AFRIQUE UNIE · TRAVEL NOTEBOOK

# Morocco and Tunisia in 14 days: a day-by-day itinerary

*Two countries of the Maghreb, two ways of experiencing the medina: fourteen days is enough to link Morocco's imperial cities by train, then northern Tunisia and the Sahel coast, from Tunis to Sousse. No sensible road connects the two countries, which are separated by Algeria: you travel between them on a flight from Casablanca to Tunis. The route stays in regions that French and British official advice does not warn against, well away from Tunisia's border areas; read that advice again before you leave. Here are the stages, day by day.*

## Day by day

**Day 1 · Casablanca, the mosque on the ocean** (night : Casablanca)
Mohammed V airport is linked by train to Casa-Voyageurs station in about three quarters of an hour. Casablanca is not the most charming of Moroccan cities, but it deserves half a day. Start with the Hassan II Mosque, built partly over the Atlantic: its minaret, about 200 metres high, can be seen from all over the city, and it is one of the few mosques in the country open to non-Muslims, on guided tours outside prayer times. Then walk along the corniche before returning to the centre for its Art Deco façades of the 1920s and 1930s, around Mohammed V Square and the central market. Have grilled fish for dinner and get an early night: the train to Marrakech leaves the next morning.

**Days 2-3 · Marrakech, medina and palaces** (night : Marrakech)
The train takes about three hours from Casablanca to Marrakech. Drop your bags at a riad in the medina, a World Heritage Site, and start with Jemaa el-Fna square, which changes character through the day: orange juice and snake charmers in the afternoon, smoke from the grills and musicians in the evening. The next day, visit the Ben Youssef Madrasa early, then the Bahia Palace and the Saadian Tombs, ahead of the crowds and the heat. Keep the afternoon for the souks, where it is a pleasure to get lost among dyers, coppersmiths and slipper sellers, and finish at the Majorelle Garden, outside the walls, where it is best to book your ticket in advance. The Koutoubia minaret, visible from everywhere, is your landmark for the way back.

**Day 4 · A day in Essaouira** (night : Marrakech)
Essaouira, on the Atlantic, is about three hours by road from Marrakech: the return trip in a day is long but feasible if you leave early, by coach or with a driver. The fortified 18th-century medina, a World Heritage Site, can be explored on foot in a few hours: the Skala ramparts with their cannons pointing out to sea, the fishing harbour and its blue boats, white lanes swept by the trade winds, and workshops making thuya-wood marquetry. Have fish for lunch near the harbour, walk along the long beach, then set off again before late afternoon to avoid driving in the dark. If you prefer a shorter day, the Ourika Valley, at the foot of the High Atlas, is less than two hours from Marrakech.

### Day 5 · Rabat, the quiet capital (night : Rabat)

About four hours by train, via Casablanca, brings you to Rabat: leave in the morning to make the most of the afternoon. The capital of the kingdom and a World Heritage Site, the city is surprisingly calm. Start with the Kasbah of the Udayas, a citadel of white and blue lanes perched above the mouth of the Bou Regreg, with its Andalusian garden and its terrace facing Salé. Then head to the esplanade of the Hassan Tower, an unfinished 12th-century minaret surrounded by columns, and the Mausoleum of Mohammed V, which is open to visitors. If you have time left, the Chellah necropolis combines Roman remains, Marinid tombs and storks' nests. In the evening, the medina, smaller and less insistent than those of Marrakech or Fez, is ideal for an aimless stroll.

### Days 6-7 · Fez, the largest medina (night : Fez)

Allow about three hours by train from Rabat to Fez. On the afternoon of day 6, gain some height: from the Marinid Tombs or the Borj Nord, you can take in the extent of Fes el-Bali, a vast car-free medina and World Heritage Site. The next day, an official guide saves a great deal of time in this maze of several thousand lanes: the Bou Inania and Attarine madrasas, Seffarine Square and its coppersmiths, the Nejjarine fountain, the surroundings of the Al Quaraouiyine mosque, whose interior is reserved for Muslims, and the Chouara tanneries, viewed from the terraces of neighbouring shops. Make way for the laden mules, the only vehicles allowed here. Late in the day, walk through Fes el-Jdid and the old Jewish quarter, the Mellah, to the golden gates of the royal palace.

### Day 8 · Volubilis, Moulay Idriss and Meknes (night : Meknes)

Meknes is less than an hour from Fez by train. Drop your bags and take a taxi to Volubilis, about thirty kilometres to the north: the most important Roman city in Morocco, a World Heritage Site, it still has a triumphal arch, a basilica and fine mosaics left in place, among fields and olive trees. Visit in the morning, as shade is scarce. On the way back, stop at Moulay Idriss Zerhoun, a small holy town clinging to two hills. The afternoon belongs to Meknes, the capital of Sultan Moulay Ismail in the 17th century: the Bab Mansour gate, el-Hedim Square, the sultan's mausoleum and the vast granaries of Heri es-Souani. More relaxed than Fez, the town is a pleasant place for a last Moroccan evening.

### Day 9 · Back to Casablanca and the flight to Tunis (night : Tunis)

This is the day that links the two countries. The train runs from Meknes to Casablanca in three to three and a half hours, then on to Mohammed V airport from Casa-Voyageurs station. Direct flights link Casablanca and Tunis in under three hours, but they do not run at all hours: check the timetable before booking, and if your flight leaves in the morning, go back to Casablanca the evening before and sleep there. Allow three hours at the airport: this is an international flight, with passport control on leaving Morocco and on entering Tunisia. On arrival, Tunis-Carthage airport is a few kilometres from the centre: take a taxi and settle in near the medina or in the modern city.

### Day 10 · Tunis, the medina and the Bardo (night : Tunis)

The medina of Tunis, a World Heritage Site, is more open than that of Fez and can be visited without a guide. Enter by the Porte de France, walk up through the covered souks to the Zitouna Mosque, of which non-Muslims see only the courtyard, then wander towards the souks of the perfumers and the chechia makers, the old madrasas and the palaces converted into cultural venues. Climb to a rooftop for the view over the city. In the afternoon, take a taxi to the Bardo Museum, housed in a former beylical palace: its collection of Roman mosaics is one of the richest in the world. Check its opening days before you go. In the evening, Avenue Habib Bourguiba and its café terraces set the tone of the modern city.

**Day 11 · Carthage and Sidi Bou Said** (night : Tunis)

The remains of Carthage, a World Heritage Site, are scattered across a residential suburb north-east of Tunis: plan on a taxi for half a day or take the TGM, the suburban train from central Tunis that stops at several Carthage stations and at Sidi Bou Said; wear comfortable shoes. The Antonine Baths, by the sea, are the most spectacular site; add Byrsa Hill, the Punic ports and the tophet. A combined ticket gives access to most of the sites. A few kilometres away, the white-and-blue village of Sidi Bou Said overlooks the Gulf of Tunis: walk up the main street, then turn off into the much quieter side lanes as far as the viewpoints over the sea. Stay for mint tea and the sunset before returning to Tunis.

**Day 12 · Kairouan, the holy city** (night : Kairouan)

About 160 kilometres separate Tunis from Kairouan: allow two to two and a half hours by road, in a hire car, with a driver or by shared taxi, as there is no train to the city. Founded in the 7th century, Kairouan is one of the holy cities of Islam and a World Heritage Site. The Great Mosque, known as the Mosque of Sidi Oqba, impresses with its massive minaret and paved courtyard; non-Muslims do not enter the prayer hall but can glimpse it from the courtyard. Also see the Aghlabid Basins, the mausoleum of Sidi Sahbi and its tiles, then the medina, its brick ramparts and its carpet workshops. Try makroudh, diamonds of semolina filled with dates. Modest dress is expected at religious sites.

**Day 13 · The Amphitheatre of El Jem, then Sousse** (night : Sousse)

A good hour's drive leads from Kairouan to El Jem, where a Roman amphitheatre rises above the low houses. Built in the 3rd century, it could hold about 35,000 spectators and remains one of the best preserved in the Roman world; it is a World Heritage Site. You are free to roam the tiers, the galleries and the underground passages where wild animals and gladiators once waited. The small museum nearby displays fine mosaics. Then continue to Sousse, about an hour to the north. In the late afternoon, climb to the top of the tower of the ribat, an 8th-century fortress, for the view over the medina, the Great Mosque and the port. In the evening, the crenellated ramparts turn a lovely golden colour.

**Day 14 · Sousse, then back to Tunis** (night : Flight home)

Spend the morning in the medina of Sousse, a World Heritage Site: its souks are quieter early in the day, and the archaeological museum, housed in the kasbah at the top of the town, has a collection of mosaics that complements the Bardo's. Check its closing days. Tunis is then about 140 kilometres away, two hours by motorway or a little longer by train: leave a wide margin for your flight from Tunis-Carthage airport, or plan a last night in Tunis if the plane leaves early. Depending on the season, Monastir and Enfidha airports, closer to Sousse, also have flights to Europe. Remember to change your last dinars before going through the controls.

## Getting around

In Morocco, the whole itinerary is done by train, from one city centre to the next: book seats a few days ahead in high season, and keep taxis for Volubilis and coaches for Essaouira. Between the two countries, flying is the only realistic option: the land border between Morocco and Algeria has been closed since 1994. In Tunisia, trains link Tunis with Sousse and El Jem, but not Kairouan: a car with a driver, or a hire car, for three days makes the loop through Kairouan, El Jem and Sousse simpler, on good roads. Shared taxis also serve these towns. In both countries, avoid driving at night.

## When to go

The two countries share the same good seasons: spring and autumn. April, May, September and October suit Morocco's medinas as well as Tunisia's ancient sites, with days that are warm but not excessively so. From June to August, the heat becomes trying in Marrakech, Fez and Kairouan, and Tunisia's beaches are very busy.

Winter remains possible, with cool days, cold nights inland and a few days of rain in the north. During Ramadan, opening hours of sites and restaurants change in both countries: ask locally.

## Practical information

### Morocco

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| **Entry** | Depends on your passport: visiterafriqueunie.com/en/visa/morocco/ |
| **Yellow fever** | Certificate not required |
| **Malaria** | none |
| **Currency** | Moroccan dirham (MAD) |
| **Languages** | Arabic, Amazigh, French |
| **Plugs** | type C, E · dialling code +212 · UTC+1 |
| **Emergencies** | police 19 ou 190 · ambulance 15 ou 150 · fire 15 ou 150 |

### Tunisia

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|---|---|
| **Entry** | Depends on your passport: visiterafriqueunie.com/en/visa/tunisia/ |
| **Yellow fever** | Certificate not required |
| **Malaria** | none |
| **Currency** | Tunisian dinar (TND) |
| **Languages** | Arabic, French |
| **Plugs** | type C, E · dialling code +216 · UTC+1 |
| **Emergencies** | police 197 · ambulance 190 · fire 198 |

## Departure checklist

#### Documents

☐ Passport valid for at least six months after your return, with blank pages
☐ Visa or e-visa (printed if required)
☐ International vaccination certificate (yellow fever if required)
☐ Travel insurance certificate and assistance number
☐ Paper and digital copies of your passport and bookings
☐ Tickets, bookings and addresses saved offline
☐ International driving permit if you are hiring a vehicle

#### Health

☐ Travel consultation done and vaccinations up to date
☐ Malaria tablets if your doctor recommends them
☐ First-aid kit: plasters, antiseptic, anti-diarrhoea tablets, rehydration salts
☐ Mosquito repellent suitable for the tropics
☐ Sunscreen, hat and sunglasses
☐ Personal medication and prescriptions

#### Money and connectivity

☐ Bank told, Visa or Mastercard (and a backup card)
☐ Cash in euros or dollars, recent notes in good condition
☐ eSIM or local SIM card sorted
☐ Plug adapter for the country
☐ Power bank and cables
☐ Offline maps downloaded
☐ Afrique Unie app installed

#### In the bag

☐ Light clothes that cover up (sun, mosquitoes, places of worship)
☐ A fleece for evenings, dawn safaris and altitude
☐ Walking shoes and sandals
☐ Head torch
☐ Water bottle (ideally with a filter)
☐ Small daypack and waterproof pouches
☐ Luggage padlock

### Before you close the door

☐ Your government's travel advice reread
☐ Trip registered with your consular service (if it offers this)
☐ Itinerary and contacts left with someone close
☐ Online check-in done and baggage allowance checked

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Notebook made from visiterafriqueunie.com/en/itineraries/morocco-and-tunisia-in-14-days/ · information checked in November 2026 against official sources. Entry, health and safety rules change: check them again before you leave (your country's official advice, the embassy of the country you visit).