

BESPOKE ITINERARY - LUXURY - SMALL GROUP

Gourmet Immersion Tour  
Exotic & Mystical Morocco  
12 Days 11 Nights



*Dominique Rizzo*

FOOD, WINE  
& CULTURE  
TOURS

# FULL ITINERARY

## Day 1: Arrival & Welcome to Casablanca

Upon arrival at Casablanca Airport, you meet your dedicated driver who will pick you up from the airport with a sign with your party's name on it. We head to the city center where you'll check into your hotel and have the rest of the afternoon at leisure. We will then head to one of Casablanca's beautiful garden restaurants where the locals go for a welcome dinner of classic Moroccan dishes for your introduction to the country's cuisine!

Approx. Driving time: ~ 30 min  
Overnight in Casablanca  
Meals Provided (D)

## Day 2: Meknès, Volubilis, & Fes

After breakfast, we head to Casablanca's iconic Hassan II Mosque the second largest functioning mosque in Africa and is the 7th largest in the world. We enjoy a guided tour inside the architectural masterpiece, then depart to Fes with stops en route to visit Meknes and Volubilis, the Roman ruins from centuries ago. We tour the ruins and the stunning imperial gates that dot the neighboring city of Meknes. We enjoy lunch at a local vineyard, featuring a tour of the property, wine tasting, and a meal made with local fresh produce. We sample the famous Moroccan vin gris (gray wine) and pair wines with locally sourced cheeses. A scenic drive to Fes, we arrive at our hotel in the late afternoon. Dinner is at our hotel giving you time to relax before hand.

Approx. Driving time: ~ 4 hours  
Overnight: Riad in Fes  
Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Day 3: Fessi Cuisine and Cooking Class

After breakfast, we head out to the markets to shop for local produce as part of our cooking class! After picking out fresh ingredients, we will then learn how to make a classic Moroccan dish and just like the locals this will depend on the ingredients we pick up that day. Our class concludes with a communal lunch of what we cooked that day. After lunch we begin our guided visit of the cultural capital of Morocco. Founded in 781AD, Fes is now considered the world's largest car-free urban zone. Beware of mule-drawn carriages that speed through the alleyways. We check out a local pharmacy with its mysterious canisters of roots, flowers and powders and discover the medina's Jewish quarter, the medersas (schools), and the legendary tanneries, where ancient techniques are still used to prepare Moroccan leather. We stop by the world's oldest and longest-operating learning institution, the University of Al Quaraouiyine, founded in 859 AD, along with a visit of the souks and artisans' quarters. You'll then experience a Fes tasting tour, during which you'll visit three different food souks. Try traditional Moroccan street food, including dried meats, milawi, harsha, briwats, spicy sardines, spicy potato cakes, soups, olives and more. Investigate traditional cooking methods by visiting a furnace where the water for the hammam (communal bath house) is also heated, and a 400-year-old furan (communal oven and bakery). Afterwards, the rest of the evening is at your leisure.

Overnight: Riad in Fes  
Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (as part of the tasting tour)





#### Day 4: Into the Sahara

Our day begins as we embark on an early morning scenic drive that leads us to the golden dunes of the Sahara! With several panoramic vistas on the way.

Our drive will lead us to the very end of the paved roads where we will then hop out from the car and onto the camels that will take us on a beautiful path through the tall sand dunes arriving into our luxury camp. Mint tea will be served as we arrive, after which you'll have some time to enjoy the camp and contemplate the peaceful quiet of the Sahara. Dinner will then be served followed by a campfire and some live music by the camp's staff who will perform tribal music for our group. You can then enjoy the starlit sky before going to sleep in the comforts of your well-appointed luxury tent.

Approx. Driving time: ~ 9 hours

Overnight in The Sahara.

Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### Day 5: The Dades Gorges

Fresh from our Saharan adventure, this is the day we will explore the mesmerizing rock formations and twisty roads of the gorges of the Atlas Mountains! Our day begins with the Sahara sunrise over the dunes from our luxury camp, and optional sandboarding followed by a hearty breakfast and a departure from camp for the Todgha Gorges, otherwise known as Morocco's 'Grand Canyon'. After lunch near the Gorges and opportunities to take photos, we continue on to check in at our property where you'll have the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner this evening is at the property, which is renowned for its European-Moroccan fusion cuisine that changes daily and is locally sourced.

Approx. Driving time: ~ 5 hours

Overnight: Boutique Hotel in Boumalne Dades

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

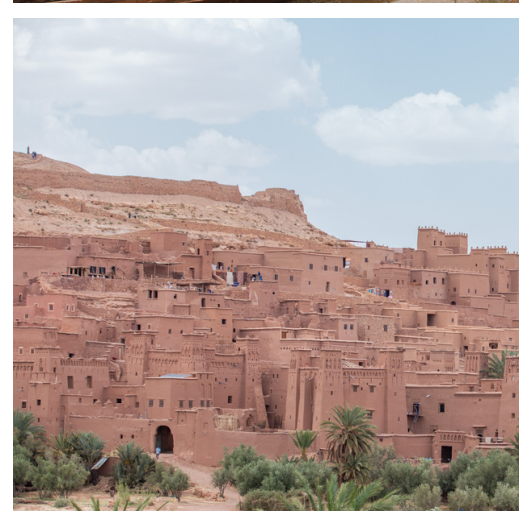
#### Day 6: Across the Atlas Mountains

Fresh from a good night's sleep we head to the ancient fortress of Kasbah Ait Ben Haddou. A UNESCO world heritage site, located in the foothills on the southern slopes of the High Atlas Mountains, where parts of Game of Thrones were filmed. The fort of Ait-Ben-Haddou is a striking example of southern Moroccan architecture. It is an extraordinary ensemble of buildings offering a complete panorama of pre-Saharan earthen construction techniques. After lunch near the Kasbah, you'll continue towards Marrakech on one of the most scenic drives you're likely to take in your life, venturing through the snow-capped peaks of the High Atlas mountains and back down on the other side into the dry flat plains of Marrakech. Upon arrival, we check in and enjoy a wonderful dinner together.

Approx. Driving time: ~ 6.5 hours

Overnight: Riad in Marrakech

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





## Day 7: Historical Marrakech

After breakfast at your hotel, we head out for a jam-packed day of sightseeing in Marrakech! Visit the Koutoubia Mosque (the iconic sight of Marrakech), the Bahia Palace (a stunning example of traditional Moroccan architecture), and the Saadian tombs (an ornate resting place). Afterwards, head to the medina for lunch, followed by afternoon visits of the medina and the souks. We delve into the myriad pathways of the Souk, which refers to the markets.

The markets of Marrakech are located in a serpentine set of alleyways which your expert guide will lead you through. You'll see the different sections, including the stalls where fresh produce, baked goods, spices, and herbs are sold. In the evening, visit the famous Djemaa el Fna square, which becomes especially lively at night. Browse the stalls where juice vendors sell fruit juice of every flavor imaginable, and experience a tasting at a food stall where you'll get to try local favorites, including the famous Marrakech tanjia.

Overnight: Riad in Marrakech

Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (as part of food stalls tasting)

## Day 8: Modern Marrakech and Desert Cooking Class

After a morning at leisure, we will head to the culinary arts museum, which will give you an in depth history of Moroccan cuisine and all the influences - Berber, Arab, Jewish, Portuguese, Spanish, French - that have shaped it over the centuries. We meet the incredible women at the Amal Association, a not for profit restaurant and cooking school assisting women in training in the hospitality industry. Here we enjoy a delicious lunch and partake in a dessert pastry cooking class.

Your afternoon and evening is free to enjoy Marrakech and discover its bustling market scene. Just a short 15 minutes walk from our hotel are two popular markets to visit. Head to Jemaa el-Fnaa in the square in Marrakesh's medina quarter. It remains the main square of Marrakesh and comes alive after 9pm, 3 minutes from Jemaa el Fnaa is Souk Semmarine another bustling market offering everything from colorful clothing & fabrics to antiques, food & spices.

Overnight: Riad in Marrakech

Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch

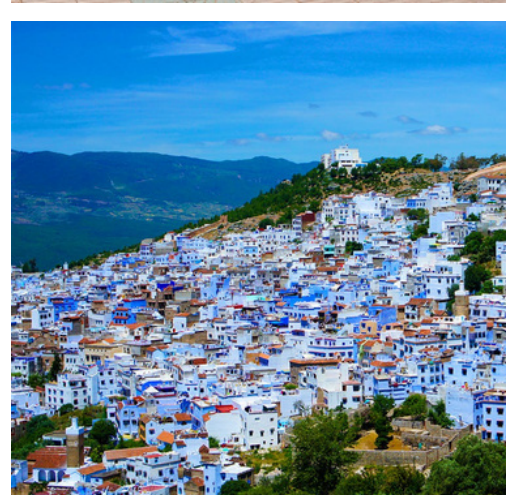
## Day 9: Drive To The Ocean and Essaouira

After breakfast, we drive west to Morocco's Atlantic coast for a stay in the charming city of Essaouira. We stop en route at a local argan oil co-op and see the tree goats, followed by lunch at a vineyard on the outskirts of the city. We check in to our Villa relaxing for the afternoon until dinner with the rest of the evening at leisure.

Approx. Driving time: ~ 3 hours

Overnight: Villa in Essaouira

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





### Day 10: Exploring Essaouira

Today we explore the city's old ramparts, the medina, the artisan cooperatives, and the Jewish heritage sites. We learn all about the city's history and the influence left over the centuries by the Carthaginians, Romans and Portuguese. We visit the harbor, which is a photographer's dream, with fishing nets laid out on the quayside, boats unloading their catches and the smell of freshly-grilled sardines and lobster in the air.

After our half-day guided tour, you are free to enjoy lunch at your leisure and spend some time at the medina or an afternoon relaxing by the beach. You'll then head to a local dairy farm for dinner where you'll feast on a sampling of cheeses, fresh salads, and other local dishes!

Overnight: Villa in Essaouira

Meals Provided: Breakfast, Dinner

### Day 11: Essaouira to Marrakesh and our Final Night Cooking Class

After breakfast we drive back to Marrakech we give you the day free to enjoy lunch and the afternoon at your leisure. As an optional extra, you can enjoy the afternoon at a traditional Moroccan hammam and spa. Let us know if this is something you would like to do.

In the late afternoon, roll up your sleeves for an immersive and fun cooking experience! Accompanied by a local "dada", or expert cook, we dig into all of the key components of a Moroccan meal, starting with how to prepare the famous Moroccan mint tea and bake Moroccan bread. From there, the hands-on portion of the course begins as you prepare a main course of a chicken and preserved lemon tagine, along with a tomato and cucumber salad and an eggplant salad. The class ends with a dinner where you eat your very own masterpiece in a privatized venue, along with a special farewell celebration!

Approx. Driving time: ~ 3 hours

Overnight: Riad in Marrakesh

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (as part of cooking class)

### Day 12: Departure and Farewell

After breakfast, we check out and organise your transfers to Marrakech or Casablanca for your departure flight. We recommend you select an outbound flight departing after 3pm for an included transfer. We wish you all the best for your onward journey. For those of you continuing your Moroccan adventure, we hope the wonderful experience continues.

Approx. Driving time: ~ 0.5 for Marrakech or 3 hours for Casablanca

Meals Included: Breakfast





## Travelling to Fes, The Sahara, The Dades Gorges, Atlas Mountains, Marrakech, Atlantic Coast, Essaouria, Casablanca

### Inclusions

- Fully escorted tour, 12 days, 11 nights in the beautiful scenic surrounds of Morocco
- Specialised escorted service of Chef Dominique Rizzo, Director and Curator of Pure Food, Wine Culture Tours
- Private Guide for 12 days
- Pick up transfer from Casablanca Airport on the tour start date
- Transfer to Casablanca / Marrakech Airport/train station or hotel on the tour finish date
- **\*\*\*Please ensure your departure flights are later than 3pm on the departure date for the included transfer especially departing from Marrakech**
- Air-conditioned spacious private bus with our own private driver
- All accommodation and hotel taxes in boutique Hotels, Riads and Villas selected for their personalised service, amenities, locations and their food (Room upgrades are available upon request, prices to be quoted upon application)
- All Private, escorted visits and tastings
- Meals – Daily breakfasts are provided, 8 lunches and 10 dinners are also included, some morning/afternoon teas
- Beverages – All beverages with meals including wine, beer, juice, soft drink, tea and coffee are provided
- All guided tours as specified in the tour are included / All transfers by bus, car, taxi as specified in the tour itinerary are included / Admission to all historical sites, galleries and museums mentioned in the itinerary are included

### Guided tours of

Hassan II Mosque, Meknes & Volubilis  
Roman Ruins, / Ait Ben Haddou Unesco  
World Heritage site / Medina Jewish  
Quarter in Fes/ Marrakech Souks /  
Dades Gorges

### Highlights

- Market Food Tour in Fes
- Djemaa el Fna square Market Tour in Marrakech
- 3 Cooking classes
- Argan Oil tour
- Wine tour and Tasting
- Scenic visits through the Sahara
- Camel ride in the Sahara
- Tree Goats
- Local Dairy Farm Visit

### The fee does not include

- Airfares
- Everything not included in itinerary (Tour Inclusions)
- General expenses - phone calls, laundry, room upgrades
- Transfers outside of the tour dates and allocated transfer times for departures, personal transport outside the tour dates, excess baggage, security and government taxes outside the tour dates
- Beverages and meals outside of described "Tour Inclusions"
- Room service beverages and meals when not participating in the scheduled meals
- Tourist Taxes where applicable in some hotels
- Travel and medical Insurance
- Tips for Restaurants and Guides

# Gourmet Immersion Tour Exotic & Mystical Morocco

## Accommodation Selected

(subject to change)

\*\*\*Due to the nature of Morocco and the distances we will be travelling to see as much as we can some stays on this tour are only for one night.

### **Hotel Le Doge Relais & Chateaux - 1 night Casablanca, Grand Casablanca Region**

In the heart of the Art Deco district of Casablanca, Le Doge is a gem of a hotel, where authenticity and sophistication are key. Legend has it that it was an Italian entrepreneur who gifted this little gem to his wife, who he met in Morocco. The building's 30s architecture is carried through in the interior décor and the conservation of central period elements. A quiet refuge in the heart of Casablanca, the intimate Hotel & Spa Le Doge has a glamorous "Casablanca of yesteryear" feel. The luxury hotel is filled with authentic Art Deco furniture and objects, and has 16 rooms named for 1920s and '30s cultural icons like Coco Chanel and Charlie Chaplin. The property includes a hammam steam room, sauna, hot tub, full-service spa, and fine French restaurant. Located on a quiet side street in Casablanca's central Art Deco district, the Hotel & Spa Le Doge is a two-minute walk west of Place Mohammed V and a block north of the Church of the Sacred Heart. The Abderrahman Slaoui Museum of Moroccan art is a block east.

### **Riad Myra 5 star - 2 nights 13 Rue Salaj, Fès**

Soaring arches, sumptuous brocade, intricate mosaics, glittering colored lanterns, candlelit courtyards, tranquil Hammams. Traditional and user-friendly Riad Myra is owned by a respected Moroccan family known for running a well-regarded restaurant in Marrakech. Dreamily furnished with traditional Moroccan pieces and English antiques, romantic drapery and blue tiles, open onto the striking central patio (and its lavish centerpiece, a marble fountain), which doubles as an atmospheric dining space come dinnertime. Also offers an elegant hammam offering traditional Moroccan baths and treatments; upstairs, there's a beautifully tiled terrace looking out over the old medina – it's an impossibly charming place for a leisurely Moroccan lunch. Located in Fes El Bali, a neighborhood in Fes, and is near the airport. Medersa Bou-Inania and Blue Gate are local landmarks, and the area's natural beauty can be seen at Parc Jnane Sbile and Atlas Garden.

### **Luxury Desert Camp - The Sahara 1 night**

### **Chez Pierre - 1 Night Les Gorges du Dadès Boumalne Dades**

The Auberge Chez Pierre is located just below the Dades Gorge, six hours from Marrakech on the road to the dunes of Merzouga. The breathtaking beauty of the Dades Gorge, with its ochre and red landscapes, is not to be missed. The hotel is a warm welcome and a peaceful stay in this idyllic setting in the High Atlas. Built in the traditional architecture of the area and with local materials. It nestles in the hillside amid terraced gardens shaded by fruit trees, and has its own swimming pool. The hotel has several patios, a salon and bar where you can take your aperitif, check your emails, or have a game of cards. Chez Pierre is renowned for its cuisine offering an innovative European-Moroccan fusion, based on local produce and flavours. - a surprising change from the usual fare of tagine and couscous.



# Gourmet Immersion Tour Exotic & Mystical Morocco

## Accommodation Selected cont...

\*\*\*Due to the nature of Morocco and the distances we will be travelling to see as much as we can some stays on this tour are only for one night.

### **RIAD ELEGANCIA - 4 nights** **Marrakech (Bab Doukkala), Morocco**

This charming luxury riad offers one of the most authentic riad experiences in the city, including all the modern luxury touches of a five-star, boutique hotel.” Located behind Marrakech’s towering pink walls, hidden in one of the Medina’s unsuspecting alleys close to the Bab Doukkala mosque and vibrant Jemaa El Fna square you’ll find Riad Elegancia. Set over three levels and built around two patios, the building remains loyal to its Arab-Andalusian architectural roots. The riad’s interiors pay homage to true Moroccan craftsmanship, with traditional features running throughout the property including a magnificent chandelier hanging in the atrium.

Features include hand-carved or painted cedarwood ceiling, with nickel silver and chiselled copper features, smooth and shiny tadelakt (plaster), colourful zelliges (Moroccan tiles) in geometric patterns. Painted with Morocco’s distinctive colour palette of Majorelle blue, yellow, pink and green, Riad Elegancia’s rooftop is a destination in itself. Up here you’ll find a sophisticated space to relax and soak up the 360 views of the ancient Medina. Take a dip in the rooftop swimming pool which, during the winter months, is heated for guests’ comfort. There’s also a sundeck, a Jacuzzi and a restaurant and bar area, both great spots from which to enjoy the city’s unrivalled sunsets over a cocktail.

Dining at Riad Elegancia is an important part of the guest experience, with breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner served throughout the day. Meals are prepared by the riad’s resident female “Tabakha” (Moroccan chef) using fresh produce, which is selected daily from the market.

Head down to the basement level to find the riad’s beautiful “Espace Raha” Oriental Hamman & Spa, a peaceful sanctuary and welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of the city. This intimate and private space is dedicated to beauty and wellbeing. Features include a traditional Moroccan hammam made from marble, two treatment rooms including one for couples, a relaxation area, a fitness room with the latest cardio and weight training equipment, and mats for rooftop Yoga.

### **Villa De L'O - 2 nights** **3, rue Mohamed Ben Messouad, Essaouira**

The Villa De L'O dates back to the 18th century, but in its present incarnation it’s an ornate contemporary-luxe boutique hotel, whose young French owner has outfitted it in a style that’s more colonial than Arabian, equal parts modern and classic, full of custom finishes, painstakingly collected antique furnishings, high-end designer linens and unique objects from all over the world.

You’re at the edge of the medina, inside the old city walls – but more importantly, you’re just yards from the beach, which is likely why you’re in Essaouira in the first place. A tiny spa offers hammam, massage and body treatments, and your hosts know the city’s restaurants inside and out.



## TRAVEL WITH DOMINIQUE RIZZO TO EXPERIENCE THE BEST

### *Food, Wine and Culture Tour*

The menus, selected restaurants and dining experiences are hand chosen to give you a variety of tastes and flavours allowing you to experience foods from the land, sea, city and mountain. We consciously include zero kilometre venues, restaurants and foodie visits with Slow Food accolades who support sustainability, preservation of tradition and local produce.

Our 4 & 5 star Hotels, Resorts and country style accommodation are also personally selected for not only their quality, but also location, services, hospitality and the relationships built up over the years. We want to ensure you are not only very comfortable and relaxed but you also get to experience all aspects of a regions terrain and lifestyle.

Our guides are personally selected for their knowledge of the regions, their spoken English and their humour. This ensures you enjoy informative, interesting and fun guided tours. We do when necessary use whispers or small group microphones to ensure you can wander at your own pace without missing out on understanding the history and unique aspects of each area we visit.

We are not about racing you around the country. We prefer to stay in each of the accommodation for a minimum of 2 -4 nights giving you an opportunity to unpack and settle in. ( where applicable)

**Due to the nature of Morocco and the distances to travel to see as much as we can some stays on this tour are only for one night.**

Moderate walking is involved on guided tours, we can certainly accommodate people who are a little slower on their feet. Luggage services are available to assist with retrieving luggage off and on our bus and to and from the hotels/rooms if required.

The places we visit do include some of the main tourist sites of a region. Although, unique to Dominique Rizzo Tours are the sights and activities that are personally booked for these tours alone. We include everything! Even days and evenings off from the tour for you to relax on your own or to further explore a destination. There are no hidden costs, add ons or payments that are further required to complete the full itinerary. You are welcome to opt out of any of the activities to do your own thing, although we have selected each of the activities to give you an opportunity to see, do and taste as much the region as possible with siesta time in-between.

Our tours suit couples, singles and people of all ages. Our tours are privately booked with a minimum of 10 and maximum of 14 guests so that you get personalised attention, comfort when travelling and opportunity to visit boutique establishments, restaurants, and unique venues not suitable for large number tours.

We can certainly cater for dietary intolerances and can accommodate coeliac, dairy free and vegetarians. Our cooking classes are for everyone from the novice cook to the budding chef and are fun and informative giving you an opportunity to pick up some new skills and learn about the cuisine.

Chef Dominique Rizzo has been running her Food Tours for over 10 years and is a complete professional with an attention to detail and service. On tour she is on call to assist you anyway she can. This tour is about creating a memorable travel experience of a lifetime for YOU. Our desire is for you to enjoy a relaxing holiday where you can get the most out your time away. We have selected the best so you can completely immerse yourself in the culture, lifestyle, food and wine of a region.