

# Magic of Morocco

Markets, Medinas and Mint Tea | October 13-23, 2017



Fully escorted 'girls-only' small group adventure to Morocco accompanied by a professional interior stylist and personal concierge



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## Travel to Morocco on the tour of a lifetime!

A fabulous girls-only adventure awaits you in a land of diverse people and landscapes.

Embark on a private, personalised tour filled with local encounters and memorable experiences. Designed to give a broad sense of the essence of Morocco, this tour encompasses the culture, the history, the warmth and generosity of its people, along with the geography and amazing cuisine.

Accompanied by an English speaking driver/guide plus your own concierge and interior stylist, you will visit the major cities, majestic gorges, and ancient Kasbahs. Plus you'll spend two nights in the High Atlas Mountains, where we will hike through the villages and have lunch with a traditional Berber family.

The tour also includes a camel ride to our overnight luxury accommodation in the Sahara Desert with a sunrise viewing over the dunes the following morning; and a stay in the laid back fishing village of Essaouira on the Atlantic Coast, made famous by many visiting musicians and hippies in the 60s and 70s!

All accommodation will be personally selected and includes luxury 5 star Riads and Villas.

## Tour Highlights

- City tour of Casablanca including Hassan II Mosque
- Tour of imperial city of Meknes
- Tour of ancient Roman ruins of Volubilis
- 2 night stay in a beautiful Riad in Fez
- City tour of Fez incl off the beaten track artisan workshops and Islamic gardens
- Scenic drive from Fez to Merzouga
- Overnight stay in the Sahara Desert
- Sunrise viewing over the dunes in the Sahara Desert
- Visit to UNESCO listed Kasbah Taourirt in Ouarzazate
- Spectacular scenic drive through High Atlas Mountains
- 2 night stay in the High Atlas Mountains
- 1 night stay at Essaouira
- Guided Walking tour of Essaouira
- 2 night stay in magical Marrakech in a beautiful Riad
- Visit to famous Jma El Fna Square in Marrakech
- City tour of Marrakech including Majorelle Gardens and Dar Si Said, Museum of Moroccan Arts

# About Your Tour Hosts

## Jean Wethmar | Personal Concierge



Meet Jean Wethmar, CEO Cape Lux Travels - an all-round amazing woman whose charm and delightful nature is a gift. Jean's passion for travel started when she was a little girl. She wanted to join the circus and become a gypsy! Thankfully sanity prevailed but the wanderlust never left her.

**Have you always loved travel?** Yes, totally! Life, love, laughter – seize the moment!

**How many years have you been running Cape Lux Travels?** "The Cape Club started in 2008 in Sydney, Australia. Our innovative personal itineraries and pre-organized tours aim to provide freedom and flexibility. We rebranded in 2014 to Glam Girls Lux Travels, because Glam Girls just love to travel! We only use fully registered wholesale tour operators to assist us with all ground operations – SE Asia, South Africa, Morocco, India, Sri Lanka, or wherever we roam... you'll be in very safe hands!

**The concept is so inspiring... where did it come from?** I realized that we all want a chance to travel and many prefer the camaraderie, convenience and fun of small group travel, with like-minded travellers; fabulous friendships have been formed this way.

**Where are your customers based and what is the average age range?** Australia and USA mostly. Ages range from the magical mid 40s to the absolutely amazing 60s.

"Recover, Renew, Reflect, Regain, Regrow, Reconnect, Relax" is my mantra, and the biggest compliment I have been given is to have the same girls booking time and again with me.

For more information on Jean or Glam Girls Lux Travels please visit <http://glamgirlsluxtravels.com/>

**Follow Jean:**

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/jeanwethmar1>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CapeLuxTravels](http://www.facebook.com/CapeLuxTravels)



## Sally Carson | Interior Stylist



Sally's fascination with Morocco began almost 14 years ago when she organised a Moroccan banquet for her husband's birthday.

"After engaging the services of a lady who specialised in Moroccan cuisine —she came to our home and cooked up a storm—I later attended some

of her cooking classes and have been serving Moroccan and Middle Eastern style food to family and friends ever since. My fascination with Morocco as a whole, has only continued to grow further since that time."

Sally has worked in interior design and styling for 20 years, following a career in the clothing industry. In recent years, Moroccan style has really come to the forefront of the design world. From the glorious carpets and textiles to ceramics, basket ware and light fittings, all are highly sought after. Having recently returned from Morocco, Sally is keen to visit again and to share with you, her passion for the wonders of this amazing country.

"Morocco is my idea of shopping heaven! The colours, textures, sounds and smells in the souks are an absolute delight for the senses. With so many gorgeous things to choose from, it can be inspiring and a bit overwhelming at the same time! Should you wish to bring some treasures home, I will be there to help and guide you through choosing some beautiful pieces for you and your home. I can help you select items that will work in your home and with your own personal style."

For more information on Sally and her interior design/styling business, please visit [www.sallycarsoninteriors.com](http://www.sallycarsoninteriors.com)

**Follow Sally:**

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sallycarson/>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/sallycarson/>





## Day 1 | 13 October | Casablanca to Rabat

1hr drive

Arrive in Casablanca where we'll be met at the airport upon arrival by our expert driver/ guide who will take us for a short sightseeing trip in Casablanca, including a visit to the majestic Hassan 2nd Mosque (the only mosque non-Muslims are permitted to enter in Morocco) before continuing on the 90 minute drive to the Moroccan capital of Rabat. There we'll check into our charming Riad in the ancient city where you will also enjoy your dinner this evening.

Located on the Atlantic coast in the north-west of Morocco, the area is the product of a fertile exchange between the Arabic-Muslim past and Western modernism. The city encompasses the new town conceived and built under the French Protectorate from 1912 to the 1930s, including royal and administrative areas, residential and commercial developments and the Jardins d'Essais botanical and pleasure gardens. It also encompasses older parts of the city dating back to the 12th century.

The new town is one of the largest and most ambitious modern urban projects built in Africa in the 20th century and probably the most complete. The older parts include Hassan Mosque (begun in 1184) and the Almohad ramparts and gates, the only surviving parts of the project for a great capital city of the Almohad rule as well as remains from the Moorish, or Andalusian, principality of the 17th century. Overnight at the Villa Mandarine in Rabat.



### *The Villa Mandarine*

located 15min from the centre of Rabat, has been the property of a French family for several generations and has been lovingly transformed into a charming, sunlit villa, surrounded by orange groves. The gardens are a wonderful place to wander and relax, with flowers blooming on every corner and lemon and grapefruit trees dispersed amongst the Seville oranges.

The comfortable rooms have been individually decorated and display pieces of artwork—carefully chosen to complement the character of each room—each has a private terrace where breakfast can be taken in the first sun rays of the day. The restaurant, created in the style of an aquarium with huge windows looking out onto the lush green of the gardens, is decorated in the rich red of Marrakech and has a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. There is also a large pool, a Hammam and a gym onsite.



## Day 2 | 14 October | Rabat to Fes (via Meknes and Volubilis)

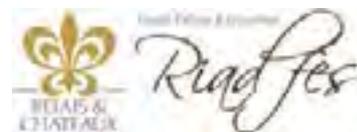
6hr drive

In the morning we'll take a little time to explore Rabat where we'll pass through the enormous Almohad Gate to the Kasbah des Oudaïas, situated on a bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and with magnificent views in every direction. Inside the gates we'll explore artisan galleries, an ornate 17th century palace now part of the Musée des Oudaïa (Museum of Moroccan Arts), and the beautiful Andalusian Gardens, all near the famous Tour Hassan, a 12th century minaret intended to be the highest and the largest in the Muslim world.

Then we depart for the drive to Fes, driving past centuries-old olive groves and vineyards. As we near Meknes, the Ismailian capital famous for its 25-mile-long walls (and excellent wine), we'll stop for a sumptuous lunch maybe in a grand palace.

After that we'll head to port Bab El Mansour and Bab El Khamis, with a stop on the way to explore the ancient Roman ruins of Volubilis. These ruins are sprawled over a wildflower-dotted hillside, where a magnificent triumphal arch presides over the awesome remains of palaces and mansions, Roman baths and basilicas, and stunning mosaics.

We'll reach Fes in the afternoon with a chance to relax before enjoying a sumptuous dinner tonight in this historic city. Overnight at the Riad Fes.



A subtle mix of Andalusian and Moroccan art de vivre, the Riad Fès reflects its prestigious past and the refined civilisation to which it belongs.

This majestic palace is an authentic example of Hispanic-Moorish architecture, boasting four harmoniously styled patios, sculpted doors and zelliges on the walls, stucco arcades and marble basins. It offers panoramic views of the magical spectacle of the sun rising over the Fès Medina, and the Atlas mountains.

Hammams and massages, fountains, smoking-rooms, sophisticated cuisine and a trendy lounge bar: this is a world where traditions and contemporary conveniences combine delightfully.



## Day 3 | 15 October | Fes (tour the city)



Fes is the holiest city in the Islamic world after Mecca and Medina. Founded at the beginning of the 9th century by Moulay Idriss II, and barely changed since then, this enchanting city has been a seat of government, philosophy, medicine and most notably religion ever since.

It is the best surviving example of an ancient Arab city, and is comprised of the “new” city, established in the 12th century, and the 2,000-year-old medina, where donkeys and mules laden with goods still trawl alongside buyers through the ancient market, itself a fascinating maze of lanes, blind alleys and bustling souks assaulting the senses with spices and exotic delicacies.

Fes is the perfect place to hone your bargaining skills buying souvenirs, such as brightly coloured hand-loomed carpets or fine crafted artisan goods. We'll also visit the famous leather tanneries, a honeycomb of vats erupting in an explosion of brilliant color, and then climb to the venerated Merenid Tombs for a spectacular panoramic view of Fes.

Overnight at the Riad Fes.

## Day 4 | 16 October | Fes to Ifrane to Midelt to Merzouga

7hr drive + 1hr camel ride

Today we depart from Fes, heading west through the Moroccan countryside on our way to the town of Midelt where we will have lunch. There are many interesting stops along the way.

We then continue our journey westward with a drive to reach the town of Erfoud, the last Moroccan town before ‘civilization’ ends and you enter the Sahara.

Entering the Sahara itself, we'll travel by 4WD to explore this mystical landscape and the stunning sugar-fine sands of the desert as the red sun sinks. We'll then enjoy a special Berber dinner in the desert where we'll be entertained by traditional folk dances while listening to the intoxicating beat of Berber drums.

We'll experience the traditional pouring of mint tea, and delight in a Moroccan feast of harira soup, a savoury tagine (stew with meat and vegetables), couscous, fresh fruit and exquisite Moroccan pastries.

If interested you can also learn how to cook a nomad tagine and of course our hosts can also teach you Berber chanting, and how to use their variety of drums.)

This evening we stay in Berber tents in the Sahara at the Auberge du Sud.



The Sahara is 2.5 million years old. It is located in Northern Africa and remains the largest and hottest desert in the world. Sahara means “desert” in Arabic. Therefore, when we say “the Sahara desert”, we say the same thing twice, but in two different languages. The borders of the Sahara are: to the west, the Atlantic Ocean; to the east, Red Sea-Egypt; to the north, the Atlas Mountains, the Mediterranean Sea and the north of the Sudan; and to the south, the Valley of the Niger.

The dunes of Erg Chebbi, also known as the dunes of Merzouga, are the face of the Sahara, and a trip to Morocco cannot be complete without a visit to these dunes. The orange sand with its therapeutic benefits makes it a perfect place for an unforgettable camel ride through the dunes, to familiarize yourself with the nomads, Moroccan culture, Saharan regional customs, music and cuisine.



*Auberge du Sud*



## Day 5 | 17 October | Merzouga to Tinehir to Kalaat M'Gouna to Ouarzazate

5hr drive

This morning we depart from Merzouga to the famous Todra Gorges, a 2½ hour drive from the desert, traveling along the rugged road of a Thousand Kasbahs that rise up like turreted sand castles along this ancient caravan trading route. This area has long been a popular location for Hollywood films such as *The Last Temptation of Christ*, *Jewel of the Nile*, the remake of *The Ten Commandments*.

The central region is one of the most exciting and romantic areas of Morocco nestled along rich river valleys, palmeries and burnished mud-brick homes ablaze in vibrant color under the shelter of the blue desert sky.

Departing from the main road at Tinehir, and only 15km away at the end of a valley with stunning palmeries and Berber villages is the magnificent Todra Gorge. Here a massive fault in the plateau divides the High Atlas from the Jebel Sarhro, with a crystal clear river emerging from it, with the gorge rising to 300 meters at its narrowest point.

Following a relaxed lunch at a restaurant with a panoramic view over the gorge, we then continue on to Ouarzazate, a further 2½ hours along the Road of a Thousand Kasbahs.

Overnight at the Berbere Palace in Ouarzazate.

## Day 6 | 18 October | Ouarzazate to Ourika Valley

4hr drive

This morning we depart from Ouarzazate; our first stop 40min out of the city is the UNESCO world heritage Kasbah Ait Ben Haddou, before we continue a spectacular drive that will take us across the High Atlas mountains by way of the Tizi n'Tichka pass at an altitude of 2,092 meters, providing breathtaking views from numerous lookout points along the way.

On the other side of the mountains we pass through the Ourika Valley, set in a dramatic cleft in the High Atlas above the mass of emerald green fields on the valley floor. From here it is just a one-hour drive to reach fabled Marrakech, one of Morocco's finest Imperial Cities.

Overnight at Kasbah Omar.



The view of the surrounding mountains from the terrace restaurant at Kasbah Omar, is panoramic. A river valley below is filled with groves of apple, almond and olive trees. Each spectacular sunset paints the mountains in a symphony of colours – gold, pink, rose, purple, blue and black.

In our traditionally outfitted restaurant, topped by a luxurious Berber tent, dinner is served in several courses, and the culinary experience is drawn out for all to enjoy, digest, and be absolutely sated. Savoury salads, freshly baked breads and dishes of olives are a wonderful complement to large servings of tagine, baked chicken, roasted fish, bastilla, and other exceptional traditional delicacies. Local fruits and pastries round out the evening for that sweet, unforgettable taste of Morocco. All the food is locally sourced and organic.

In Morocco, they say, "*Melee katchbaa El Karsh Kat Goul Laraas Ghrene*" (when the belly is full, the head will sing).



## Day 7 | 19 October | Ourika Valley, trekking and lunch with a Berber family

Morning drive to the stunning Ourika Valley in the High Atlas where we'll experience the Berber lifestyle firsthand and enjoy a ritual pouring of mint tea.

We'll have lunch at a Berber family house within the Berber Village, before having the opportunity to discover the hidden Berber villages of the valley for a couple of hours as we journey through the wildflower dotted hillside to one of the salt mines of the valley.

After that we'll hike up to the summit of Tizi N'Oucheg for spectacular views of the valley below.

On our return we'll attend a cooking class showing us how to make a Moroccan soup (Harira) and a Moroccan Couscous Dinner.

Overnight at Kasbah Omar.

## Day 8 | 20 October | Ourika to Essaouira

4hr drive

Music legends Jimmy Hendrix and the Rolling Stones were drawn to Essaouira's idyllic charm, which continues to lure artists and musicians alike today to the sparkling whitewashed village trimmed with the brilliant azure of its skies.

A former Portuguese settlement in the 18th century, and a current fishing village, its stone ramparts overlook an emerald sea fringed with miles of silvery beach where camels ferry passengers across fine sand.

Stroll through serene squares, browse artisan shops and peruse art galleries before having a spectacular lunch by the sea, where freshly caught fish of the day is grilled to a succulent finish before your eyes. Top it off with famous Moroccan mint tea and delectable French pastries at one of Essaouira's many cafes.

A full day will be spent at Essaouira, where you can take a camel ride or go horse riding on the beach.

Overnight at Heure Bleu.





*La Sultana*  
HOTELS SIGNATURE

## Day 9 | 21 October | Essaouira to Marrakech

Today we have a 2½hr drive to Marrakech where we will refresh in our charming Riad, before visiting the famous Jamaa Elfna Square to start exploring the city of Marrakech before dinner.

Overnight at La Sultana.

## Day 10 | 22 October | Marrakech

Following breakfast, we have some options. We can explore the ancient Bahia Palace, from the days of the harem and the ancient royal Saadian tombs. We can also visit the historic Jewish mellah where some of the best handcrafted jewellery of Morocco is sold. Another site we could visit is the majestic Koutoubia Mosque, the largest mosque in the city.

In the afternoon, we enjoy a visit to the glorious Majorelle Gardens owned by the estate of the late international designer Yves St. Laurent, a stroll along the ancient Menara pool, and then a tour of the ancient city wall and Palmeries.

We'll explore the hidden treasures of Marrakech and at the end the day, be seduced by the world-famous Djemaa el-Fna open air market with its exotic snake charmers, Berber musicians, spinning acrobats, fortune tellers, and the air is filled with curls of smoke rising from delectable kebabs grilled over coals.

Overnight at La Sultana.

## Day 11 | 23 October | Transfer to Casablanca airport

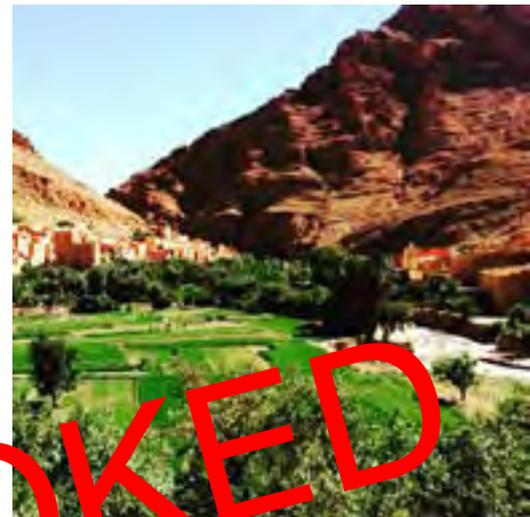
After breakfast there's a 2hr drive from Marrakech to Casablanca where we'll catch the flight back home with 1001 Arabian-Berber tales.

Marrakech... the name conjures up mystery and magic. A pink city rising out of the desert, against a backdrop of snow-capped Atlas Mountains,

Marrakech is a unique city of contradictions where camels tethered roadside and ancient souks exist with modern rose-petal strewn bistros and nightclub music.

Veiled women move languorously along the avenues and young women in miniskirts zoom by on mopeds.





## Tour cost per person

USD \$3986 pp (two share) / USD \$4600 pp (single)

Group size 12 pax  
(payment plan available - see next page)

## Tour includes:

- Private luxury bus
- English speaking tour leader and driver
- Local guides in imperial cities
- 5 star Riad and hotel accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- 4 dinners (1 with local family in Marrakech)
- 1 lunch on the trekking day
- Transfers from & to the airport
- Museum fees
- All taxes

## Not included in package price:

- International Airfare & Travel Insurance
- Lunches, except 1 on the trekking day
- Drinks
- Tips

## Accommodation:

- Rabat: [Villa Mandarine](#), 1 night
- Fes: [Riad Fes](#), 2 nights
- Merzouga: [Auberge du Sud](#), 1 night
- Quarzazate: [Berbere Palace](#), 1 night
- Ourika Valley: [Kasbah Omar](#), 2 nights
- Essaouira: [Heure Bleu](#), 1 night
- Marrakech: [La Sultana](#), 2 nights

**NB:** This tour starts and ends in Casablanca.  
When making your International reservations, DO NOT book an early departure flight as we will be travelling from Marrakech to Casablanca on our final day.

*(See booking form plus full terms and conditions on following pages)*