Next Step Travel
a program of the National Peace Corps Association

OPERATED BY DISCOVER CORPS

Explore

MOROCCO

*with the **National Peace Corps Association***

MOMENTS THAT MATTER:

- Explore the rich culture & bustling medinas of Morocco alongside fellow NPCA members
- Meet with local Peace Corps Volunteers to get a glimpse into their projects
- Engage in discussions with local experts around immigration, religion & politics
- Venture through Marrakech's historic medina on a Moroccan food tour
- Learn traditional Arabic calligraphy and how to paint colorful Moroccan tiles
- Visit an NGO working to empower young girls in Morocco

TRIP AT A GLANCE

Day 1 - Arrive in Casablanca and meet your group.

Day 2 - Head to Tangier and explore the iconic landmarks of the capital city.

Day 3 - Explore Tangier & engage in a historical, political discussion over tea.

Day 4 - Visit the American Legion Museum & explore Tangier's markets & cafes at your own pace.

Day 5 - Journey to Fes, stopping along the way at a women's cooperative.

Day 6 - Explore Fes' medinas and learn to paint intricate pottery.

Day 7 - Enjoy a calligraphy workshop & meet with current local Peace Corps volunteers.

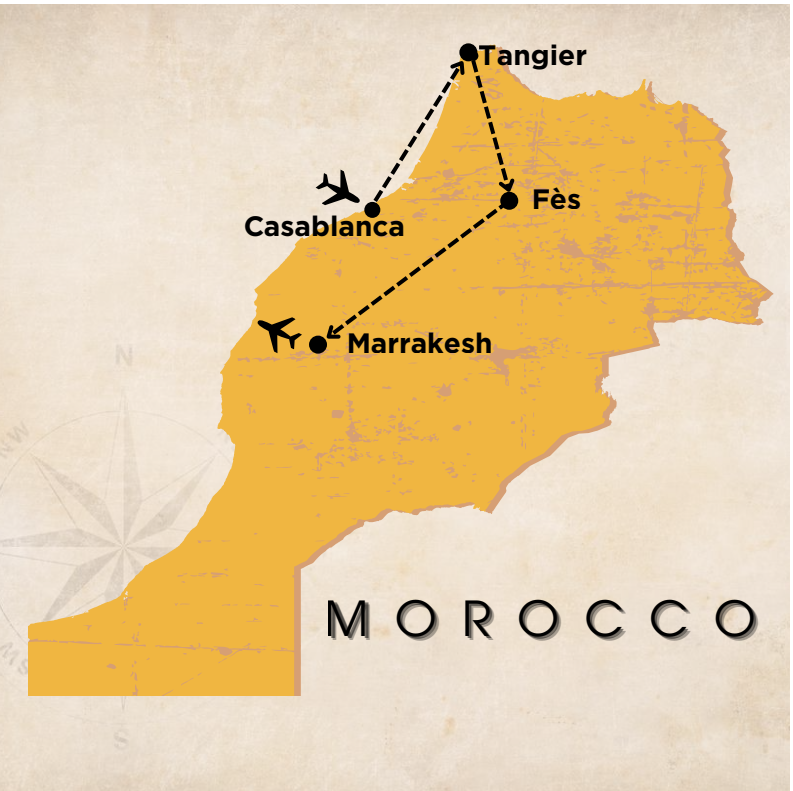
Day 8 - Camp under the stars in a luxury tented camp in the desert.

Day 9 - Contine to Marrakech.

Days 10 & 11 - Explore Marrakesh & meet with three local organizations that are making a difference.

Day 12 - One final day for shopping and exploring in the medina before a farewell dinner.

Day 13 - Say your goodbyes and head to the airport for your journey home.



MOROCCO WITH NEXT STEP TRAVEL

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

TRIP DATES: OCTOBER 3 - 15, 2027

Morocco is a place where sounds, smells, tastes and cultures collide for an atmosphere felt nowhere else! The country's location a melting pot of Arabic, Spanish and African cultures.

Our almost two weeks here will bring you to some of Morocco's most iconic cities, from it's seaside capital to rural mountain villages to Marrakech's bustling markets. Try your hand at traditional crafts such as pottery making and calligraphy, taste your way through the medina on a walking food tour and take in the rich culture around every corner.

Along the way, we'll meet with current Peace Corps volunteers, local NGOs and locals who are making a difference in the lives of those who call Morocco home.

HIGHLIGHTS

A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

Camp in style in the picturesque Agafay desert southwest of Marrakech. This arid, moon-like landscape is very different from that of the Sahara, offering incredible sunsets and a unique ambiance. Enjoy authentic dinner, take in the scenery from camel back before relaxing in your luxury tent, complete with comfy bed and amenities.

MEANINGFUL LOCAL PROJECTS

Meet with several current Peace Corps volunteers and learn more about their ongoing projects in Morocco. We'll also have the opportunity to meet with various local NGOs who are making a difference in Morocco through environmental, social and economic projects, including a women's cooperative and the High Atlas Foundation, a non-profit tackling environmental issues and supporting sustainable agriculture throughout the country.

STAYING IN A RIAD

Generally rectangular in shape, a riad is a large, luxurious estate with multiple stories and plenty of guest rooms, all centered around an open-aired courtyard with a fountain. Most Moroccan riads are located in the medinas, or the historic parts of the city and were once the homes of Morocco's wealthiest citizens. Over time, many riads have been converted into boutique hotels and remain a quintessential part of the Moroccan travel experience.

TRADITIONAL ARTS WORKSHOPS

We'll try our hand at some of Morocco's most important ancient arts. Learn to paint the distinct, intricate tiles that adorn the vibrant architecture from a master in his craft. Supplement your crash course in the Arabic language with a class in classic calligraphy, where you'll learn more about the origins of this age-old craft as you build your skills.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive and Settle In

A warm welcome awaits you as you arrive in Casablanca International Airport where the Next Step Travel team will greet you with open arms. After bags are collected and everyone is set to go, we'll settle in to our accommodations.

Tonight, we'll enjoy a delightful welcome dinner together at the historic La Sqala, a former fortress overlooking Casablanca's old medina. *(D)*

DAY 2: Visit Hassan II Tower & Travel to Tangier

This morning we'll venture into the historic city center and paying a visit to the Hassan II Mosque. This beautiful seaside mosque is the largest in Morocco and its minaret is the tallest in the world!

After lunch, transfer to the train station for a 90-minute journey north to Tangier, taking in views of Morocco's changing landscapes as you travel toward the Strait of Gibraltar. Upon arrival, settling in before dinner in the Kasbah, where narrow streets, whitewashed homes and sweeping sea views introduce you to this historic port city that has long served as a crossroads between Africa and Europe. *(B, L, D)*

DAY 3: Medina Guided Tour & Political Discussion

This morning, explore Tangier's historic medina on a walking tour led by one of our local experts. As you move through the lively streets, learn about Tangier's unique history as an international city that attracted diplomats, artists, writers, and travelers from around the world.

In the afternoon, visit the iconic Café Hafa, perched on the cliffs overlooking the Strait of Gibraltar. Over a traditional cup of Moroccan mint tea, engage in a guided conversation about migration routes across the Mediterranean and the complex realities faced by people traveling from Africa toward Europe. This discussion offers important context for understanding Tangier's contemporary social landscape. Later, enjoy dinner on your own. *(B, L)*

DAY 4: American Legion Museum & Free Time

Today, visit the historic American Legation Museum, a remarkable building that reflects the long relationship between Morocco and the United States. In addition to its diplomatic significance, the building served as a Peace Corps training center until 1973, connecting it to generations of volunteers who began their service in Morocco.

The museum houses fascinating exhibits on Moroccan-American relations, art, and cultural exchange.

The afternoon is yours to explore the Kasbah at your own pace. Wander through its quiet alleyways, visit small artisan shops, enjoy panoramic views of the sea or relax at one of the many cafés overlooking the port. *(B, L)*

DAY 5: Travel to Fes & Nzala Women's Cooperative

After breakfast, we'll hit the road to Fes, the historic cultural capital of Morocco. Tucked in the Atlas Mountains, Fes is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and truly on of the gems of Morocco. Stop in a village that hosts the Nzala Women's Cooperative, an initiative originally supported by a Peace Corps volunteer alumnus. Here, you will meet the women who run the cooperative and learn about the role of cooperatives in supporting rural livelihoods.

Continue north to Volubilis, one of Morocco's most important archaeological sites and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walk through the remarkably preserved Roman ruins, known for their mosaics, grand arches, and sweeping views of the countryside. Upon arrival in Fes, settle in to your riad in the medina and enjoy dinner out and about. *(B, L)*

Day 6: Fes Tour & Pottery Workshop

In the morning, we'll visit the must-see historic landmarks of Fes including the honey souqs, tanneries, spice shops and more. A local expert will join us to provide a lens into the history of this cultural mecca.

In the afternoon, participate in a hands-on *zellij* workshop with a local artisan. Zellij is the intricate geometric tilework that adorns many Moroccan palaces, mosques, and fountains. During this session, you will learn about the mathematical precision behind the designs and try your hand at assembling your own small mosaic. *(B, L, D)*

DAY 7: Calligraphy Workshop & Local Peace Corps Volunteers

Take the morning to explore Fes on your own; in the afternoon, we'll gather for a traditional Arabic calligraphy workshop led by a local artist. During the session, you will learn about the history of Arabic script and practice writing your own characters using traditional tools and techniques.

During your time in Fes, you will also have the opportunity to meet with one of our Peace Corps network connections in the city, offering further insight into community initiatives and cross-cultural collaboration in Morocco. *(B,L)*

DAY 8: Desert Camping

Back on the train, this time to Marrakech, Morocco's most bustling and vibrant city! *(Depending on schedules, we may take a short flight for this portion instead.)*

We'll get a taste of the desert tonight with a luxury tented camp-out in the tranquility of the Agafay Desert. Hop on a camel for a ride through the desert and photograph the dramatic sunset as the caravan strolls along the camp. Sit down for tea and local cuisine while enjoying the rhythmic beats of desert musicians around a campfire. *(B, L, D)*

DAY 9: Continue to Marrakech & High Atlas Foundation

Enjoy a relaxed morning in the Agafay Desert, taking in the quiet landscape and final moments in this peaceful setting before departing for Marrakech's hustle & bustle. En route, stop for lunch near the offices of the High Atlas Foundation, a leading Moroccan nonprofit working on sustainable development and community empowerment throughout rural Morocco.

Continue to Marrakech, where you will check-in to your accommodations. In the evening, gather for a group dinner in the medina, which will offer a lively introduction to the city's vibrant atmosphere. *(B, L, D)*

DAY 10: Explore Marrakech & Local Volunteer Org Visit

Begin the day with a guided cultural walking tour of Marrakech's medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its bustling souqs, historic architecture, and centuries-old trading traditions.

After, travel to Tahnaout, located at the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains. Here you will meet with members of the CorpsAfrica volunteer network, an organization that places young professionals in rural Moroccan communities to work on locally driven development projects. *(B, L)*

DAY 11: Tree-Planting Ceremony & Women's Collective

Today, travel to a nearby tree nursery supported by the High Atlas Foundation, where you will participate in a tree-planting ceremony. These nurseries are part of a broader environmental initiative focused on restoring landscapes, strengthening local agriculture, and supporting sustainable livelihoods across several regions of Morocco.

Following the planting activity, visit a local women's cooperative where members will host a traditional Moroccan cooking class. Wrap up with a Q & A discussion with members of the cooperative and local community. *(B, L, D)*

DAY 12: Free Time in Marrakech & Farewell Dinner

Enjoy a final morning at your own pace to wander through the medina and pick up last souvenirs for family and friends. In the evening, we will gather to celebrate your time in Morocco with a special farewell dinner, a traditional henna tattoo, and live music. It's our way of saying goodbye—just as we would to family after a meaningful visit. *(B, D)*

DAY 13: Departures

Say your final goodbyes and head to the airport for your journey home.

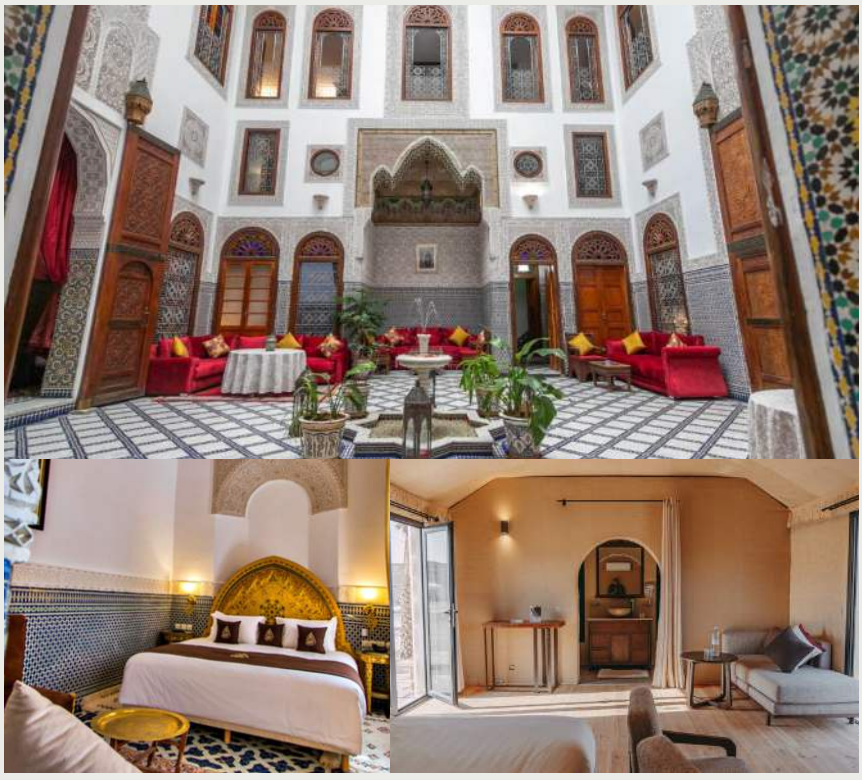
BOUTIQUE LODGING

We've hand-picked a portfolio of 3 & 4 star boutique hotels and riads for your journey, as well as an overnight stay in a desert luxury tented camp.

In **Casablanca**, stay in a modern hotel just outside the city center at the Hotel Maamoura; in **Tangier**, enjoy Palais Zahia, a converted palace at the heart of the city. In **Fes**, we'll stay at the traditional and elegant Riad Marjana. End the journey in **Marrakech** at the boutique Riad Moulay, featuring rooftop terraces and traditional Moroccan design.

For our overnight **desert campout**, we'll stay in full-enclosed, luxury tents, complete with comfortable beds and all the amenities.

Please note that the exact properties are subject to change.



MOROCCO TRIP DETAILS

OCTOBER 3 - 15, 2027

PRICING

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: $4,595 per traveler

Single-room supplement: $750 per traveler

If you are a solo traveler and would like us to match you with a roommate of the same gender, please book as double occupancy.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 12 nights of 3- and 4-star hotel lodging in boutique hotels and riads
- All meals listed in itinerary
- Transportation in private vehicles
- An immersive itinerary including behind-the-scenes visits to local organizations
- Discover Corps guide that is there to support and inform you throughout the trip
- All scheduled activities and excursions
- $50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Trip literature and pre-departure support from Discover Corps
- 24-hour Discover Corps emergency hotline while traveling
- One-way domestic flight between Fes-Marrakech

REFUND POLICY

The amount of your refund is based on how far in advance from the start date of the trip you notify us of your cancellation.

- More than five months prior, everything is refundable!
- Less than five months prior, 75% of program fee is refundable, except non-refundable $30 registration fee. There is no fee to change trip destination or start date.
- Less than four months prior, 50% of program fee is refundable, except non-refundable $30 registration fee. $100 fee to change trip destination or start date.
- Less than three months prior, 25% of program fee is refundable, except non-refundable $30 registration fee. $395 fee to change trip destination or start date.
- Less than two months prior, the program fee is non-refundable. Changes to trip destination or start date are not possible and will be subject to refund policy.

If the balance has not been paid in full, the above percentages apply to all monies paid at the date of cancellation.

BOOKING GUIDELINES

It just takes $365 per person to register for this trip. The remainder of the trip fee is due 30 days after registering for the trip or 60 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. The registration can be completed HERE.

ABOUT DISCOVER CORPS

Discover Corps was founded on the belief that travel can enhance and preserve the character of a place: its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and the well-being of its residents.

Our principles don't just apply to our trips, but to everything we do as a company. **We are a certified B Corporation, which means we have passed a rigorous independent audit of our social, environmental, and legal practices.** B Corporations (or Benefit Corporations) are recognized by the State of California as providing a social good.

By adopting a clear set of responsible travel guidelines, we use our trips to improve the lives of people in the communities we visit and also support the integrity of a place, allowing it to retain the distinctive character that makes it unique. Not only is it the right thing to do, it also provides a richer experience for our travelers.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION

The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is a mission-driven social impact organization that encourages and celebrates lifelong commitment to Peace Corps ideals. NPCA supports a united and vibrant Peace Corps community, including current and returned Peace Corps volunteers, current and former staff, host country nationals, family and friends in our efforts to create a better world.

NPCA exists to fulfill three specific goals:

- Help the Peace Corps be the best it can be
- Empower members and affiliate groups to thrive
- Amplify the Peace Corps community's global social impact