

Booking proposal EC04220103

April 2022

Morocco - 9 Days

Special Fes & Chefchaouen Trekking

Fez ❖ Meknes ❖ Volubilis ❖ Chefchaouen ❖ Rif Mountains

You will have a special experience of the Middle Atlas Mountains, including the ancient cities of Fes which is the intellectual and religious centre of Morocco, the second Imperial City Meknes and the excavated Roman city of Volubilis, plus Chefchaouen, which is a popular location for its native handcrafts, such as wool garments and woven blankets, which are not available anywhere else in Morocco. You end with a 4 day trek in the Chefchaouen area.

1. Itinerary:

This is a 9 day programme, to give you a tailored itinerary that we hope you will like. Please comment freely on this and we will refine it if and as required.

Day 1: Fes Airport - Fes

Once arrived in Fes Sais International Airport, you will be met by your expert driver who will take you for a short drive to your boutique hotel, where you will be warmly greeted and welcomed. After Check in, you will take time to familiarise yourself with your room and enjoy the facilities the Riad can offer. This evening you will have the chance to wonder around the labyrinth of the old medina of Fes before you enjoy some of the delicacy of the gastronomy of this wonderful imperial city.

Overnight: Riad Alassala



Day 2: Fes Visit

Good morning Fes, It is the time you have been waiting for! Time to close the civilisation doors behind you and get on the magic carpet and fly through the labyrinths of Fes, discovering the thousands of years history of city that has always enjoyed the intellectual and religious status. The medina in Fez is one of the largest in the world. In its immense and confusing warren of souks are thousands of craftsmen with their tiny shops opening onto the narrow alleyways. Noisy and pungent, hot and claustrophobic, the medina of Fez is a totally absorbing and unique experience. Enjoy the moments and indulge yourself into this fascinating city!

It is a magical city that can hold you forever! Hence you will find out that many European has given up the life of modernism and come to Fes to enjoy the peace of the city and the warmness of its people!

Overnight: Riad Alassala

Day 3: Fes- Meknes - Fes

Welcoming a new day with such fresh air blown from the Middle Atlas Mountains all the way to our beautiful terrace, where you will have your breakfast, is just a wonderful feeling! We hope you have fully charged your battery as today you will have the chance to visit some of the most cultural as well as breathtaking monuments in the world!

So today, together with your driver and guide, you will head to the second Imperial City Meknes. The latter is a city in northern Morocco, very close to Fes. It's known for its imperial past, with remnants including Bab Mansour, a huge gate with arches

and mosaic tiling. The gate leads into the former imperial city. The Mausoleum of Sultan Moulay Ismail,



who made the city his capital in the 17th century, has courtyards and fountains. Most importantly, you will have the chance to witness the architecture and the power of Roman Empire through the excavated Roman city of Volubilis.

The latter will end up with you coming back to your Riad in Fes. Time to relax and pack for great few days ahead of you!

Overnight: Riad Allassala

Day 4: Fes – ChefChaouen

After enjoying your traditional breakfast at our breath-taking Terrace, your driver will be picking you up and drive you all the way to Chefchaouen. It is going to be just about 4 hours' drive but of course you will have couple of breaks to relax and enjoy the exhilarating nature and landscape of the country before reaching this pearl.



Driving through the Rif Mountains to get to the Blue Pearl, enjoying the picturesque landscape of the north of Morocco will make your day the most adventurous, exhilarating and memorable day!

You will be guided through the small blue streets of this beautiful city! You will meet some wonderful local craftsmen who will be delighted to show you the best they can offer, and you will have a chance to taste some local delicacies!

At the end of your day, your driver will drive you all the way to your Riad where you will enjoy an authentic local dinner!

Overnight: Riad Hicham or Dar Alkhalifa or equivalent

Day 5: ChefChaouen - Akchour

Today, after you will enjoy your breakfast, you will trek to Akchour waterfalls where you will have free time at the river to enjoy the cold fresh water and then stay in the nearby refuge. (4 hours trekking)

Overnight: Refuge, picnic lunch and dinner included.

Day 6: Akchour – GOD'S Bridge - Azilane

Today, you will walk towards the majestic God's Bridge, known as "Pont de Dieu". The trek is challenging and adventurous; however, the mouth-watering natural beauty of this place is worth all the work. The geological formations and rolling hills surrounded by mountains are a superb and witness the magnificent history of the region. God's Bridge is a red-rock formation that signifies the spirituality of the place. I hope you had fully charged your camera battery as I am sure your day will be a memorable day full of adventures. (5 hours trekking)



Overnight: Refuge, breakfast, picnic lunch & dinner included.

Day 7: Azilane - Zaouiya

Today's hike will lead us deep in the Rif Mountains, trekking amongst dates and varied vegetation of the park. (6 hours trekking)

Overnight: Gite Talasemtane, breakfast, picnic lunch & dinner included.

Day 8: Zaouiya – Chefchaouen - Fes

After breakfast we start the trek and continue through the national park, crossing Tissouka fig trees and rural dwellings. Our trek concludes in Chefchaouen where it was all started. Your driver will pick you up

from Chefchaouen all the way to Fes where you will enjoy an authentic Fassi dinner in your breathtaking terrace. (4 hours trekking).

Overnight: Riad Alassala

Day 9 : Fes - Fes Airport.

It is your departure day! After you enjoy your breakfast and check out, your driver will drive you all the way to Fes Sais International Airport for your departure! We trust you will have a very enjoyable and memorable moments that you will treasure all your life! Have a safe journey and we would love to welcome you again!

NB - please note the trekking route may change depending on the weather and road conditions

2. Cities visited:

Fes:

The fascinating city of Fes is the intellectual and religious centre of Morocco. Founded over a thousand years ago, Fez has many mosques and theological colleges (Madrassas) including the 9th century Karouine University, whose architecture is very similar to that seen in Moorish Spain. The medina in Fez is one of the largest in the world. In its immense and confusing warren of souks are thousands of craftsmen with their tiny shops opening onto the narrow alleyways. Noisy and pungent, hot and claustrophobic, the medina of Fez is a totally absorbing and unique experience.

Meknes:

Meknes is a city in northern Morocco. It's known for its imperial past, with remnants including Bab Mansour, a huge gate with arches and mosaic tiling. The gate leads into the former imperial city. The Mausoleum of Sultan Moulay Ismail, who made the city his capital in the 17th century, has courtyards and fountains. To the south, ruined Heri es-Souani is a vast structure once used as stables and for food storage.

Chefchaouen:

Chefchaouen or Chaouen, Berber: Ashawen, Spanish: Xauen, is a city in northwest Morocco. It is the chief town of the province of the same name and is noted for its buildings in shades of blue. The city is named after the shape of the mountain tops above the town, which look like two goat horns (chaoua). Situated on the Rif mountains just inland from Tangier and Tetouan, the city was discovered in 1471. It was a small fortress by Moulay Ali Ben Moussa Ben Rached El Alami. Around 200 hotels cater to the European tourists who visit during the summer. Chefchaouen is a popular location for its native handcrafts such as wool garments and woven blankets, which are not available anywhere else in Morocco. The native goat cheese is also a popular hit!

3. Price per person:

The price is as follows for the ground arrangements only:

UK£1865* per person based upon 2 people travelling and sharing a double/twin room.

prices are subject to change due to exchange rate fluctuations and thus confirmation at time of payment/booking.

4. Flights:

We can look into flights and arrange them for you according to your point of origin and travel dates. Alternatively, you can arrange your own.

5. Accommodation:

As stated in the itinerary and for a double room.

Fes: [Riad Alassala 3*](https://riad-alassala-fes.hotelfesmorocco.com/en/) - <https://riad-alassala-fes.hotelfesmorocco.com/en/>



Chefchaouen: Riad Hicham or Dar Alkhalifa

Akchour and Azilane: Trekking refuge

Zaouiya: Gite Talassemtane

6. Inclusions/Exclusions

Ground arrangement price includes:

- Private English-speaking driver and Guide throughout the whole time of services
- All accommodation in lovely hotels and riads as per itinerary
- All ground transportation in private A/C luxury minivan
- All airport transfers on a private basis
- All breakfasts and meals (Dinners) as per itinerary
- All taxes
- All Museums and Monuments entrances

and excludes:

- Local and international flights
- Drinks, tips, personal expenses (laundry, telephone, etc.)
- Personal travel insurance (highly recommended)

What do we recommend you bring?

Sleeping Bag, Day-pack, Sunglasses, Water bottles (most of the time is possible to buy during the trek from villages), Towel, Cotton long sleeved shirt (for intense sun), Light wind-proof jacket, A hat (sun), Lightweight long walking trousers, 2-3 T-shirts, Woollen sweater/fleece, Cotton scarf (doubles as a wash cloth), Hiking boots or hiking shoes.

Small First aid kit:

Disinfectant crème, Band-Aids, Ibuprofen (Advil or generic – for pain, swelling), Tylenol (colds and fever), Cold medication – Echinacea/zinc lozenges, Tweezers, Visine, Aloe Vera gel (for burns), Anti-histamine tablets, Diarrhoea medication (Imodium), Sun block, Moisturiser/lip balm with sun block, Small torch/flash-light (small bicycle lights make good travelling torches).

We hope that this outline programme meets your wishes, but please come back to us with any questions or comments.

The Product Team,
Earth Cultures Limited.

Our Community and Environment approach - Alassala

Responsible tourism and sustainable hospitality is a culture that we embrace and a belief that we practice! To take responsibility and oversee our decisions and acts we have established a number of initiatives towards our environment, Community.

Our Community:

We are so involved in our community simply because we are part of it! Each one of us forms a part of the community. Below is a list of our initiatives to contribute and give back to the community

Medina Walls Painting: This idea was actually initiated by the local teenagers during the Covid-19 lock down. Young boys and girls came with the idea to paint the outside wall of their building or apartment. Soon the idea spread all over the Medina and the city. We appreciated the idea and we wanted to be part of it, so we did provide the participants with tools and materials to help them implements the project.

Achoura Initiative: We take part in the traditional religious festive of Achoura donation to local Children's Charity.

Earth Hour: Annually we take part in Earth Hour, a worldwide movement, encouraging businesses like ours and people including our staff to turn off non-essential electric for one hour.

Medina Children's Library Charity: The Medina Children's Library was established to encourage literacy and a love of reading in the children of the Fez Medina community. We are proud to support them.

Raising money to buy books for children to read and acquire knowledge, is an absolute privilege!

Friends of Fez Orphans: It is a non-profitable organisation that helps in improving the lives of children in Fes by providing socialization, therapy, and education along with hugs, smiles, and compassion. We are proud to support them. Putting a smile on a child's face is priceless and makes us take pride of what we do.

Our Environment

As we are committed to our community, we are also committed to our environment. We are proud to sustain the planting of 100 trees in our Riad and encourage other Riads to do the same. We also continue to work to eliminate unnecessary single-use plastics with a number of initiatives, like using fresh produce from our local suppliers. We have taken the below initiatives to allow us to have a positive impact on our environment:

Ecosia: We use the web browser Ecosia, which plants trees with the revenue generated from advertisements. And we do encourage all Riads to use this web browser.

Plant As You Go: We have planted over 100 trees in the Riad. The plan is to help create quality air all around the Riad and to create enough green space in a small surface. It also helps in cooling the Riad during a hot summer.

Plant a Tree: Together with other Riads and establishments, we started a programme that promote planting a tree at each house doorstep in the medina.

No TV's - Helps conservation of the original authentic peaceful atmosphere of the Riad and give an opportunity to our guest to live this atmosphere.

Sustainable tourism is about re-focusing and adapting. We need to address our environmental and social concerns through policies, practices and initiatives with others.

Saving the Energy

We try to act as an example, and we encourage our guest and staff as well as our other friends Riads to save energy where possible by acting responsibly through buying locally, only printing where necessary and reusing items such as bath towels and paper.

Our energy saving efforts include:

Light bulbs: We only use energy efficient light bulbs.

Towel Use We introduced Save Our Planet card where all guests are encouraged to leave towels in the bath if they would like them changed, otherwise they can be reused.

Plant As You Go: We have planted over 100 trees in the Riad. The plan is to help create quality air all around the Riad and to create enough green space in a small surface. It also helps in cooling the Riad during a hot summer.

Solar Panels: We have installed Solar Panels to promote the use of clean energy and consequently to reduce the level of CO2 level in the air create from normal energy.

Keeping the Original Architecture: Keeping the original architecture is a perfect way to keep the authentic and original ecological system of the building. High ceiling and open courtyard contribute to a good aeration. Thick walls help to keep the Riad cool in summer and warm in the winter. Some of our guests hardly use the Air conditioner as they don't feel the need to. A lot of saving in energy!

Saving the energy does not have a good impact only on our business but also a positive one on our environment.

Recycling:

Here at Riad Alassala we believe in recycling, although the idea is simple, it's an extremely effective way to sustain the future. In a world of diminishing natural resources, it is important to reuse and recycle the resources that we do have most efficiently.

Recycling toiletries: All our soaps and toiletries are recycled, which reduces waste to land fill and benefits humanitarian projects within local communities.

Everyday Items: We recycle paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, cans and printer cartridges as a standard.

Lost Property: Lost property that has been unclaimed after 3 months is given to people in need or alternatively recycled.

Recycling Bins: All of our rooms have in room recycling bins, to encourage guests to recycle.

Reduce the use of unnecessary items: We are now reducing the use of unnecessarily plastic items.

Food Waste: All food waste is split and recycled.