

BESPOKE ITINERARY - LUXURY - SMALL GROUP

Luxury Mystical Morocco

The Ultimate Tour

17 Days 16 Nights



Dominique Rizzo

FOOD, WINE
& CULTURE
TOURS

FULL ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival & Welcome to Morocco Casablanca - Rabat (1 hour drive)

We meet you at Casablanca airport to kick off the tour with a visit to Casablanca beach and The Hassan II Mosque. We stop in Rabat to visit Hassan Mosque, Oudaya and Mohamed 5th mausoleum. Rabat is the capital of Morocco and is a place which combines modernity and traditions beautifully. After checking into our Riad, we meet you in the evening for our welcome to Morocco dinner. Overnight in Rabat. D

Day 2: Rabat

After breakfast we venture out to explore this atmospheric old city of Rabat and the capital of Morocco. We guide you through the Medinas, Markets, souks and crafts sellers. Lunch is in a local restaurant, then the afternoon and evening is your to explore this incredible city. Rabat is a cultural city deep-rooted in history. Many architectural masterpieces decorate its streets and squares, with beautiful gardens and parks surrounding the city. Shoppers will love Rabat, streets are not only lined with local craft workshops, the city's wide boulevards are brimming with boutiques. Rabat boasts an outstanding coastline with kilometers of beaches that lead to the neighbouring city of Casablanca. Overnight in Rabat. B/L

Day 3: Rabat - Chefchaouen (2 hours drive)

We leave Rabat for Chefchaouen. Built on a mountainside, Chefchaouen gives an impression of unreality. With its blue-rinsed houses, the whole city seems to be bathed in azure. More than just an ornament, the beautiful Chefchaouen with its rich heritage brims with attractions. The Kasbah stands in the middle of the old quarter: its lush gardens, located in the center of the city, are a haven of freshness. Perfect for wandering the narrow streets and exploring, we check into our accommodation and give you the afternoon and evening free to explore this most photographed city. A must to do in Chefchaouen is to see the sunset near the old mosque. Overnight in Chefchaouen. B/L

Day 4: Chefchaouen

After breakfast we further explore this Ochre city. We take you on a guided tour to visit the Medina and it's souk. The inescapable Medina with its famous narrow winding alleys, is an opportunity to mingle with the local population, and to smell and taste delights: from freshly baked bread, to skillfully prepared tagines. Giving you some options for the afternoon, we meet you in the evening for dinner in one of the local restaurants. Overnight in Chefchaouen. B/D

Day 5: Chefchaouen - Fes (4 hours drive)

We check out and drive to the Ancient Roman ruins of Volubilis. Volubilis is one of the largest and most important archaeological sites in Morocco. You will spend the morning exploring the 2000-year-old ruins and getting a picture of life during the Roman Empire. We drive to Meknes, an imperial city and a UNESCO stamped ancient medina. We enjoy a guided tour and lunch then drive onto Fes for our overnight stay. After check in the rest of the afternoon and evening is yours to begin to explore Fes. Overnight in Fes B/L



Day 6: Fes

Founded in 789 AD, Fes the oldest city in Morocco, and was the first capital of Morocco. Today, it's considered one of the best preserved cities in the Arab world. With a big, busy medina and fortified walls Fes is known for its historic beautiful palaces, beautiful palaces, museums, mosques, fountains and winding alleyways. We begin with a tour to the food market tasting as we go. After the markets we try our hands in our first cooking class exploring some of the traditional recipes from the region. The rest of the afternoon is free until we meet in our Riad for dinner.

Overnight in Fes. B/L/D



Day 7: Guided Tour of Fes

Today is all about immersing ourselves into the city of Fes. We take a guided tour of the tanneries, and many traditional workshops including stonework, jewellery, carpet, pottery watching the craftsmen at work. This walled city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will transport you back to medieval times. We give you time to wander for lunch, then meet in the afternoon for a visit to

Inania Medersa, the most architecturally refined of Fez's theological colleges. Built by the Merinid sultan Bou Inan between 1351 and 1357, beyond the massive brass entrance doors, its interior courtyard is a masterpiece of elaborate zellige tilework, carved plaster and beautiful cedar lattice screens. The rest of the afternoon is free until we meet later in the evening for dinner in one of the local restaurants.

Overnight in Fes. B/D



Day 8: Fez - Merzouga (7 hours drive)

Fresh from a good night's sleep we head to Merzouga. Merzouga is located in the southern region of Morocco. It's a small Moroccan town in the Sahara Desert, not too far from the Algerian border. It's known as the door to Erg Chebbi, a huge stretch of sand dunes with the largest natural underground body of water in Morocco. With a 7 hour drive ahead of us we stop at many villages along the way such as Azrou, where you can see Barbary apes in the cedar forest of the Middle Atlas. Lunch is at Midelt, "the apple capital" Located at the foot of Mount Ayachi, between the Middle and High Atlas, Midelt is a small town with a magnificent landscape. We stop at Ziz Valley, which is particularly well-known for its palm trees and the oasis. Here you're more likely to be stopped by a farmer trying to offer you some fresh dates than by a tourist tout or a shop owner. Food is fresh and plentiful, with dates, pomegranates, figs, alfalfa, and quince all farmed inside the groves using ancient water irrigation and farming techniques that have been passed down by generations past. Our last stop is Erfoud, famous for its date festival and fossils. Finally we arrive at Erg Chebbi and our hotel, a stunning resort which overlooks the desert. You will have time to wonder around the dunes before the sunset. Here we enjoy dinner followed by an evening of local music and entertainment.

Overnight in Merzouga B/L/D



Day 9: Day in Erg Chebbi (2 hours drive)

We recommend an early wake up to the most beautiful sunrise in the desert. Today we visit the village of Khamlia to watch a traditional musical performance offered by the slave descendants. We enjoy a cooking experience to discover the history of the Berber pizza. We then drive to our camel ride meeting point and embark on a camel trek to our luxury desert camp. Upon arrival in your camp you will be given access to your own comfortable nomadic tent with private ensuite and an enchantment that you will never forget. The afternoon is yours to relax, or you can wonder around the dunes to catch a unique shot of the sunset, then return to enjoy a traditional dinner and some fire-side entertainment with our Berber hosts.

Overnight in luxury Desert Camp

B/L/D

Day 10: Merzouga - Dades (4 hours drive)

We encourage you to an early rise to see an unforgettable Sahara sunrise. We then head to Tinghir and the Toudgha gorges. The spectacular Toudgha Gorge is located in the eastern Atlas Mountains and is one of the most important gorges in Morocco. It begins at the oasis of Tinghir, whose beautiful palm gardens form the entrance gate to the gorge. As you drive past small clay villages and ancient kasbahs, gigantic landscapes and dramatic rock faces await you, forming a picturesque canyon. Be enchanted by the breathtaking scenery of the Todra Gorge, an experience in Morocco that should not be missed on any trip! Here we enjoy lunch, we walk through the gardens or up the road on the other side of the gorges. Then arrive in Dades Valley for our nights stay.

Overnight in Dades. B/L/D

Day 11: Dades - Ourzazate (3 hours drive)

Before leaving the hotel we enjoy a cooking class with Chez Pierre well known chef. On route to Ourazate we stop to enjoy the sights of the Dades Valley, a beautiful gorge carved by the Dades River over centuries. Here we check into our hotel then head out to see the Nomads' cave to see the nomads who still use the caves as their homes and learn more about their ways of living. We stop at the Skoura Oasis, a gorgeous palm grove and then Ouarzazate, this is the iconic Morocco seen in movies and the gate to the stunning Sahara.

Overnight in Ouarzazate. B/L/D



Day 12: Ouarzazate - Marrakech

Today we head to UNESCO Site Ait ben Haddou. The jewel in the crown among the scores of kasbahs to be found in the south of Morocco. Located 30 kilometres from Ouarzazate, on the edge of the desert, the adobe-built houses of Ait Ben Haddou's impressive ksar stand at the foot of a cliff, and evoke in the visitor a sense of having travelled back in time. We travel through the High Atlas Mountains and Tizi n'tichka pass a very winding road connecting Ouarzazate to Marrakech. We enjoy lunch on the road, then arrive in Marrakech in the evening. Checking in our hotel we give you the evening free to relax in our beautiful riad. Overnight in Marrakech B/L

Day 13: Marrakech

Today is all about exploring the vibrant and culturally rich city Marrakech. Known as the "Red City" due to its distinctive reddish-brown walls and buildings, you will notice how it seamlessly blends tradition with modernity. Meeting our guide in the morning, we visit the heart of Marrakech and its historic medina, a maze-like ancient walled city filled with narrow alleys, bustling souks (markets), and stunning architecture. We take you to the oldest street of the old medina and the Ali Ben Youssef Medersa. You will be captivated by the sensory overload of sights, sounds, and smells as you wander through the medina, discovering vibrant textiles, intricate pottery, and aromatic spices. Lunch is a taste of local flavours celebrating the rich tapestry of spices and exotic ingredients. We visit the city's iconic landmarks including the Koutoubia Mosque, the stunning 12th century Almohad Palace, with its famous carved gate and Bab Agnaou and the Bahia Palace built upon 2 acres of exotic gardens in the center of the Jewish neighbourhood. For lovers of gardens we visit the Jardin Majorelle, a beautiful botanical garden with its striking blue buildings and exotic plant collections once owned by the French painter Jacques Majorelle. We take you through the bustling Djemaa el-Fna square which comes alive at night with street performers, storytellers, and food stalls, making it a must-visit spot for some interesting night life. We also visit Saadian Tombs, an amazing example of Islamic architecture and art. Not only are they incredibly beautiful, but they also tell a fascinating story about the Saadian Dynasty, who ruled Morocco from 1549 to 1659. After our tour today you will feel confident to wander out and explore more of Marrakech for your free evening. Overnight in Marrakech B/L

Day 14: The Flavours of Marrakech

After breakfast we head to the medina for our market tour where we explore the spices, ingredients and foods that make the Moroccan kitchen so popular. We then head onto our cooking class where we explore traditional recipes and techniques of a true Moroccan kitchen. The rest of the day is free for you to relax at the Riad or wander the bustling city of Marrakech. Overnight in Marrakech B/L



Day 15: Marrakech - Essaouira (3 hours drive)

After our Moroccan breakfast we head off to the relaxed seaside Essaouira firmly put on the map as a destination in it's own right, promising a laid-back and colourful medina, a long swathe of sandy beaches, and year-round good weather. We stop for a wonderful lunch and wine tasting on the way.

Winemaking in this North African nation dates back to Phoenician times, and the tradition continued through the Roman era. With many French run and owned vineyards in Morocco, about 75 percent of wines made in Morocco are red, predominantly Rhône varieties like Syrah, Grenache and Carignan, as well as Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. Rosé and Vin Gris are produced, as are austere whites made from Chenin Blanc, Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and more full-bodied Chardonnay. We check into our Riad giving you time to go for a swim, a sunset walk or just relax in our Riad. We meet later in the evening for our Final celebration dinner. Overnight in Essaouira. B/L/D

Day 16: Exploring Essaouira

Essaouira, a UNESCO World Heritage Site will offer a relaxing day by the sea.

A charming coastal town located on the Atlantic Ocean in western Morocco, Essaouira is Known for its captivating blue and white architecture, and rich cultural heritage blending history, art, and natural beauty.

Essaouira has a fascinating history that includes influences from various cultures, such as Portuguese, French, and Berber. Its historic medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, features well-preserved ramparts, narrow alleys, and old merchant houses, providing a delightful labyrinth for exploration.

We visit the medina, and the famous fish markets stopping for lunch to savour local fresh seafood.

The afternoon and evening is free for you to further explore this delightful town. For art lovers, Essaouira offers galleries galore. almost on every corner you will find a wide range of art styles, from surrealism and impressionism to calligraphy. Food lovers can explore the numerous French inspired patisseries or sit at one of the cafes in the medina, wander the long stretch of beach or even look at some water activities. Overnight in Essaouira. B/L

Day 17: Departure and Farewell Essaouira - Marrakech (3 Hours)

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





Travelling to

Rabat, The Sahara, The Dades Gorges, Chefchaouen, Fes, Marrakech, Merzouga, Erg Chebbi, Khamlia, Tinghir and the Toudgha Gorges, Ouarzazate, Essaouria, Casablanca..and many more villages and cities along the way

Inclusions

- Fully escorted tour, 17 days, 16 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 17 days
- Pick up transfer from Casablanca Airport on the tour start date
- ****** Please aim to arrive in Casablanca no later than 11am on the tour start date for the included group transfer**
- Transfer to Marrakech Airport on the tour finish date
- *****Please ensure your departure flights are later than 3pm on the tour departure date for the included group transfer**
- Air-conditioned spacious private bus and 4 wheel drive with our own private driver
- All accommodation and hotel taxes in boutique luxury Riads selected for their personalised service, amenities and location

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the size of Morocco and the distance we will be travelling our hotel stays range from 1 - 3 night stays in each hotel. A list of the Riads are included in this itinerary.

- All private escorted visits, entrance fees and tours
- Meals – Daily breakfasts are included, 11 lunches and 10 dinners are also included
- 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, Oudaya and Mohamed 5th mausoleum, Rabat, Chefchaouen, Ancient Ruins of Volubilis, Meknes, Inania Medersa, Batha Museum, Nomads caves in Dades, Ait Ben Haddou, Fes, Marrakech, Essaouria, Rabat and many more

Highlights

- Market Food Tours
- Visits to traditional workshops in Fes
- Visit to Saadian Tombs
- Majorelle Gardens
- 3 cooking experiences
- Music performance in Khamlia
- Wine tour and Tasting
- Scenic visits through the Sahara
- Camel trek to our desert camp
- Wine Tasting
- Breathtaking sunsets...and many many more

The fee does not include

- Airfares
- Everything not included in itinerary (Tour Inclusions)
- General expenses - phone calls, laundry, room upgrades, extra days accommodation
- 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
- All Tourist Taxes where applicable
- Travel and medical Insurance

Mystical Morocco The Ultimate Tour

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.

***Accommodation is subject to change and will be confirmed closer to the tour start date

Riad Zyo

2 nights in Rabat

Located in the medina of Rabat, a 10-minute walk from Mawazine's Bouregreg Stage, Riad Zyo is set in a former post office within a medina quarter. Styled in a traditional Moroccan building with a modern twist, the warmly furnished rooms feature a modern take on traditional Moroccan decor. It offers a rooftop terrace, central patio and a plunge pool with gardens and a hammam. Riad Zyo is equipped with free Wi-Fi. It is a 3-minute walk from the Kasbah of the Udayas and Bab Laalou with a 9-minute walk to Station Tramway Médina Rabat and 12 minutes on foot to Rabat Beach.

Lina Ryad & Spa

2 Nights in Chefchaouen

Nestled in the heart of the medina, this luxurious riad enjoys a privileged position in one of Morocco's most unique destinations. Many of the bright and spacious suites enjoy views of the surrounding peaks and the bustling medina. 300 square meter terraces offer spectacular views, making Lina Riad and Spa a haven of tranquility within one of the most peaceful places in the world. Special attention has been paid to the harmonious shapes and colors of the mountains, with dim lights and aquatic scents captivating your every glance.

Riad EL Amine

3 nights in Fes

Located at the entrance of the Medina, Riad EL Amine is housed in a beautiful restored building with traditional decoration. It offers excellent facilities and free Wi-Fi. Rooms are comfortable and fully equipped with air conditioning, TV, en suite facilities and bathrobe. The entire riad features authentic interior design and impressive architecture. Friendly staff are available to attend to your needs. Delicate local cuisine is served in the traditional hotel restaurant. A large range of facilities are available including a tennis court, sauna, spa, massage centre, hot tub, indoor swimming pool and hammam.

Riad Madu

1 night in Merzouga

Riad Madu is known for its location. With a sumptuous view on some of the highest dunes of Erg Chebbi and located only a 6-minute stroll away from Musée Nomade. The generous pool is bliss. Tamegrout tiles, grey tadelakt and African masks are a stray away from the traditional kasbah. The Merzouga property also includes a Moroccan restaurant with a variety of Moroccan specialties. Restaurant Cafe Fatima serves African dishes and lies just a short walk away from this Merzouga hotel.

Sahara Magic Camp

1 night in Erg Chebbi

Luxurious tent camp, located in the Merzouga Desert offering all the services and amenities of luxury accommodation in the desert. All rooms have private ensuite and the hotel offers a restaurant, cafe and a bar for your ultimate desert experience. The hotel amenities include dry cleaning/laundry services, a 24-hour front desk, and multilingual staff.

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.

***Accommodation is subject to change and will be confirmed closer to the tour start date

Auberge Chez Pierre 1 night in Dades Gorge

The Auberge Chez Pierre is located just below the Dades Gorge, six hours from Marrakech on the road to the dunes of Merzouga. You can be sure of a warm welcome and a peaceful stay in this idyllic setting in the High Atlas.. The breathtaking beauty of the Dades Gorge, with its ochre and red landscapes, is not to be missed. The hotel is 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. We are renowned for the cuisine in our restaurant, where we offer an innovative European-Moroccan fusion, based on local produce and flavours - a surprising change from the usual fare of tagine and couscous. We offer simple but delicious lunches, and in the evening, we offer guests a varied menu which changes every day.

Temple des Arts 1 night in Ouarzazate

In the heart of Ouarzazate, this luxurious 5-star hotel offers design rooms and suites, each with a unique film-inspired theme. Under request, the property features an outdoor pool, and a spa and wellness centre with Hammam under reservation. The air-conditioned guest rooms at Le Temple Des Arts are decorated with unique features, such as hand-painted walls, fireplaces, Buddha statues and marble bathrooms. Each is equipped with free Wi-Fi access and a flat-screen TV, and most also have balconies overlooking the garden or swimming pool. Guests can enjoy traditional Moroccan cuisine at the Temple Des Arts' gastronomic restaurant, Out of Africa.

Riad Kniza 3 nights in Marrakech

This perfectly located 18th-century riad has been in the Bouskri family for almost 200 years and offers the complete package of traditional architecture, authentic furnishings, exquisite cuisine and, above all, overwhelmingly hospitable service. The owner, Mohamed Bouskri, having been a guide for the rich and famous for 34 years (Brad Pitt, Nicole Kidman, former US presidents and others) is a mine of information and is always glad to share his knowledge and passion of Marrakech. Guests can enjoy the outdoor swimming pool, the sauna and the steam bath, and the hotel is just a 25-minute walk from Jamaâ El Fna Square. At Riad Kniza, breakfast is included and served either on the terrace or in one of the communal lounges, by the fireplace. Dinners with traditional dishes from the region are also available upon prior reservation.

Riad Raoud Rayhane 2 nights in Essaouira

Originally the home of a Souiri family, the RIAD RAOUD RAYHANE is situated in Derb Lalouj (street of the Renegades) at the heart of the historical medina of Essaouira. Sensitively restored according to the ancestral architectural traditions of the walled city, our Riad opens its doors for you to discover the pleasure and beauty of our venture. Offering a spa centre and hammam, Raoud Rayhane is set in Essaouira. Guests can enjoy the on-site restaurant. Raoud Rayhane features free WiFi throughout the property. You will find a shared lounge at the property. The bed and breakfast also offers bike hire.

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 - 16 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. We have selected the best so you can completely immerse yourself in the culture, lifestyle, food and wine of a region.