



## Exclusive Photography Adventure in Morocco

**Main Tour (14 nights): €4725\***

**Optional Extension Tour (6 nights): €1545\***

### **Inclusions – main tour**

- Airport pick up and drop off on designated arrival and departure days
- Accommodation in carefully chosen three and four star riads on a twin share basis
- Single supplement €700
- 14 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- Private transport in a Mercedes Vito van
- English speaking driver
- Entrance fees for the Hassan II Mosque, three madrasas in Fes and Marrakech, Sadian Tombs, Le Jardin Majorelle, Bahia Palace, Volubilis
- Food tour, Marrakech
- Accompanied by Omar and Heather

### **Inclusions – extension tour**

- Airport drop off on designated departure day
- Accommodation in carefully chosen three and four star riads on a twin share basis
- Single supplement €300
- 6 breakfasts, 1 dinner
- Private transport in a Mercedes Vito van
- English speaking driver
- Accompanied by Heather

### **Exclusions – main tour and extension tour**

- International flights
- Airport transfers in home country
- Travel insurance (mandatory)
- Meals, except as specified in the itinerary
- Drinks
- Tips (widely expected in Morocco)
- Items of a personal nature, such as telephone calls, laundry etc

\*Terms and conditions apply – see website for full details of booking terms. Price is quoted in Euros and converted to AU \$ or other major currency at time of final payment. Price is per person double/twin share, based on 4 guests travelling. Single supplement as specified. Non-refundable deposit of AU \$700 will confirm your booking. Final payment due 90 days before departure.

## The Itinerary

### Day 1 – Casablanca arrival

Arrive into Casablanca international airport from Australia in the early afternoon. You will be met by Heather and our driver/guide.

Transfer to the hotel in central Casablanca and check in.



Afternoon visit to the Hassan II Mosque, the largest in Africa and one of the few mosques it is possible to visit as a non-Muslim. The mosque is a stunning building with photography opportunities both inside and outside. We'll take an official tour inside the mosque and spend some time taking photographs of different aspects of the building from the outside. Tonight we will have a welcome dinner in Casablanca.



o/n Casablanca

### Day 2 – Casablanca to Fes

After breakfast, this morning, we set off for the three-hour transfer to Fes. Fes el-Bali is the old medina of Fes, where we'll spend most of our time. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the cultural and spiritual capital of Morocco, with many beautiful fountains, palaces and madrasas, it is the largest car-free urban area in the world and the perfect place to begin our Moroccan photography journey.

We'll check into our riad, have lunch and then meet Omar, our local Fes-based photography instructor, who will be with us for the next two weeks.

Omar will introduce himself and outline the program for the coming days. There will be an opportunity to ask any initial questions before we head out into the medina for our first photography walk, guided by Omar. We'll wander through the narrow streets and alleyways, looking out for interesting doorways, murals, local fountains, vendors and street scenes.



o/n Fes

### Day 3 – Fes



This morning, we'll begin with architecture photography, photographing a madrasa (religious school) in the medina. We'll aim to be there when it opens and before the crowds arrive. We'll be looking at perspectives, patterns, symmetry, textures and details.

Our next focus will be 'telling a photo story'. We'll meet with a local artisan, learn about their craft and document their work with a series of photographs. Depending on how the day goes, we may continue to another artisan or a local in their own home.



Before dinner this evening, and if the weather is suitable, we will take the short drive to the lookout at the Merenid Tombs above the old city, an ideal place to take sunset photographs of the medina. Before returning to the medina, we'll stop at the famous blue gate for some night photography shots.

o/n Fes





## Day 4 – Fes

This morning, we'll begin with another architecture session, again arriving early to beat the crowds, before continuing to the food and spices market. Here, we'll photograph local vendors and the vibrant colours of their fresh produce.



We'll spend the afternoon photographing one of Fes's most famous sights – the Chouara tannery, believed to be the oldest tannery in the world. We'll get views of the tannery from the balcony of a leather shop, overlooking the vats of coloured dye, before going inside, where we'll be guided by a worker who will explain the different stages of the dyeing process and we'll be able to take photographs as we go along.



This evening, before dinner, we'll have our first formal review session with Omar - an opportunity to share images taken so far, seek advice and ask questions on what we've learned.

o/n Fes

### **Day 5 – Fes / Volubilis**

We'll spend this morning taking photographs in an old abandoned palace in the medina, a location to which access is generally restricted, revisiting some of the themes we've been discussing, including perspective, texture, details, reflections, shadows, depth of field etc.

After lunch, we'll drive out of the medina to Volubilis, with a stop at the gates of the royal palace on the way. The drive is about 1.5 hours to the Roman ruins, where we'll spend the late afternoon taking photographs of the temples, houses and municipal buildings, including some of the beautifully preserved mosaic floors.



We return to Fes for our last night at our Fes riad.

o/n Fes

### **Day 6 – Fes to Midelt**

We say goodbye to Fes this morning and drive to Sefrou, where we'll visit a women's button making co-operative.

Then on to the cave houses of Bhalil where we can photograph traditional houses built into the mountainside and learn the fascinating history of this area. From Bhalil, it's an hour's drive through the mountains to Ifrane, known as the Switzerland of Morocco. We'll stop in the cedar forests outside the town to look for the barbary apes who live in the forests here: an opportunity to take some wildlife shots.





Another 2 hours drive brings us to Midelt and our stop for the night on the way to the desert. Omar will be available before dinner this evening for image critiquing and any questions about your photography experience over the last couple of days.

o/n Midlet

### Day 7 – Midelt to Merzouga

We leave Midelt after breakfast this morning to continue to Merzouga, the gateway to the Sahara. We'll stop on the way at the town of Erfoud, for lunch and local photography. We will have the chance here to explore portrait photography with local people in their homes or places of work.

From Erfoud, it an hour's drive to our accommodation in Merzouga.

o/n Merzouga

### Day 8 – Merzouga



This morning we will drive to the nearby town of Rissani, famous for its spice and livestock markets. After spending the morning here, we'll continue to the village of Khemliya, just outside Merzouga, where we'll meet and photograph some local Gnaou desert musicians, whose ancestors were brought through the Sahara in slave caravans from central and west Africa.

o/n Merzouga

### Day 9 – Merzouga

After breakfast, we'll get together to review images with Omar and discuss learnings so far and any questions or concerns.

In the early afternoon, we'll transfer by camel (or 4x4 if you prefer) to a desert camp and a real Sahara experience. There is some free time this afternoon to enjoy the camp and maybe walk in the dunes of Erg Chebbi. We'll explore some artistic shots of camels, silhouettes and patterns in the sand.



In the early evening, we'll find a spot ready to photograph the desert sunset, looking for light and shadow. Tonight we'll eat dinner under the stars and spend the night in a luxury tent.

o/n Sahara camp

### **Day 10 – Merzouga to Nkob/Agdz**

For anyone keen to get up early, we'll photograph the sunrise from the dunes around the camp, before returning to the camp for breakfast. Then we transfer back to Merzouga and our transport to continue our journey. There are two main routes to Ouarzazate and on to Marrakech. We will take the road less travelled, via the Berber villages of Nkob and Agdz, staying in one of the villages along the route to break up the journey and allowing us to take photographs of rural scenes and ancient kasbahs.



o/n Nkob or Agdz

### **Day 11 – Ait Benhaddou**

We continue to Ait Benhaddou, via the regional town of Ouarzazate. Ait Benhaddou is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, ancient kasbah and filming location for many famous movies, including Gladiator and Game of Thrones. There will be some free time this afternoon to explore the kasbah. We will reconvene across the river before sunset for a view over the kasbah in the soft evening light.

o/n Ait-Benhaddou



## Day 12 – Ait Benhaddou to Marrakech



There is another opportunity for a sunrise photoshoot this morning, overlooking Ait Benhaddou, before returning to the riad for breakfast.

After breakfast, we set off for the drive over the Atlas Mountains to Marrakech, stopping along the way for landscape shots.

Marrakech medina is another UNESCO World Heritage site, a chaotic tourist hub with a multitude of souks, overflowing with carpets, jewellery, brass lamps, kaftans, Moroccan slippers, tagines, ceramics, wooden carvings and every imaginable souvenir.

Check into the riad and enjoy a free afternoon, relax, take a traditional Moroccan bath (hammam) or wander in the souks. We'll meet again in the early evening for a photoshoot of Jemaa el Fnaa, the main square and the bustling heart of the medina that comes alive at dusk.

o/n Marrakech

## Day 13 – Marrakech

We begin the day with a visit to the Bahia Palace, a beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> century palace on the edge of the medina, arriving at opening time. Here we can put into practice everything we've learned about photographing Moroccan architecture.



From there we'll drive to La Ville Nouvelle to visit the very photogenic Le Jardin Majorelle, with its vibrant blue buildings, contrasting yellows and striking cacti plants.





After lunch, we continue to the Sadian Tombs, a royal tomb complex dating from the 17th century. The rest of the afternoon is free.

This evening, we'll do an evening food tour with a Marrakechi local, sampling local foods and photographing the vendors.



For anyone who wants to take photographs of the Koutubia Mosque, beautifully lit up at night, we'll do that after the food tour.

o/n Marrakech

#### **Day 14 – Marrakech**

We will spend the morning in the medina. There will be a chance to visit the Maison de la Photographie (at own cost), an exhibition of Moroccan photography, from the 1870s to the 1950s. We'll also spend time photographing in the souks. This afternoon, we'll have a final critique session with Omar to review our two weeks of photography, before our last dinner together.



o/n Marrakech

#### **Day 15 – Depart**

If you are departing today, you may want to fly out of Marrakech, or if you are flying out of Casablanca, we can drop you off at Casablanca airport on the way to Rabat.

Or, you might want to continue your Moroccan journey to see the coast and the north.

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## Optional extension

For anyone who wants to see Northern Morocco, with an emphasis on photography, I am offering a six-day extension to the main photography tour. On this extension tour, we will not be accompanied by a professional photographer, but the itinerary has been designed to maximise photography opportunities and includes locations I have visited on previous trips to Morocco.

### Day 15 – Marrakech to Rabat

If you are continuing with us from Marrakech, we will leave after breakfast for the three and a half hour drive to Rabat, the capital of Morocco.



Rabat has several famous monuments, including the Mausoleum of Mohammed, the Hassan Tower and the Oudaia Kasbah, an 11<sup>th</sup> century fortress and Andalusian Gardens. The gardens, Bab Oudaia gateway and narrow winding lanes of the kasbah provide many great photo opportunities. We will spend the afternoon visiting the key attractions in Rabat.

o/n Rabat

### Day 16 – Rabat to Tangier

From Rabat, we'll drive north to Tangier, stopping en route at the pretty coastal town of Asilah, where we'll have lunch and explore the whitewashed medina. Asilah is home to an annual street art festival so there are many murals to photograph in and around the medina, as well as some impressive gateways and interesting doors.



From Asilah, it's less than an hour's drive to Tangier and our home for the next two nights.

o/n Tangier

## Day 17 – Tangier

Today is a free day to explore Tangier, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Mediterranean Sea and from where, on a clear day, there are views across to Southern Spain. It's a short 14km drive along the coast to the lighthouse at Cap Spartel or, if you prefer, spend the day wandering through narrow streets of the medina. In the early evening, we'll make our way to the Phoenician Tombs, set on a hillside, and a popular spot to watch the sunset.

o/n Tangier

## Day 18 – Tangier to Chefchaouen

After breakfast, we drive through the Rif Mountains to Chefchaouen. Known as 'The Blue Pearl' it is one of Morocco's most relaxed and prettiest towns. We'll stay inside the medina, from where it is easy to explore.



o/n Chefchaouen

## Day 19 – Chefchaouen







Today is a free day to explore Chefchaouen, visit the main square, the old kasbah and the cute shops and cafes. Photograph the many cats who lounge around on doorsteps, the blue doors and walls of the old medina, handwoven carpets and pyramids of spices.

This evening, before dinner, we will walk 30 minutes to the Spanish mosque on a small hill outside the town. There are great sunset views from here, over the blue buildings of Chefchaouen's old medina.

o/n Chefchaouen

## Day 20 – Meknes

This morning we leave Chefchaouen for the three and a half hour drive to Meknes, once the capital of Morocco. On the way, we'll visit the holy town of Moulay Idriss Zerhoun, where we'll have lunch, take in the views of the town from a hillside terrace and photograph Morocco's only square minaret.



Meknes dates back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century and has several historical monuments that provide great subjects for photography. Some of the city centre is currently being restored, so we will choose what to visit, depending on the progress of the restoration work.

This evening brings to an end three amazing weeks of photography in Morocco.

o/n Meknes

## Day 21 – Menkes to Casablanca airport

From Meknes it is a three-hour drive to Casablanca and the flight home.

## Why book this tour?

There are many tours to Morocco, what's so special about this one?

### **Local photography instructor**

I cannot over emphasise the importance in Morocco of a local, well-connected photography guide. I have done two workshops with Omar and have experienced first-hand his friendly and respectful relationships with local people, his knowledge of the medina, not to mention his enthusiasm and willingness to share his photography skills and his knowledge of the history and culture of his country.

### **Variety of photography opportunities**

This tour provides opportunities to practice a range of photographic genres: street photography, architecture, portraiture, landscape and some wildlife, as well as the chance to learn some artistic photographic techniques.

### **Small group**

With only four participants, you are guaranteed a high level of guidance and tuition from Omar, throughout the photography tour.

And travelling together in one vehicle means we can be flexible - if we see something along the way that looks interesting, we will stop.

### **Extended time in three locations**

Rather than dashing from place to place, and spending endless hours in the car, we focus on three main locations - four nights in Fes and three in each of Merzouga and Marrakech. This allows us to maximise the time available for taking photographs.

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For anyone who enjoys photography, whether you're a beginner or an accomplished photographer, this tour is a chance to experience the real Morocco on a unique photographic journey. What are you waiting for?

To book your place, or for more information, contact Heather on +61 448 739946.

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### **Exclusive Photography Adventure in Morocco**

*Join me in Morocco for an immersive photography adventure with local Moroccan photographer, Omar Chennafi.*

Omar, a professional photographer, artist and curator, based in Fes, Morocco, is passionate about capturing the essence of Morocco. He regularly leads photography tours in Morocco, catering to international clients and has been recognised in a number of prestigious international publications, with his work featuring in the Lonely Planet Travel Guide, AFAR Magazine and the UK's The Independent newspaper.

Having a local photographer lead a photography tour is always an advantage but, in Morocco, I believe it is essential. Unlike in many countries, where local people are happy to be photographed in their day to day lives, many Moroccans are not comfortable being photographed: a local photography guide is critical to bridging that gap. Omar grew up in the medina of Fes and can provide unique access to artisans and locations that would otherwise not be available to us.

The itinerary below has been designed to maximise opportunities for photography and, unlike many photography tours, that move from place to place every day, we will stay several nights in three main locations. This lends itself to an immersive photography experience, the chance to settle into the accommodation and spend time becoming familiar with our surroundings.

Although we plan to follow the itinerary, please keep in mind that it may be subject to change, to reflect weather conditions or additional photography opportunities that present themselves. If we see something interesting along the way, we will stop. The itinerary includes formal critique sessions, but Omar will, of course, be available throughout the tour to assist with any technical or other photography queries.

The group size is limited to four, plus Heather and Omar. We will travel together in a luxury Mercedes Vito van so everyone has access to Omar at all times.

The trip is open to photography enthusiasts of all levels, from beginner to semi-professional. Please get in touch if you have any questions or would like any more information. Costs and inclusions below.

I would love you to join me!

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