



JCCNS Jewish Heritage Tour of Morocco April 4-15, 2027



ITINERARY AT A GLANCE: 10 nights in Morocco

- 2 nights in Casablanca at [Movenpick Hotel Casablanca](#) (5*)
- 3 nights in Fes (Fez) at [Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace](#) (5*)
- 1 night in Rabat at [Fairmont La Marina Rabat - Sale](#) (5*)
- 4 nights in Marrakech at [Movenpick Hotel Mansour Eddahbi](#) (5*)

Hotels are subject to change based on the final size of our group and other operational considerations. Any changes will be similar quality substitutes. Similarly, the sequence of sites visited may change and be shifted from one day to another.

For more information about the trip details, please contact Group Leader Diane Knopf dmillknopf@gmail.com or 617.694.8587

For trip registration, please contact Sara Ewing at sewing@jccns.com or 857.285.7913 or Lauren Weiss at lweiss@jccns.com or 857.285.7959

Day 1- Sunday April 4: Depart Boston
Depart Boston at 9:45 PM on Air France #63.

Day 2- Monday April 5: Arrive in Casablanca, Morocco

Driving Distance: 1 hr including traffic

Arrive in Paris at 10:35 AM. 2 hr layover in Paris. Depart Paris 12:35 PM on Air France #1596. Arrive in Casablanca 2:50 PM. Meet our tour guide, Khalid and transfer to the hotel for check in. Our Welcome Dinner will be served at our hotel. Like a kaleidoscope, Morocco turns and reveals something new at every step.

Meals Included: Dinner

Day 3- Tuesday April 6: Casablanca

Enjoy a full Day tour of Casablanca, with a slightly later start to allow time to adjust to the new time zone. Enjoy an interior tour of Hassan II Mosque, the largest functioning mosque in all of Africa which has the tallest minaret in the world. Relax at a group lunch at a beautifully decorated riad, followed by a visit to the Museum of Moroccan Judaism, the only museum devoted to Judaism in the Arab world, displaying ritual objects, textiles, and Jewish history. Tonight we'll gather at a home hosted kosher dinner in the residence of a local Moroccan woman, who will share her personal perspective on Jewish life and tradition in Morocco.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 4- Wednesday April 7: Casablanca/Fez

Driving Distance: 3.5 hrs with stop in Meknes along the way

In the morning, head to Fez. Along the way, we'll stop to see the imperial city of Meknes en route. Meknes is a cornerstone of Moroccan Jewish history, renowned as a premier center of Torah scholarship, eminent rabbinic dynasties, and liturgical poetry. Home to a thriving community of over 15,000 Jews in the mid-20th century, its rich legacy is defined by historical preservation and pilgrimage. Meknes was historically celebrated as the "Jerusalem of Morocco," producing generations of distinguished rabbis, educators, and the influential Toledano rabbinic dynasty. After some time in Meknes, continue on and arrive in Fez. We'll see artisans producing handmade ceramics. After, hotel check in and the rest of the night on our own.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 5- Thursday April 8: Full Day Tour of Fez

Fez has retained its status as the country's cultural and spiritual capital. The colors and sounds of boisterous Fez envelop us as we walk through the medina. Vendors fill market stalls with

colorful handcrafted goods, and on either side of us, donkey carts and motorbikes zip past as we carefully traverse the narrow, maze-like lanes of the ancient walled city. We'll spend exploring Fez's medina, seeing the famous Blue Gate, Nejjarine Fountain & Museum, and Alkawryin University (exterior visit), the world's oldest & continually operating University. Take a break from the hustle and bustle with a relaxing lunch at a quiet riad in the medina. We'll visit one of Fez's most exquisite architectural treasures, the Bou Inania Madrasa, renowned for its stunning zellij tilework, intricately carved cedar wood, and refined stucco decoration. Uniquely serving as both a religious school and a congregational mosque, it offers a rare glimpse into Morocco's rich spiritual, artistic, and intellectual heritage. We'll see the process of leather making in the Tannery quarter and learn more about Morocco's famous carpets. Our day concludes, and the evening is on an independent basis.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 6- Friday April 9: Fez

Driving Distance: 40 min one way

We'll tour Fez Mellah (the Jewish Quarter) and all of its sites of significance: the Jewish Cemetery, Slat al-Fassiyine Synagogue, and Ibn Danan Synagogue, one of the oldest and best-preserved synagogues in Morocco dating back to the 17th century. Next, venture outside the city to see a cave dwelling and the unique way in which the locals live inside caves. You'll get to interact with locals and be served the famous Moroccan mint tea. Our time in Fez concludes as we enjoy Shabbat dinner with live entertainment, including belly dancing.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7- Saturday April 10: Fez / Rabat

Driving Distance: 2.5 hr

After checking out of our hotel, we'll head to Rabat, the capital of Morocco. Rabat is a modern city, quite different from the rest of Morocco we will experience, and a fascinating city to see to break up the long drive from Fez to Marrakech. We'll stop outside of the Royal Palace and see Hassan Tower. Walk through the Kasbah of the Udayas, a 12th-century historic fortress, significant for its strategic military origins, its role as a haven for Andalusian refugees and its vibrant Moorish-Andalusian architecture with ocean views. Check in to our hotel which boasts idyllic sea views and a rooftop pool - the perfect place to unwind for a bit before dinner. This

evening we'll indulge in a delectable dinner at an atmospheric gourmet restaurant in the medina, and if we're lucky we'll be able to hear live Andalusian music.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 8- Sunday April 11: Rabat / Marrakech

Driving Distance: 4 hr

Check out of our hotel and say goodbye to Rabat as we make our way to Marrakech.

Upon arrival, we'll take an immersive journey into Moroccan culinary history with a cooking class! We'll enjoy the fruits of our labor at an early dinner. After, see Jemaa el Fnaa, the famous Square and market place in Marrakesh's medina - a spectacular sight where you'll see fortune tellers, acrobats, live music, snake charmers, and local food stalls.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 9- Monday April 12: Full Day Tour of Marrakech

Explore the historic heart of Marrakech. Start at Koutoubia Mosque, whose soaring minaret has long served as the city's most recognizable symbol. Tour the exquisite Bahia Palace, a masterpiece of 19th-century Moroccan architecture adorned with intricate tilework, carved

cedar, and tranquil courtyards. Proceed to the nearby Jewish Quarter, where we'll visit Slat Al Azama Synagogue (Lazama Synagogue), the primary Jewish community center in Marrakech. Continue to Place des Ferblantiers - the connection point between the old Jewish quarter and Islamic quarter. Here we'll find small traditional shops where artisans make their wares from different metals, including tinplate and copper, using the same techniques and skills passed down from generations.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 10- Tuesday April 13: Full Day in Essaouira

Driving Distance: 5 hr roundtrip

Enjoy a full day excursion to Essaouira, one of Morocco's best coastal beach towns. On the way, we'll visit an argan oil cooperative to learn the process of making argan oil. Watch the women work to produce this valuable oil and consider purchasing some to bring home. Essaouira has a distinct multicultural feel, resulting from the large Portuguese, French, and Jewish populations that once called it home. Its well-preserved, late-18th-century fortified layout is a prime example of European military architecture in North Africa. The mellow atmosphere, narrow winding streets lined with colorful shops, whitewashed houses and heavy old wooden doors make it a wonderful place to shop and stroll. Enjoy an orientation of Essaouira, including a stop at Bayt Dakira, a museum/cultural center preserving the Jewish-Muslim history of Essaouira. Enjoy free time to wander this small, easily navigable beach city on our own. Return to Marrakech in time for our final dinner together in Morocco.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 11- Wednesday April 14: Final Day in Marrakech

Our morning will be spent at the Majorelle Gardens, Morocco's most visited tourist attraction. This garden, started in 1924, is home to more than 300 plant species from five continents and

took almost 40 years to complete. Learn about French fashion designer Yves St. Laurent's connection to this garden.

The afternoon is on a free basis: visit a hammam for some relaxation time, spend some time shopping and strolling around the medina, or perhaps venture outside the city for a camel ride.

Meals Included: Breakfast



Day 12- Thursday April 15: Marrakech / Boston

After an early breakfast, transfer to the airport.

Depart Marrakech at 10:40 AM on Air France #1277.

Arrive in Paris at 3:05 PM. 2.5 hr layover in Paris.

Depart Paris 5:40 PM on Air France #62. Arrive in BOS 7:35 PM.

We return back to Boston this evening from Morocco carrying far more than souvenirs—the colors of the souks, ever-shifting sounds and scents, and memories that will stay with us long after our journey ends.

Meals Included: Breakfast