

## The Imperial Cities

This tour is dedicated to the travelers that are fascinated by the history. Visit the imperial cities of Morocco, covering the four historical capitals: Fez, Marrakech, Meknes, and Rabat, the current capital of Morocco. These cities represent capitals at different times and by different monarchs from the Moroccan dynasties.

### Day - 3 Fez

#### Fez (B, D)

After breakfast, full day sightseeing tour of Fez, was founded in the 9th century and home to the oldest university in the world, Fez reached its height in the 13th–14th centuries under the Merinids, when it replaced Marrakech as the capital of the kingdom. The urban fabric and the principal monuments in the medina – madrasas, fondouks, palaces, residences, mosques and fountains - date from this period. Although the political capital of Morocco was transferred to Rabat in 1912, Fez has retained its status as the country's cultural and spiritual centre. Your sightseeing tour will include the following:

**The Medersa** This theological college, marked by its green tiled roof, is a prime example of Merinid architecture, and it's the most beautiful of Kairaounie University's residential colleges. Inside, elegant calligraphy graces the ceramic tile walls. The marble floors, sculpted cedar, and carved stucco walls—made with a concoction of plaster and egg white—have held up since this masterpiece Medersa was built in 1350. Since it is still in use, non-Muslims must depart during prayer time.

**Bab Boujloud** Constructed in 1913, this gate is about 1,000 years younger than the buildings behind it. It's proof that age doesn't matter—the relatively youthful structure is the most strikingly beautiful entry point into the old city. Painted flowers and calligraphy embellish its outer blue ceramic tiles and, depending on one's interpretation, the green mosaic interior either represents peace or the official color of Islam.

**The Splendid fountain at Place Nejjarine** The square, with its splendid and unusual fountain, takes its name from the Souk Nejjarine (Carpenter's Souk) which is situated behind a wooden door in a narrow street below the square.

**The Mellah** The Jewish Quarter. The Jews lived here and received protection from the sultan. The main street is especially interesting with its balconies and Art Deco zellij mosaic. Most Jews in Fez (around 300) now live in the Ville Nouvelle. Visit of the Ibn Danan Synagogue, a recently restored 17th century synagogue.

**Souks** The souks of Fez are located in the ancient city center, the medina. Merchants selling the same sort of products are generally grouped together in their own "souk". The tiny alleyways are crowded with the tiny boutiques on both sides. The henna and wood working souks are located in the Nejjarine neighborhood and the scent of cedar is everywhere. The main plaza is planted with trees and provides a shaded haven from the warm sun. Various natural products derived from henna are sold here. Nejjarine is also where the fabric dyers are located. You simply should not miss El Attarine, the spice souk. Without question, this souk is the most colourful in Fez.

**New Medina** The “nouvelle Ville” of Fez, or the new city, provides a startling contrast with Fès el Bali. Wide and elegant avenues are lined with numerous cafés and restaurants. The modern aspect of the new city highlights the economic differences of the suburbs and the city center.

**Dinner and overnight** in Fes.

### Inclusions

- 6 nights in your chosen accommodation
- Meal as specified in itinerary  
(B = Breakfast, BR = Brunch, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- Activities and excursions according to itinerary

#### FOR EXAMPLE:

- Visit Casablanca, the economic capital Morocco and explore Hassan II Mosuqe, piece of art
  - Discover Volubilis, the furthest point of the Roman empire into Africa
  - Wander the medieval maze-like streets of Medieval Fes
  - Watch acrobats and snake charmers entertain in Marrakech's Jemaa el-Fna Square
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- Tours and excursions in mini buses/buses  
or with public transportation according to itinerary with english speaking driver
  - Local guides in the Cities
  - Admission fees according to itinerary

### Exclusions

- International flights
- Meals other than mentioned in itinerary
- Tours and Excursions other than mentioned in itinerary
- Early check-in and late check-out at hotels
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal expenses and tips for driver/guides
- Visa fees