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## Magnificent Morocco: A Feast for the Senses

In Collaboration with Sweet Bakery



Sunday, September 24 to October 5, 2023

A “Sweet” 12 day exploration of this fabulous Northern African country, featuring superb coastal, mountain and desert scenery, Islamic art and architecture, exotic cities such as Fes and Marrakesh, fascinating history dating back to Antiquity and amazing cuisine!! Stacey and Justin Bester together with our excellent local guide will be your hosts. Group size will be limited to 20 participants in addition to the tour leaders.

### Proposed itinerary

#### Day 1 – Sunday, September 24:

Flight

Late afternoon departure on Air Canada to Casablanca via Montreal. Full inflight services including dinner, breakfast and entertainment provided.

#### Day 2 –Monday, September 25:

Casablanca

(D)

Morning arrival in Casablanca where you will be met by your local guide. We begin our exploration of this unique country with a detailed sightseeing tour of it’s largest city. Highlights include; the League of Arab States Park, the Kings Palace, a tour of Hassan II Mosque and free time at Corniche, a beach front district offering an array of dining experiences. In the mid afternoon we check into our hotel, Barcelo Afna for a chance to relax. This evening we will meet for a welcome cocktail followed by dinner at the iconic “Rick’s Café”.

Day 3– Tuesday, September 26: FES

(B,D)

Breakfast followed by departure for the 1½ hour drive to Rabat, capital city of Morocco. Sightseeing tour of Rabat, the first of no less than eight UNESCO sites included in this tour! We first explore the new town, built during the 1920s, when the country was a French Protectorate, with imposing administrative buildings, fine residential areas, commercial developments, and a botanical garden. On to the old town, the Medina, dating back to the 12th century, when the Almohad Dynasty ruled the country as well as Andalusia, i.e., southern Spain. Sights here include the Hassan Mosque, the Mausoleum of King Mohammed V, the Almohad ramparts and gates, the mighty Oudaia Kasbah (fortress), the Mellah or Jewish Quarter, and the Chellah, a Medieval necropolis on the site of ancient Sala Colonia, one of the most distant outposts of the Roman Empire! (The Chellah was the original Jewish Quarter, whose original inhabitants may have arrived here with the Phoenicians.) We will also enjoy a beautiful view of the town of Salé, on the other side of the mouth of the Bou Regreg River; Salé became infamous in the 17th-century Europe as a den of “Barbary Pirates” and slave market! Continue to Fes for overnight at our riad, EL AMINE, situated at the start of the Medina and overlooking the Palace Gardens ([www.riadelaminefes.com](http://www.riadelaminefes.com)). Dinner tonight at Maison Blanche Restaurant.

Day 4 – Wednesday, September 27: FES

(B,D)

A day of sightseeing in Fez, capital of Morocco during the Middle Ages, and the country’s cultural and spiritual centre; its medina is one of the most extensive and best conserved historic towns of the Arab-Muslim world (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/170>). Among the highlights will be the tanneries, where leather-making techniques have remained unchanged since the Middle Ages; Bou Inania Madrasa, a breathtaking 14th-century Koranic School; Moulay Idriss II Mausoleum; the Qaraouyne Mosque, dating back to the year 859, Morocco’s religious heart; the Mellah with the Jewish Cemetery; and of course the countless fascinating souks (shops), selling spices, carpets, and of course the traditional Moroccan slippers! In the late afternoon we make our way to Palais Amani for a cooking class and learn how to prepare several types of traditional Moroccan dishes like tagines, salads, pastilla and more. Enjoy dinner of what we learned to cook and more.

Day 5 – Thursday, September 28: Fes

(B,D)

Breakfast followed by a drive to Volubilis, a flourishing Roman trade city in the 2nd and 3rd centuries selling oil, corn and wild animals. The Berbers, who had been converted to Christianity, occupied Volubilis until the 8th century. The earthquake of 1755 destroyed the city. Excavations started in 1887 and continue to this day. From Volubilis we continue to Meknes, founded in the 9th century by Zenata Berbers. Highlights of our visit to this former Imperial City include the old ramparts; the Agoudal Basin, once used to water the royal gardens and amuse the favorite concubines, granaries and House of Water (Dar El Ma), built in the 17th and 18th centuries to house, feed and water the sultan’s twelve thousand horses. We end the day with a visit to Bab El Mansour, one of the most beautiful gates in Morocco before returning to Fes. Tonight, enjoy a special dinner show at the La Palais Medina restaurant.

Day 6 – Friday, September 29: MERZOUGA

(B,L,D)

Departure from Fez after breakfast. We cross the Atlas Mountains, already legendary in the days of the ancient Greeks, and motor via the resort of Ifrane and the town of Midelt to Errachidia, a former Foreign Legion base famous for its “blue spring.” We are now in the Tafilalt (or Tafilet), the biggest oasis in the Moroccan Sahara and one of the largest oases in the world, irrigated by the Ziz River and famous for its luscious dates. Group lunch in the town of Erfoud, situated on the edge of the Sahara and the famous sand dunes of Erg Chebbi. Then we continue a short distance to the settlement of Merzouga, where we will experience the sand dunes at sunset, enjoy dinner, and spend the night at our home for the night, a Deluxe permanent Berber Camp.

Day 7 – Saturday, September 30: OUARZAZATE (B,D)

Early morning wake up, we begin the day with a camel trek to watch a fantastic sunrise over the dunes of the Sahara. Return to the camp for a Champagne breakfast then it is time to jump in the 4 X 4s and head to Rissani, cradle of the Alaouite dynasty now reigning in Morocco. View the Mausoleum of Moulay Ali Cherif from the outside, and then enter the Kasbah Ouled El Hadim for a visit before making our way back to Erfoud. Here we visit the famous date market and the fossil factory. Next we drive through Tinejdad, Tineghir and the Todra Pass in the beautiful 1,000 Kasbah Valley to El Kelaa des Mgouna and Skoura. After Skoura, the palm trees are replaced by orchards and irrigated gardens. Roses for making perfume are the specialty of El Kelaa des Mgouna. Paris, the famous perfume by Yves Saint Laurent is made from the extract of these roses. You will find some nice shopping here for rose products such as rose water, body milk, dried petals etc. By late afternoon we arrive in the film industry center of Ouarzazate. Dinner and overnight at the comfortable Riad, DAR CHAMAA, located 1 mile from the center of town. [www.darchamaa.com](http://www.darchamaa.com)

Day 8 – Sunday, October 1: MARRAKECH (B)

After breakfast depart for a visit of the Ait Ben Haddou Kasbah, an impressive 11th century structure which has been declared an historical treasure by UNESCO. We then drive through mountainous and semi-desert landscape, over the High Atlas Mountains at Tizi N’Tichka Pass (7,400 feet) and across the fertile countryside of the Haouz Plain to the pink city of Marrakech. Our home for the next 4 nights will be 2 CIELS LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTEL & SPA, ideally located in the heart of Marrakech, surrounded by the exclusive Hivernage and the Gueliz, a short walk from the legendary Jemaa El Fna Square, the heart of the medina. <http://2ciels.com/>

Day 9 – Monday, October 2: MARRAKECH (B,L)

Breakfast at your hotel followed by a transfer to La Maison Arab for our second cooking school experience. The class usually starts with a comprehensive introduction that highlights the importance of cooking in Moroccan society, and review the variety of recipes’ created by *dadas* (traditional woman cooks) over the centuries for special occasions such as marriages, baptisms ... A presentation of the most traditional recipes, spices, herbs will be given before the cooking class begins. Each participant will have his or her own workstation and equipment, and will follow step by step, the preparation of that day’s dish. In a typical workshop, one learns how to make a main course as well as a Moroccan appetizer or salad. At the end of the class you will enjoy the fruits of your labour and have learned a great deal about Moroccan cuisine and culture. This afternoon we

walk off our midday meal on an introductory tour of Marrakech, Africa's most exotic city. Highlights include a visit of the Menara Gardens, with its Saadian Pavilion and olive groves, the Old Medina with a stop at the foot of the famous Koutoubia Minaret. the Bahia Palace, with its lush Moorish style garden and Majorelle Garden, with a large variety of trees, plants and flowers from different countries. On our way back to the hotel we stroll through the colorful souks of the medina and the famous Jemaa El Fna Square, an ancient meeting place of North African tradesmen, entertainers, musicians, snake charmers and storytellers.

Day 10– Tuesday, October 3: MARRAKECH (B,L)

Breakfast followed by departure in our 4 X 4s four for our tour to Imlil Valley located in the Atlas Mountains and home of the Berbers and Jbel Toubkal the highest peak in North Africa. View the green landscapes of this valley. The lazy meandering torrent of the rivers combined with the small red adobe Berber villages hanging on the slopes will enchant you. The tranquility of Berber Village life provides the perfect contrast to the hubbub of the city. From the village of Imlil, footpaths and through lush, irrigated terraces, apple orchards and walnut groves to other villages, where the way of life has changed little for centuries and traditional values and hospitality are unaffected by the outside world. Lunch at Kasbah Toubkal, perched on a great rock outcrop above the main village with a panoramic view of the mountains, valleys and waterfalls.

Return to Marrakech in the late afternoon.

Day 11 – Wednesday, October 4: MARRAKECH (B,L,D)

Breakfast before departing for the seaside village of Essaouira, renowned for its production of "Murex" a small shellfish used to make the purple dye for Roman togas. Essaouira is now a very active fishing harbor still showing traces of Portuguese occupation from the 16th century. The city was later used by Sultan Mohamed Ben Abdellah as a base for his corsairs. Today, protected from the sea and the wind by its commanding fortified walls, Essaouira shelters a flourishing craftsmanship in marquetry, working citron-and-lime wood with ebony, mother of pearl and silver thread to make tables, chess boards, caskets and bracelets. In the 1970s, American rock stars such as Bob Dylan, and Cat Stevens spent a lot of time in Essaouira. Enjoy a seafood lunch at Palais Heure Bleue Restaurant. Return to Marrakech.

Day 12 – Thursday, October 5: (Flight)

Early morning transfer to the airport for your return flight home via Montreal.

#### PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- Air from Toronto on Air Canada
- All airport taxes and departure fees
- Maximum group of 22
- 10 nights' accommodation based on twin occupancy with private facilities
- All transportation in Morocco
- All meals as outlined. Local wines served with dinner.
- All scheduled excursions with local English-speaking guides

- All entrance fees on excursions
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Services of a tour escort

NOT INCLUDED:

- Meals except where indicated
- Drinks with meals unless indicated.
- Items of a personal nature (e.g., laundry, telephone calls)
- Travel insurance; rates available upon request

**Tour Cost: \$7,195.00 per person from Toronto based on two people sharing a room.**

**Single supplement: \$1,295.00 Land only: \$6,245.00 (based on double occupancy)**

# Terms & Conditions

## RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and registration form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.

## REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

## CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure: 25% of tour cost

45 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost

Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

## RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour.

We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable.

By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

## RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.
2. I further understand that travel involves certain risks to personal health, safety and property. Many foreign countries do not have the safety and health standards that are present in

Canada. I am willing to accept the associated risks and understand that and Pauwels Travel Bureau cannot guarantee the health and safety of travellers in a foreign trip or eliminate the risk from a foreign environment.

3. I know that tour programs include walking, and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potential hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.
4. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control, including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.
5. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.
6. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director.
7. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions is to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behaviour be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.
8. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to. I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even

unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved, I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.

9. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. Pauwels Travel retains the right, in its sole discretion, to contact the traveller's parent(s) and/or guardian or emergency contact with regard to health issues or any matters whatsoever that relates to the traveller's tour. These rights transcend any and all privacy regulations that may apply. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.
10. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and also use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

#### A WORD ABOUT GROUP AIR:

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, in some cases you may not be able to check in online 24 hours before travel or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference and, in **almost ALL cases we are not able to offer advanced seat selection.**

It is the airline that makes the live reservation and has control over the booking so it is their policy not ours that prevents us from assigning you specific seats. I assure you if a request is made it is followed up on by our staff when they submit the names 30 to 60 days prior to departure. Calling us several days before you go will not change this fact nor will getting upset with our staff.

If the ideal seat is an absolute must for you we suggest you book our tour land only and make your own air arrangements so you can better control the individual booking. Pauwels would be happy to assist you with that reservation at absolutely no additional charge. We will offer you the best fare we can find but note this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure and the rules and booking conditions of the applicable airfare will apply.

We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above.

REGISTRATION FORM



Please book \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) on the "Magnificent Morocco" departing September 24 to October 5, 2023.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,250 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.) Please indicate with an X if you intend to travel on Group flights \_\_\_\_\_ or Land only \_\_\_\_\_.

*Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced an interim payment of \$1000.00 when the departure is guaranteed and the balance, due 45 days prior to departure.*

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS AFTER TOUR DATE TO BE SENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM.

Name as on Passport. Indicate the appropriate title before each name (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (Residence) \_\_\_\_\_ (Business) \_\_\_\_\_ (Fax/Email) \_\_\_\_\_

If traveling alone, is a single room required: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_.

If sharing, what is your bed preference: twin \_\_\_\_\_ double \_\_\_\_\_.

SPECIAL REQUESTS: (Dietary, special physical needs, frequent flyer number, etc.) Please list here so we can do our best to assist you. Please be advised that due to airline policies, individual seat selection cannot be guaranteed. \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance - Please call the office for premiums then record on application form and add amount to deposit.

I/we would like to purchase (please check and record your rate):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

All-inclusive Package \_\_\_\_\_ Non-medical Package \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Decline Insurance \_\_\_\_\_ (Please sign here if you decline the insurance).

PAYMENT:

Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel     Visa     Mastercard     American Express

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment.**

**Signature(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward this completed form, copy of passport and payment to:

PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.

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Email: [tours@pauwelstravel.com](mailto:tours@pauwelstravel.com)