

# MOROCCAN EXPLORATION

JOURNEYS  
by Van Dyke 

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 Land Journey

16 Days

\$7,750 CAD  
All inclusive from, per guest, double occ.

October  
6 to 21, 2021

# Discover Morocco

Morocco is a lavish treat.

Wind your way through the famous blue streets of Chefchaouen, century-old souks in Fez and UNESCO-recognized Marrakech medina. Be swept away by the ocean breeze during a relaxing day in the beautiful seaside town of Essaouira. Journey through the Sahara desert sand dunes on the back of a camel.

A savoury feast for the mind, body and soul, Morocco will steal your heart.





# ① Luxury Camp & Camel Ride

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Few places on Earth compare to the Sahara desert. Venture out into copper-coloured sand with dunes rolling on the horizon. Travel by 4×4 through the soft sand to an enchanting tented camp, indulge in a sunset camel ride and celebrate with a traditional Berber feast and live entertainment before falling asleep under the star-filled sky. Morocco's desert is an adventure of a lifetime.

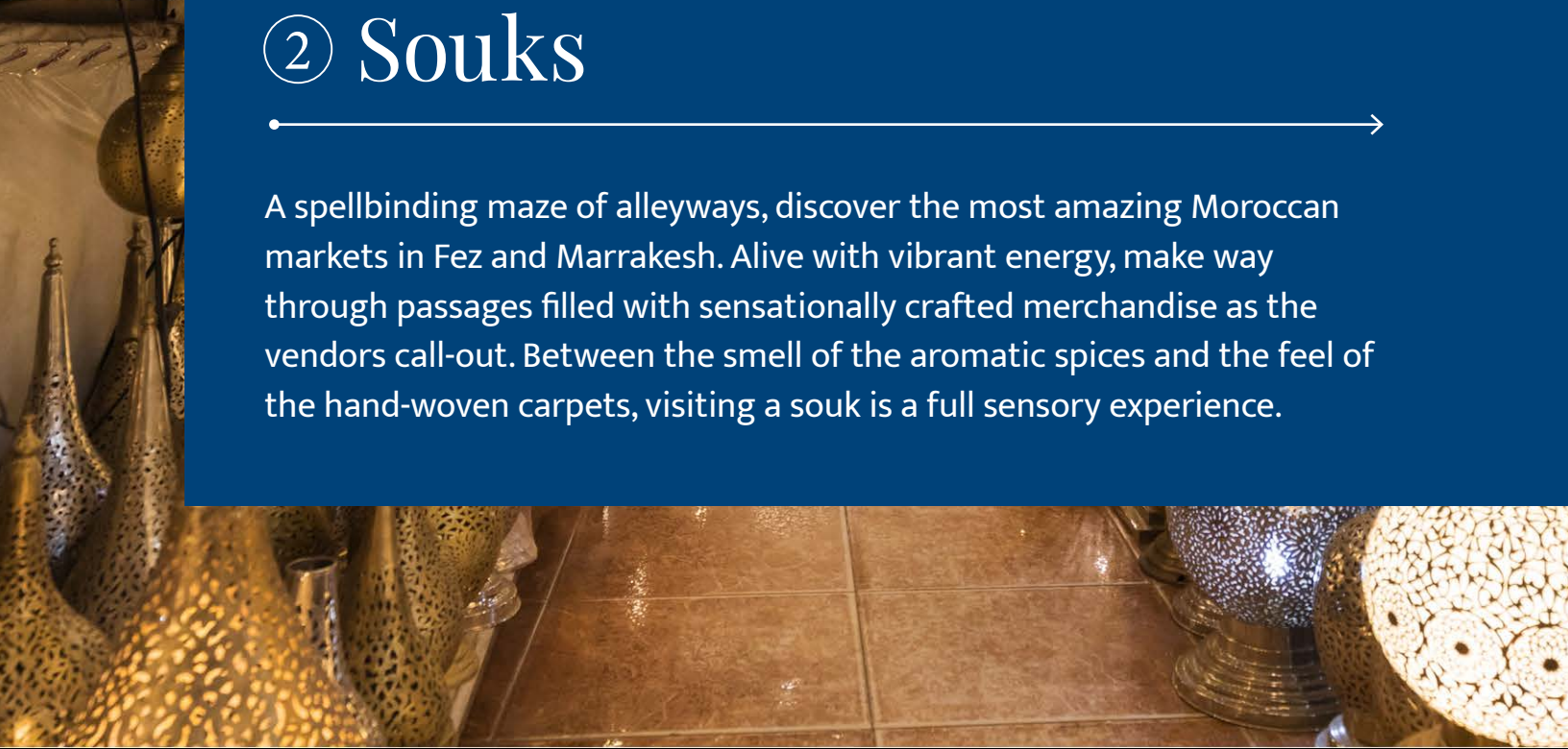






## ② Souks

A spellbinding maze of alleyways, discover the most amazing Moroccan markets in Fez and Marrakesh. Alive with vibrant energy, make way through passages filled with sensationally crafted merchandise as the vendors call-out. Between the smell of the aromatic spices and the feel of the hand-woven carpets, visiting a souk is a full sensory experience.







### ③ The Ancient Medinas

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The beating heart of Moroccan urban life, ancient medinas are the old towns of Moroccan cities.

Surrounded by towering walls, around which the rest of the city was built, is a maze of cobblestoned lanes. Treasures lurk behind the tall walls of the culturally rich old towns of Marrakesh, Fez, Essaouira and Chefchaouen. A glimpse into the way things used to be, this is the 'real Morocco' in all its charm and glory.





## ④ The Coast

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Running along the Atlantic Ocean all the way to the Mediterranean sea, the Moroccan coast is dotted with charming harbours, fishing ports and beautiful beach towns. Feel like a local while ambling through the streets of Casablanca or enjoy the peaceful relaxation of the quieter beach towns of Rabat, Moulay Bousselham and M'Diq. Morocco's leisurely coast is just as appealing as its bustling interior.





# Journey Itinerary





## Day 1

# DEPART FOR CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

Start your Journey with us by enjoying a private car pick up service from your home. Upon arrival at the airport, guests departing from the Toronto airport are assisted with their check-in. Meet your Journey Manager and fellow guests, and board your flights to Morocco. Our Journey Manager travels with you to take care of all the details, allowing you to embrace your Journey.

### Overnight flight







## Day 2

# CASABLANCA

On arrival in Casablanca, we are met by our local guide and taken on a scenic morning drive before visiting the Hassan II Mosque. After lunch, we take the picturesque route to Rabat. This evening, join us for a welcome dinner at our hotel. (L,D)

**Tour Hassan, Rabat (2 nights)**



## Day 3

# RABAT

The “Fortified Place,” the literal meaning of Rabat is the capital city of Morocco. Its wide boulevards are filled with out-of-the-ordinary 7<sup>th</sup>-century historical monuments. Today we explore the administrative capital of Rabat and witness the marble Mohammed V Mausoleum decorated with exquisite zellige (geometric mosaic tiles) and the unfinished but ever striking Hassan Tower, which was meant to be the largest minaret in the world. Then we pay a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kasbah of the Udayas. It is within these historical walls that the city of Rabat began in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. After lunch, enjoy an afternoon of free time before joining us for dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)







## Day 4

# COASTAL M'DIQ

Today, we head toward Morocco's northeastern coast, to the charming beachside town of M'Diq nestled on the edge of the Mediterranean Sea near the city of Tetouan. Along the way, we visit two unique towns, Moulay Bousselham and Larache. The picturesque town of Moulay Bousselham is known for its sweeping golden beach and Larache, a Spanish-style city is known for its incredible harbour. We arrive at our hotel with plenty of time to relax before settling down for a delicious dinner at our hotel. (B,L,D)

**Softel Tamuda Bay, M'Diq (1 night)**



## Day 5

# CHARMING CHEFCHAOUEN

After breakfast, we head towards the famous blue and white town of Chefchaouen. Originally built as a fortress in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and nestled in the Rif mountains, architecture enthusiasts will marvel at the Jewish-inspired blue-tinted buildings, octagonal mosque and Spanish ruins. Explore the medina and the winding alleys of this charming village, while we visit the Plaza Uta El Hammam, the Ras el Maa and the local washhouse. Enjoy lunch before we make our way to the imperial walled city of Fez. This evening dinner is at our hotel. (B,L,D)

**Marriott Jnan Palace, Fez (3 nights)**







## Day 6

# FEZ

An exhilarating day in the religious capital of Morocco awaits. Fez shares her memories of 12 centuries of history and shows us the refinement of Hispano-Moorish culture. After a visit to the Medina, a UNESCO World Heritage site, we continue to the Bou Inania Madrasa and the Nejjarine fountain, while seeing the exteriors of the Royal Palace and the Bab Bou Jeloud gate. Following a visit to a tannery in the heart of the bustling souk, we enjoy lunch at the beautiful Palace restaurant. We continue our exploration with a visit to the pottery district to discover the art of Moroccan ceramics and tilework. We enjoy dinner at our hotel. (B,L,D)



## Day 7

# MOULAY IDRIS, MEKNES & VOLUBILIS

Explore the holy town of Moulay Idriss, spread over two hills at the base of Mount Zerhoun. A new dynasty that began with the arrival of the Islamic religion. Then at the archaeological site of Volubilis, our local guide exhibits the partly excavated Roman city commonly considered the ancient capital of the Roman-Berber kingdom of Mauretania. Savour lunch in Meknes, followed by a visit to the famous Bab Mansour Gate, the Jewish Quarter, and the vast El Hedim Square before returning to Fez later this afternoon. (B,L,D)







## Day 8

# IFRANE, MIDELE & ERFOUD

Travelling the idyllic route to the Sahara Desert admire the parade of mountains, valleys, forests, and desert. We stop in the high-altitude city of Ifrane, with neat red-roofed houses, blooming flower beds, lake-studded parks and snowbound winters, this remarkable town is often referred to as “Morocco’s Switzerland.” Next, we visit Azrou, which translates literally to “rock” in the local Amazigh language and is named for the large, black volcanic outcrop in the centre of town. Lunch is near the town of Medelt in the plains of the Middle Atlas. Our drive continues to Erfoud for a relaxing evening and dinner at our hotel. (B,L,D)

**Kasbah Hôtel Xaluca Arfoud, Erfoud (1 night)**



## Day 9

# MERZOUGA

Merzouga lies on the edge of Erg Chebbi, a monumental series of sand dunes that reach heights of 160 metres. Our desert adventure begins with our 4×4 climbing to the top of a sand dune to admire the spectacular views. We explore a nearby fossil mine and share in a tea ceremony with a local nomad family. We continue into the dunes for a picnic lunch and then travel to our luxury tented camp. We set off on a camel ride to bask in the changing shades of orange, pink and purple of the setting sun. Then we return to the camp to enjoy a Berber feast and entertainment under the star-filled sky! (B,L,D)

**Bivouac Chergui Sahara, Merzouga (1 night)**







## Day 10

# BOUMALNE DADES & OUARZAZATE

We depart for Todra Gorge, situated on the east side of the High Atlas Mountains. A 300-metre limestone fault that offers just enough space for a crystal-clear river and a small path for hikers, it is recognized as one of the world's most spectacular canyons. After lunch, we head towards Boumalne Dades along the "Route of 1,000 Kasbahs," famous for its beautiful and charming landscapes and idyllic gorges. Our senses then come alive as we visit the Valley of Roses, home to Morocco's largest rose water and rose oil manufacturers. In the evening, we arrive in Ouarzazate and enjoy dinner at our hotel. (B,L,D)

**Le Berbere Palace, Ouarzazate (1 night)**



## Day 11

# OUARZAZATE, AÏT BEN HADDOU & MARRAKESH

A city of palm trees, sandy streets and blocky, fort-like buildings, Ouarzazate has stood at the edge of the Sahara Desert for hundreds of years. After a visit of Ouarzazate film studios, we head to the ancient village of Aït Ben Haddou. This fortified city is full of towering kasbahs and crumbling walls with only five families still living inside the fortress of Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou.

We enjoy lunch before travelling along the famous camel caravan route and over Tizi n'Tichka to Marrakesh. We settle into our riad in the heart of the city for a relaxing dinner and evening. (B,L,D)

**Radisson Blu, Marrakesh (2 nights)**







Day 12

## MARRAKESH

Originating from the Amazigh (Berber) words, “amur kush,” Marrakesh means “Land of God.” One of the Imperial cities of Morocco, its location and contrasting landscape make it an enviable destination in Morocco. We visit the Menara Gardens, one of the oldest gardens in Marrakesh with an immense olive grove dotted with palm and cypress trees, as well as a stop at the Gardens of Majorelle. Next, we visit the Mellah (Jewish Quarter), the Bahia Palace and the Koutoubia Mosque. Following lunch, we explore the souks and the famous Jemaa el-Fna Square. We end the day with dinner in the city. (B,L,D)



## Day 13

# MARRAKESH & ESSAOUIRA

This morning we travel to Essaouira, known as Morocco's "windy city." Filled with spectacular beaches and constant tropical wind, this city has changed from hardworking port into one of the world's greatest sites for windsurfing and kiteboarding. Once a Portuguese fortress, the old Moroccan trade centre still has rusting cannons between the ramparts that still point out to sea. Following lunch and a wine tasting at a local vineyard, we visit an Argan Oil Women's Cooperative before checking into our hotel and enjoy the afternoon at leisure. Dinner this evening is at our hotel. (B,L,D)

**MGallery by Sofitel, Essaouira (2 nights)**







**Day 14**

## ESSAOUIRA

Today is yours, relax by the pool, take a stroll on the beach or continue exploring this magical coastal town. This evening, we dine together at our hotel. (B,D)



## Day 15

# SAFI, EL JADIDA, CASABLANCA

In Safi, discover this hidden gem, nestled on the shores of the Atlantic. Safi has two beating hearts; one in the old town lying in the shadows of the gorgeous Portuguese Citadel, and the new, bustling with modern energy. In El Jadida, discover the famous Portuguese fortified city of Mazagan a UNESCO-listed site built at the start of the 16th century. This afternoon, we arrive in Casablanca with free time to relax at your leisure. (B,L,D)

**Hyatt Regency, Casablanca (1 night)**







**Day 16**

## **HOME**

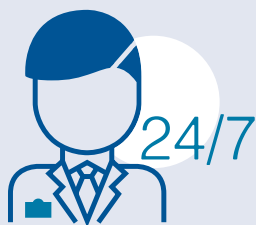
We bid “wadaa’an” to our new friends and make our way to the airport for our flights home. Enjoy our private car to your home. (B)



# Signature Inclusions on this Journey

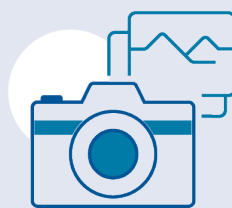
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In addition to our essentials, your Journey includes our following Signature Inclusions:



## 24/7 Professional Journey Manager

- Will travel with you from Canada and handle every detail
- In addition to knowledgeable local guides



## Memorable Private Excursions

- Private excursions crafted by our team
- All sightseeing & entrance fees included



## Private Car Pick-up Service

- Within a 200-kilometre radius, let your Journey begin in elegant comfort with a private chauffeured car to the airport



## Generous Tips & Gratuities

- For the porters, local guides, hotel staff & many more, paid by us on your behalf

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## Our essentials included with your Journey:

- **13 nights** in outstanding hotels
- **1 night** in a comfortable desert camp
- **Most meals included**  
(14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners)
- **Round-trip airfare** from Toronto with Air Canada
- **All taxes** as well as port & service charges
- **“Whisper” radios** included for use during excursions
- Flights from select Canadian gateways for only \$100
- Other gateways & travel classes available
- Porterage for one piece of luggage per person
- Hassle-free visas handled & processed for Canadian citizens
- Complete information & assistance leading up to your departure
- Branded overnight carry-on or backpack





Hotels

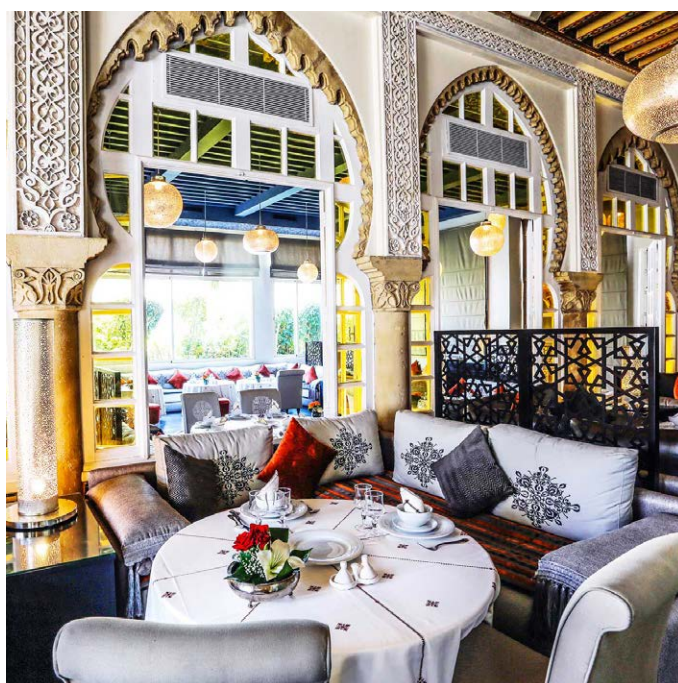
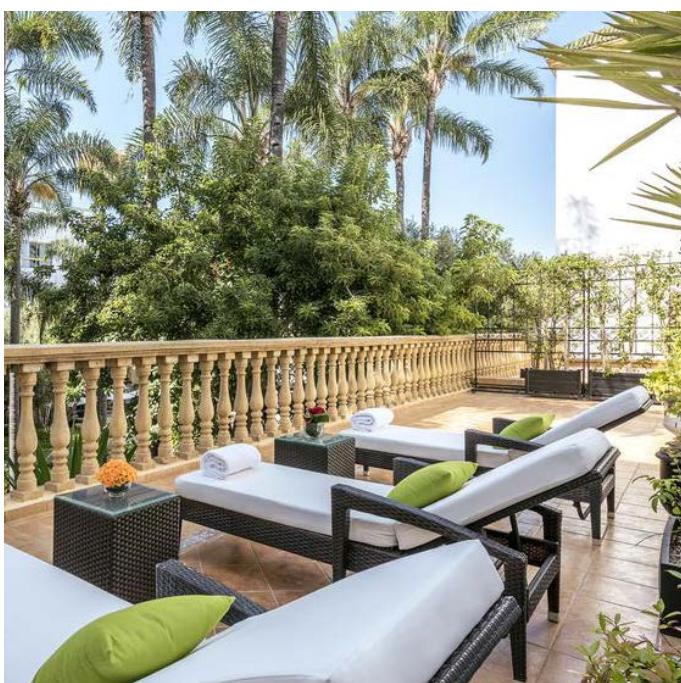
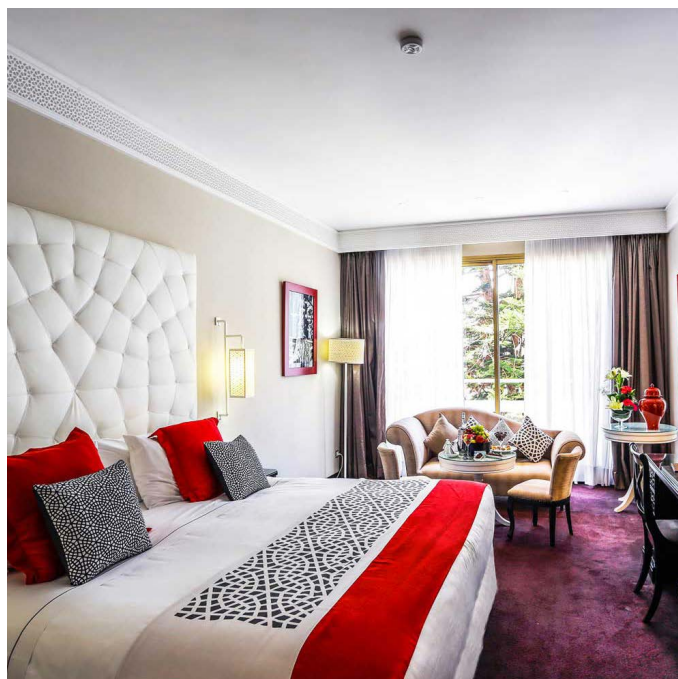
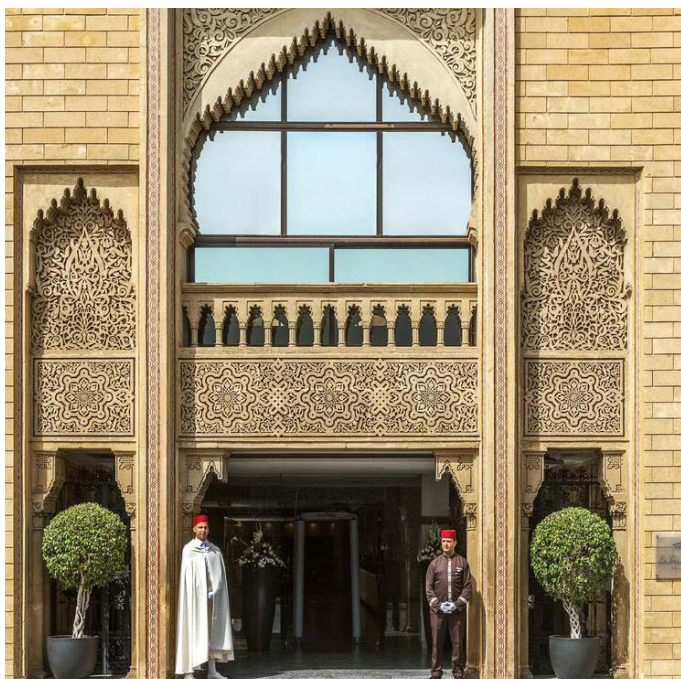
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## Day 2-4

# TOUR HASSAN, RABAT

A palace in the heart of Rabat, the Tour Hassan is a showcase of Moroccan art and hospitality. With the splendour of Moorish architecture find yourself relaxing in the utmost elegance and an atmosphere of unique majesty. Drap yourself in a world of history, culture, and comfort all within this stylish hotel.

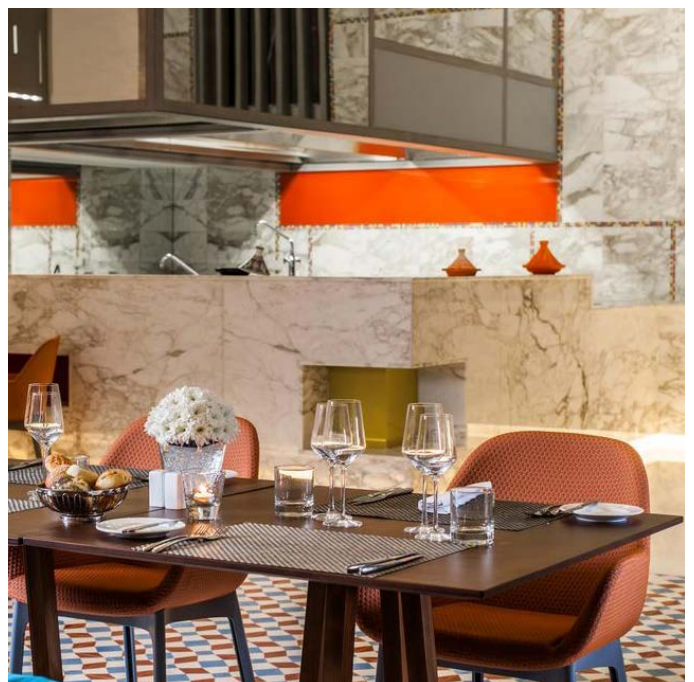
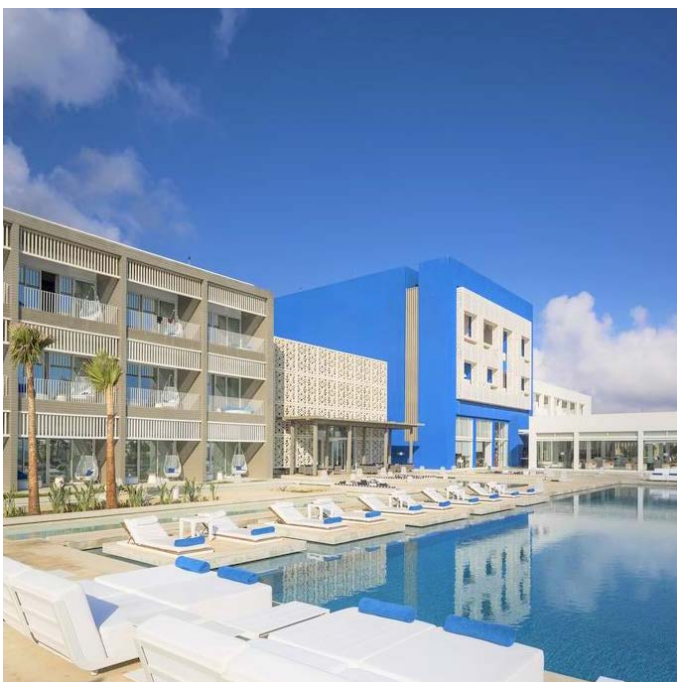




Day 4-5

## SOFITEL TAMUDA BAY, M'DIQ

Drape yourself in a world of history, culture, and comfort all within this stylish hotel. With its exclusive location, the Sofitel Tamuda Bay hotel is the undisputed leader in luxury coastal resorts on Tamuda Bay. Experience the idyllic and stylish setting on the water's edge and immerse yourself in the exclusive arty chic atmosphere of this modern hotel.

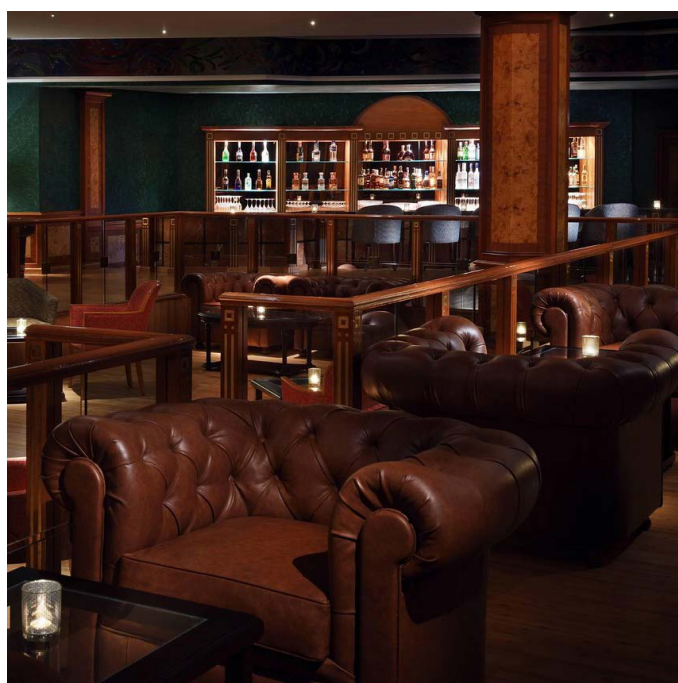
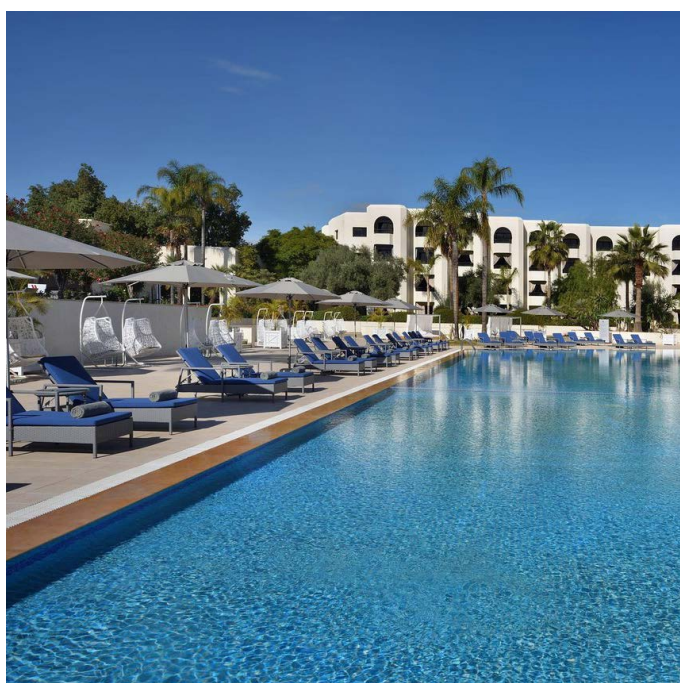
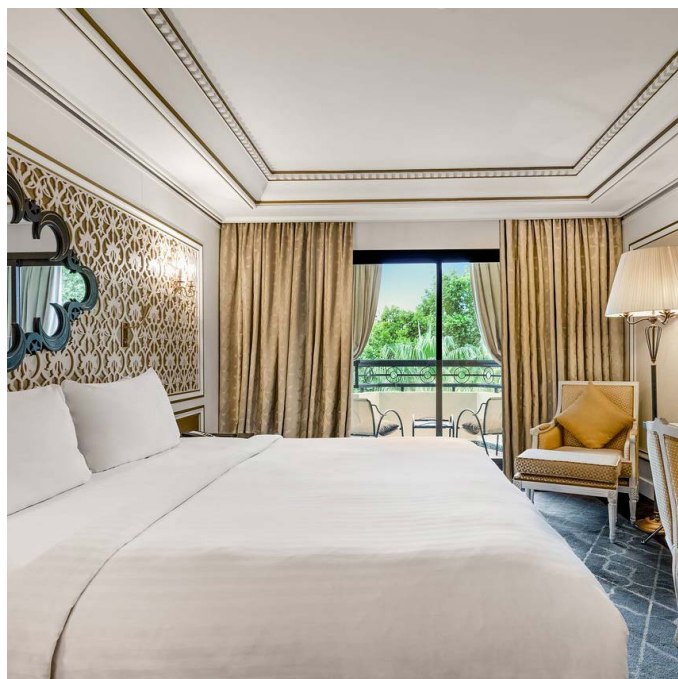




## Day 5-8

# MARRIOTT JNAN PALACE, FEZ

The Marriott Jnan Palace, located in the city's new corner, offers air-conditioned rooms, a relaxing outdoor pool that is great for lounging around, and an invigorating sauna. Each guest room features a balcony with views of the pool, as well as gardens surrounding this lovely property.

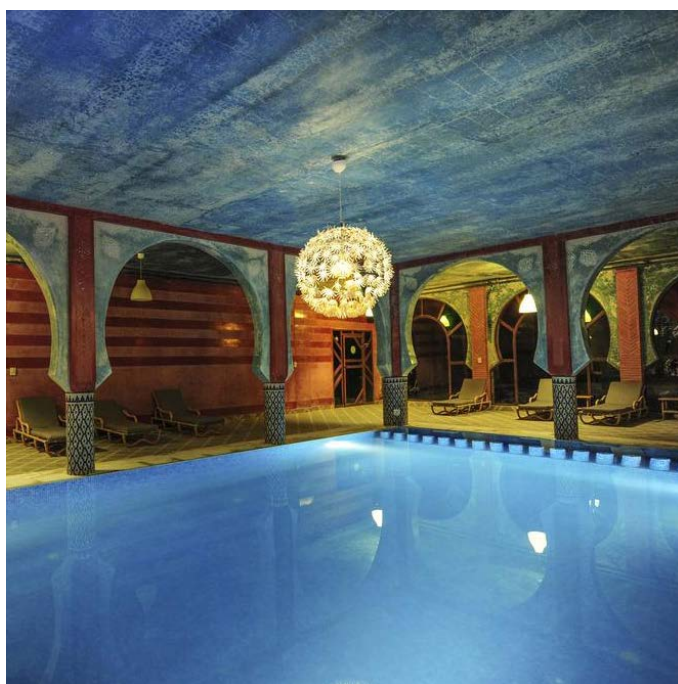
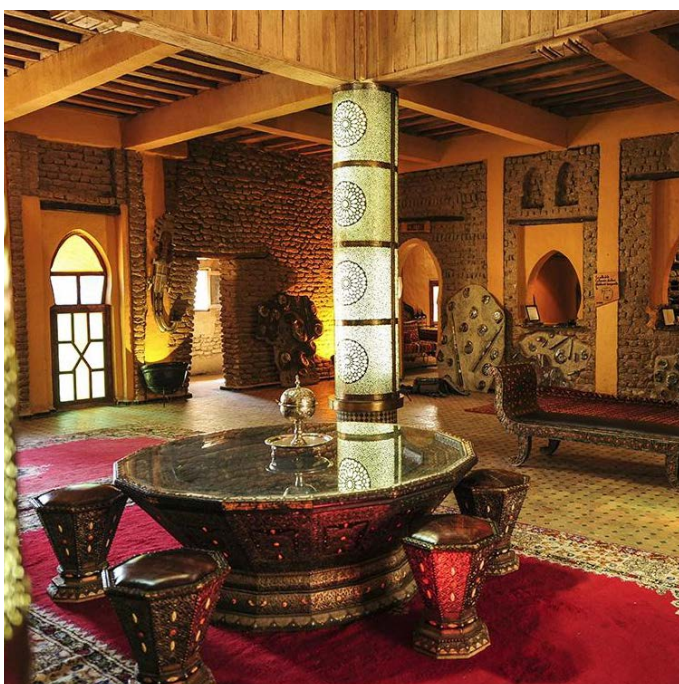




## Day 8-9

# KASBAH HÔTEL XALUCA ARFOUD, ERFOUD

The Kasbah is unique in Morocco due to its distinctly Moroccan style. Built with adobes, the traditional Moroccan building bricks, its 137 spacious rooms are decorated with regional materials and combine tradition with modern amenities.

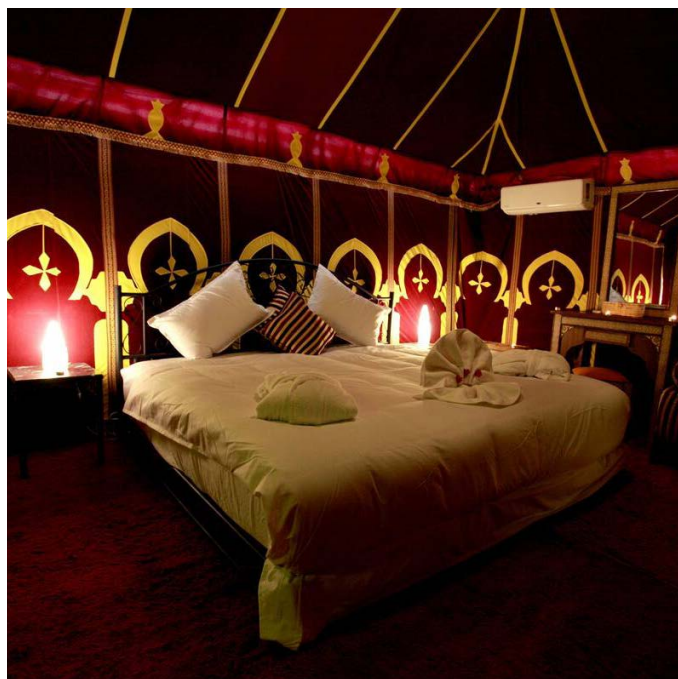
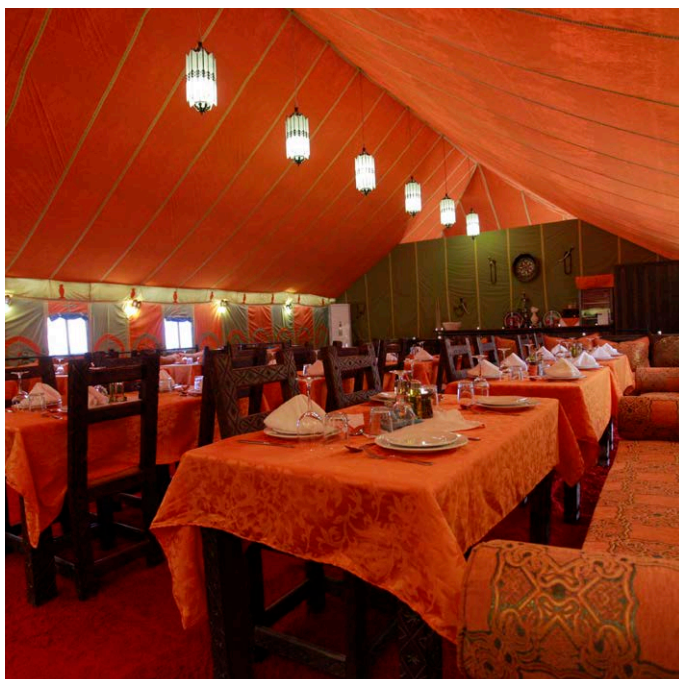




## Day 9-10

# BIVOUAC CHEGUI SAHARA, MERZOUGA

Chergui Sahara offers a spectacular space, strategically located in the middle of the big dunes of the Erg Chebbi Desert. Marvel at the spectacular sun at dawn, and then at the warm colors of the sunset, before experiencing a night in the desert, with its silence and magnificent starry sky.

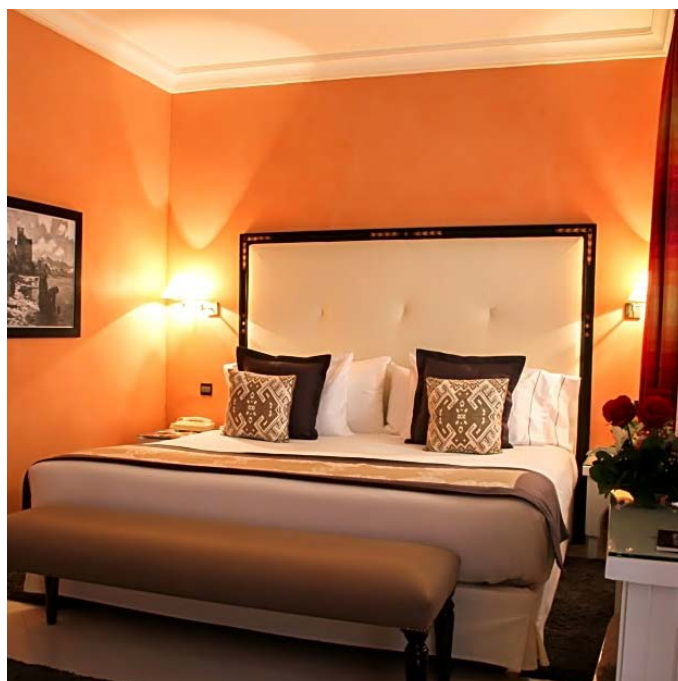




## Day 10-11

# LE BERBERE PALACE, OUARZAZATE

Built glamorously on a high perch in the style of a Kasbah (fort), Le Berbere Palace combines facilities with high-quality service, plus plenty of authentic Berber materials, crafts and artifacts. The studios themselves are nearby, as is, just outside town, Kasbah de Taourirt – one of the fairest forts of them all.

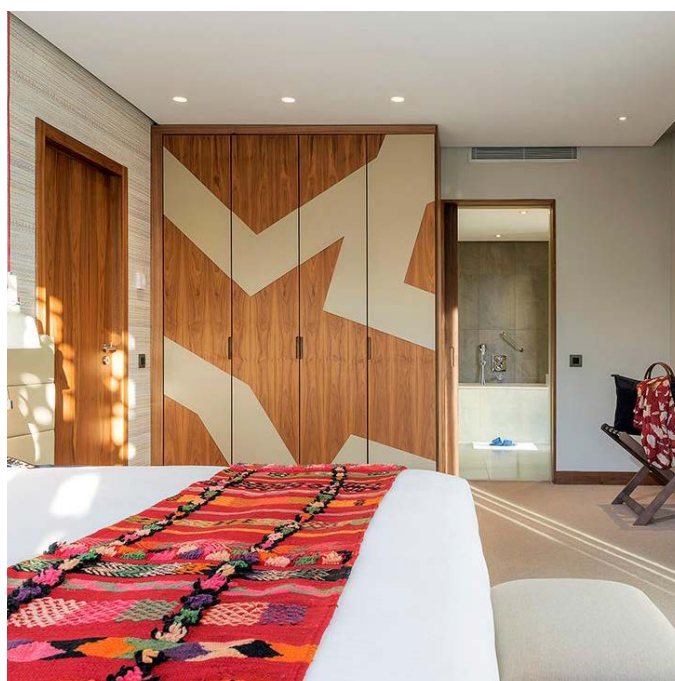
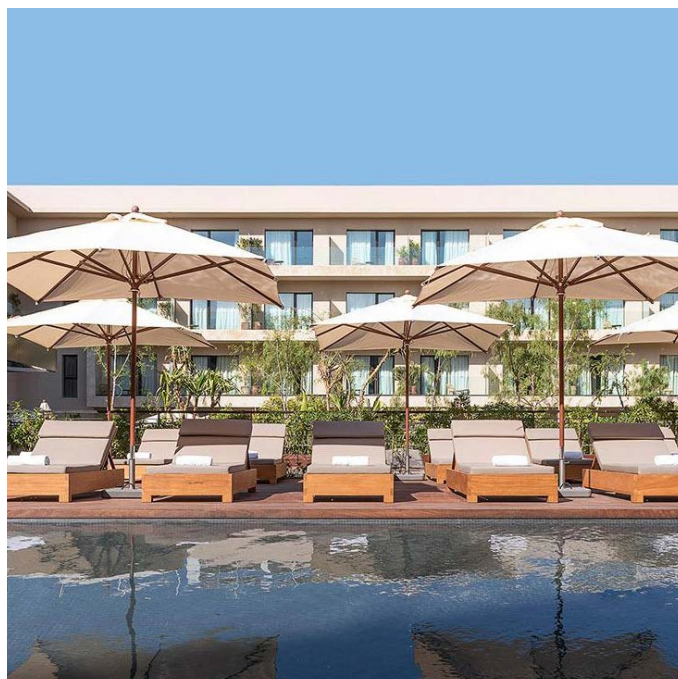




## Day 11-13

# RADISSON BLU, MARRAKESH

Set in the heart of Marrakech, the Radisson Blu welcomes visitors to the vibrant Gueliz quarter. This modern hotel features a beautiful lobby, patio and restaurant. The hotel's leisure facilities include a spa, a fitness center and an aquarium swimming pool surrounded by a spacious patio with sunbeds.

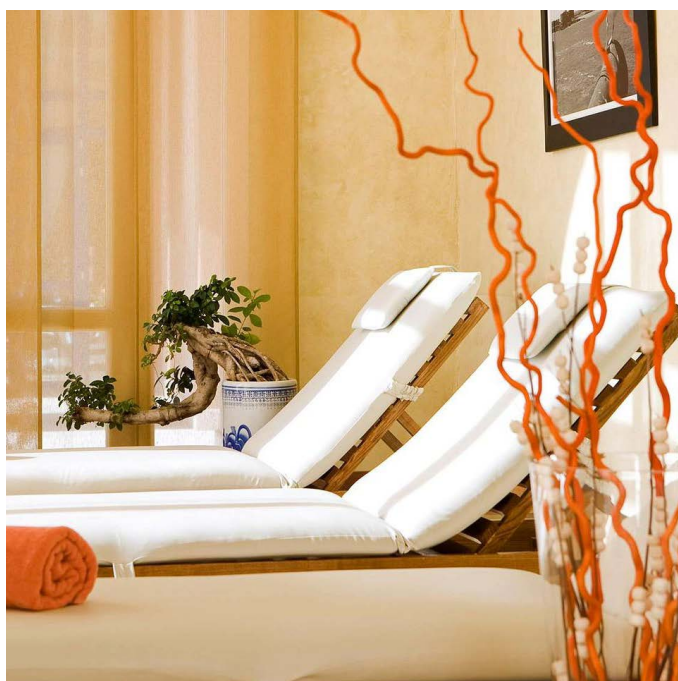
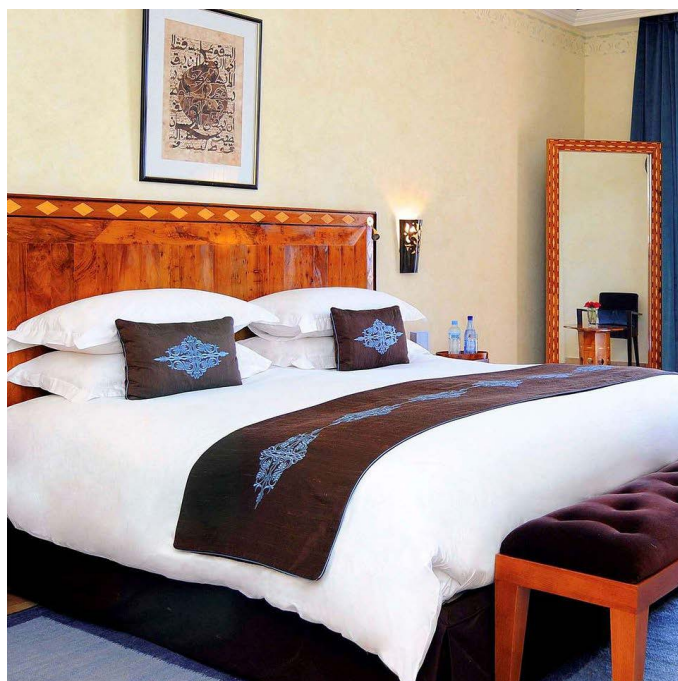
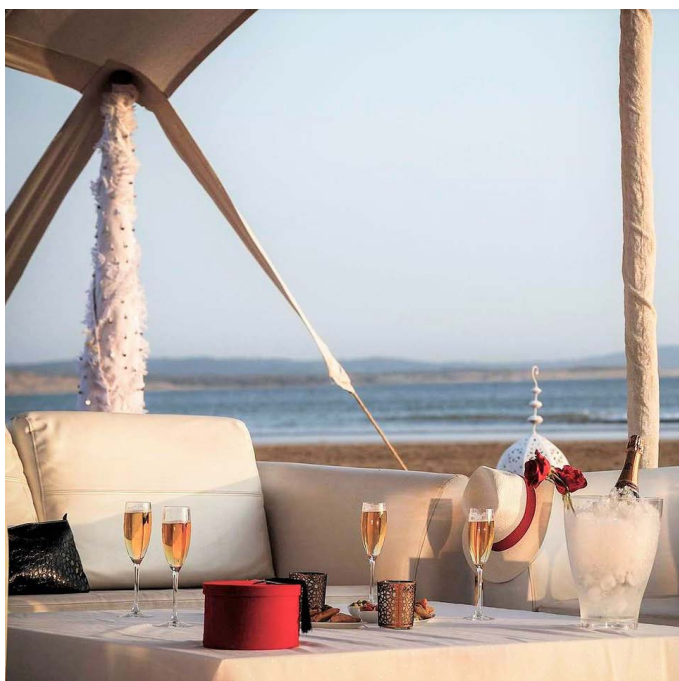




## Day 13-15

# MGALLEY BY SOFITEL, ESSAOUIRA

Inspired by the magnificent Moroccan riads, the MGallery by Sofitel is decorated in the traditional red of Mogador. Close to the sea, the medina and the port, this luxury 5-star hotel blends modernity with Moroccan style for a sophisticated stay.

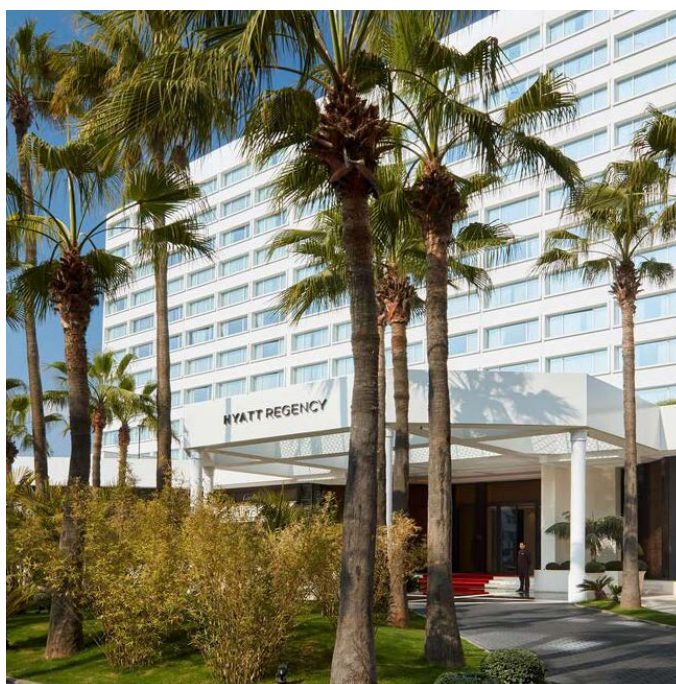
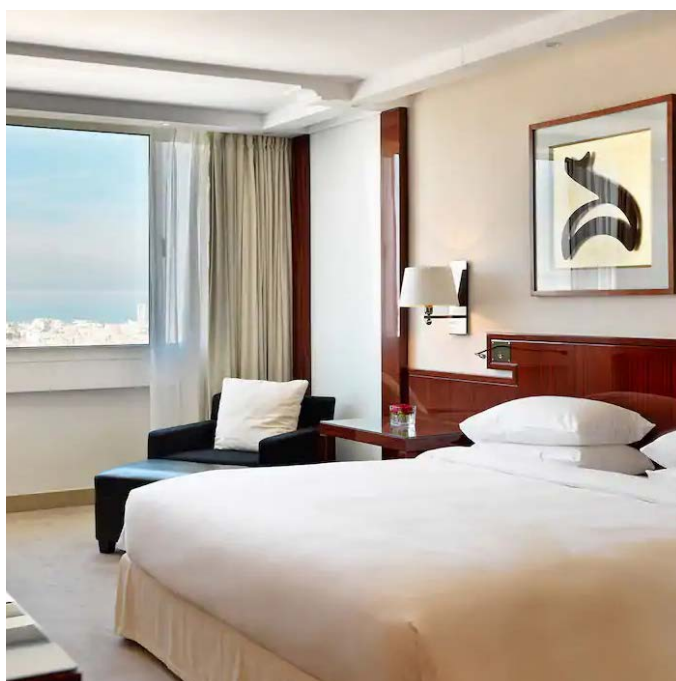
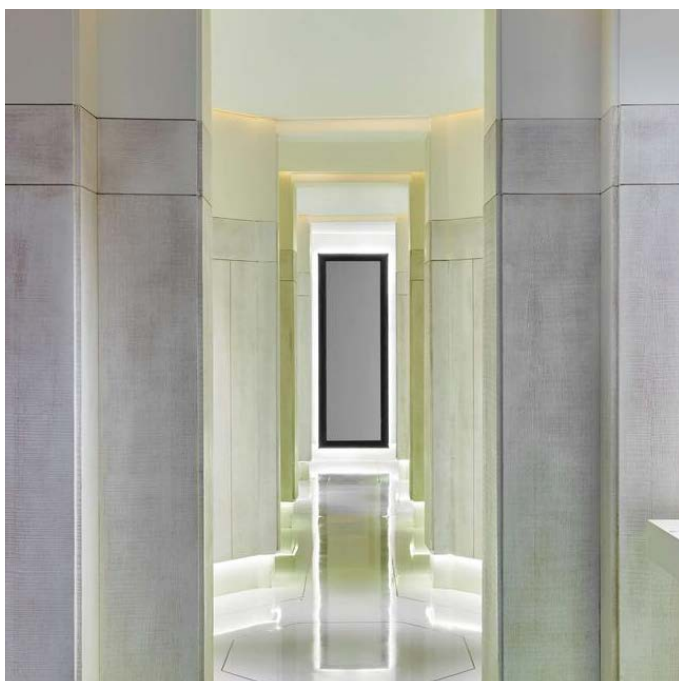




## Day 15-16

# HYATT REGENCY, CASABLANCA

The Hyatt Regency is ideally situated in Fonciere, one of the city's most popular locales. A haven of rest and relaxation, the hotel offers total renewal just steps away from the lively city's numerous attractions.





October 6 to 21, 2021

# All-Inclusive Fares

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Double Occupancy  
\$7,750

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Single Occupancy  
\$10,050

Prices are per guest in CAD, all taxes included.