



# Morocco Convention Tour: Palaces, Souks & the Sahara

12 days | May 15 2025—May 26 2025

In Morocco, one day you're sinking your feet in the sands of the Sahara Desert and the next you're walking through lively city souks, haggling for souvenirs. On this specially created Go Ahead Convention Tour, you'll see classically tiled gates, walled medinas, towering mountain ranges, and colorful botanical gardens. Plus, you'll be taking in those sights alongside fellow Group Coordinators and Go Ahead staff. Among these unique landscapes and inspiring cultures in the heart of North Africa, find your Morocco moment. Tour point value: 2,200 for one; 4,000 for two.



## Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 5 lunches
- 8 dinners, select meals with beer or wine
- 1 cooking class
- 1 wine tasting
- 3 tastings
- 15 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Convention Tour meeting
- Djemaa el Fna market
- Agafay Desert dinner
- Majorelle Garden
- Ait-Ben-Haddou
- Kasbah Ait Kassi
- Tinghir's Jewish Quarter
- Erg Chebbi sand dunes
- Roman Archaeological Site of Volubilis
- Château Roslane wine tasting
- Moroccan cooking class
- Fes Medina

## Tour pace

You will walk for at least 3 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

For more information, contact

[grouptoursite.com/tours/morocco-convention-tour-palaces-souks-the-sahara](https://grouptoursite.com/tours/morocco-convention-tour-palaces-souks-the-sahara) | 1-800-438-7672

# Morocco Convention Tour: Palaces, Souks & the Sahara

12 days

## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Marrakech today.

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## Marrakech → 3 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Marrakech

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Morocco! Sip a welcome drink with your Tour Director and fellow travelers on a terrace overlooking the lively Djemaa el Fna market. Then, enjoy a welcome dinner served with beer or wine.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Marrakech & Agafay Desert dinner

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Get a feel for the history of Marrakech, one of Morocco's imperial cities, on this morning's guided tour.

- Pass through the sophisticated Gueliz district, a French-inspired area also called Ville Nouvelle (New Town) that's now known for its shops, art galleries, and mix of modern and historic architecture.
- Marvel at the massive Koutoubia Mosque, which was built in the 12th century and is one of Marrakech's most famous landmarks due to its minaret that reaches nearly 200 feet high and dominates the city's skyline.
- Enter the UNESCO-listed Medina of Marrakech—a center for politics, economics, and culture founded in 1070—to see the stunning Bahia Palace and all its shades of vibrant blue tiles.
- Step inside the evocative Saadian Tombs, an ornate mausoleum for 16th-century ruling princes.

Return to your hotel and spend some time relaxing before experiencing Marrakech's market culture on this afternoon's guided tour.

- Visit the historic Djemaa el Fna—a festive, open-air market that first opened in the 11th century—where musicians, snake charmers, and clowns perform during the evenings.
- Walk through the city's vibrant souks to see the many products being sold by the local vendors.

Tonight, set out into the Agafay Desert—a vast stone desert with views of the High Atlas Mountains. Visit a tented camp, where you'll enjoy an included dinner while you watch the sunset. Afterward, finish out your day with a little stargazing.

### Day 4: Convention Tour meeting, Majorelle Garden & hammam spa visit

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Join your group for a Convention Tour meeting, a series of presentations and discussions designed with Group Coordinators' questions, experiences, and interests in mind.

- Begin with a keynote address by senior members of Go Ahead staff, followed by an insider's view of the company and tours.
- Discuss tour planning and recruiting best practices with staff and your fellow Group Coordinators.
- Get an overview of the many benefits available to you as a Go Ahead Group Coordinator and learn about program updates, from new app features to added perks.
- Enjoy coffee, tea, mineral water, and an included lunch.

This afternoon, enter Majorelle Garden, which was designed by French artist Jacques Majorelle and purchased by legendary fashion duo Yves Saint-Laurent and Pierre Bergé in 1998.

- Stroll through the 12-acre botanical garden and see everything from cacti and banana trees to jasmine and water lilies.
- Visit the Berber Museum and Yves Saint-Laurent memorial, erected in the iconic designer's memory.

This evening, do as the Moroccans do and pay a visit to a hammam (or bath house), a mainstay in Moroccan culture since the times of the Roman Empire.

- Visit a luxury resort outside of Marrakech and head to the steam room to unwind and enjoy the serenity of the spa.
- Sit down for an included dinner of traditional Moroccan cuisine at the resort's restaurant, served with beer or wine.

*Please note: There are separate facilities for men and women. Towels are provided.*

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## Ouarzazate → 1 night

### Day 5: Ouarzazate via Ait-Ben-Haddou

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Transfer through the High Atlas Mountains to Ait-Ben-Haddou.

- Sit down for an included lunch at a local restaurant.
- Take a guided walking tour of the village's UNESCO-listed ksar—a group of buildings made of earth and surrounded by fortified walls—to see the famous complex of defensive walls and towers.

Continue on to Ouarzazate, where movies and shows such as *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Game of Thrones* were filmed, and sit down for an included dinner this evening.

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## Sahara Desert Region → 2 nights

### Day 6: Erfoud via Kasbah Ait Kassi, Tinghir & Todra Gorge

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner*

Make several stops as you travel from Ouarzazate to the Sahara Desert region.

- Visit Kasbah Ait Kassi to meet a local family in a traditional riad, or courtyard, and sit down to enjoy a cup of mint tea.
- Walk through Tinghir's ancient Jewish Quarter with your Tour Director.
- See Todra Gorge—a canyon carved into the limestone by the Todra River—and follow your Tour Director on a short walk along the ravine.
- Stop to learn about the ancient Berber qanāt water well system, an irrigation system that drains water trapped in mountains to its desired location through a series of tunnels.

Tonight, gather together for an included dinner with your group.

### Day 7: Rissani & Erg Chebbi sand dunes

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner*

Spend the morning touring the oasis town of Rissani with your Tour Director.

- Enter the Mausoleum of Moulay Ali Cherif, which was built between 1747–90 and also serves as the resting place of his two sons.

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- Walk through Ksar El Fida: Rissani's oldest ksar served as the palace of the local qaid, or chief, until 1965.
- Stop at a local fossil shop before returning to Erfoud.

Enjoy free time to eat lunch and relax at your hotel. This afternoon, head out to the Erg Chebbi sand dunes and discover the otherworldly beauty of the Sahara Desert.

- Hop inside a 4x4 Jeep and ride through the desert to visit the town of Merzouga, known for its dramatic sand dunes.
- Visit a Bedouin tent, the home of a nomadic Arabic person, for traditional mint tea and snacks.
- Learn about Khamlia's Gnawa people, an ethnic group originating from West Africa, and see how they celebrate their culture during a musical performance.
- Take a camel ride over the sand dunes and soak in the incredible landscape.

Sit down at a tented camp restaurant for an included dinner.

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## Fes → 3 nights

### Day 8: Fes via Midelt & Ifrane

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Drive through the scenic Ziz Valley and Atlas Mountains to reach the town of Midelt, where you'll enjoy an included lunch and free time to explore. Next, visit Ifrane, a city known for its cedar forests and alpine-style architecture. After, continue on to Fes, where you'll enjoy an included dinner after freshening up at your hotel.

### Day 9: Roman Archaeological Site of Volubilis, Château Roslane & Meknes

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, wine tasting*

Head outside of Fes today and visit some of the most significant historical sites in northern Morocco.

- Discover the ancient ruins at the UNESCO-recognized Roman Archaeological Site of Volubilis—which was built in the third century B.C. and stands as a triumph of the time period's urban development.
- See the Roman ruins of the forum, temple, baths, and gates, followed by free time to visit the museum.
- Walk through the holy town of Moulay Idriss Zerhoun, known as the birthplace of Islam in Morocco.

Continue on to Meknes for an indulgent included lunch and a Tour Director-led sightseeing of another of Morocco's imperial cities.

- Stop by Château Roslane, a boutique estate and vineyard in the countryside, where you'll enjoy lunch featuring local produce paired expertly with the estate's wines.
- See the bustling markets of Lahdim Square and Bab el-Khemis gate—an arched stone entrance built in the 17th century.
- View the world's most famous door: the Bab Mansour gate, adorned with an intricate mosaic of tiles. Then, enter the ruins of Dar el Ma to see ancient stables and granaries.

Return to Fes, where you'll enjoy a free evening.

### Day 10: Moroccan cooking class & sightseeing tour of Fes

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting*

Head outside of Fes this morning to a local organic farm known for its goat and sheep cheeses. Take part in a hands-on cooking class, during which you'll learn to craft Moroccan cuisine. After a morning of cooking, sit down to enjoy the masterpieces you've created during an included lunch.

Later, take a guided tour of Fes, the spiritual and cultural center of Moroccan life.

- See the ornate brass doors of the Royal Palace and visit the Mellah Jewish quarter.
- View the Bab Bou Jeloud, a blue-tiled gate that exemplifies Moorish architectural style.
- Attend a ceramics demonstration, during which you'll learn how the intricate and colorful art pieces are created.
- Explore the UNESCO-listed Fes Medina on a walking tour through its colorful souks and tanneries.
- Visit the Mausoleum of Moulay Idriss—resting place of Idris I, the first Islamic ruler of Morocco—and a madrasa, a type of local school focused on both secular and religious studies.
- Sample msemen, a traditional flatbread often served with honey and mint tea.

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## Casablanca → 1 night

### Day 11: Casablanca via Rabat

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

As you make your way to Casablanca, stop to tour Morocco's capital city, Rabat.

- Enter the white-and-green Mausoleum of Mohammed V, which houses the tombs of the 20th-century king and his two sons.

- View Hassan Tower, intended to be the world's largest mosque until construction halted in 1199 after the sultan's death. (His successors lacked the resources and desire to complete the project.)
- Make a photo stop at the Royal Palace, home of the current Moroccan royal family.
- Walk through the Kasbah des Oudaias—once a republic of pirates—to see the mouth of the Bou Regreg river and the lush, oasis-like Andalusian Gardens.

Enjoy free time for lunch before continuing on to Casablanca, where your Tour Director will introduce you to the seaside city made famous by Old Hollywood.

- See the Hassan II Mosque, the largest in Morocco. (It can hold up to 105,000 people.)
- Pass through the fashionable La Corniche waterfront area, known for its beach clubs, surfing, and cocktail bars.

Tonight, celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers during a farewell dinner served beer or wine.

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## Flight Home

### Day 12: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

*Please note: Some flights may leave Casablanca very early in the morning.*