

Kasbah Ait Ben Haddou

Tour Code: GVM25



Sun, Sand & Sea: **MOROCCO**

SCHEDULED DEPARTURE

Oct. 31 - Nov. 11, 2025

Tour Host:
Gene Van Galder

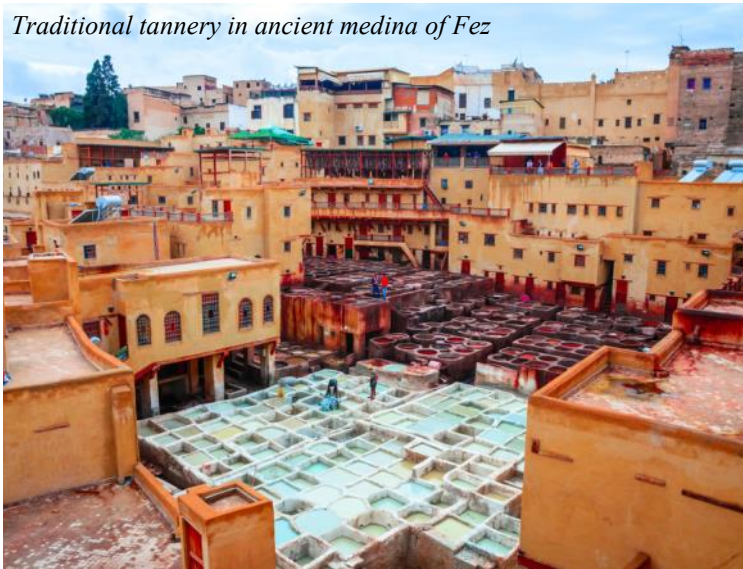


Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca



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Traditional tannery in ancient medina of Fes



Day 1: Friday, October 31, 2025 • Depart US
Our journey begins as we board our flight to Casablanca. **IF**

Day 2: Saturday, November 1, 2025 • Casablanca
We are greeted by our guide at the airport and transferred to the hotel. Enjoy a city tour of Casablanca, the economic capital and largest city of Morocco. Stop at the famous **Hassan II Mosque**, the landmark of the city with the tallest minaret in the world (210 metres (689 ft)). Stop next at **Ain Diab Corniche**, which is one of the city's most fashionable districts. Enjoy a welcome dinner at Ricks Café (or similar). **D**

Day 3: Sunday, November 2, 2025 • Rabat
Today we transfer to Rabat, and enjoy a city tour of the capital of Morocco and one of the country's imperial cities. Visit the **Kasbah of the Oudayas**. This Kasbah was constructed during the realm of the Almohads dynasty (12th century). We stop at **Mohammed V Mausoleum**, which is home to the tombs of the current king's father and grandfather. Visit **Hassan Tower**, a minaret built in 1195. We enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and spend the afternoon at leisure. This evening we enjoy dinner at the hotel. **B, L, D**

Day 4: Monday, November 3, 2025 • Fes
Transfer to Meknes, the "Moroccan Versailles" and one of the oldest cities in the kingdom where we enjoy a city tour. Visit the **Bab El Mansour gate**, the grandest of all imperial Moroccan gateways. Stop at **Hri Souani**, a complex of three different buildings built for granaries and stables. This site has been used as a scene for many films, the most famous of which is probably "The Last Temptation of Christ" in 1988 by Martin Scorsese. Lunch at a local restaurant. Continue to the **UNESCO-sponsored Roman ruins** in Volubilis, a Berber and Roman city partly excavated by UNESCO. Late in the afternoon, we transfer to Fes, the spiritual capital of Morocco. We enjoy dinner in the hotel. **B, L, D**

Day 5: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 • Fes
Our day begins with a city tour of Fes including the entrance to the largest royal palace in Morocco. Continue with a panoramic view of the ancient medina. Enjoy an authentic experience at the traditional ceramic crafts village of Fes. Next we stop at **Fes El Bali**, the ancient town or Medina, a medieval part of Fes that has not changed for centuries. Lunch

at a local restaurant. Visit the famous **Al-Karaouine mosque**, built by Fatima Al Fihria in 857. The Al-Karaouine mosque became home to the University of Al-Karaouine, which is the first university in the world and the world's foremost center of learning at the beginning of the second millennium. We visit a **Merdersa**, which is a Coranic school. We complete the city tour of Fes with the **leather Souq** and the oldest Leather Tannery in the world. Dinner in the hotel. **B, L, D**

Day 6: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 • Merzouga
Today we transfer to the Sahara Desert through the Middle Atlas Mountains. We visit **Ifrane**, a charming town and ski resort famous for its Alpine climate, European-style houses and its 1665 metres (5,460 ft) in elevation. Arrive at **Midelt**, the commercial center of a large agricultural hinterland. Lunch at a local restaurant. We continue through many Amazigh villages and along the Ziz valley to get to **Erfoud**. We enjoy a Jeep ride to **Merzouga**, the heart of the desert, and a sunset camel ride to the camp by the dunes. Dinner in the charming desert camp. **B, L, D**

Day 7: Thursday, November 6, 2025 • Dades
Today we drive to Tinghir, a gorgeous 40km oasis, which boasts one of the largest palm groves in the country. Stop at the famous **Todra Gorge**, a 300m wall, carved deep into the High Atlas Mountains, popular among rock climbers. Todra Gorge was featured on the premiere of the United States reality show "Expedition Impossible". Lunch at a local restaurant. We continue the spectacular route, winding through stunning desert landscapes, and villages with the expansive Jebel Sarhro lunar-scape. Dades is known as valley of figs. Dinner at the hotel. **B, L, D**

Day 8: Friday, November 7, 2025 • Marrakech
We begin the day with a spectacular drive, with hundreds of Kasbahs lining the route. Stop at Kelaat M'Gouna, a town famous for cultivating roses. We stop at **Ouarzazate**, also known as "Morocco's Hollywood". Visit **Taourirt Kasbah**, considered one of the most beautiful kasbahs in Morocco. Visit the Atlas film studios where some of the most famous desert landscapes were and are still being shot. We stop at the fortress of **Ait Ben Haddou**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987. Ait Ben Haddou is immortalized in such films as "The Man Who Would Be King (film) (1975)", "Jesus of Nazareth (1977)", "The Last Temptation of Christ (1988)",

Essaouira port



“Gladiator (2000)”, “Son of God (film) (2014)”. Lunch at a local restaurant. We cross the High Atlas Mountains and arrive in Marrakech and have dinner at the hotel. **B, L, D**

Day 9: Saturday, November 8, 2025 • Marrakech

Enjoy a city tour of Marrakech, the “Paris of the Sahara” as Winston Churchill once described it. Visit the **Koutoubia Mosque**, a monument built under the reign of the Almohad Caliph Yaqub al-Mansur (1184 to 1199). We stop at the Bahia Palace, built in the late 19th century. We visit the **Saadian tombs**, that date back to the time of the sultan Ahmad al-Mansur (1578-1603). The tombs were discovered in 1917 and were restored by the Beaux-arts service. Lunch at a local restaurant. Continue the tour with the world famous **Jema El Fna Square** where we enjoy performances of traditional activities by storytellers, snake charmers, peddlers of traditional medicines. Our last stop is the bustling souks in the old medina. Dinner and Fantasia Show at Chez Ali restaurant. **B, L, D**

Day 10: Sunday, November 9, 2025 • Marrakech

Today we enjoy a full day to explore and relax on our own. Or we enjoy an *optional full day excursion* to **Essaouira (\$90)**. This beach city is ideal for free time with a distinct multicultural feel, resulting from the large Portuguese, French, and Jewish populations that once called it home. Its mild climate and expansive stretches of ocean sand also place it among Morocco’s top beach towns. Essaouira’s walled medina was added to UNESCO’s World Heritage list in 2001. The mellow atmosphere, narrow winding streets lined with colorful shops, whitewashed houses and heavy old wooden doors make it a wonderful place to stroll. Lunch at a local restaurant is included in the excursion. Late in the afternoon we transfer back to Marrakech. **B**

Day 11: Monday, November 10, 2025 • Casablanca

Following breakfast at the hotel, we enjoy most of the day at leisure in Marrakech. Lunch at a local restaurant. Late this afternoon we transfer to Casablanca where we enjoy a final dinner together at the hotel. **B, L, D**

Day 12: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 • Return

After breakfast today, we transfer to the airport for our return flight home. **B**

Tour Prices: \$5,999

Single supplement: \$600

Prices are *per person, land only, double occupancy* with a minimum of 15 participants

Your Tour Includes:

- **Estimated Roundtrip Airfare from ORD** and related taxes, fees and fuel charges (\$1,700)
- **Land Transportation** via modern air-conditioned vehicle
- 4x4 transfer to desert camp
- **Accommodations** (double occupancy) in 4 and 5 star hotels
- **Meals** per the itinerary
- **Admission** to all activities indicated in the itinerary except those listed as optional
- Services of **professional tour manager**
- Local **step-on guides** for city tours and major attractions
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person where available
- **All taxes and tips** for provided services on land tour, excluding tour manager and coach driver

Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Meals other than indicated above
- **Beverages**, except with breakfast
- **End of tour gratuity** for coach driver and tour manager
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees. (*Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date.*)
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation. (*This insurance is available and recommended.*) \$435 per person double occupancy, \$480 if single occupancy)

Payment Schedule:

A deposit of \$500 per person is due with reservation. Final payment is due 100 days prior to departure date. Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Passengers may add after this date subject to air and land availability. Generally airlines do not increase the price of a ticket after it has been contracted. However, prior to the issuance of a ticket, airlines may (and regularly do) impose fuel, tax, or security surcharges. In the event a surcharge is imposed after Ed-Ventures has received a final payment, Ed-Ventures will send an additional invoice for the surcharge amount. Early registration is encouraged.

Currency:

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 99 days before departure a \$100 administrative fee plus any airfare penalties will be assessed. From 99-14 days, a \$300 cancellation penalty plus lost airfare deposits and any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Airline tickets once purchased are nonrefundable. Anyone canceling less than 14 days prior to departure will receive **no refund**.

Purchase of health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended.

Abbreviations for Meals
B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

Responsibility: GVG Tours, Ed-Ventures, Inc., their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances accept liability, provide refunds or pay compensation where the performance of our contractual obligations is prevented or affected, or you otherwise suffer any loss, injury, death, inconvenience or damage as a result of circumstances amounting to "force majeure". This means any event or circumstances which we or our suppliers of the services in question could not foresee or avoid. Such events and circumstances may include, acts of God, actual or threatened, war, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil action, decisions by governments or governing authority, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes of schedules or operational decisions of air/transport carriers, terrorist activity or the threat thereof, industrial action, natural or nuclear activity, epidemic, pandemic, illness, physical injury, quarantine, medical or customs or immigration regulation, delay, or cancellation, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.

The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices.

I grant Ed-Ventures, Inc and its agents the right to take photographs and videos of me during the tour and any meetings related to the tour before or after the tour. I authorize Ed-Ventures Inc, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use, and publish in print and/or electronically.

I agree that Ed-Ventures may use such photographs or videos of me with or without my name for any lawful purpose, including publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.



Sun, Sand & Sea: Morocco

Please register me for:

- GVM25: Oct. 31 - Nov. 11, 2024 • \$5,999
- Single Supplement • \$600
- Day 10: *Optional excursion to Essaouira* • \$90

Passenger Information (1st Traveler)

Please record information **exactly as it appears on your passport**. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport. *Best practice is to include a copy of the photo page of your passport.*

Legal Name: _____

(Name for name badge): _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Gender: (required by airline) Male Female

Dietary Needs: _____

Passenger Information (2nd Traveler)

Please record information **exactly as it appears on your passport**. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport. *Best practice is to include a copy of the photo page of your passport.*

Legal Name: _____

(Name for name badge): _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Gender: (required by airline) Male Female

Dietary Needs: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Work phone/cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Sleeping Preference (circle one): Double bed (1 bed) Twin Beds (2 beds)

Roommate name: _____ OR Single supplement: Yes No

Travel Insurance (\$435 per person double occupancy, \$480 if single occupancy)

- I wish to purchase the Travel Protection insurance and have included the premium with my deposit.
- I wish to decline the Travel Protection Plan offered. I understand I am solely responsible for any cancellation penalties and out of pocket expenses occurred should I have an emergency before or during the tour.

Deposit Payment Information (please check one)

- Enclosed is my \$ _____ deposit and insurance premium (if applicable). **Make checks payable to Ed-Ventures.**
- Please charge \$ _____ deposit and insurance premium (if applicable) to my Discover/MasterCard/Visa

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Card ID Code:* _____ *last 3 digits in signature box on the back of the card

_____ Initial to acknowledge you understand that Federal law prohibits the carriage of certain hazardous materials in your luggage or on your person aboard aircraft and could result in a fine or imprisonment. Visit www.tsa.gov for more information.

Prices in this brochure were effective on 1.29.24. By signing below, I understand that price changes are possible at the time of final invoicing, due to exchange rates, an increase in carrier charges, fuel costs, taxes and tariffs, and the number of passengers traveling in the group. I agree to the terms and conditions of this tour.

Signature of 1st traveler: _____ Date: _____

Signature of 2nd traveler: _____ Date: _____

Mail completed registration with deposit to:

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