

# ART AND ARCHITECTURE TOURS: Morocco in May

May 13–23, 2024



Marble Mausoleum of Mohammed V, Rabat



Volubilis



Merzouga Desert

## TOUR SCHEDULE

- **Monday, May 13 Arrive in Casablanca** — Salam Alaykoum. Welcome to Morocco! Upon arrival at the Casablanca airport, we will be met and driven to our hotel in Casablanca for our first night in Morocco. After having time to freshen up and relax, we will meet our guide Tommaso Pantè at 6 pm for a Welcome Meeting. After the meeting, you will be free to explore Casablanca on your own, to enjoy your first Moroccan dinner, or simply to relax at the 5-star Four Seasons Hotel.
- **Tuesday, May 14 Casablanca and Rabat** — After breakfast, our first visit will be a guided tour of the Hassan II Mosque. The largest mosque in Africa, this monumental work, constructed to project in part over the Atlantic Ocean, was built in the last two decades of the 20th c. and employed tens of thousands of workers and artisans. In addition, more than 12 million people contributed to underwrite its staggering cost of a half billion euros. Following the mosque tour, we will continue to Rabat, the capital of Morocco, where we will see the Marble Mausoleum of Mohammed V and the similarly spectacular Hassan Tower. Afterwards we'll continue to the Blue City of Chefchaouen—our home for the next two nights. After checking in and getting settled into our rooms at Dar Echchaouen, we will have a brief orientation tour of the surrounding area.
- **Wednesday, May 15 Chefchaouen** — Today is your day to spend taking your camera into the winding lanes and alleys of Morocco's "blue city." Whether people-watching from a café or shopping, or enjoying a cup of tea with a friend, you will enjoy the ambiance of this charming town. Our local guide knows all the best cafés, photo tours, henna artists, and local experiences if you want to join in an optional activity or even hike to score the best views.
- **Thursday, May 16 Fes** — Today we'll head to Fes, but first we'll visit **Volubilis**, once a provincial Roman capital—a distant outpost of the empire. The remains make an undeniably impressive sight. Upon arrival, we will tour the ruins with a local guide. After the tour, we'll travel through the Moroccan countryside, passing the imperial city Meknes. We'll stop for a photo opportunity before continuing to Fes—our home for the next two nights. After checking into the Hotel Marriott Jnan Palace, we'll finish the day with dinner at a local family house, where we'll enjoy one of the city's signature dishes—pastilla (or bastilla)—a salty and sweet pastry parcel.
- **Friday, May 17 Fes** — Located between the Rif and Middle Atlas mountain ranges in northern Morocco, Fes has long been regarded as the country's cultural, spiritual, and intellectual heart. Today will include a guided walking tour of the old city, known locally as Fes el Bali. Step back into the Middle Ages in the labyrinth of the Medina, which is alive with craftsmen, markets, tanneries, and mosques. Pass donkeys piled high with goods (this is one of the largest car-free urban zones in the world) and explore the specialty sections that divide the souk. Visit Medresse el Attarine and the splendid Funduk Nejjarine—a beautifully restored 18th century inn. You'll also see the famous tannery, known for the view overlooking its dye pits, and a ceramics factory where you can see potters working in the traditional way.
- **Saturday, May 18 Atlas Mountains**—After breakfast we will travel to **Ifrane**—situated in the middle of the beautiful Atlas Mountains. Known as the "Little Switzerland" of Morocco, Ifrane is a winter sport center characterized by clean, neat streets and beautiful parks. We'll venture into a cedar forest, famous for its sweeping views over the surrounding valleys, before we continue to **Midelt**. Midelt boasts stunning views of the High Atlas Mountains before making our way to **Erfoud**. There we can finish our day lounging by the pool at 4-star Hotel Xaluca with views over the dunes or enjoying the hotel spa.
- **Sunday, May 19 Merzouga Desert**—Today we'll jump into 4WDs to visit the Merzouga desert, the village of Hassilabiad, and the very popular village of Khemlia, which is populated by the nomads that came to Morocco in 15th century from the Sub-Saharan countries like Ghana. In this village we will enjoy their music, dance, and see their beautiful dress. Our lunch of the local madfouna is a flatbread stuffed with veggies, meat and herbs (vegetarian option is available). In the later afternoon, we will drive to our luxury camp in the middle of the desert and enjoy a sunset camel ride.
- **Monday, May 20 Quarzazate** — Today's journey will follow the fabled 'Road of 1,000 Kasbahs,' winding past the mud-brick forts of the High Atlas, tracing the Dadès Gorges route across the Valley of Roses and zigzagging through ancient rust-red and mauve mountains past historic kasbahs (castles) and ksour (fortified villages). The drive will take us through the valley, where we will see Kelaat Mgouna—renowned for its roses peeking through roadside hedgerows, and Skoura's historic mudbrick castles. We will then arrive in Quarzazate's 5-star Berber Palace Hotel where we will enjoy dinner together after the day's exotic journey.
- **Tuesday, May 21 Marrakech** —After breakfast, we'll visit Ait Benhaddou—a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site and a nearly 1,000-year-old ksar. (This spectacular ksar has served as the backdrop for more than 15 film productions, including "Gladiator" and "Game of Thrones.") Afterwards, we will ascend through the High Atlas Mountains to an incredible 2,260m before arriving in Marrakech in the late afternoon. After checking into our 5-star, Nourra Barriere Marrakech Hotel, our guide will take us on an orientation walk in the nearby Medina. A carnival of snake charmers, soothsayers, acrobats and conjurers, musicians and dizzyingly diverse Moroccan cuisine, this main square hasn't stopped bustling since its creation in the 11th-century.
- **Wednesday, May 22 Marrakech**—After breakfast we will have a cooking class with a local chef at La Maison Arabe, where you can pick fresh herbs and all ingredients for preparing a delicious Moroccan tagine. After lunch, we'll meet our local guide and set off on an afternoon tour of the old medina and visit Bahia Palace. This splendid mansion was built in 1866 for a former slave who rose to power within the government. After the palace, we'll visit the Koutoubia Mosque; its famous minaret is the prototype for others of its kind around the world, including La Giralda in Seville. We'll end the tour at the tropical gardens of the French painter Jacques Majorelle before having the remainder of the day at leisure.
- **Thursday, May 23 Departures from Marrakech**

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## COST AND CONDITIONS

Per Person (double occupancy): \$6495

Single Supplement: \$1950

This tour includes ten (10) nights' accommodation (May 13-23, 2024); 10 breakfasts; 2 lunches, and 4 dinners; all entrance fees, private coach transport; and expert guiding.

A deposit of \$1995, will hold your place in the tour with final payment due by November 30, 2023. Please return your registration form to 4208 Sulgrave Road, Richmond, Virginia 23221, or scan and email to [jwbraymer@comcast.net](mailto:jwbraymer@comcast.net). Payment by check to Art and Architecture Tours LLC or by credit card. Payment by credit card carries a 4% service fee.

Pricing is based on current exchange rates as of February 1, 2023. While we do not anticipate a significant change in exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust the fee to maintain the standard of this tour should a substantial change in the exchange rate occur. Participants will be notified by April 1, 2024, should an adjustment be necessary.

Art and Architecture Tours LLC reserves the right at its sole discretion to alter the itinerary as circumstances beyond its control require.

**All participants are strongly encouraged to enroll in a travel insurance program at the time of registration for the broadest possible coverage including trip interruption, medical emergencies, etc.**

Cancellations following registration will be honored with a refund, less a \$500 administrative fee, until October 31, 2023. After then, cancellations will be honored with a refund only if the registrant secures a replacement for the reserved place.



Kasbah Hotel Xaluca, Erfoud

## TOUR REGISTRATION

Full legal name on passport \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Passport # \_\_\_\_\_

First name to appear on name tag \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Food allergies or special requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Name of roommate \_\_\_\_\_

**TOUR FEE (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY) IS \$6495 PER PERSON.** (A limited number of double accommodations for single use are available; we encourage single travelers to seek compatible roommates. If this is not possible, the single supplement fee is \$ 1950.)

- \$1995 deposit due upon registration  
 \$4500 balance due November 30, 2023  
 \$1950 Supplemental fee for single lodging due November 30, 2023  
 Total payment enclosed/applied

### METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Checks payable to Art and Architecture Tours LLC. Mail to 4208 Sulgrave Road, Richmond, VA 23221.

By credit card (Please note that a 4% credit card fee is passed on to you.)

You may mail or return by email to [jwbraymer@comcast.net](mailto:jwbraymer@comcast.net).

VISA  MasterCard  AmEx

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code of billing address \_\_\_\_\_

**TOUR CONDITIONS:** All tour members are encouraged in the **strongest terms** to obtain travel insurance to cover the entire cost of their travels. Art and Architecture Tours LLC (AAT LLC) acts only as agents for the tour members with respect to transportation, hotels and restaurants, and exercises every care possible. AAT LLC assumes no responsibility to any person or entity for liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, breakdown, disruption of advertised schedules, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any ship, ferry, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage, or any other conveyance used in carrying out these tours, or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept responsibility for losses or additional expense due to delay, refusal of visa, or changes in air or other services, lost baggage, sickness, weather, strike, war, violent acts, quarantine, acts of God, or any other causes beyond our control. All such losses will be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to the itinerary or accommodations as may be deemed necessary for carrying out the tour. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The price of the program is based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on February 1, 2023, and is subject to adjustment in the event of change in tariffs, taxes or exchange rates. Registration for this tour shall be deemed to be acceptance of these conditions.

**About Art and Architecture Tours LLC,** Founded by John Braymer in 2015, Art and Architecture Tours has become recognized for carefully curated travel ventures that exceed the expectations of discriminating tour members. Mr. Braymer, with more than 50 years of study and travel abroad, assembles itineraries that help participants integrate their travel curiosity with their interest in history, culture, architecture and the arts. With a Ph. D. in English (graduate work begun in 1970 under Oxford dons), Mr. Braymer has studied art and architectural history at the undergraduate and graduate levels with additional study in the United Kingdom and Italy. He is retired as chief executive of the American Institute of Architects/Virginia and he is Founding President of the Branch Museum of Architecture and Design in Richmond, Virginia. He also founded and published *Inform*, an architecture and design magazine, for 25 years.

**Please feel free to contact him at [info@artandarchtours.com](mailto:info@artandarchtours.com) with any questions you have about Art and Architecture Tours.**