



Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose



MOROCCO: GNAWA WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

Immerse yourself in the hypnotic "rhythm of the world"



MOMENTS THAT MATTER:

- Experience an intimate, private concert with a Gnawa master in a small venue
- Work with a master artisan in carving a guembri, the iconic wood and camel-skin lute
- Explore coastal Essaouria and the historic medinas of Marrakech
- Join local women at an argan oil cooperative to learn the traditional extraction process
- Master the intricate flavors of Moroccan cuisine in a hands-on cooking class



TRIP AT A GLANCE

Day 1 - Arrive in Marrakech and soak in the vibrant atmosphere of the medina before a relaxing welcome dinner.

Day 2 - Meet Gnawa musicians and a guembri maker before traveling the scenic route to coastal Essaouira. Explore the festival in the evening.

Day 3 - Explore Essaouira's UNESCO-listed medina and visit a women's argan oil cooperative before settling into the festival in the evening.

Day 4 - Participate in rhythmic dance and percussion workshops before an evening of performances during the festival.

Day 5 - Witness life at Essaouira's iconic port and enjoy the festival finale in the evening.

Day 6 - Return to Marrakech with an afternoon at leisure to explore hidden souks or a local hammam.

Day 7 - Journey through the historic heart of Marrakech on a guided tour and share a traditional lunch with a local host family.

Day 8 - Learn the art of Moroccan cooking and enjoy a celebratory farewell dinner.

Day 9 - Enjoy a final breakfast in the city before departing for your onward journey.



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OUR PURPOSE

This journey is an invitation to step behind the curtain of the Gnawa Music Festival to experience music as a living, breathing spiritual practice. Rather than simply attending a concert, you are immersed in the "rhythm of the world"—a tradition that blends African spirit, Sufi mysticism, and Moroccan folklore. Our purpose is to provide a bridge to the master musicians and artisans whose lives are dedicated to preserving this heritage, offering a depth of connection that standard itineraries cannot replicate.

Beyond the music, this itinerary is rooted in community empowerment. From the coastal calm of Essaouira to the bustling souks of Marrakech, engage with women's cooperatives that are revitalizing ancient argan oil traditions and participate in workshops that sustain local artisan crafts. Your presence throughout supports the social and economic fabric of Morocco. This is travel with intention: a curated exploration where every encounter is an opportunity to listen, learn, and contribute to the enduring soul of the community.



HIGHLIGHTS



THE INTIMACY OF THE GNAWA MASTER

While the festival's main stages pulse with thousands, we take you into a private, small-audience setting for an exclusive performance by a Gnaoua master. This session is designed for deep listening and emotional connection, allowing you to feel the hypnotic bass of the guembri and the metallic pulse of the krakebs just as they were used in ancient healing ceremonies.



ARTISTRY OF THE GUEMBRI

You will step into the private workshop of a master guembri maker to witness the alchemy of Moroccan craft. Working alongside the artisan, you will learn how wood and camel skin are transformed into the sacred "soul" of Gnaoua music, gaining a profound appreciation for the skill and patience required to keep this living legacy alive.



THE WOMEN OF THE ARGAN COOPERATIVE

We journey to a rural women's cooperative to see how "liquid gold"—argan oil—is produced through traditional extraction. This highlight is a window into the lives of the women who are driving sustainable change in their communities, offering a chance to sample authentic products and support their path toward economic independence.



MARRAKECH: A FAMILY WELCOME

We move beyond the tourist trails of the medina to sit down for an intimate lunch with a local Marrakech host family. This experience offers a genuine taste of Moroccan hospitality, where home-cooked flavors and personal stories provide a deeper understanding of the daily rhythms and values that define life in the heart of the city.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Welcome to the Red City!

Your journey begins in the vibrant city of Marrakech. After settling-in to your boutique riad in the heart of the city, the evening is yours to soak in the colors and scents of the medina. We'll gather for a Welcome Dinner in a traditional setting, where the city's festive hum serves as the backdrop for our first taste of Morocco's renowned cuisine. *(D)*

DAY 2: The Heartbeat of the Medina

After a relaxing breakfast, start the day with a rare look into the lives of those who sustain Gnawa culture. Meet a father-and-son musical duo who will share their history and the spiritual significance of their craft. After lunch, we'll visit a local guembri maker's workshop before taking a scenic drive toward the coast, settling into the rhythmic atmosphere of Essaouira just as the festival begins. *(B,L,D)*

DAY 3: Coastal Traditions & UNESCO Wonders

Today, explore the whitewashed streets and Portuguese ramparts of Essaouira's UNESCO-listed medina. Along the way, we'll connect with the women of a local argan cooperative to witness the traditional craft of oil extraction and sample some of their products. As night falls, we'll transition from the electric energy of the festival streets to a small, private venue for an intimate concert with a local Gnawa master. *(B,L)*

DAY 4: Rhythms of Movement & Sound

Immerse yourself in the physical spirit of Gnawa with a hands-on dance and percussion workshop led by local artists. Learn to manage the krakebs (metallic castanets) and understand the complex rhythms that drive the music. The day culminates with the Gnawa Festival's open-air performances. We'll close the evening with a private, small-audience show that offers a deeper connection to the music and its traditions. *(B,L)*

DAY 5: Essaouira's Port & Festival Finale

Stroll through the bustling fishing port of Essaouira to see the iconic blue boats and the day's fresh catch on a guided morning tour. After lunch together, enjoy a free afternoon in the medina shopping or relaxing at one of the many cafes that line the sidewalk. In the evening, we'll immerse ourselves in the festival's closing performances for a final, magical farewell to the coast. *(B,L)*





DAY 6: Return to the Heart of Marrakech

Travel back to Marrakech and settle into your riad. The afternoon is yours to unwind at your own pace—perhaps with a visit to a local garden café or a restorative session at a traditional hammam. We'll gather in the evening to share stories from our time on the coast as the city's energy begins to take hold again. *(B,L,D)*



DAY 7: Imperial Splendor and Traditional Hospitality

Spend the morning on a guided walking tour of Marrakech's architectural treasures, including the Ben Youssef Madrasa and Bahia Palace. We'll then step away from the crowds for a special lunch with a local host family, enjoying authentic Moroccan hospitality in a private home setting. The evening is free to explore the storytellers and musicians of Jemaa el-Fnaa. *(B,L)*



DAY 8: Culinary Mastery and Farewell

Discover the secrets of Moroccan cuisine with a hands-on cooking class. We'll visit the local market to source fresh ingredients before learning to prepare iconic dishes like tagine. Your final day includes time for last-minute medina treasures before we come together for a celebratory Farewell Dinner together. *(B,D)*

DAY 9: B'slama Morocco

After a final breakfast, we'll arrange your transfer to Marrakech Menara Airport. You depart not just with memories of a festival, but with the hypnotic rhythms and enduring spirit of cultural connection. *(B)*

PREMIER LODGING

Throughout this journey, we have selected a portfolio of premier, 5-star lodging that embody the refined elegance of Morocco. In Marrakech, you will stay at the exquisite **Palais Sebban**, a historic riad that offers a tranquil escape in the heart of the medina.

In Essaouira, your home is the legendary **Heure Bleue Palais**, a member of Relais & Châteaux that combines coastal charm with world-class comfort. These properties are not just places to rest; they are immersive cultural landmarks that provide the perfect sanctuary to reflect on the day's experiences.

**Please note exact hotels may change but will all be in the 5-star boutique range*



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9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

PRICING

ADULT: \$6,395

CHILD: \$5,995

There is an additional single room supplement fee of \$1,350 per person. This will guarantee you your own, single occupancy room for the entirety of the trip. 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. See full details on the website page for the trip.

SEE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT FESTIVAL DATES

RECOMMENDED FOR

- Adults & children ages 13+
- Travelers who are comfortable with MODERATE physical activity

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 16 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at info@discovercorps.com

CUSTOM / PRIVATE GROUPS

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 8 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 4 dinners
- 8 nights in 5-star boutique hotel lodging in Marrakech and Essaouria
- Transportation in private vehicles with experienced drivers
- An immersive itinerary including VIP tickets to the Gnawa Music Festival
- Full-time Discover Corps Guide that is there to support and inform you throughout the trip
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Trip literature and pre-departure support from Discover Corps
- 24-hour Discover Corps emergency hotline while traveling

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Tips for the Discover Corps Guide and Driver
- 2 lunches & 4 dinners
- International airfare
- Alcoholic beverages

RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

PAYMENT PLANS

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.



Our Mission

Discover Corps' mission is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.



OUR DESTINATIONS

ALASKA	JAMAICA
AUSTRALIA	JAPAN
BALI	KENYA
BAJA	MOROCCO
BHUTAN	OAXACA
CHILE	PERU
COSTA RICA	SOUTH AFRICA
CUBA	TANZANIA
EGYPT	THAILAND
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	UGANDA
GREECE	VIETNAM
GUATEMALA	



FAMILY FRIENDLY ~ SMALL GROUPS ~ POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT ~ DISTINCTIVE LODGING ~ HANDPICKED GUIDES



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