
CME AWAY® & Ya'lla Tours PRESENTS:
A Royal Touch of Morocco
CME AWAY® Land Tour
March 08 – 20, 2021

MONDAY, MARCH 08 – CASABLANCA

Arrival: Upon arrival you will be met by a Ya'lla Tours representative and set out for a city tour of Casablanca.

Your tour includes the **Place Mohammed V**, a busy shopping street lined by residential blocks dating from the 1930s; the **League of Arab States Park**, which was built in 1925 and offers a large area of greenery with palm trees, arcades, pergolas and cafés with shady terraces. There will be a stop on route for lunch (*cost of lunch not included*). In the early afternoon, you will be transferred to your hotel for overnight.

Accommodation | 3 nights – March 8, 9, 10, 2021 | [BARCELO ANFA CASABLANCA](#)

The hotel is located in the heart of Casablanca in the Golden Triangle commercial and financial district. With an Art Deco design reflected in its colours, geometric patterns and warm materials, the urban hotel is perfectly aligned with the cosmopolitan atmosphere of the region. All guest rooms have air-conditioning, satellite TV, and complimentary Wi-Fi. Hotel facilities and services include a magnificent terrace and outdoor swimming pool, a fitness studio, a spa, a lobby bar, a snack bar and a restaurant.

Dinner tonight is on your own.

TUESDAY, MARCH 09 – CASABLANCA

Meals included: B,D

CME conference from 8:30 am to 12:00 noon

For those not attending conference, enjoy a free morning to relax by the pool and spa.

Tour for everyone this afternoon, starting at 1:00 pm:

Visit **Villa des Arts**. Part of the **ONA Foundation**, one of Morocco's primary cultural foundations, the Villa des Arts is one of the largest museums in Casablanca and promotes contemporary arts in a framework of Moroccan culture and heritage and features around 800 artworks permanently, as well as temporary expositions of

international and contemporary artists. It provides a different perspective on Moroccan culture, and even the building itself is a beautiful piece of Art Deco architecture dating back to 1934. Hosting numerous cultural events, the Villa des Arts attracts locals and tourists all year round.

Continue to the **Museum of Moroccan Judaism**, the only Jewish museum in the Arab world. The museum offers insight into the history, religion, traditions and daily life of Jews in a Moroccan society, showing the Jewish influence on Moroccan society and highlighting the history of interfaith coexistence in Moroccan society.

*Welcome Moroccan Dinner at the **Basmane Restaurant** (included).*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 – CASABLANCA

Meals included: B,D

CME conference from 7:30 am to 8:30 am

Start at 9:45am for everyone, Casablanca touring:

Visit the impressive **Hassan II Mosque**. Completed in 1993 and located on a platform overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the iconic Hassan II Mosque is the second-largest mosque in the world, and one of few open to non-Muslims (through selected guided tour opportunities lasting around an hour each). The mosque, which can accommodate up to 25,000 worshipers, offers Muslims the chance to pray on a glass floor, giving the unique feeling of praying directly over the sea. Everyone is welcome to admire the beautiful piece of architecture at any time from the spacious courtyard, which alone can accommodate a further 80,000 people. We recommend you take a pair of socks to wear in the mosque, as you must remove your shoes.

Then, visit the **Mellah** (Jewish Quarter) with its temples and synagogues such as Beth-El, Em Habanim and Neve Shalom.

Continue to the **King's Palace**, with its enormous open square and grand exterior which anyone can enjoy. It's worth it just to see from the outside and admire the architecture.

Drive through **La Corniche**, a beachfront district offering an array of dining experiences. On a hot day, the area brims with surfers, swimmers and sunbathers, offering a less traditional and a more holiday-escape side of Morocco.

There will be a stop on route for lunch (*cost of lunch not included*)

CME conference from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

For those not attending conference, enjoy the afternoon at your leisure.

*Dinner tonight will be at the legendary **Rick's Café** (included).*

THURSDAY, MARCH 11 – FES

Meals included: B,D

After a relaxed breakfast, depart Casablanca and drive 1½ hours to **Rabat**, capital city of Morocco. See the old medina; the picturesque Kasbah of the Oudayas and the Oudaya Gate, built during the Almohad dynasty. Also see the well-preserved Hassan Tower and the Chellah, which were built by the Merinids in the 12th and 13th centuries. Walk into the Mohammed V Mausoleum, the burial place of the present King's grandfather. Visit the **Mellah**, with its narrow lanes and colorful courtyards. Continue to the birthplace of Rabbi Hayyim Ben Moses Attar, the famous 18th-century scholar and kabbalist, known throughout the Jewish world for his bible commentary, the Or Ha-Hayyim.

There will be a stop on route for lunch (*cost of lunch not included*)

Continue to **Fes** where you will check into your hotel and enjoy dinner at the hotel (included).

Accommodation | 3 nights – March 11, 12, 13, 2021 | [SAHRAI](#)

Our hotel is a 5-star boutique property located on a hill between the Medina and the New Town, with unparalleled views of the city and its surroundings. From an ambiance filled with engaging contemporary Moroccan art to a vibrant rooftop bar and a bold interior architecture by acclaimed French designer Christophe Pillet, the hotel takes tradition and moves it forward into the future. All guest rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows and marble bathrooms, as well as air-conditioning, complimentary wired and wireless internet, 32-inch flat-panel TV, telephone, minibar, Nespresso coffee machine, mineral water, hairdryer, bathrobes and slippers. Hotel facilities and services include 2 gourmet restaurants (Moroccan and international), rooftop bar and terrace, Givenchy Spa, infinity pool, fitness center, tennis court, concierge, currency exchange, laundry and dry cleaning.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12 – FES

Meals included: B,D

The whole day is devoted to an in-depth visit of **Fes**, founded by King Moulay Idriss in the 9th century. Flat and comfortable shoes are a must for the visit of the Medina and its small winding and paved alleys. Continue to the **Mellah**, with its narrow lanes and colourful courtyards, is now the home of a few Jewish families. See the old **Koranic schools** and the Quaraouyine Mosque (from the outside only), the largest university in the world in the 13th century with over 3,000 students. Continue to **modern Fes**, including the famous "potters" district.

There will be a stop on route for lunch (*cost of lunch not included*)

Return to your hotel.

CME conference from 3:00 to 6:00pm

For those not in the conference, this afternoon is at your leisure.

*Dinner tonight will be at the fantastic **Maison Blanche** (included).*

SATURDAY, MARCH 13 – FES

Meals included: B,D

Visits to Meknes & Volubilis

Drive to **Volubilis**, this Roman city was a flourishing trade city in the 2nd and 3rd centuries selling oil, corn and wild animals. The Berbers, who had been converted to Christianity, occupied Volubilis until the 8th century. The earthquake of 1755 destroyed the city and it was found and excavations started in 1887 and continue to this day. A visit to the ruins begins with a tour of the ramparts 5 ¼ feet wide and 1 ½ miles long, with no fewer than forty bastions and eight 2nd-century gates.

Continue to **Meknes**, founded in the 9th century by Zenata Berbers. A visit of this former Imperial City includes the old ramparts; the **Agoudal Basin**, once used to water the royal gardens and amuse the favorite concubines, granaries and House of Water (Dar El Ma), built in the 17th and 18th centuries to house, feed and water the sultan's twelve thousand horses. Finally, see **Bab El Mansour**, one of the most beautiful gates in Morocco.

There will be a stop on route for lunch (*cost of lunch not included*)

Return to Fes.

CME conference from 3:00 to 6:00pm

For those not in conference:

Transfer to **Palais Amani** for a cooking class and learn how to prepare several types Moroccan dishes like tagines, salads, pastilla and more.

*Tonight, for dinner everyone will enjoy the results of the **cooking class** (included).*

SUNDAY, MARCH 14 – MERZOUGA

Meals included: B,L,D

At 8:00am, set out for Middle Atlas Mountains, through the village of Immouzzet du Kandar and the ski resort of **Ifrane** in the heart of a cedar forest.

Continue with a full day drive across the cedar forests and picturesque scenery of the Middle Atlas Mountains to Erfoud. Stop at Midelt for **lunch** at **Taddart Restaurant**.

Continue through the Ziz Gorge and Er Rachidia. **Erfoud**, situated amongst impressive Sahara dunes, is one of the largest oases in Morocco.

From Erfoud, travel approximately 1 ½ hours to **Merzouga** and from Merzouga, a short drive will take you to your **Berber camp** for dinner and overnight.

***PLEASE NOTE*: For this evening, you must pack an overnight bag to take to the Berber Camp. Warm clothes are suggested, as the desert chills down at night. All other luggage will be securely locked on the bus overnight.**

Accommodation | 1 night – March 14, 2021 | BERBER CAMP

The site is surrounded by torches and the ground is covered with antique Moroccan rugs.

- Sleeping Tent: 8x4 meter sleeping tents are furnished with comfortable beds, sheets, Berber blankets, a small table, 2 chairs, bottled water on arrival, 2 glasses, candles and matches.
- Sanitary: In each sleeping tent, the shower and toilet are separated from the sleeping area by a thick curtain. The shower is separated from the toilet by a plastic wall. The washbasin is in a corridor facing the sleeping area.
- Food facilities: 1 kitchen tent, 1 restaurant tent, a small area for the bar
- For dinner, you can choose between two menus.
- Restaurant: The restaurant tent is furnished with tables with tablecloth, traditional plates, a silver set for the Tea Ceremony, Tas Ouidou for the traditional hand washing, mejmar (kettle on high stand), incense burner, march traditional rosewater sprinkler and poufs.
- Breakfast menu: freshly squeezed orange juice, coffee, tea, eggs, cereals, cheese, yogurt, honey, 2 different kinds of jam, fruits, croissant, Moroccan bread & pancakes
- Staff: 1 cook, 3 waiters, 1-night watchman
- Entertainment: a party of 4 local singers

MONDAY, MARCH 15 – OUARZAZATE

Meals included: B,D

End your desert adventure with a **camel trek** to watch a fantastic sunrise over the dunes.

Return to the camp for breakfast. After breakfast, board your 4x4 to drive back to Erfoud.

Next, board your touring bus and drive through **Tinejdad**, **Tineghir** and the **Todra Pass** in the beautiful **1,000 Kasbah Valley** to El Kelaa des Mgouna and Skoura. After Skoura, palm trees are replaced by orchards and irrigated gardens. Roses for making perfume are the specialty of El Kelaa des Mgouna. *Paris*, the famous

perfume by Yves Saint Laurent is made from the extract of these roses. You will find some nice shopping here for rose products such as rose water, body milk, dried petals etc.

There will be a stop on route for lunch (*cost of lunch not included*)

Continue to Ouarzazate for dinner at the hotel (included) and overnight.

Accommodation | 1 night – March 15, 2021 | [BERBERE PALACE](#)

Our hotel is a 5-star property located on 27 acres in the center of town. All rooms are decorated in traditional Berber style, 3 restaurants serving Moroccan and international cuisine, piano-bar, night club, shops, swimming-pool, 3 tennis courts, ping-pong, volleyball and a fitness club.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16 – MARRAKECH

Meals included: B

After an early breakfast depart by 7:30am for a visit of the **Ait Ben Haddou Kasbah**, an impressive 11th century structure which has been declared a historical treasure by UNESCO. Drive through mountainous and semi-desert landscape, over the High Atlas Mountains at **Tizi N'Tichka Pass** (7,400 feet) and across the fertile countryside of the Haouz Plain to the pink city of **Marrakech**.

There will be a stop on route for lunch (*cost of lunch not included*).

Then, transfer to your hotel for overnight. Dinner tonight is on your own (*cost not included*). There are many restaurants nearby and at the hotel, and your guides will be happy to make recommendations.

Accommodation | 4 nights – March 16,17,18,19, 2021 | [JARDINS DE LA KOUTOUBIA](#)

Our riad, is a deluxe, modern property built on the site of a 13th century riad. The hotel design follows that of traditional riads with all of the rooms overlooking a sumptuous interior courtyard. All stylishly decorated rooms have en suite bathrooms, air-conditioning, direct-dial phones, hair dryer, mini-bar and safe. Facilities include a swimming pool, a variety of dining options, fitness center, Turkish bath, lounges, and massage rooms.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17 – MARRAKECH

Meals included: B

CME conference from 8:00am to 12:15.

At 1:00 pm the *optional* city-tour of Marrakech, leaving from the hotel, directly to the **Menara Gardens**, with its **Saadian Pavilion** and olive groves. Continue to the **Old Medina** for a walking tour through the fascinating labyrinth, with a stop at the foot of the famous **Koutoubia Minaret**. Continue to the **Bahia Palace**, with its lush Moorish style garden.

Then visit the **Majorelle Garden**, with a large variety of trees, plants and flowers from different countries. Stroll through the colorful souks of the medina and then experience the famous **Jemaa El Fna Square**, an ancient meeting place of North African tradesmen, entertainers, musicians, snake charmers and storytellers.

Visit the **Mellah** which became home of a thriving community of native and Spanish Jews, famed for their rabbinical schools and scholars. Visit the Rabbi Hanania Hacohen cemetery, the burial place of Rabbi Mordekhai Ben Attar and Rabbi Pinhas Hacohen Azough known as the Patron of Marrakech.

Return your hotel after the tour.

At 5:00 pm, for those who wish, enjoy a 3-hour shopping spree with guides. Shops include antiques, jewelry, rugs, leather pottery & much more.

Dinner tonight is on your own (*cost not included*). There are many restaurants nearby and at the hotel, and your guides will be happy to make recommendations.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18 – MARRAKECH

Meals included: B,L

You will be picked up from your hotel lobby after breakfast to start your tour to **Imlil Valley**.

Board your 4X4 jeep and treat yourselves to this trip to the Atlas Mountains and visit the home of the Berbers and Jbel Toubkal the highest peak in North Africa. All of this is just 40 miles away from Marrakech. View the green landscapes of this valley. The lazy meandering torrent of the rivers combined with the small red adobe **Berber villages** hanging on the slopes will enchant you. The tranquility of Berber Village life provides the perfect contrast to the buzz of the city. From the village of Imlil, footpaths and through lush, irrigated terraces, apple orchards and walnut groves to other villages, where the way of life has changed little for centuries and traditional values and hospitality are unaffected by the outside world.

Lunch at **Kasbah Toubkal**. The Kasbah is perched on a great rock outcrop above the main village with a panoramic view of the mountains, valleys and waterfalls.

Return to Marrakech and your hotel for overnight.

Dinner tonight is on your own (*cost not included*). There are many restaurants nearby and at the hotel, and your guides will be happy to make recommendations.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19– MARRAKECH

Meals included: B,L,D

Drive to the nearest seaside resort to Marrakech, **Essaouira**. Renowned for generations for its production of "Murex" a small shellfish used to make the purple dye for Roman togas, Essaouira is now a very active fishing harbor still showing traces of Portuguese occupation in the 16th century. Later, the city was used by Sultan Mohamed Ben Abdellah as a base for his corsairs. Today, protected from the sea and the wind behind its commanding fortified walls, Essaouira shelters a flourishing craftsmanship in marquetry, working citron-and-lime wood with ebony, mother of pearl and silver thread to make tables, chess boards, caskets and bracelets. In the 1970s, American rock stars such as Bob Dylan and Cat Stevens spent a lot of time in Essaouira.

Enjoy a seafood lunch at **Palais Heure Bleue Restaurant**.

Return to Marrakech for overnight.

Farewell dinner at the **La Cour des Lions**, with entertainment.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20– MARRAKECH, FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS

Meals included: B

After a light, early breakfast, the group will be transferred **at approximately 5:30 am**, to Casablanca Mohammed V Airport for your Air Canada nonstop flight to Montreal at 10:40 am; or whatever flight arrangements you have made.

TOUR INCLUDES:

- 12 nights of accommodations, with breakfast daily
- 8 dinners and 3 lunches, as per itinerary
- 12 days of touring in a **private**, air-conditioned bus with a licensed, English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees, as per itinerary
- Sunrise camel trek in the Sahara Desert
- Private group transfers, as per the itinerary
- Unlimited bottled water on the bus
- Baggage handling at airports and hotels
- Service fees and local taxes
- Tips for driver, guide, restaurants and hotels. Any additional tips are at your own discretion.

TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Meals, except where indicated
- Drinks of any kind at lunches and dinners, unless otherwise noted
- Personal expenses
- Travel Insurance, highly recommended

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- You must have a current passport to enter Morocco, valid at least 6 months past your scheduled return date. It is up to you, the traveller, to determine whether your nationality will require visas. Please ask your CME AWAY® travel agent if you require assistance.
- Living standards and practices at the destination and standards and conditions there with respect to the provisions of utilities, services and accommodation may differ from those in your home country.