

African Art Tours presents:

APTA MOROCCO Educational Tour

September 20-29, 2009; \$1150 per agent

HIGHLIGHTS:



Imperial Cities, Museums, the Sahara Desert and Kasbahs: Rabat: Chellah Roman Necropolis, Mohammed V Mausoleum, Hassan Tower; Medina. Kasbah Des Oudayas Gardens & Museum; Exotic Gardens & Archaeological Museum. Fes: Medina, Mellah (ancient Jewish Quarter); ancient monuments and Museums. Meknes: Medina, Mellah and ancient monuments. Volubilis: Roman ruins. Travel through the spectacular Middle and High Atlas Mountains to Merzouga: Special Dromedary ride and overnight Saharan camp. Ouarzazate: Kasbah Taourirt and Ksar Aït Ben Haddou. Marrakech: Calèche tour. Majorelle Garden, Monuments, Museums and Souks - Djmaâ el Fnaâ Square. Imlil: High Atlas Mountains Valley. Casablanca: Hassan II Mosque. Medina. Differing dramatic countryside, Berber and Arab cultures.

Sun 20 SEP: Early AM arrival into Casablanca and transfer to the Imperial City of Rabat; visit of the Chellah, the King's palace precinct, the Mohammed V Mausoleum and Hassan Tower; the Kasbah des Oudayas & Museum, the Exotic Gardens and Archaeological Museum. **LD.**

Mon 21 SEP: Rabat to Fes. Morning departure to the Imperial City of Meknes, one-time capital of 17th century Sultan Moulay Ismail's empire where we visit his Mausoleum, his ancient granary and stables and Christians' Prison. We continue to Volubilis, once the southern-most African settlement of the Roman Empire to stroll through the ruined town with its marvelled mosaics. Lunch in Volubilis before arriving at the most ancient of all Imperial Cities - Fes. Time set aside in the early afternoon to visit some of the city's charming riads. Dinner in a riad. **BLD.**

TUE 22 SEP: Fes. One of the most complete medieval cities existing in the world today. A full day delving into almost 2000 years of history when we visit the King's palace precinct, the labyrinthine Escheresque alleyways of the Mellah and the Medina, the Mosques and Medersas (Koranic Schools) (some exterior only); the splendid ancient souks and Woodworkers' Museum in a caravanserail; lunch in the Medina; thence to the renowned Tanneries and the Dar Batha Museum. **BL.**



WED 23 SEP: Fes through the Middle Atlas Mountains to the Sahara. A pleasant drive south with lunch en-route through the Middle Atlas Mountains, hopefully to encounter en-route Morocco's native Barbary Apes in the Cedar Forest. Continue south with lunch en-route through the Ziz Gorges to Erfoud, where we switch to 4x4s to Merzouga, here to change our wheels for the four legs of our Ships Of the desert to our overnight camp in the dunes of Erg Chebbi. Berber folklore music. **BLD.**

THU 24 SEP: Merzouga through the Dadès Valley to Ouarzazate. A pleasant drive through the Valley Of 1000 Kasbahs via the oasis towns of Tinejdat and Tinehrir; visit the Todra Gorges with lunch, continuation to Boulmane Du Dadès and the Dadès Gorges, thence to Qlâa't Mgouna renowned for its beauty and medicinal products obtained from the region's Damascene roses. On via the oasis and kasbahs of Skoura to the city of Ouarzazate. **BL.**

FRI 25 SEP: Ouarzazate to Marrakech. A drive north via the ancient Ksar of Aït Ben Haddou, one of the more spectacular sights in the Atlas ranges. Set upon a rock above a reed-strewn assif, commanding the area for miles around, this kasbah controlled the route to Marrakech until the French blasted a road through the Tizi n'Tichka in the late 1920s. Up now into the High Atlas Mountains and the exhilarating hairpin bends to alight at the top of the Tizi n'Tichka (2260m) with a vista dominated by peaks of some 2500+m. Onwards, now, via Aït Ourir Taddert (1650m) and down across the Glaoua Plains to our hotel in Marrakech. After check in, we take an afternoon tour by calèche (horse-drawn carriage) via the magnificent ramparts to the lush Majorelle Gardens and Museum of Islamic Art of the recently-deceased fashion icon Yves Saint

Laurent with its 12 acres of exquisite gardens, thence down into the Medina via the Koutoubia Mosque and Minaret to the Djmaâ el Fnaâ Square, resplendent with snake charmers, storytellers, acrobats and musicians. **BD.**

SAT 26 SEP: Marrakech. A morning spent in the Kasbah to visit the Saâdien Tombs, the El Bahia Palace, the Badi Palace, the Dar Si Saïd Museum and on into the labyrinth of the Medina to the 14th century Medersa Ben Youssef, the 13th century Koubba, the splendid Marrakech Museum of Arts and the Bert Flint Museum to head into one of the most exhilarating and liveliest souks (markets) in the world. After lunch in a restaurant overlooking the Djmaâ el Fnaâ, time is set aside in the early afternoon to visit some of the city's charming riads. **BL.**

SUN 27 SEP: Marrakech to the Aït Mizene Valley and back. A morning excursion into the delightful High Atlas Mountains you see from your hotel leading to the highest peak in the North Africa – the Jbel Toubkal - passing ancient terraced fields and Berber hamlets of adobe clawed from the mountain slopes as far as the trailhead village of Imlil. Lunch in Imlil offers a close up view of the mountains before returning to Marrakech with time to spare to visit certain other hotels or riads. **BL.**



MON 28 SEP: Marrakech to Casablanca. Driving northwest for some 3 hours we arrive at Casablanca, the 'White House', with its early 20th century Art Deco French Protectorate-era buildings intermingling with the modern. On arrival we stop for lunch overlooking the Atlantic Ocean before visiting the famous Hassan II Mosque, the New Medina Habous Quarter and the central Market. Dinner tonight includes a folklore show. **BLD.**

TUE 29 SEP: Casablanca-home: Your sensational tour of Morocco finishes, with friendships and lasting memories of a land so full of remarkable contrasts and friendly people to take back home with you to promote well within your niche market. **B.**

PRICE AND TERMS

Price: \$1150 per agent based on double occupancy and 12 participants. Included: English-speaking Fully Escorted tour; Accommodations in 4 & 5 star hotels; air-conditioned Minivan transportation; desert camp and camel ride; 9 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches & 5 Dinners; All sightseeing activities, Museums / Monuments entrance fees as per itinerary; short visits to selected riads and hotels; all Moroccan tolls and taxes. **Final payment is due by July 20.**

Not Included: International airfare, meals not on itinerary, alcoholic beverages, and gratuity for the guide and driver.

Contact Pam Rathke at African Art Tours for more information or to sign-up for the tour. Email her at pam@africanarttours.com or call 720-746-0748

CITIES HOTELS

RABAT: HOTEL RABAT. 5★ <http://www.hotelrabat.com/>
FES: RAMADA 4★A (ex CROWN PALACE) <http://www.ramada.com>
OUARZAZATE: BERBERE PALACE 5★ <http://www.ouarzazate.com/leberberepalace/>
MARRAKECH: SUITEHOTEL. 4★A <http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-6218-suitehotel-marrakech-open-02-feb-2009/index.shtml#>
CASABLANCA: KENZI BASMAA. 4★ http://www.hotel-kenzi-basma.com/Kenzi_Basma_Home.html