



# **ISLAMIC HERITAGE AND DESERT EXPERIENCE** 14 days/13 nights

#### DAY 1 (Friday) MALAGA

After your international flight to Malaga in Spain, our representative will be waiting for you at the terminal and will greet you kindly. Drive to your hotel in downtown, registration at the hotel and free time until dinner. At the evening you will meet our professional photographer who will explain to you our itinerary and other interesting matters to make more enjoyable this photo-tour through 800 years of Islamic history. BIENVENIDOS A ESPAÑA Y MARRUECOS. **(D)** 

#### DAY 2 (Saturday) MALAGA

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning we will start visiting the southernmost large city in Europe, that it lies on the Costa del Sol (Coast of the Sun) of the Mediterranean, about 100 kilometres (62.14 miles) east of the Strait of Gibraltar and about 130 km (80.78 mi) north of Africa. Málaga's history spans about 2,800 years, making it one of the oldest cities in the world. It was founded by the Phoenicians as Malaka about 770 BC, and from the 6th century BC was under the hegemony of Ancient Carthage. Then, from 218 BC, it was ruled by the Roman Republic and later the Roman Empire as Malaca (Latin). After the fall of the empire and the end of Visigothic rule, it was under Islamic rule for 800 years, but in 1487, the Crown of Castille gained control after the Reconquista. eras make the historic center of the city an "open museum", displaying its history of nearly 3,000 years. Lunch in a typical "tapas" bar to taste the typical Andalusian cuisine. In the afternoon, our local guide will take us to our first photo session from the top of the Alcazaba, an Islamic fortress with a magnificent overview of the city and harbor. Back to the city and after a short break, get around the night life and have dinner in a special location. Back to the hotel. Overnight. **(B) (L) (D)** DAY 3 (Sunday) MALAGA - GRANADA

Breakfast. Departure towards the city of Granada and its incredible and amazing monumental environment, last stronghold of the Moorish Kingdoms up to 1492. Visit the world-famous Alhambra complex and Generalife Gardens that have inspired several authors with its sound and sights, such as the "Tales of the Alhambra" by W. Irving. After a guided visit, you will have enough time to stroll on your own and take beautiful pictures. Then we will drive to the hotel for registration and lunch. Short break and review of your photos with tips. At the given time, drive to Sacromonte Quarter for amazing pictures of the complex accompanied of tapas and sangria. We will come back to Alhambra and have a nocturnal visit of the Nazaries Gardens and Palace visiting rooms and areas reserved only for this visit. A paradise for photographers, you will not be disappointed. Back to the hotel. (B) (L) (D) DAY 4 (Monday) GRANADA – CORDOBA - SEVILLA

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Cordoba. Impressive tour of its Mosque and other sites that will ease our mind and spirit strolling through its narrow winding streets of the Jewish Quarter. Continue to Sevilla, reaching the city after two hours ride. After registration at the hotel, lunch and short break. In the afternoon, panoramic city tour visiting: the Cathedral (the second largest in the Catholic world after St. Peters in Rome) and the Alcázar of Seville, a royal palace built for the Christian king Peter of Castile. It was built by Castilian Christians on the site of an Abbadid Muslim residential fortress destroyed after the Christian conquest of Seville. Although some elements of other civilizations remains. The palace, a preeminent example of Mudéjar architecture in the Iberian Peninsula, is renowned as one of the most beautiful. Short visit of the Plaza de España. Built for the ibero-american exhibition in 1929. Dinner and accommodation at the hotel. (**B**) (**L**) (**D**)

#### DAY 5 (Tuesday) SEVILLA - TARIFA – TANGIER – CASABLANCA

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive along the picturesque tourist route of Costa del Sol to Tarifa where boarding on Ferry to Tangier crossing the Strait of Gibraltar towards Africa. Arrival to Morocco,

# PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

## EUR 2.495.-

Surplus single room EUR 675.-Beach hotel extension per day incl. Breakfast ab EUR 40.-

GROUP TOUR SET DEPARTURES 2024 (minimum 6 Pax)

Friday, 07.06

# Friday, 23.08

#### INCLUDED SERVICES

- Panoramic sightseeing Casablanca, Marrakech, Fez, Meknes and Rabat
- Guided visit in Malaga, La Alhambra and Cordoba Mosque
- Professional photographer during the tour
- Air-conditioned deluxe motor-coach
- Accommodation at selected class
- Fullboard
- Transfers from/to airport
- Travel insurance.

#### NOT INCLUDED

- o International and domestic Flightso Meals or other Tours not mentioned in the
- itinerary
- o Personal expenses
- o Tips for guides, drivers and porters











disembark, clear customs and continue to Larache. Short stop and free time. The layout of the old town is typically Moorish, while houses in the new town seem to be Andalusian in style, which give us enough reasons to shoot the best pictures. Continue to Casablanca, the largest city in Morocco. Dinner and accommodation at the hotel. After dinner, you can review your pictures with our photographer and get some hints to improve your skills. **(B) (L) (D)** DAY 6 (Wednesday) CASABLANCA – MARRAKECH

Breakfast at the hotel. Panoramic sightseeing of Casablanca, the "cinematographic". Economic capital of the country with more than four million inhabitants combines its modern art-nouveau or art-deco buildings with the old buildings of the thirteenth century, when it was known as Dar El Baida (the white's hose). In our next photo session, you will have the chance to shoot at the Mohammed V Square, Boulevard D'Anfa, Nôtre Dame Cathedral and the exteriors of the impressive Great Mosque of Hassan II, where more than 3,000 craftsmen worked. Only the Mecca reach more importance and size. Continuation to Marrakech after having lunch in a typical location. Then visit of the city and its great historical past: Koutubia Mosque or the booksellers whose minaret in a hispanomorisco style, of great beauty, is the symbol of the city, the exceptional Mausoleum of the sixteenth-century princes Saadinos and the sumptuous Bahia Palace (The Precious), built in the IX C. by hundreds of artisans from Fès. Walking around the Medina (ancient city) and its souks where a thousand and one artisan products are offered to the visitor to end up in the fascinating world of the famous Djemaa El Fna Square (Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO) where storytellers, snake charmers, jugglers, Dancers, etc... constitute an authentic "cut of the miracles". Dinner with "Fantasia" show at the complex of "Chez Ali". Back to the hotel for overnight. (B) (L) (D) DAY 7 (Thursday) MARRAKECH

Breakfast at the hotel. Photo session to explore the city. We will start visiting the Medina, the old, historic district of Marrakech. The main square in the Medina is Djemaa El-Fna. It is surrounded by endless labyrinths of souks (bazaars) and alleyways covering all of the Medina. Djemma El-Fna is a must as there is always something to see (and photograph) there day and night whether it be snake charmers, acrobats, sooth-sayers, or the musicians and food stalls (some overcharging heavily). Before lunch at a local restaurant we will visit a Riad, a Moroccan house with an internal courtyard. Most windows are inward facing towards the central atrium. This design of property suits Islamic tradition as there is no obvious wealth statement being made externally, no windows to peer through. Entering a Riad is like discovering an Aladdin's Cave in comparison to its non-descript exterior. After lunch, we will ride into the green valleys in 4x4 and learn about the lifestyle of the surrounding villages that have little to do with the life of the city, its impressive waterfalls located in Ouzoud and much more. It is also the perfect place to take a nomadic space of a few hours during a camel ride. Definitely a great opportunity to relax and feel the place. Back to the hotel. At the evening, review your photos together with our photographer and get some hints to improve your skills. Dinner and accommodation at the hotel. (B) (L) (D)

## DAY 8 (Friday) MARRAKECH – AIT BEN HADDOU – OUARZAZATE

Breakfast at the hotel. Early departure from Marrakesh heading south. Cross the High Atlas Mountains through the Tizi n'Tichka that connects Marrakesh with the presaharian oases. After several stops enjoying and shooting the wonderful panoramas, continue onto, Ait Ben Haddou, considered the most beautiful fortress in the country and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here famous films such as Gladiator, Lawrence of Arabia, Jesus of Nazareth or The Jewel of the Nile among others were filmed. Special Photo session before we continue to Ouarzazate. Arrival, dinner and accommodation at the hotel. (B) (L) (D)

## DAY 9 (Saturday) OUARZAZATE - BOUMALNE DE DADES TINGHIR (Todra - Merzouga)

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure towards the network of gorges of this area of Morocco, here from the most arid and rocky overflows fertility and greenery between the oases. The route runs through valleys such as Kelaa M'Gouna, famous for its roses and daggers; And the Boumalne du Dades, magnificent for walkers. Arrival to Tinghir, see the Gorges of Todra and its impressive canon of 300 meters of height. Continue to Arfoud. On the way to the dunes of Merzouga we passed by Rissani, which was an important enclave long time ago, where the



caravans of the desert reigned. Arrival to Merzouga, right in the Sahara, here the road fades and the dunes mark the horizon. Free time to enjoy the surroundings with a mint tea. Dinner and accommodation at a Jaima (overnight in a desert tent) sited in a nomadic camp, belonging to the Hotel Kasbah Azalay. The traditional Berber jaimas is fully equipped with beds, sheets, blankets and pillows. The Jaimas can be individual or double. Dinner service and music and fire show are offered whenever climatic conditions allow. Access to this camp is done by camels or optionally by 4x4 vehicles. The bathrooms are located outside the shops and showers are at the hotel both at the entrance and at the exit of the camp. Overnight. **(B) (L) (D)** 

#### DAY 10 (Sunday) MERZOUGA - IFRANE - FEZ

Breakfast between dunes at our last moment in the desert before leaving for the Middle Atlas. Early wake up to optionally contemplate the great event of a sunrise in the Sahara and get the best pictures ever. While preparing our breakfast, optional tour around the dunes in 4WD and visit the nearby villages. Cross the Middle Atlas and a new change of landscape along the way. Left the south to get in the North. Stop in Ifrane. For a moment feel as if Switzerland had been settled in Africa, hence its nickname "little Switzerland". This city was built during the protectorate in the 1930s. Continuation to Fez. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B) (L) (D) DAY 11 (Monday) FEZ

Breakfast at the hotel and then, visit of this old city that with its 785 mosques and its splendid Medina (old city), is the intellectual and religious capital of the country. The guided tour starts with the exteriors of the Royal Palace and its 7 gates, Dar El Makhzen, old residence of the Sultan, the Bab Bojloud gate decorated with blue enameled ceramics (the color of Fes) and green (color of Islam) gives access to the walled enclosure of the Medina (old city), largest of North Africa and declared Cultural Patrimony of the Humanity by the UNESCO. This authentic maze of more than 2,000 squares, streets and alleys that ramble endlessly, guards some of the most beautiful buildings in Morocco: palaces, madrasas, mosques, doors, fountains, which pleasantly surprise the visitor. Lunch at a local restaurant. After tasting the typical Moroccan cuisine, visit the Plaza Es-Seffarin with its pretty fountain of beautiful pottery, engraved on it the marble flowers of lis, symbol that left the French prisoners who collaborated in its construction in XVI, Century; The Karaouine Mosque, the best known in the city with its celebrated Friday prayer, holy day of the Muslims, built in the IX C. and which is the oldest religious teaching center. Also visit the district of the dyers, the tanners with spectacular colors and the Souk, where they will be assaulted by noises, smells and colors of a crowded crowd, seeming to emerge from a forgotten page of history. Back to the hotel to rest for a while. Training session and review of your pictures with our photographer. At night, dinner with show in a typical palace in the medina. Accommodation (B) (L) (D)

## DAY 12 (Tuesday) FEZ – MEKNES – RABAT – TANGIER

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to Tangier. At our first stop we pass Meknes, old Berber capital chosen for the second Alaouite Moulay Ismail King as imperial headquarters in the XVII C.; You can still see remnants of its splendor: forty kilometers of walls, which include the gates of Bab el Mansour, one of the most beautiful in Morocco. Lunch before we continue heading to Rabat, which besides being the administrative capital of the country is the official residence of King Mohamed VI. It is one of the imperial cities, founded in the twelfth century by the Almohads. Visit the exteriors of the Royal Palace, the Tour Hassan that rises dominating the esplanade of the unfinished mosque with more than 200 columns; The Mausoleum of Mohammed V built in memory of the Sultan who won the independence of the country and in which the royal guards, in showy dress, stand guard. Finally, we will have some time to see the beautiful Kasbah of the Oudayas, fortress located at the mouth of the river Buregreg with its door of the XII C. Continue to Tangier. Arrival, dinner and overnight at the hotel. **(B) (L) (D)** DAY 13 (Wednesday) TANGIER – TARIFA – MALAGA

Breakfast. Transfer to the pier and aboard the ferry to return across the strait of Gibraltar back to Spain. Arrival to Tarifa and drive towards Malaga. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B) (L) (D) DAY 14 (Thursday) MALAGA

After breakfast at the hotel transfer to the airport. END OF OUR SERVICES.

