: B, L, D**

Today will take you on an unforgettable excursion to the High Atlas Mountains in 4x4 vehicles, where you will be surrounded by spectacular scenery. [1 hour drive](#)

Visit the home of a Berber family and learn all about their rural lifestyle, before taking part in a tea ceremony and going on to enjoy a traditional lunch.

Continue to a mountain village and get involved with a Berber bread making session before wandering through the whimsical botanical space that is Anima Garden as you head back to the city.

**Destination Information**

High Atlas Mountains – The High Atlas Mountains are the tallest mountain range in North Africa, stretching across central Morocco and are known for their dramatic peaks, deep valleys, and traditional Berber villages. The region is rich in natural beauty and cultural heritage, with terraced fields, ancient kasbahs, and a strong presence of Amazigh (Berber) traditions. Providing a stunning contrast to Morocco's deserts and cities.

Day 13: Agafay Desert**Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy this morning at leisure before a delicious lunch among the enchanting gardens of the Beldi Country Club.

Then, head deep into the Agafay Desert where you will be staying overnight, exploring among its dramatic rocky expanse. As the sun sets and twilight falls, sip on a sundowner in an atmosphere set by Gnawa music. [45 minute drive](#)

There will be a traditional local barbeque dinner to tuck into, followed by a star reading session under the glorious desert night sky, dressed in traditional Bluemen attire for the full experience.

**Destination Information**

Agafay Desert – The Agafay Desert is a rocky, moon-like landscape located just outside Marrakech, Morocco. Unlike the sandy dunes of the Sahara, Agafay is made up of stone and earth, offering a dramatic and peaceful setting with panoramic views of the Atlas Mountains. It's a popular spot for desert experiences close to the city, including camel rides, quad biking, and luxurious glamping under the stars. With its serene beauty and easy access, the Agafay Desert provides a unique taste of Morocco's desert charm without the long journey south.

Day 14: Return to Casablanca**Meals: B, L, D**

Return to Casablanca by road, a journey of approximately 3 hours.

Upon arrival, you will take a guided tour of the striking Hassan II Mosque with its towering minaret. Enjoy some time at leisure this afternoon before your farewell dinner at Rick's Café, inspired by the fictional saloon in the 1942 film Casablanca.

Please note that women are required to cover their heads and modest clothing should be worn by all, as a sign of respect. No shorts, sleeveless tops or short skirts.

**Destination Information**

Hassan II Mosque – One of the largest mosques in the world, the Hassan II Mosque was completed in 1993 and sits dramatically on the Atlantic Ocean, with part of its structure built over the water. Its 210-metre minaret is the tallest in the world. The mosque features intricate Moroccan craftsmanship, including hand-carved marble, zellige tilework, and cedar wood ceilings and is one of the few mosques in Morocco open to non-Muslim visitors on guided tours.

Days 15-16: Depart Casablanca, Morocco**Meals: B**

This morning is free at leisure before transferring to the airport for your return flight home. [45 minute drive to the airport](#)

Please note, only breakfast is included today.



CHRISTMAS IN MOROCCO INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders currently do not require a visa to enter Morocco for a maximum stay of 90 days. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN MOROCCO:

Moroccan cuisine is a vibrant tapestry of flavours, aromas, and colours, reflecting the country's rich cultural heritage and diverse influences. From the bustling markets of Marrakech to the coastal towns of Essaouira, Morocco offers a culinary adventure that promises to tantalize your taste buds and leave you craving more.

Central to Moroccan cooking is the masterful use of spices. Expect to encounter fragrant blends like ras el hanout, a complex mix of over a dozen spices including cumin, coriander, cinnamon, and cardamom. Saffron, paprika, and turmeric also play starring roles, adding depth and warmth to many dishes.

Dishes served in restaurants on our group tours are varied. Some will be vegetable-based with meat mixed in, whilst others will be meat-based. Our restaurants are aware of the western palate, with various non-spiced options available.

When eating lunches and dinners, you will usually be seated around a large table with other Wendy Wu Tours members. Dishes will be served in the traditional 'family style'; meaning that various dishes will be laid out in the centre of the table. These dishes are intended to be shared amongst the group – there is always more than enough to feed everyone.

Typical dishes to expect in Morocco, include tagine, featuring slow cooked meat with an array of vegetables and spices that perfectly blend sweet and savoury flavours inside a tagine pot where the dish gets its name from. Another notable dish is couscous, made up of small, steamed granules of rolled semolina (coarsely-grounded wheat flour) and is often served with a stew on top.

On some days where lots of sights are covered, dinner times may be early and your tour group may head directly to the restaurant after sightseeing without stopping at your hotel to freshen up.

All beverages will be at your own expense and are readily available. Please note: **if you have any dietary requirements, you must inform us before your tour starts**, and please be aware that restaurants may not always be able to accommodate these. We also recommend only drinking bottled water during your time in Morocco.

ACCOMMODATION

All hotels have private western bathroom facilities, a TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide or National Escort.

Desert Camp (Berber Tent): During your time in the Agafay Desert, you will be staying in a berber tent in the heart of the desert. The desert camp is equipped with Wi-Fi, electricity as well as ensuite western-style bathroom in each tent. You will be sleeping on conventional beds, allowing for a comfortable stay amidst a stunning location.

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort, or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but please do note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between New Zealand and Morocco. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

TRANSFERS:

As we offer our customers a variety of airlines to suit your needs, passengers will arrive/depart in Morocco at various times during the day. Depending on the number of customers arriving/ departing on the same flight as yourself, the type of transfer to your hotel/ airport will vary.

You will always be met on arrival by English-speaking staff and transferred to your hotel either by:

- Private transfer
- Direct shared bus (shared with other passengers, not just Wendy Wu Tours clients)
- Shared bus plus taxi from the nearest bus stop to the hotel (maximum 5-minute walk)

- Chartered coach (if there are more than 8 Wendy Wu Tours passengers arriving at the same time)

On the departure day, all passengers will be met by English-speaking staff at the hotel and transfer by one of the four ways above. For those passengers using a shared bus or shared bus plus taxi to the airport, the guide services end when they drop you off at the bus stop, and you will need to check in at the airport on your own. If you have paid extra for a private transfer, the above does not apply.

Please ensure your Wendy Wu Tours luggage tag is visible on your suitcase/hand luggage, as this may also assist your guide in identifying you. If at any stage you are unable to locate your representative, please contact our Morocco operator on the number included in your final documents.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Marrakech is famous for its chaotic traffic, involving not only cars but scooters, mopeds, bicycles, carriages and pedestrians. Main and inner-city roads have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner.

Roads in Morocco have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Trains: The Al Boraq bullet train ride included on this tour is a morning train, in economy class, air-conditioned chair carriages. The journey will take approximately 1.5 hours. There is a restaurant carriage onboard where you will be able to purchase drinks and snacks.

Please note, the train carriages are shared, so we ask that you are mindful of your personal belongings. There will be overhead storage compartments above your seat for any hand luggage.

Each train coach has Western toilet facilities, located at either end of the coach, however we recommend you carry tissues/toilet paper and hand sanitisers with you.

DEVELOPMENT IN MOROCCO:

Morocco has made significant strides in its development, creating a welcoming environment for travellers. The country's road infrastructure is impressive, with a network of well-maintained highways and expressways connecting major cities like Casablanca, Marrakech, and Tangier, making road travel smooth and efficient. Public facilities have seen substantial improvements, with modern airports, reliable public transportation, and a growing number of accommodations ranging from luxury hotels to charming riads. Tourist-friendly amenities, such as clean restrooms

and accessible ATMs, are widely available, ensuring a comfortable and convenient travel experience.

Morocco is generally considered a safe destination for tourists, with a welcoming atmosphere and a strong focus on hospitality. The government prioritizes the safety of visitors, resulting in a noticeable police presence in major tourist areas and cities. Ensure to take standard precautions, such as being mindful of personal belongings and avoiding isolated areas at night, contribute to a secure travel experience. Petty crime, such as pickpocketing, can occur in crowded places, but by staying vigilant and taking standard safety measures, you can enjoy Morocco's vibrant culture and stunning landscapes with confidence.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Morocco is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. To avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid at each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:

Moroccan society and culture are built on intricate social etiquette and customs. As foreigners, we are not expected to be knowledgeable about all etiquette, but it will make your time in

Morocco more enjoyable if you are respectful of local customs. Some examples of scenarios you may encounter include greeting individuals with “Salam” (hello), especially during periods/public holidays of religious significance e.g. Ramadan. Your National Escort will advise you of some of these other customs at the beginning of your tour.

The consumption of alcohol in Morocco is generally allowed in hotels and restaurants. Please note, it is important to respect local customs and norms, and whilst alcohol is available, consumption of alcohol during Ramadan, may be frowned upon more than usual.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

When visiting Morocco, comfortable, light and breathable clothing is recommended for the day, keeping in mind the cooler evenings where a light jacket may be needed. The average temperature in Morocco typically sits at 20°C, with an average of 28°C during the Summer months (July-August) which can go as high as 40°C with almost no rain and on the rare occasion, sandstorms may be present. During Winter (December-February) the average temperature sits at 13°C and can drop to 6°C or so.

It is important for tourists to dress modestly as a sign of respect for the local culture and traditions, particularly in places of worship or rural areas. For women, it typically means wearing clothing that covers the shoulders, arms, and knees. Long skirts, dresses, or loose pants paired with tops that aren't too revealing are ideal. Men should also opt for longer shorts or trousers and avoid sleeveless shirts.

When visiting mosques and places of worship, both men and women should ensure their arms and legs are fully covered. Women are also required to cover their hair with a scarf. Loose-fitting clothing is preferred, and shoes must be removed before entering the mosque.

While swimwear is acceptable at the beach or by the pool, it's best to cover up when leaving these areas. By dressing modestly, you not only show respect for local customs but also enjoy a more comfortable and culturally immersive experience. Please also ensure to bring with you, sunscreen and sun hats.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

If you are travelling within the below Morocco public holidays, please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses and tourist attractions may be closed or crowded. Public transport, including coach, air and train travel may also be affected. New Year's Day on 1st January, The Proclamation of Independence of Morocco on 11th January, Labour Day on 1st May, Throne Day on 30th July as well as Oued Eddahab Day on 14th August and more. Please contact our Reservations Team for more information.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry, and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money outside of the larger cities. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be very limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

CLIMBING STEPS:

Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some mosques involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defence against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails.

People with knee or hip injuries who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing

any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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