



National Peace Corps Association Morocco

An Exclusive NPCA Next Step Travel Program
www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/morocco

Preliminary Itinerary*
April 30 – May 13, 2017
October 8 – 21, 2017
14 days / 13 nights

** as of 15 December 2016 – subject to change*

In cooperation with



اصدقاء المغرب
Friends of Morocco

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Day One

Potential arrivals in Casablanca. Pick up at airport for early arrivals. Pickup in the city of Casablanca at specified locations for other clients. Tour of [Hassan II Mosque](#). Drive to [Rabat](#). Other clients can meet in Rabat at the [Belere Hotel](#). R&R at hotel. Lunch on own. Afternoon meeting of Peace Corps staff. Evening walk to medina and Oudaias. Dinner at the Belere and hopefully accompanied by PC staff. Hotel Belere (D)

Day Two

After breakfast and after further meeting with PC, we will drive north to Asilah for lunch (drive ~2 hrs). Paella at Casa Garcia. Tour of charming Asilah medina. Drive to [Tangier](#). Hopefully PCV will join us for dinner. HB at [Hotel Continental](#). This must be the best location in Tangier!!!! (B, L & D)

Day Three

After breakfast tour Tangier, beginning with the [Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies](#). Observe the great change to Tangier, now one of the finest cities in Morocco. Tour the Grand Socco, Petit Socco and medina. Lunch free. HB at Hotel Continental (B & D)

Day Four

Drive to the lovely blue mountain village of [Chefchaouen](#). (2 hours 15 min.) Tour of the amazing medina--white or blue washed houses and intricate Andalusian architecture!! Lunch in the main square, Place Outa el Hammam. Drive to Volubilis (2 hrs. 40 min.) Tour Volubilis. Short visit to Moulay Idriss. Drive to Meknes. HB at [Riad D'Or](#). This is a museum of a riad, deep in the medina, each room is original and different and a virtual maze!! Hopefully we can be joined at dinner by PCVs and also American students from the university exchange programs of Meknes. (B, L & D)

Day Five

Tour the medina of [Meknes](#), visiting [Bou Inania Medersa](#), [Bab Mansour](#), and the great granary, Heri es-Souani. Lunch at [Collier de la Columbe](#). Drive to Fes (one hour). Dinner to be joined by PCVs and perhaps teachers from the [American Language Center](#). HB at either the gorgeous riad of [Dar BenSouda](#), deep in the medina or HB at the [Hotel Zalagh Parc Palace](#) in the Ville Nouvelle. (B, L & D)

Day Six

Tour of [Fes](#). Visit first Fes from above at the Borg to get a view. Visit the pottery factory, the King's palace, the Jewish quarter, Bab Boujeloud--then walk deep into the medina. Lunch in

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a palace in the medina. Fes is a moving museum! Visit the tanneries, the Zaouia of Moulay Idriss and the Qarawiyyin Mosque. HB at either Hotel Zalagh or Dar BenSouda. (B, L & D)

Day Seven

Drive south to the Sahara. Destination: [Erfoud](#)! (6 hours and 15 min.) We will first drive up into the Middle Atlas to the town of Ifrane where the [Al Akhawayn University](#) is located! Continual driving through the Middle Atlas, to Azrou where we will visit the women's coop, one of the best in Morocco!! We continue up the mountains and make a short visit to the cedar forest where we might see some Barbary Apes. Drive down the Middle Atlas to the town of Midelt where we will have lunch at the [Hotel Ayachi](#). Drive over the High Atlas Mountains and into the city of Er Rachdia... and then through the beautiful Ziz Valley Oasis. We'll take a walk through the oasis and visit a Ksar (walled village). We continue on to our gorgeous hotel---the [Xaluca of Arfoud](#)!! HB And hopefully joined at dinner by PCVs. (B, L & D)

Day Eight

Drive through Erfoud and visit a fossil factory where we will see that the ammonite and orthoceras fossils have been mined in the Erfoud region and then carved and polished -- producing bowls, countertops and tables. From Erfoud we strike out to the desert and soon in the distance appears a mound of orange--looking like a giant dip of orange sherbet!! Here we will stay right below the dunes of Erg Chebbi at the [Hotel Tomboctou](#)! We will spend the remaining of the day in the dunes--or riding a camel or merely basking by the pool! Hotel Tomboctou HB (B & D)

Day Nine

Leave the peach colored sand behind but ahead we have beautiful landscapes! Drive through the town of [Rissani](#), birthplace of the Alaouite Dynasty and northward through the palmed Ziz Valley until we arrive in Erfoud again. We will drive northwest to Tinjedad and on to [Tineghir](#). We will be just on the south side of the breathtaking High Atlas Mountains. And then drive up the fabulous Todra Gorge. We'll watch the Berber women harvesting their crops, as their lives continue the same as it has for centuries... Lunch will be in a small restaurant in Tineghir. Continue on to Boumalne du Dades. [Boumalne Xaluca Dades](#) HB (B, L & D)

Day Ten

Drive to El Kelaa Mgouna, land of the roses, where local Berbers make fortunes in rose oil and rose petals. Drive along the Mgoun River to Bou Thrarar. Marvel at the stunning rock landscape and Berber villages built as an extension of the land. Explore the village of Bou Thrarar. We will then return to the Dades Valley to the land of the "Kasbahs"! Visit the

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Amerhidil Kasbah and take a walk through the Skoura Oasis. Lunch with a view over the Skoura Oasis at [Chez Talout](#). Drive through Ouarzazate to [Ait Ben Haddou](#). Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site where so many films were made---*Lawrence of Arabia* and *Jewel of the Nile* and *Hideous Kinky*... Our fabulous hotel is built into a kasbah. HB [Riad Ksar Ighnda](#). Hopefully joined at dinner by PCVs. (B, L & D)

Day Eleven

Drive up the ancient caravan route from Ait Ben Haddou to the top of the High Atlas Mountains. We will pass through Berber mud bricked villages and crumbling kasbahs to Telouet, the capital of the Glaoui empire. Visit the shocking Glaoui Kasbah... Lunch will be at a Berber truck stop in Taddert. Drive down the High Atlas Mountains to amazing [Marrakech](#). (Driving--3 1/2 hrs.) We will be staying deep in the medina at [Riad Al Jazira](#). HB (B, L & D)

Day Twelve

Tour Marrakech including the Essaadi Tombs, Bahia Palace, Djemaa El Fna, Ben Youseff Medersa the Koutoubia. In the souks watch the artisans work at their leather crafts as they have for generation after generation....

Lunch in Gueliz at the [Amal Women's Center](#). Visit the [Majorelle Gardens](#) and the Yves St. Laurent Berber Museum (VERY fabulous}. Visit the [High Atlas Foundation](#) in Gueliz. HB at Riad Al Jazira with hopefully PCV dinner guests! (B, L & D)

Day Thirteen

Drive to [Essaouira](#). (2 hours 45 min.) Lunch free. Tour the medina and port. Meet Fatima, who was trained by Peace Corps as a teacher for handicapped children. Then she became a teacher for women who were illiterate. She is a star! HB at beautiful [Riad Al Madina](#) (where Jimi Hendrix used to hang out drinking coffee). (B & D)

Day Fourteen

Transfer to Casa airport (4 hrs) after breakfast (B)

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