

# GLOBAL SANTA FE

## CONNECTING OUR WORLD

### The Wonders of Morocco

October 11 – 20, 2024



## Day 1: Friday, October 11 - Arrival - Casablanca

Start your journey by delving into the intrigue and romance of Casablanca immortalized by Hollywood before meeting your travel companions and Travel Director for a Welcome Dinner at the hotel.



### *Overnight at the [Grand Mogador City Center](#)*

The Grand Mogador City Center is conveniently located within a short distance to the harbor and the Old Medina. Rooms are modern and spacious and include free WiFi.

## Day 2: Saturday, October 12 – Rabat, Meknes and Fes

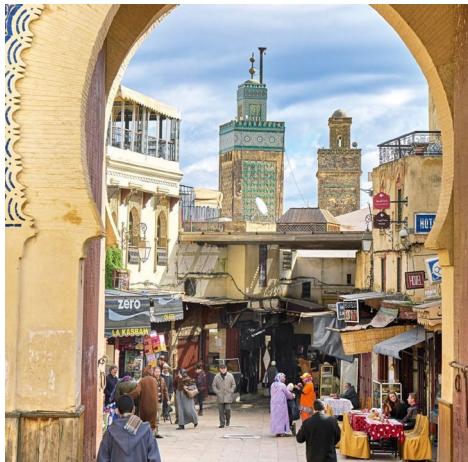
Travel along Morocco's coast to the capital, Rabat. Here, embark on an orientation tour of the city which includes views of the grand 17-century Palace and Mausoleum of Mohammed V. Travelling to the imperial city of Meknès, see the grand gate of Bab elMansour, one of the most impressive monumental gateways in North Africa, adorned by green and white zeillij tiles. Arrive in Fes later today with a superb Moroccan Highlight Dinner in an ancient palace at the entrance to the Medina. A colorful array of meze plates, aromatic tagines, exotic fruits, and wine will be laid before you while you are entertained by a traditional folklore show. (B, L, D)



### *Overnight at the [Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace](#)*

Ensure effortless relaxation in the luxury rooms and suites. Enjoy thoughtful perks including elegant marble bathrooms, mini-bars, and scenic balconies. After exploring Fez, retreat to our stylish hotel with high-speed internet access and sleep well in your luxurious featherbed.

## Day 3: Sunday, October 13 - Fes



Join a Local Specialist today to explore the Medina, one of the largest thriving medieval centers in the world. See the Royal Palace and visit the round dye pits and tanneries, revealing Morocco's ancient leathercraft. Later, you can admire traditional Moroccan handiwork during a visit to a carpet cooperative. Explore Bhalil village, where local people live in dwellings carved from the rock face. Warm in winter but cool in summer, they are perfect for the local climate. Join your companions this evening for a special opportunity to connect with locals over dinner featuring Moroccan specialties served with wine in a traditional riad. (B, D)

## Day 4: Monday, October 14 - Erfoud

Follow the old caravan trail south, stopping for lunch in Midelt, a market town set within the high plains between the Middle and High Atlas mountain ranges. Continuing along the palm-fringed Ziz Valley and past the Tafilalt oasis, arrive in the oasis town of Erfoud, regarded as the 'Gateway to the Sahara'. Its golden façades and towering dunes have made it a popular location for filmmakers for decades. This evening, travel to the stunning sand dunes of the Sahara, arriving in time to witness the glorious desert sunset. (B, L, D)



#### *Overnight at [Kasbah Hotel Xaluca Arfoud](#)*

Erfoud is known as the Door to the Desert. The Kasbah Hotel Xaluca Arfoud is unique having been built with adobes, the traditional Moroccan building bricks, and it is a great place to relax and enjoy the desert surrounds.

### **Day 5: Tuesday, October 15 – Ouarzazate**

Venture towards the oasis of Tinehir and explore the Todra Gorge, known as the Grand Canyon of the Sahara. At Boumalne du Dades you will encounter the dry and rugged Dades Valley, dotted with oases of figs, olives, date palms, and castellated mud houses—hugging the slopes. Meet the locals of the region when you visit a traditional Nomad house to try authentic Berber tea. The Road of a Thousand Kasbahs concludes at Ouarzazate, also known as the film capital of Morocco. Many blockbusters have been filmed here, including Lawrence of Arabia and Star Wars. (B, L, D)



#### *Overnight at the [Le Berbère Palace](#)*

The Le Berbère Palace, a traditional Berber-style hotel, offers guests a host of contemporary amenities including two restaurants, two bars, complimentary Wi-Fi internet access, fitness center, swimming pool, sauna, terraced garden, and library. The hotel's high sandstone walls conceal a sprawling property full of palm trees, garden-lined paths, and lovely courtyards. Air-conditioned guest rooms have private bath with hair dryer, minibar, in-room safe, TV, and phone.

### **Day 6: Wednesday, October 16 - Marrakesh**

Marvel at and photograph the architectural wonder of Ksar of Aït Benhaddou, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that boasts one of Morocco's finest kasbahs. Your journey continues via the spectacular Tizi n'Tichka Pass, before descending past charming mountain villages, dense woods, and green fields to the ochre-colored city of Marrakesh. Meet the inspiring ladies of a local women's cooperative over tea. (B, L)



#### *Overnight at [Le Meridien NFis Marrakesh](#)*

Relax in stylish splendor at Le Meridien NFis Marrakesh. Located in the Menara District of Marrakech, the hotel is nestled amidst lush parkland, just minutes from the vibrant city center. Find a stylish respite in chic accommodations with plush bedding, high-speed Wi-Fi, and signature amenities. Step onto your scenic terrace and gaze out at the illuminated Andalusian gardens outside the hotel. After a full day in Morocco, enjoy the resort amenities, including swimming pools, a spa, fitness center, and outdoor tennis courts.

### **Day 7: Thursday, October 17 - Marrakesh**

No visit to Marrakesh is complete without some time in the lovely Majorelle Gardens, bought and restored by the late Yves St Laurent. You'll also visit the Berber Museum where you will have the opportunity to view artifacts created by the ancient Berber people. Visit the ornate Bahia Palace during a city orientation with your Local Specialist and spend some time soaking up the energy of Djemaa el Fna Square in the Old Quarter. Spend the rest of the afternoon lingering in one of the city's beautiful gardens, discover the vibrant arts and culture scene, or consider indulging in a traditional Hammam. End the day at the magical Jemaa el Fna Square and enjoy the exotic sights and sounds of Marrakesh by night. (B, D)

## **Day 8: Friday, October 18 - Essaouira**

We travel to the laid-back shores of Essaouira this morning. Stopping en route, we Dive Into Culture to visit a cooperative involved in creating cosmetics from traditional ingredients. Consider a delicious seafood lunch and enjoy some free time before joining a city tour of the UNESCO-listed Medina, the walled Jewish Quarter, and Skala fortress. Spend the rest of the evening at leisure. (B)



### *Overnight at [Atlas Essaouira](#)*

Located beachfront in Essaouira, the Atlas Essaouira & Spa features two swimming pools, a fitness center and a spa with hammam.

## **Day 9: Saturday, October 19 - Casablanca**

This morning we journey north to Casablanca where we will enjoy views of the magnificent Hassan II Mosque, built for the late King's 60th birthday celebrations. In the evening 'of all the gin joints, in all the towns, in all the world' there really is only one place to be. Join your Travel Director at Rick's Café, recreated from the famous movie. Enjoy a hearty Celebration Dinner.

(B, D) Overnight at the [Hotel Mogador Marina Casablanca](#)

## **Day 10: Sunday, October 20 - Departure**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departing flights.

### **Rates:**

Based on a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 20 travelers in single accommodations: \$6,895 (discount available for double accommodations)

### **Includes:**

- 9 nights' accommodation per itinerary
- 8 days of private bus transportation
- Group arrival and departure transfers
- Meals listed in the itinerary: 9 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 6 dinners
- Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers
- All gratuities
- Emergency evacuation and trip accident and sickness medical expenses during the tour

### **Exclusions:**

- International airfare
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance (pre or post departure), visas and items of a personal nature.

If you have any questions or to make a reservation, contact **Shoshana at Winding Way Travel** at [shoshana@windingwaytravel.com](mailto:shoshana@windingwaytravel.com).

## Your Tour Leaders:

### **Shawn McQueen**

President & CEO, Global Santa Fe



Shawn's career and lived experience makes her an ideal leader for Global Santa Fe. She is a two-time exchange student and has dedicated her more than 25-year career to the non-profit sector. She says that "her greatest joy is to engage across cultures and build meaningful relationships." Not only does she have the passion for the mission of Global Santa Fe, but she also has the experience necessary to help the organization reach the next level. Working for international organizations, Shawn has traveled extensively and built a global network. As a resident of Lamy, she has many local relationships fostered during her prior tenure as Executive Director for the International Folk Art Market. McQueen is a passionate seeker of global understanding and a lifelong learner. In 2019, Shawn attended Oxford University's Säid Business School earning her MBA.

### **Jim Falk**

Honorary Consul, Kingdom of Morocco



Jim Falk hosts the weekly PBS show *Perspectives Matter, a McCusition Program*. For nearly two decades, he was president & CEO of the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth. Upon his retirement in 2021, he was named *president emeritus*. Now a resident of Santa Fe, NM, Jim is a member of the board of Global Santa Fe and volunteers as the organization's program chair. In 2012, he was appointed honorary consul for the Kingdom of Morocco. His interest in travel and global affairs grew from high school years spent in Tunis where he attended a French lycée. He is a graduate of Washington and Lee University and earned his MA in Foreign Affairs at the University of Virginia, specializing in international law and Middle East politics.