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#### **4 - 21 Nov 2022 (17-days) Morocco Meanderings**

**Trip Cost per person Rm6800 (14pax group) Rm6500 (15 pax n above)**

Based on 1 Moroccan Dirham = Rm 0.47016. Final adjustments will be made to cost based on Dirham exchange rate in Nov 2022.

**EXCLUDES FLIGHTS - Turkish Airlines best choice at Rm4800 individual fare. Yongo will check for group fares after group is formed. All benefit of better fares are passed on to group members.**

**Update 12 Jun 2022** Airfares on our last completed trip Feb 2020 was Rm3100. Difference of Rm1700 due to higher fuel cost and fares.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

This is meant to be a "free and easy" budget trip. Participants should be relatively fit, with a good sense of humour, and above all, have the right attitude for close travel with others through possibly some trying times. Most definitely, this is not a trip for prudes, whiners, fuss-pots, and other similiarly assorted types! Although every effort will be made to stick to the given itinerary, ground conditions may change and cause some disruption and/or deviation from the norm. Otherwise, have fun!

We hire a Mercedes Sprinter with a local driver for the duration of this trip. We stay budget to mid-range accomodations except for the one night in a desert tent. Its quite important participants are able to manage their own luggage, preferably backpacks or softpacks and no "giant" luggages please. As on other Yongo trips, you pay for your own meals unless stated below, entrance fees, within-the-town taxis and other activities.

**Morocco is sensory overload at its most intoxicating, from the sights, scents and sounds that permeate medieval Fes and magical Marrakech, to the coastal charm of its Atlantic Coast. From the high of the Atlas range and its abundance of mountains, Kasbahs, and friendly Berbers, to the stunning sculpted sands of the Sahara. Morocco rewards you with the richness of its desert, the thrill of the hidden alleys in its ancient cities and its salty breeze along the Atlantic coast.**



Shopping / Chigaga Dunes / Centuries old tannaries of Fes

**Day 0 night:** Meet up at KLIA by **9PM Fri 4 Nov 2022** for Turkish Airline flight departing 1150PM.

**Day 1 Casablanca:** Transit in Istanbul 4:50hr and fly to Casablance landing at 1130AM. Our chartered van takes group to our hotel located in downtown. Rest of day free. Overnight (O/n) Casablanca, breakfast included. (B)

**Day 2 Chefchaouen:** After breakfast, we start our journey of 5:30hr to Chefchaouen located in the Rif mountains in Northwest Morocco. 91km from Casablanca, we stop at Rabat, listed in UNESCO World Heritage, also the capital city of Morocco to visit the Kasbah of the Udayas, a well preserved fortress dating back to 12th century Almohad Dynasty. The Hassan Tower Mosque and across it the Mausoleum of Mohammed V. After lunch, we continue journey to Chefchaouen, also known as the Blue City with its blue-washed buildings, this town of 43,000 population is becoming a popular tourist destination. O/n Chefchaouen, breakfast included. (B)

**Day 3 Chefchaouen:** We spend the day wandering about the Old town. Take a walk through the old medina and uphill to a "Lookout Point" in front of a Spanish mosque. Enjoy the breathtaking view over Chefchaouen and its surrounding mountains. This place is indeed a rare and stunning gem of Morocco. O/n Chefchaouen breakfast included. (B)

**Day 4 Meknes:** An early start to Meknes 5 hours, with a stop at Morocco 's main Roman ruins of Volubilis, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was an important Roman outpost which was founded in 3rd century as capital of Mauretania. We'll arrive in the evening at Meknes, one of three imperial capitals of old Morocco. O/n Meknes, breakfast included. (B)

**Day 5 Fes:** In the morning we have a guided half day city tour in this UNESCO listed historic city of Meknes, which is the least visited of all three imperial capitals. In the afternoon, we bus to Fes 1 hour, Morocco's oldest imperial city and the 4th UNESCO World Heritage site on our travel so far. Fes was founded in 9th century, and it was a capital of Marinid Dynasty In 13th and 14th century. Fes hosts world's oldest university i.e. Univeristy of Quaraouiyn". O/n Fes, breakfast included. (B)

**Day 6 Fes:** We will do a 3km guided walking tour of the old medina, taking about 3 hours or so, and rest of day free to continue your own explorations of Fes. Be prepared for a labyrinth of alleys and a riot of sights and smells, many of which has remained pretty much the same since centuries ago! Note Fes medina is car-free, you will be on foot throughout your stay in Fes. Run riot on your own then! O/n Fes, breakfast included. (B)



Roman Ruins Volubilis / UNESCO Ait-Ben-Haddou / Todra Trekking / Climbing Goats

**Day 7 Tinerhir:** . It's a long bus ride into the High Atlas today, as we take in a 10 hours trip to Tinerhir. However, the change of scenery as we start our uphill ascend will surely keep all awake, at least some of the time. Tinerhir is a city in the region of Draa-Tafilalet, an oasis sandwich between High Atlas and Little Atlas. The beautiful palmeraie or oasis along the Todra river simply takes your breath away. O/n Tinerhir. Dinner and Breakfast included. (D/B)

**Day 8 Tinerhir:** Morocco 's answer to the Grand Canyon, Todra Gorge awaits us today. With 300m cliff walls at its narrowest point, and quaint Berber villages abounding. Today will be a day of nature and cultural appreciation. We

will go on a long walk (4-6 hrs) over the gorge with great views of the surrounds. O/n Tinerhir Dinner and Breakfast included. (D/B)

**Day 9 Mhamid:** Early departure for Mhamid 5 hours, the last village before the Algerian border and the beginnings of the Western Sahara. On the way, we stop at Zagora market (Wed & Sun only) where one finds many dark-skin Moroccans of African origins. O/n Mhamid, Dinner, Breakfast included. (D/B)

**Day 10 Sahara Berber Camp:** We depart after lunch for a sand-bashing time with 4WD deep into the Western Sahara, to Erg Chigaga and its 150m sand dunes. In the evening, try your charm on the cantankerous camels around the Berber camp and oasis where we will stay the night. We sleep in large Berber tents, but nothing like a sleeping bag on soft sands under a thousand stars! O/n Sahara Desert Tents. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included. (B/L/D)

**Day 11 Ouarzazate:** We return to Mhamid in the morning for cold drinks, showers and quick lunch. We travel over the mountain to Ouarzazate 5 hours. Ouarzazate is an oasis for film makers all over the world, hence, it is also known as "The Moroccan Hollywood". Upon arrival, we visit Taourite Kasbah, one of the best in Morocco or Atlas Studio. O/n Ouarzazate Breakfast NOT included. (Lunch included, No B)



Chefchaouen Blue City / Tagine in local restaurant / Jemaa el Fna Marrakesh / Essaouira

**Day 12 Marrakesh:** 30km outside Ouarzazate is Ait Ben Haddou, one of the most exotic and best preserved Kasbahs in Morocco, and yet another UNESCO Heritage Site! Ait Ben Haddou has been featured in many famous movies including "Lawrence of Arabia, Gladiators, Indiana Jones" and many more. We move on to Marrakesh on a beautiful high mountain pass reaching an elevation of 2260 meters at Tizi N' Tichka. Total travel time 5 hours. O/n Marrakesh Breakfast included. (B)

**Day 13 Marrakesh:** The epicenter of Morocco tourism, Marrakesh is meanderer's heaven. We take in the city sights, smells, and sounds in a half-day guided walking tour, and end the day at the Koutoubria Mosque. The medina of Marrakesh is listed in UNESCO World Heritage. Djemaa el-Fna, a huge square in central Marrakesh showcase one of the world's greatest spectacle of food, fun, wares and everything else in a kaleidoscope of Moroccan vibrancy! O/n Marrakesh Breakfast included. (B)

**Day 14 Essaouira:** Bus 4 hours to UNESCO World Heritage listed Essaouira, a late 18th century Portuguese fortified seaport town. Wander about the maze-like streets filled with interesting artisan wares and enjoy the breeze and sights of this Atlantic coastal town. O/n Essaouira Breakfast included. (B)

**Day 15 El Jadida:** In the morning, see more of Essaouira including the stone ramparts and canon turrets. After lunch 3 hours drive to the 8th UNESCO World Heritage site on our journey. The Portuguese fortification of Mazagan, now part of the city of El Jadida, 90-km southwest of Casablanca. O/n El Jadida breakfast included. (B)

Day 16 Plane: Transfer to Casablanca Airport 2 hours at 10AM and the end of our 17 days of Moroccan meanderings! Flight home departs Casablanca at 330PM. Transit in Istanbul for 3:40hr.

Day 17 Home: Lands in KUL at **5PM Sunday 21 Nov 2022.**

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Cost cover accommodation and traveling to sites mentioned above.
2. Accommodations will be in budget to mid-range hotels or guesthouses.
3. **Not covered are flight costs estimated at Rm4800**, meals Rm80 x 12 days(Rm1000 estimate), entrance fees and tips (Rm300 estimate) and optional activities.
4. Cost is subject to change depending on fluctuations in exchange rates.
5. Non-refundable deposit of Rm2200 is payable to confirm your place.

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