



## Morocco: New & Exciting for Fall!



Kasbah of Ait Benhaddou

*Coming May 2018: Athens and the Greek Isles!*

Why Morocco? It's one of the most beautiful and safest Mediterranean countries for European and American travelers today. This tour combines the cities of **Casablanca**, **Fes** and **Marrakesh** with an adventurous journey to the sand dunes of the **Sahara** and the spectacular **High Atlas Mountains**. Beginning in Morocco's largest city **Casablanca** you travel along the Atlantic coastline towards the capital city of **Rabat** before turning west and traveling through the Imperial City of **Meknes** to **Fes** with its fascinating souk (specializing in spices, leather and hand-made carpets). You then head south and make the long journey towards the **Sahara Desert**. At **Merzouga** you take a Land Rover excursion into the dunes and an incredible desert sunrise. Heading west you visit the spectacular **Todra Gorge** and the **Kasbah at Ait Benhaddou** before reaching

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*Edited by Bob Blanton  
Design & Layout by Debbie Bowen*

# Itinerary Overview

## Day 1 - Friday, Nov. 17

Depart from Charlotte

## Day 2 - Saturday, Nov. 18

Casablanca - Hassan II mosque  
- Old Medina

## Day 3 - Sunday, Nov. 19

Casablanca to Fes - Rabat -  
Royal Palace & Mausoleum of  
King Hassan V - Hassan Tower  
- Oudaias Kasbah - Imperial city  
of Meknes

## Day 4 - Monday, Nov. 20

Fes - Souks

## Day 5 - Tuesday, Nov. 21

Fes to Erfoud - Middle Atlas -  
Cedar Forests near Azrou - Ziz  
Gorge - Midelt - Sahara Desert  
- Erfoud

## Day 6 - Wednesday, Nov. 22

Merzouga - Sahara Desert  
Dunes - Tinghir - Todra Gorge -  
Dades River - Boumalen-Dades

## Day 7 - Thursday, Nov. 23

Ouarzazate - Marrakesh -  
Kasbah of Aid Benhaddou -  
Atlas Mountains - Tizi n Tichka  
Pass

## Day 8 - Friday, Nov. 24

Marrakesh - Koutoubia Masque  
- Djemma al Fna - Souk -  
Casablanca - Rick's Cafe

## Day 9 - Saturday, Nov. 25

Free day in Casablanca

## Day 10 - Sunday, Nov. 26

Return to Charlotte

# Morocco: New & Exciting for Fall

November 17-26, 2017

**Marrakesh** with its historic minaret and vibrant central square. The journey ends back in Casablanca where you spend an evening at **Ricks Café** which recreates the movie set from Humphrey Bogart's iconic film. Note: All hotels, restaurants and buses are fully air-conditioned.

## DAY 1

Friday, November 17, 2017

- Depart from **Charlotte**.
- Meals included on flight.

## DAY 2

Saturday, November 18, 2017

- Breakfast included on flight.
- Arrive in **Casablanca**.
- On arrival, you will be met by your tour guide and private coach, who will remain with you throughout the tour.
- Transfer to your hotel for check-in and time to relax.
- After lunch, you will have a city tour which will include a visit to vast **Hassan II mosque** which is the largest in Morocco. You will

also be able to explore the **old Medina** area and **souk**.

- The remainder of the day is at your leisure.
- Dinner this evening will be at your hotel, the **Val d' Anfa**.



Morocco Market

## DAY 3

Sunday, November 19, 2017

- Breakfast at hotel.
- depart from Casablanca and travel north along the coast to the capital **Rabat**. Here you will visit the **Royal Palace and Mausoleum of King Hassan V**, the **Hassan Tower**, and the **Oudaias Kasbah**.
- Continue to the Imperial city of **Meknes** for a driving tour and



Hassan II Mosque



Mausoleum of Mohammed V

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have lunch before continuing the journey to **Fes**.

- In the evening, dinner will be in a restaurant near the souk.

## DAY 4

**Monday, November 20, 2017**

- Breakfast at hotel, **Palais Medina Hotel**.
- Spend the day in **Fes**, a fascinating city which dates from medieval times. It is undoubtedly one of the jewels of the north of Morocco and an afternoon spent exploring its labyrinthine souks will reveal a city lost in time, whilst its palaces, city walls and Kasbah will enthrall you.



## DAY 5

**Tuesday, November 21, 2017**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Continue your journey, heading

south through the **Middle Atlas** and **cedar forests** near **Azrou** to the grassy plains where nomads graze their goats and camels. You pass by the dramatic **Ziz Gorge** before arriving at the town of **Midelt** which is a half-way lunch stop on the journey to the **Sahara**.

- From **Midelt** you continue the journey south heading towards the **Sahara Desert** and the town or **Erfoud** which is the gateway to the Sahara Desert.



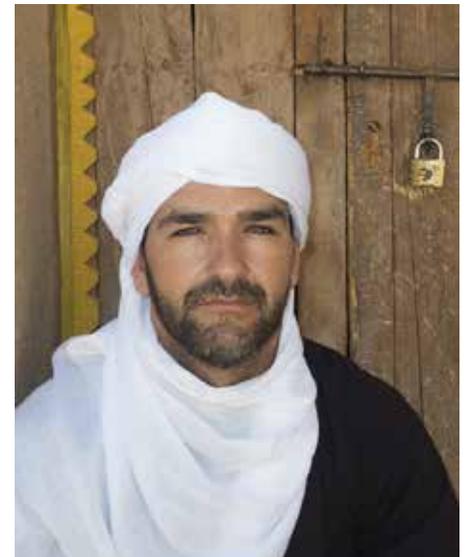
## DAY 6

**Wednesday, November 22, 2017**

- Breakfast at your hotel, **Hotel Desert Xaluca**.
- Early morning you travel by land rover vehicles to **Merzouga** and the **sand dunes of the Sahara**

**Desert** for an excursion into the dunes in time to see the sunrise over the Sahara.

- An optional camel ride can also be arranged here.
- Departing from **Erfoud** you now travel west to **Tinghir** where you visit the spectacular **Todra Gorge** where the **Dades River** has carved out a 25 mile long canyon with sheer walls rising several hundred feet. You have time here to explore the canyon and have lunch.



- After lunch, you continue to the town of **Boumalen-Dades** which is inhabited by Berber people and where you spend the night in the **Xaluca Dades**.

## DAY 7

**Thursday, November 23, 2017**

- Breakfast at hotel.
- Continue the journey towards **Marrakesh** and stop at the renowned **Kasbah of Ait Benhaddou** where many famous Hollywood films (such as *Gladiator*, *The Mummy*, *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Alexander*) have been set.

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- You cross the **Atlas Mountains** via the spectacular **Tizi n Tichka** pass and descend on the north side of the pass to reach **Marrakesh**.

### DAY 8

**Friday, November 24, 2017**

- Breakfast at the **Hotel Atlas Medina**.
- This morning you have a guided tour of the old medina quarter of the city starting with the ancient **Koutoubia Mosque** which dates from the 12th century. Whilst it's not possible for non-Muslims to go inside the mosque, you can explore the surrounding gardens.
- You then walk over to the main square of Marrakesh, the **Djemma al Fna**. This huge square (often just called the main square) is a vibrant mix of food stalls, musicians, jugglers, snake charmers and other performers, all vying for your attention.
- Beyond the **Djemma** you can find the **Souk**, a cavernous and rambling maze of narrow

alleyways with stalls selling every manner of products imaginable. You need your bargaining skills to be at their sharpest here.

- In the afternoon, you travel by coach back to **Casablanca**.
- Dinner this evening will be arranged at **Rick's Café** which recreates the original movie set.

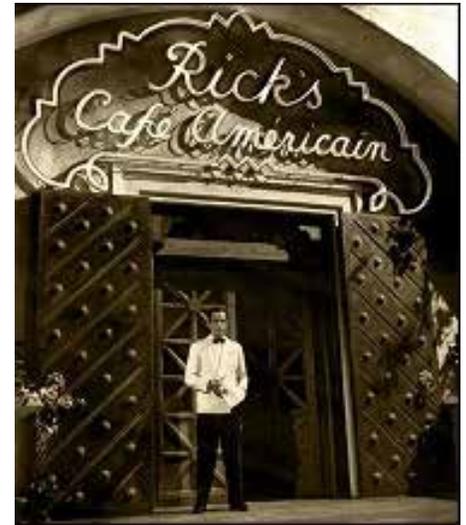
### DAY 9

**Saturday, November 25, 2017**

- Breakfast at the **Hotel Val d'Anfa**.
- Today is free in **Casablanca** for you to explore the city on your own and to shop for souvenirs.

Our hotel is located on the **Corniche** with various shopping opportunities close by.

- Depending on the aspirations of the group it may also be possible to schedule other activities today.
- Dinner this evening will be arranged in the city before you transfer to the airport for the homeward flight.



### DAY 10

**Sunday, November 26, 2017**

- Your flight departs from Casablanca very early this morning with **departure provisionally scheduled for 1:45am and arriving into Charlotte** late in the day.



Fountain decorated with tiles in Rabat

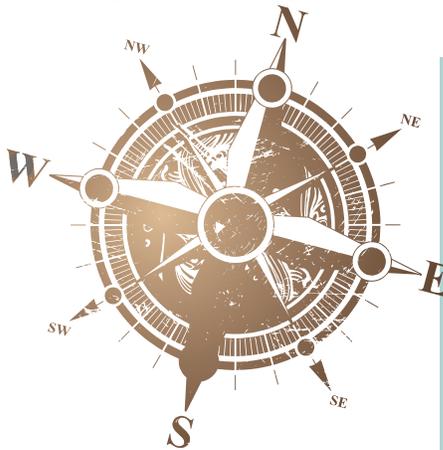


## What IS Included in the Tour Package

- Round trip flights from Charlotte, NC to Casablanca on regularly scheduled airlines with guaranteed dates.
- All airport taxes and fuel surcharges (which are subject to change until time of ticketing).
- Accommodations in four- and five-star hotels (double-occupancy).
- Breakfasts at your hotel and dinners at your hotel or local restaurants (including all tips).
- Private motor coach/Land Rover 4x4 (Merzouga) a tour manager, and daily guides, with bottled water on coach.
- Admission fees and excursions noted in itinerary.
- 100% Financial Protection through our Travel Trust Association License.

## What is NOT included in the Tour Package

- Valid passport (Visas are not currently required for US citizens).
- Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage (one checked bag is allowed).
- Lunches and drinks with meals.
- Single room supplements (if requested).
- Tips for driver and tour manager. Personal expenditures such as telephone calls, snacks, drinks with meals, laundry, etc.
- Cost of Gaston College registration in October, 2017.



## All-Inclusive Tour Price

Land and air package:  
**\$3,471 per person**, double-occupancy hotel with transportation and fees (based on 21 paying tour members).

## Reservation Form

# Morocco

November 17-26, 2017

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, DETATCH AND SEND TO  
GASTON COLLEGE STUDY TOURS AT THE ADDRESS BELOW.

**Send a \$500 (per person) deposit by check or credit card  
(credit card payments can be made at 704.922.6435) on or  
before August 17, 2017 to Bob Blanton at the address below.**

Full name (as it appears on your passport): \_\_\_\_\_

Current address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Valid passport number (for airlines): \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Many foreign countries now require that your passport be valid at least 6 months after you end your visit. Make sure yours will meet this requirement.

I wish to room with: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I require a private room at additional cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary/health needs (for hotels/airlines): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- I am covered by my own health/hospitalization insurance policy while overseas. You must provide proof of coverage.
- I plan to purchase additional health/hospitalization insurance (on my own). Trip Mate is our preferred company.

Bob Blanton, Study Tours Director  
Box 76, Gaston College  
201 Highway 321 South  
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# Reservations

## Morocco

November 17-26, 2017

All prices based upon a minimum of 21 paying participants (prices are valid at the time of this printing, but are subject to change). Tours are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. *Checks should be made payable to Gaston College Study Tours, and payment should be sent directly to Bob Blanton, Gaston College Study Tours, Box 76, Gaston College, 201 Highway 321 South, Dallas, NC 28034.*

## Registration Deadline

**August 17, 2017**

