



**National Peace Corps Association
Morocco**

An Exclusive NPCA Next Step Travel Program
www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/morocco

Itinerary*

April 30 – May 13, 2017

14 days / 13 nights

** as of 20 April, 2017 – subject to minor change*

In cooperation with



اصدقاء المغرب
Friends of Morocco

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Day One: April 30

RAM JFK & DC arrivals met at Casablanca airport. Tour of [Hassan II Mosque](#) in Casablanca. Drive to [Rabat](#). Lunch on own en route to Rabat and the [Belere Hotel](#). R&R at hotel. Optional walk to medina and Oudaias. 6pm meeting with e.g. High Atlas Foundation, USAID, MCC, or Fulbright. Dinner at the Belere and accompanied by speakers and PC staff. Hotel Belere (D)

Day Two: May 1

After breakfast, meeting with Peace Corps Senior staff at Peace Corps Office. We will then drive north to Asilah for Paella lunch (drive ~2 hrs). at [Casa Garcia](#). Tour of charming Asilah medina. Drive to [Tangier](#) with afternoon free time for exploring. Dinner HB at [Hotel Continental](#). This must be the best location in Tangier!!!! (B, L & D)

Day Three: May 2

After breakfast depart to tour Tangier, observing the great change to Tangier, now one of the finest cities in Morocco. Tour the Grand Socco, Petit Socco and medina. Tour Museum of the Kasbah. Lunch on your own. Free time explore the medina. 4:00 tour of the [Tangier American Legation Institute for Moroccan Studies](#) followed by drinks on the private rooftop terrace of the Legation and subsequent dinner at the Hotel. HB at Hotel Continental (B & D)

Day Four: May 3

After breakfast, drive to the lovely blue mountain village of [Chefchaouen](#). (2 hours 15 min.) Tour of the amazing medina--white or blue washed houses and intricate Andalusian architecture!! Lunch in the main square, Place Outa el Hammam. Drive to [Volubilis](#) (2 hrs. 40 min.) Tour Volubilis @ 5:00. Short visit to Moulay Idriss. Drive to Meknes. HB at [Riad D'Or](#). This is a museum of a riad, deep in the medina, each room is original and different and a virtual maze!! Hopefully we can be joined at dinner by PCVs and also an American student from the university exchange programs of Meknes. (B, L & D)

Day Five: May 4

Tour the medina of [Meknes](#): visiting [Bou Inania Medersa](#), [Bab Mansour](#), return to hotel to pick up bags and then to the great granary (Heri es-Souani). Lunch at [Collier de la Columbe](#) with Moroccan politics expert. Tour of American Language Center in Meknes. Drive to Fes (one hour). Visit Borj North for view of Medina. Optional trip to [Musee des armes](#). Dinner to be joined by PCVs. HB at the [Hotel Zalagh Parc Palace](#) in the Ville Nouvelle. (B, L & D)

Day Six: May 5

Guided tour of [Fes](#) medina accompanied by Albania/Malaysia PCV and friends. Fes is a moving museum! Visit Bab Boujeloud, the tanneries, the Zaouia of Moulay Idriss and the Qarawiyyin Mosque. Lunch in a palace in the medina. After lunch, visit the King's palace and

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the Jewish quarter. View Fes from above at the South Borg to get a view of the Medina. Optionally, visit the pottery factory, relax or explore. Dinner at 8:00 with PCVs. HB at Hotel Zalagh. (B, L & D)

Day Seven: May 6

Drive south to the Sahara. We will first drive up into the Middle Atlas to the town of Ifrane where the [Al Akhawayn University](#) is located! Meet University staff and understand Peace Corps connections. Continual driving through the Middle Atlas, to Azrou where we will visit a women's coop, one of the best in Morocco!! We continue up the mountains and make a short visit to the cedar forest where we might see some Barbary Apes. Drive down the Middle Atlas to the town of Midelt where we will have lunch at the [Hotel Ayachi](#). Drive over the High Atlas Mountains and into the city of Er Rachdia... and then through the beautiful Ziz Valley Oasis. We'll take a walk through the oasis and visit a Ksar (walled village) in the town of Aoufouss. We will then drive to Merzouga at Erg Chebbi from Fes. (7 hours) We will be staying at the [Riad Mamouche](#), located just under the beautiful peach colored dunes of erg Chebbi. HB and dinner at the Riad. (B, L & D)

Day Eight: May 7

Optional day in the desert. We strike out to the desert and soon in the distance appears a mound of orange--looking like a giant dip of orange sherbet!! We will spend the day in the dunes--or riding a camel or merely basking by the pool! Lunch on your own. After a full day of relaxing, hiking or riding camels will again stay at [Riad Mamouche](#) for lodging and dinner. HB (B & D)

Day Nine: May 8

Leave the peach colored sand behind but ahead we have beautiful landscapes! Drive through the town of [Rissani](#), birthplace of the Alaouite Dynasty and northward through the palmed Ziz Valley until we arrive in Erfoud again. Visit a fossil factory where we will see that the ammonite and orthoceras fossils which have been mined in the Erfoud region and then carved and polished --producing bowls, countertops and tables- seen worldwide. We will drive northwest to Tinjedad, possible museum stop, and on to [Tineghir](#). And then drive up the fabulous Todra Gorge. We will be just on the south side of the breathtaking High Atlas Mountains. Tagine lunch on the road. We'll watch the Berber women harvesting their crops, as their lives continue the same as it has for centuries. We will be staying at [Riad des Vieilles Charrues](#) in the scenic Dades Valley. HB (B, L & D)

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Day Ten: May 9

Drive to El Kelaa Mgouna, land of the roses, where local Berbers make fortunes in rose oil and rose petals. Drive along the Mgoun River to Bou Thrarar. Marvel at the stunning rock landscape and Berber villages built as an extension of the land. Explore the village of Bou Thrarar. We will then return to the Dades Valley to the land of the "Kasbahs"! Visit the Amerhidil Kasbah and take a walk through the Skoura Oasis. Lunch with a view over the Skoura Oasis at [Chez Talout](#). Drive through Ouarzazate to [Ait Ben Haddou](#). Our fabulous hotel is built into a kasbah. HB [Riad Ksar Ighnda](#). joined at dinner by PCVs. (B, L, D)

Day Eleven: May 10

Depart @ 9:00. Ride in the van or hike 3km through lush agricultural fields bordering the river to the Ait Ben Haddou UNESCO World Heritage site where so many films were made--- *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Jewel of the Nile* and *Hideous Kinky*. Drive up the ancient caravan route from Ait Ben Haddou to the top of the High Atlas Mountains. We will pass through Berber mud-bricked villages and by crumbling kasbahs to Telouet, the capital of the Glaoui empire. Lunch will be at a Berber truck stop in Taddert. Drive down the High Atlas Mountains to amazing [Marrakech](#). (Driving--3 1/2 hrs.) We will be staying at the lovely [Villa El Gada](#) in Gueliz Marrakech. It is centrally located, with **available** massages and jacuzzi on the roof top terrace! Dinner at Hotel Toulousain with RPCV working the American School of Marrakech. After dinner optional nighttime visit to the famed Djemaa el Fnaa. HB (B, L & D)

Day Twelve: May 11

Ttour of Marrakech including the Essaadi Tombs, Bahia Palace, Djemaa El Fna, Ben Youseff Medersa, and the Koutoubia Mosque. In the souks watch the artisans work at their leather crafts as they have for generation after generation. Lunch in Gueliz at the [Amal Women's Center](#). Visit the [Majorelle Gardens](#) and the Yves St. Laurent Berber Museum (VERY fabulous}. Visit the [High Atlas Foundation](#) or [Project Soar](#). HB and dinner at the lovely [Villa El Gada](#) in Marrakech with hopefully PCV dinner guests! Optional after dinner nighttime visit to the famed Djemaa el Fnaa. (B, L & D)

Day Thirteen: May 12

Drive to [Essaouira](#). (2 hours 45 min.) with stop at argan oil women's Coop on the road to Essaouira. Lunch free. Tour the medina and port. Meet Fatima at her home in the medina. She was trained by Peace Corps volunteers as a teacher for handicapped children for decades. She then became a teacher for women who were illiterate. She is a star! HB and dinners with PCVs at beautiful [Riad Al Madina](#) (where Jimi Hendrix used to hang out drinking coffee). (B & D)

Day Fourteen: May 13

Depart @ 9:00 Transfer to Casa airport (5 hrs) after breakfast (B)

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