



Sketching Southern Morocco

9 days / 8 nights, Casablanca to Casablanca

21-30 May 2025

€3235

Morocco is a feast for the senses.

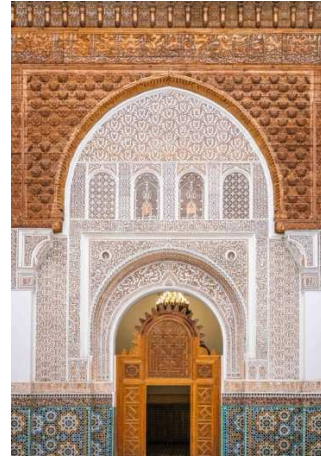
The sights, sounds, smells, tastes, colours and experiences of this country are like no other!

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Spend two nights in the medina of Marrakech, the vibrant, bustling heart of Morocco*
- *Visit the stunning Jardin Majorelle, the garden of Yves Saint Laurent*
- *Sample a range of Moroccan delicacies on an evening food tour in Marrakech*
- *Visit the ancient kasbah of Ait Benhaddou, filming location of the Gladiator movie*
- *Take the opportunity to experience a traditional Moroccan spa (hamman)*
- *Explore the coastal town of Essaouira, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean*
- *Shop for textiles, jewellery, rugs and other handicrafts in the many souks and markets*
- *Create lifetime memories through your personalised travel journal of colourful sketches*

Book with Heather on 0448 739946 or heather@moroccanescapes.com.au

<https://www.moroccanescapes.com.au/>



Included

- *Daily sketching opportunities and tuition by Tricia Sullivan*
- *All land-based travel in Morocco*
- *8 nights accommodation in carefully chosen boutique riads and hotels*
- *7 breakfasts, 2 dinners*
- *Entry to Le Jardin Majorelle and Bahia Palace*
- *Transport in an air-conditioned Mercedes Vito or minibus, depending on numbers*
- *Airport pick up and drop off in Casablanca at scheduled times on arrival and departure dates*
- *Local English-speaking guide/driver*
- *Escorted by Heather McNeice, owner of Moroccan Escapes*

Not included

- *International flights*
- *Transfers to and from your home to your departure airport*
- *Travel insurance – mandatory*
- *Meals and activities, other than those specified in the itinerary as included*
- *Personal items such as drinks, laundry*
- *Tips (widely expected in Morocco) – we will organise a kitty for tips*
- *City tax, if not included in hotel rate*

Cost is €3235 Euros, per person twin share. Single supplement €350 Euros. Terms and conditions apply – see website for details. Price is in Euros and is converted to Australian dollars, or other major currency, at date of final payment. Minimum/maximum group size: four/ten. Non-refundable deposit of €430 Euros, or equivalent in other major currency, will confirm your booking. Discounts available if booking both Northern and Southern Morocco Sketching tours together, and/or for non-sketching partners accompanying a sketcher.

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Casablanca – Marrakech – Ait Benhaddou – Gueliz – Essaouira – Casablanca

Day 1: 21 May 2025, Casablanca

If you are joining us today, arrive at Casablanca international airport early afternoon, where you will be met by our local guide and driver for the transfer to our hotel. If you are continuing from our Northern Morocco Sketching Tour, we will meet our new fellow travellers for dinner after an afternoon sketching at the Hasan II Mosque. (D)



Jacques Majorelle, it fell into disrepair after his death until it was rescued by Yves Saint Laurent and restored to its former glory. We'll spend time sketching the fountains, exotic plants and striking buildings of this beautiful garden.



There is free time this afternoon for a traditional Moroccan spa (hamman), or to relax at the riad, go shopping or admire the incredible colours of the Marrakech medina.

Day 2: 22 May 2025, Marrakech

Leaving Casablanca, this morning, we drive east to Marrakech, the bustling city at the heart of Morocco. The vibrancy of this city cannot be found anywhere else in the world! We will explore, sketch and soak in the atmosphere. Then in the early evening we will be taken on a food tour with a Marrakechi local, sampling a range of Moroccan specialities. It's a fun and informative evening that will tantalise your taste buds and awaken your senses. (B)



We'll meet again in the late afternoon, to watch the sun set from a rooftop café overlooking Jemaa El Fnaa, the 'Big Square' in Marrakech. Then after dinner we will explore the Big Square together - think acrobats, story-tellers, henna artists, food vendors, snake charmers and entertainers. (B)



Day 3: 23 May April 2025, Marrakech

We begin the day with a visit to Le Jardin Majorelle in the Ville Nouvelle - a must-see in Marrakech. Originally designed by French artist,

Casablanca – Marrakech – Ait Benhaddou – Gueliz – Essaouira – Casablanca

Day 4: 24 May 2025, Ait Benhaddou

This morning we'll visit Bahia Palace, built in 1867 for the Grand Vizir of the Sultan, his 4 wives and 34 Concubines! Each room is decorated in truly elegant Moroccan style. Zellig tiled floors, stained glass windows, marble fountains and carved cedarwood decorate the 150 rooms.



After that visual feast, we will drive across the High Atlas Mountains to Ait Benhaddou, an 11th century Berber ksar (fortified village). This UNESCO World Heritage Site has been the location for many famous movies, including *Gladiator* and *Games of Thrones*.

We'll spend the afternoon exploring the kasbah, ending the day at a viewpoint at the top, overlooking the valley and mountains. (B)



Day 5: 25 May 2025, Ait Benhaddou

A full day in Ait Benhaddou, sketching in the kasbah, exploring and shopping. There are several resident artists inside the kasbah - we will stop to watch them at work. We can share our stories of the day over dinner tonight in this truly exotic part of the world. (B)



Day 6: 25 May 2025, Gueliz

Today, we leave the desert and head west towards the coast. We'll stop in the High Atlas Mountains for sweeping views over the Marrakech Valley, and end our day in Gueliz, our final stop. (B)

Day 7: 26 May 2025, Essaouira

This morning, we drive to the laid-back coastal city of Essaouira, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Famous for its seafood, handicrafts and thriving arts scene, it's the perfect place to unwind at the end of the tour. This afternoon, we'll sketch and explore before meeting for dinner in a local restaurant. (B)



Day 8: 27 May 2025, Essaouira

Our sketching subjects in Essaouira today might include ancient walls, blue fishing boats, colourful spices in the market, or children playing in the street. Our options are endless. Tonight we will have a special farewell dinner together to celebrate the end of a memory making trip. (B, D)

Casablanca – Marrakech – Ait Benhaddou – Gueliz – Essaouira – Casablanca



Day 9: 28 May 2025, Transfer to Casablanca

All good things must come to an end. This morning we transfer back to Casablanca (4 hours) for a late afternoon or evening flight out. Please allow enough time (recommended three hours) for check-in for an international flight.

Morocco is a truly unique country, where you can step back in time to experience centuries old culture, that is a mix of Berber, Arabic, Andalusian, Mediterranean, French, Moorish and African. These influences are seen in everything from the architecture to the food, the culture and the Moroccan people.

Heather and I will take you on a journey to safely explore this wonderous country - to experience the warmth of its people, the ancient trades, the cuisine, the markets, the tiled palaces, the history, culture, music, handicrafts, current artists and so much more.

I will help you to capture your memories through quick, simple, vibrant travel sketches. We will capture the feeling and essence of Morocco that a photograph can't always do. Your sketches (like your memories) will be unique to you.

We will sketch every day, and I can guide you in the creation of your sketch as much or as little as you want. Sketching gives us the opportunity to “stop and smell the roses”, to be creative and observant, while we put together a vibrant little drawing of Moroccan daily life. All level of sketchers are welcome on this trip - from complete novices, to experienced sketchers.

But it's not all about sketching! There is plenty of free time in every day as well, to explore, rest and experience the local area on your own, or with the new friends that you will make on this trip. We always like to meet up at the end of the day, to swap stories and enjoy a delicious meal together, to live like a local even if it's just for a day.

Come join me on this creative, sketching tour of Morocco. You will capture memories to last a lifetime.

Tricia Sullivan



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