



WOMEN WITH WINGS PRESENTS:

Mystical Morocco 2012



October 13 - 24, 2012

An optional 4 day desert extension October 24 - 27, 2012

Day-to-day itinerary:

Saturday, October 13 Departure to Morocco

Your International flights are not included in this tour but we recommend you take advantage of the Royal Air Maroc flight from Montreal to Casablanca as our tour begins early on October 14th.

Sunday, October 14 Casablanca - Rabat (B, D)

Upon arrival in Casablanca you will be met by your Canadian Tour Leader and your local Moroccan guide who will be with us throughout the entire journey. Travel one hour to Rabat, where you will check in to the Farah Golden Tulip Hotel to freshen up. Free time for lunch before visiting the royal city, the present Capital of Morocco. Sites to see in this city include a visit to the Kasbah of the Udayas, the Great Mosque, the Hassan Tower and the magnificent Mohammed V Mausoleum. Dinner and overnight in Rabat.

Monday, October 15 Rabat- Meknes - Fez (B,D)

This morning our private transportation will take us past the ramparts and the walls of Mechouar that encompass the Royal Palace. Then it is on to Meknes where there will be a lunch stop before visiting the walls and numerous gates of this ancient city. Visit the famous Gate of Bab el Mansour, the Shrine Mosque, the tomb of Moulay Ismail, Dar Jamai Palace and the Royal Stables. On the way to our destination of Fez, we will stop at the City of Moulay Idriss where the founder of Islam is buried. Nearby is the archaeological site of the Roman ruins at Volubilis. Enter the Medina walls of Fez and enjoy a group meal at Riad El Yacout. Overnight in the Riad.

Tuesday, October 16 Fez (B,D)

Fez was the first imperial and medieval city of Morocco, built in 790 A.D by Moulay Idriss II. Today begins with a visit to the King's Palace. After walking through the Jewish and Arab sections, you

will see the South gate of the palace. Enter the city for a walking tour highlighting the Karaouine University the oldest in the world, the Mederssa Attarine, Bouanania Religious School and Najarine Fountain. Stop for lunch before visiting the carpet weaver's cooperative nearby. Later visit the Moulay Idriss Mausoleum and a famous tannery where skins are cured and dyed in enormous vats—be prepared for the strong aromas! There will also be time to shop for some of Fez's famous handicrafts. Dinner and overnight at Riad el Yacout.

Wednesday, October 17 Fez – Casablanca (B,D)

After a morning visit to the ceramic factory we will continue along the river for a panoramic view of the Old Town Medina on the way out of town. Travel 3 hours southeast on the highway towards Casablanca and we'll stop for lunch or snack along the way. Upon arrival in Casablanca you will check into the Golden Tulip Farah Hotel for an opportunity to use the spa or do some shopping. Buffet dinner as a group and overnight at this 5 star hotel.





Thursday, October 18 Casablanca (B,L)

After breakfast we will visit the Mosque of Hassan II, which is one of the largest in the Muslim world. Nearby is a lovely restaurant, La Fibule which overlooks the Atlantic Ocean. Here we have time to dine in this restaurant or enjoy a picnic lunch on the ocean rocks. Afternoon city tour to the United Nations Square, Royal Palace, Central Market and Anfa Residential area. Option to visit the famous Rick's Café from the movie Casablanca. Evening meal and overnight at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Casablanca.

Friday, October 19 Casablanca – El Jadida - Essaouira (B,D)

Departure for Essaouira via the coastal route to El Jadida with a stop at Oualidia to give you time to try a seafood lunch. Continue along the coast towards Safi visiting the Portuguese occupied 11th century-Bastion de L'ange. Dinner and overnight in Riad Kasbah in Essaouira near the beach.

Saturday, October 20 Essaouira (B, D)

Today we will have a full day to explore Essaouira, a Phoenician port city dating back to the 5th century BC. The 18th Century Medina is now a World Heritage UNESCO site. Suggestions include a lunch outdoors at Chalet de la Place for seafood dishes, a dromedary trek on the beach and a visit to the old port. Dinner & overnight at the Riad Kasbah.

Sunday, October 21 Essaouira – Marrakech (B,D)

Late morning departure to travel about 3 hours to Marrakech, the "Pearl of the South". Check into the Riad Catalina inside the Medina walls. You are free to have a welcome salad lunch if you wish – delicious! Visit the world-famous Place Jemaa el Fna, a spectacular open square with storytellers, soothsayers, fire-eaters, snake-charmers and palm-readers. Dinner back at the Riad Catalina within the cool walls of the garden – watch out for the turtles!

Monday, October 22 Marrakech (B,L)

Today is a full day to visit Marrakech. Tour the Bahia Palace with its many decorated rooms and visit the Tombs of Saadiens nearby. Stop in at the Berber Pharmacy to shop for spices and Moroccan remedies. We will enjoy lunch at the Kozy Bar in the Medina. On to the souks to get lost amongst the artisans while you shop for leather, sweets, jewellery and lanterns. Dinner on your own at one of many recommended restaurants.

Tuesday, October 23 Marrakech (B,D)

Another day to enjoy the red coloured city. Take a calèche ride outside the medina walls to the Majorelle Gardens, founded by

Yves St. Laurent. You will have some time in this tranquil oasis to take photographs of the plants in this iconic majorelle blue garden. Lunch and the balance of the afternoon on your own -shop for that final souvenir. Evening option to have a Hammam, a traditional scrub and massage. Evening farewell dinner at the Riad Catalina.

Wednesday, October 24 Marrakech (B)

This morning we will say "au revoir" to those going home today. After breakfast, those leaving will be transferred to the Marrakech airport and assisted with customs for their return flight home via Casablanca.



[Optional 4 Day Desert Extension](#)

Wednesday, October 24 Marrakesh – Ouarzazate (B,D)

Drive to Ouarzazate crossing the impressive Tizin Tichka pass. Before reaching your destination, you will visit the fortified village of Ait Benhaddou the most exotic and best preserved Kasbah in the whole of the Atlas Mountain region. This village has been highlighted in many feature films such as "Lawrence of Arabia" and "Gladiator". Option to have lunch overlooking the Kasbah. Continue to Ouarzazate to check in to the Riad Salam Hotel for a swim and buffet dinner.

Thursday, October 25 Ouarzazate - Zagora - Bivouac (B, D)

This morning you will travel along the Draa Valley River Oasis



towards Zagora. Stop at the Riad Lamane within the oasis where you can lunch on the rooftop patio. Here you will meet the 4x4 vehicle which will take you further into the desert through the town of Tagounite and the Tinfou dunes. Continue through the sand to the bivouac camp to have a group meal of tagines in the big tent followed by Berber drums around the campfire. Spend this night of adventure in your private tent.

Friday, October 26 Zagora – Ouarzazate (B,D)

Your dromedary awaits you outside your tent for your one hour trek to the dunes near M'Hamid. Later in the morning you will head back to Ouarzazate with a stop in Tamegroute. This is the home of the famous Koran Library with many rare books and documents dating back to the 14th century. Visit the local pottery cooperative and observe Moroccan life bustling with daily activities along the roadside oasis. Return to the Riad Salam in Ouarzazate for some free shopping time and a farewell dinner at the hotel.

Saturday, October 27 Ouarzazate (B)

Early departure to the airport for your domestic flight to Casablanca and your transatlantic flight home.

10 Nights

Price: \$4199

(LAND ONLY - CDN dollars)

Per person based on double occupancy

Optional 4 Day Desert Extension

Additional \$1399

**Contact Liz Irving
for more details:**

**Phone: (604) 926-8511 or
info@womenwithwings.ca**

Tour Inclusions:

- ◆ Accompanied by our Canadian *Women With Wings* tour leader throughout
- ◆ Local Moroccan tour guide and interpreter throughout
- ◆ Domestic flight from Marrakech to Casablanca
- ◆ 1 night accommodation at Rabat
- ◆ 2 nights accommodation at Fez
- ◆ 2 nights accommodation at Casablanca
- ◆ 2 nights accommodation at Essaouira
- ◆ 3 nights accommodation at Marrakech
- ◆ Breakfast and one major meal daily
- ◆ Entrance to monuments
- ◆ All ground transportation by bus or minivan

4 Day Extension Inclusions:

- ◆ 2 nights accommodation at Ouarzazate
- ◆ 1 night accommodation at Zagora/Bivouac
- ◆ Dromedary trek near Bivouac
- ◆ Flight from Ouarzazate to Casablanca
- ◆ Breakfast and one major meal a day
- ◆ Monuments and guides
- ◆ Transport by minivan and 4x4

Tour Exclusions:

- ◆ International flights
- ◆ Beverages and meals not included in the itinerary
- ◆ Personal expenses (shopping, laundry, telephone etc)

The Details:

- ◆ Limited space, we encourage you to book early!
- ◆ A non-refundable deposit in the amount of \$1200 will secure your booking.
- ◆ The final balance is payable by August 8th, 2012
- ◆ We strongly suggest that you purchase Trip Cancellation Insurance & Out-of-Country Medical coverage. Premiums will be quoted at time of booking.
- ◆ Please let us know if you need assistance with flights.
- ◆ Tour is based on minimum of 8 participants