

Africa

2025 Morocco with Trisha Dixon









trip highlights

- Trip accompanied by writer, photographer and passionate traveler, Trisha Dixon
- Private Gardens and introductions in Tangier
- Stroll through the gardens, mosques, palaces and souqs of Marrakech
- Explore the UNESCO-listed medieval city of Fes
- Revel in the views of the snow capped Atlas Mountains
- Stay in beautifully appointed deluxe riads and hotels
- Sample the delicious local cuisine at hand picked restaurants



Trip Duration	14 days	**Trip Code:** SOG7829
Grade	Adventure touring	
Activities	Discovery, walking, art, culture, gardens, food, photography, people, and more!	
Summary	14 day trip, 13 nights 4 star riads and hotels	

welcome to World Expeditions

Thank you for your interest in our 2025 Morocco with Trisha Dixon trip. At World Expeditions we are passionate about our off the beaten track experiences as they provide our travellers with the thrill of coming face to face with untouched cultures as well as wilderness regions of great natural beauty. We are committed to ensuring that our unique itineraries are well researched, affordable and tailored for the enjoyment of small groups - philosophies that have been at our core since 1975 when we began operating adventure holidays. Our itineraries will give you the very best travel experience, designed by people with incredible local knowledge who share our vision of authentic exchange and real exploration with a responsible tourism approach.

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Single travellers are required to pay a single supplement when joining this adventure. Please refer to our website for the additional cost.

the trip

Overflowing with rich cultural traditions, history and stunning architecture Morocco's imperial cities provide the framework for our journey. Our journey commences in Tangier where we'll have personal introductions to local personalities who will open their doors to show us their private gardens and houses. We'll continue to the edge of the Rif Mountains and the striking blue city of Chefchaouen before heading south to the colourful markets and intricate laneways of the medieval medina in Fes. In Marrakech we'll discover the rich tapestry of colour, history, architecture, people, mosaics, fragrances and art. Our final sojourn is to the charming and relaxing seaside town of Essaouira showcasing the mix of Portuguese, Andalucian and Berber influence where we have ample time to soak up the atmosphere of this coastal oasis.

Morocco is such a welcoming destination with courtesy extended to visitors. We hope you can join us on this great adventure!

about your leader/escort

Trisha Dixon is a writer - photographer with over a dozen books published, who has documented the landscape designs of Edna Walling, photographed the gardens of Gordon Ford and edited Garden History Journal for years. The National Library of Australia have acquired her photographs for their collection and have published a number of her books.

A passionate traveller, especially for the road less travelled. Early childhood canoeing and walking down gorges with rubber tyres to go rafting along wild rivers left its imprint and somehow Trisha's career of writing, photography and landscape design has morphed into leading tours to some of the world's most enticing locales.... Trisha has led tours for Academy Travel, Renaissance Travel, the Australian Garden History Society, The Historic Houses Trust and the Royal Botanic Gardens as well as her specialist private tours.

When Trisha is not taking people on tours she is off either on bicycle down the canal paths of France, trying to find her way to the top of mountains or hills that intrigue her or just loving spending time on her property and large wild garden at the foothills of the Snowy Mountains.

at a glance

DAY 1	ARRIVE TANGIER
DAY 2	IN TANGIER
DAY 3	TANGIER, LUNCH AT EL FOOLK AND DRIVE TO CHEFCHAOUEN
DAY 4	IN CHEFCHAOUEN
DAY 5	TO FES
DAY 6	IN FES
DAY 7	TO BIN EL OUIDANE IN THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS.
DAY 8	IN BIN EL OUIDANE
DAY 9	DRIVE TO MARRAKECH
DAY 10	IN MARRAKECH - MARJORELLE JARDIN AND LE JARDIN SECRET, YVES SAINT-LAURENT MUSEUM
DAY 11	MARRAKECH - GARDEN VISITS THEN DRIVE TO ESSAOUIRA
DAY 12	IN ESSAOUIRA
DAY 13	RETURN TO MARRAKECH
DAY 14	TOUR CONCLUDES MARRAKECH

additional deposits required

To secure the accommodation we have held for the group we are required to pay an additional deposit. This deposit is collected at the time of booking. This additional deposit amount will be deducted from your final balance. We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance at this time.

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trip dates

2025 01 Oct - 14 Oct

fast facts

Countries Visited:
Morocco

Visas:
Please check visa requirements with your reservations consultant*

Vaccinations:
Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Singles:
A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:
Western Escort & local leaders in country

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

what's included

- Trip accompanied by Trisha Dixon
- All meals outlined in the itinerary (13 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 7 dinners) including Lunch & Dinner across a selection of unique places in Tangier, Dinner at Restaurant Bleue Mogador in Essaouira. Lunch at the Beldi Country Club and dinners at +61 & Jnane Tamsna in Marrakech.
- 13 nights 4-4.5 star deluxe riads/hotels
- English speaking tour leader throughout
- Local city guides in Volubilis, Fes, Marrakech and Essaouira
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary
- Private transport throughout
- Tips for hotel porters, restaurant waiters and local guides (tips for main guide and driver not included)

what's not included

- Travel to Tangier and from Marrakech
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Aerated and alcoholic drinks, bottled water
- Entrance fees for sightseeing not mentioned in the itinerary or optional activities
- Tips for tour leader and driver
- Visas
- Travel insurance

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Arrive Tangier

Own arrival to Tangier and make your way to the hotel (airport transfer can be arranged on request)

At 7pm, meet with Trisha Dixon before our first dinner together at Villa Mabrouka, the former home of Yves Saint Laurent, now a glamorous hotel by Jasper Conran, with breathtaking views and a garden oasis filled with palms, oleander, begonia and hollyhock.

Overnight El Minzah Hotel, Tangier

meals: D

DAY 2 In Tangier

Today we meet Pin Affleck, an Australian ex-pat living in Tangier. In the morning we visit Umberto Pasti who hails from Milan, but for the past thirty years has spent much of his time both in Tangier and Rohuna, a small village close to the Atlantic coast an hour to the south of the city. Ecologist, writer and gardener extraordinaire, Umberto's passion for plants, especially those native to Morocco and in danger of extinction, is legendary and we have the great privilege of visiting his Tangier garden.

This evening will be spent with local personality Gordon Watson. We will have a private tour of his house and garden followed by dinner.

Overnight El Minzah Hotel, Tangier

meals: B,D

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DAY 3 Tangier, Lunch at El Foolk and drive to Chefchaouen

We will spend the morning in Tangier and for those who are interested in the art of Matisse and Australian Hilda Rix Nicholas, there is the chance to see where they painted as well as go to some Tangier places of particular interest. At midday we will have lunch at El Foolk, the house of the late Christopher Gibbs, a wonderful antique collector extraordinaire. His stunning garden is part English meadow part orangerie with views across the strait of Gibraltar from the old mountain of Tangier. Following lunch you will meet with your Moroccan Guide who will guide you through to the end of the trip. Leaving Tangier we drive south east in the shadow of the wild Rif Mountains, the range that defines the physical boundary between Europe and Africa. On arrival into Chefchaouen, we'll settle in to our lovely Riad and in the evening soak up the atmosphere of the Medina.

Overnight Riad Lina, Chefchaouen

meals: B,L

DAY 4 In Chefchaouen

We'll spend the day in Chefchaouen, known as the blue town - and one of the most striking and loved villages in Morocco, with it's whitewashed houses with blue doors.

Optional activities here include a weaving workshop or you can enjoy a hike up to the Spanish mosque via the Spring of Ras El Ma for some great views.

Overnight Riad Lina, Chefchaouen

meals: B

DAY 5 To Fes

We'll leave the Rif Mountains this morning for a scenic drive to Fes (approx 3-4 hours). En-route we'll visit the Roman Ruins of Volubilis and the pilgrimage town of Moulay Idriss. On arrival into Fes, the remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight Fes Palais Sheherazade, Fes.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 6 In Fes

Morning guided sightseeing of the old Medina of Fez including the tanneries and souks, concluding with lunch in the heart of the medina. In 1976 UNESCO declared this Medina one of the world's cultural treasures; the palaces, mosques, medressas and fountains are among the most beautiful in Morocco. The colours and aromas of the olive and spice stores mixed in with communal bakeries and the mysterious perfume shops are just some of the delights that make this journey through the ancient alleyways, full of scurrying people and surprises, a memorable experience.

Free evening.

Overnight Fes Palais Sheherazade, Fes

meals: B,L

DAY 7 To Bin El Ouidane in the Atlas Mountains.

A relaxed breakfast, or final walk around Fes before we set of around 10am to head into the Atlas Mountains. We drive through the cedar woods of the Middle Atlas in the region of Ifrane where we'll buy some local fruit and nuts for the drive and also make a quick stop for lunch (own expense). We'll continue via Khenifra and Beni Mellal to the Lake Bin el Ouidane where we will arrive late afternoon in time to enjoy a swim at our pool with a spectacular view before dinner.

Overnight at Widiane Suites, Middle Atlas.

meals: B,D

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DAY 8 In Bin El Ouidane

Free day to swim and enjoy the hotel and surroundings.

Overnight: Widiane Suites, Middle Atlas.

meals: B

DAY 9 Drive to Marrakech

Today we drive to Marrakech via the High Atlas. We'll arrive into Marrakech in the afternoon and settle in to our Riad. In the late afternoon we'll take a tour of a section of the city wall on a horse drawn carriage.

Overnight Les Jardins De la Koutoubia, Marrakech

meals: B,L

DAY 10 In Marrakech - Marjorelle Jardin and Le Jardin Secret, Yves Saint-Laurent Museum

After breakfast we make a visit to the famous Majorelle Gardens, The Berber Museum, the new Yves Saint-Laurent Museum. We also visit Le Jardin Secret and discover its gardens and buildings, which are outstanding examples of Islamic art and architecture. Afternoon sightseeing of the Medina of Marrakech including Bahia Palace and the souks.

Tonight we dine at the multi awarded, part Australian owned +61 restaurant.

Overnight Les Jardins De la Koutoubia, Marrakech

meals: B,D

DAY 11 Marrakech - Garden visits then drive to Essaouira

This morning we head to we head to the Anima Gardens in Ourika Valley followed by lunch at the Beldi Country Club to enjoy lunch in the gardens.

We then drive on to Essouira.

Overnight Riad Mimouna, Essaouira.

meals: B,L

DAY 12 In Essaouira

In the morning we meet with a local guide and go for an orientation walk of Essaouira. With its Greek-like whitewashed walls and its mixture of Portuguese, French and Berber fortifications, Essaouira has a completely different flavor to Marrakech, and other destinations in inland Morocco. Essaouira is a handicraft centre, particularly for artisans working with sandal, cedar and lemon wood. You can take a relaxing walk along the Atlantic coastline. Fishing is also one of the main industries of the town and the fresh catch is a specialty of the restaurants and the inexpensive harbourside fish markets are a must for lunch.

Dinner at Restaurant Bleue Mogador.

Overnight Riad Mimouna, Essaouira.

meals: B,D

DAY 13 Return to Marrakech

A relaxing morning in Essaouira before we drive back to Marrakech. Our final dinner together will be at the spectacular Jnane Tamsna where we also explore the grounds and gardens.

Overnight Les Jardins De la Koutoubia, Marrakech

meals: B,D

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DAY 14 Tour concludes Marrakech

Your tour concludes after breakfast in Marrakech.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

country information

The oldest known inhabitants of Morocco are the Berber people. They have occupied the area for at least 5000 years however their exact origins are unknown. As early as the 6th century BC Phoenician traders established depots on the Atlantic coast, forging relations with Berber tribes to enable the exploitation of raw materials. With the fall of Carthage in the 1st century CE (Common Era) the Romans annexed much of the northern coastal plain and allied themselves with Berber leaders which facilitated their control of economically viable regions, especially for the cultivation of wheat and olives. In the 5th century, the Roman presence ended with a wave of invasions by the Vandals, Visigoths and Byzantine Greeks and Christianity was introduced. There was already a significant Jewish presence at that time. In the 7th century, Arabs conquered the region bringing Islam to Morocco. Berber tribes adopted Islam, adapting it to encompass their folk traditions and beliefs. The first Muslim dynasty was founded by Idriss I, an Arab descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, who broke away from the Abbasid Caliphate based in Baghdad. Morocco achieved its greatest heights under subsequent Berber dynasties, the Almoravids and the Almohads who came from south of the Atlas Mountains and the Merinids from Figuig in the East. They embarked on a great wave of building and expansion, dominating the Maghreb and Andalusian Spain for over two centuries. In the mid 16th century, the region was ruled for close to 100 years by the Arab Saadian dynasty, followed in the mid 17th century by the Alaouite dynasty, claiming to be descendants of the Prophet and who reign to this day. King Mohamed VI is the current ruler of Morocco and has instituted considerable social reforms since he came to the throne in 1999.

Prior to the First World War, when European powers were eyeing Morocco as a region of interest, the Algeciras Conference of 1906 conferred control of Morocco to France and Spain. The treaty of Fez resulted in Morocco becoming a French Protectorate in 1912, while Spain retained control of an enclave in the north and the Western Sahara. The French exploited Morocco's mineral wealth and built roads,French quarters in the major cities and military garrisons in the more remote areas. In 1944, the Istiqlal (Independence) Party was active in the move towards independence, which was finally proclaimed in 1956.

Most Moroccans (over 98%) are Sunni Moslems of Arab, Arab-Berber, Arabized Berber and Berber descent. There is also a minority of Gnaoua or Haratin descended from sub Saharan African slaves. The Jewish population has decreased considerably since the 1950s and the Christian population consists of foreign nationals, mainly French. Morocco's official language is Classical Arabic although Moroccan Arabic or Darija is the lingua franca. 12 million of Morocco's population of 31 million speak a Berber language (there are 3 regional languages, Riff, Shilha and Tamazight). Although education is compulsory to grade 5, Morocco's literacy rate remains around 50%. Morocco is renowned for its arts and crafts – music, ceramics textiles and jewellery. Its incredibly diverse and stunning landscape, good roads, charming and hospitable people and delicious cuisine all contribute to an extraordinary feast for the senses and a very special experience for the visitor.

dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

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accommodation on the trip

An important note re accommodation. We have made a selection of hotels for this trip based upon 4-4.5 star hotels and riads. Depending on the final group size and make up, any of the hotels specified in the itinerary are subject to change due to availability in which case a hotel of equal category will be substituted. Depending on final group numbers and make up, we may also split the group over two riads though we will do our best to ensure that everyone is accommodated together.

The tour has been based on accommodating the group in the following hotels:

Tangier - El Minzah

Chefchaouen - Ryad Lina

Fes - Palais Sherazade

Atlas Mountains - Widiane Suites

Marrakech - Les Jardins De la Koutoubia

Essaouira - Riad Mamouna

pre and post tour accommodation

If you would like assistance with pre or post tour accommodation, please ask your reservations consultant for details. We recommend securing this well in advance.

There is also an optional extension into the Sahara - please ask us for more information.

visas

Visas are exempt for passport holders from the following countries:-

Australia

New Zealand

Canada

United States

United Kingdom

All other nationalities should check with your nearest embassy or consulate.

Please bear in mind that visas may be required for countries you are visiting en route or transiting through on the way to your destination. It is important that you check the requirements of all countries you will visit. Visa costs and requirements do change regularly so we suggest you check with your travel agent or World Expeditions reservations consultant. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary visas.