



MAGIC MOROCCO

2026 YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEY



EXPLORER

US Departure Date: **August 29, 2026**
Marrakesh Land Tour Start Date: **August 30, 2026**
Casablanca Return Date: **September 8, 2026**

Land package from: **\$3598**

Visit our website www.aesu.com/umich for more details and to book.



START YOUR ADVENTURE

Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow University of Michigan young alumni?

The University of Michigan Alumni Association young alumni travel program, designed for recent grads ages 22 – 35, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning, enrichment and enjoying a connection back to University of Michigan. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 48 years of experience in the young travel market.

In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator, AESU Alumni World Travel, by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com.

To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/umich and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rachele Neu'.

RACHELE NEU B.S. '08, M.A. '12
Senior Travel Program Manager
Alumni Association of the University of Michigan
alumnitravel@umich.edu

The Young Alumni Travel Program is a benefit to current members of the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan. To join the Alumni Association, please visit
<https://alumni.umich.edu/membership/>

We strongly recommend that you protect yourself from anything that may occur on your trip by purchasing travel insurance through our partnership with Trawick.:
<https://alumni.trawickinternational.com/school/welcome/677/>

MAGIC MOROCCO

Morocco is the ultimate destination for adventure and culture. In Marrakesh, lose yourself in the lively souks, vibrant nightlife, and stunning palaces. In Fez, step back in time as you explore the ancient medina, filled with hidden gems. Trek through the awe-inspiring Atlas Mountains, where epic views and fresh air rejuvenate the soul. Cap off your journey with a night in the Sahara Desert, riding camels and sleeping under the stars—a once-in-a-lifetime experience you'll never forget.

11-DAY TOUR OF MARRAKESH, DADES VALLEY, MERZOUGA SAHARA DESERT CAMP, FEZ, CHEFCHAOUEN, RABAT, AND CASABLANCA

Transportation and Lodging

- 9 nights in 4-star hotels, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
 - Marrakesh: 3 nights
 - Dades Valley: 1 night
 - Desert Camp: 1 night
 - Fez: 2 nights
 - Chefchaouen: 1 night
 - Casablanca: 1 night
- All transportation by private motor coach or van as per itinerary
- Airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare

Meals

- 9 continental breakfasts
- 6 specialty dinners including:
 - Moroccan welcome dinner in Marrakesh
 - Moroccan dinner show Marrakesh
 - Dades Valley dinner
 - Sahara Desert camp dinner
 - Fez dinner of local specialties
 - Casablanca farewell dinner
- 2 lunches
 - Marrakesh lunch
 - Rabat lunch

Activities & Admissions

- **Marrakesh:** Badi & Bahia Palace | Saadian Tombs | Jemaa el Fna | Medersa Ben Youssef Marrakesh | Jardin Majorelle | Guided visit of Ait Ben Hadou, UNESCO World Heritage Site | Guided visit of Ouarzazate City, incl. Taourirt Kabash and Atlas Studio visit | Sunset camel ride in the Merzouga Desert | Overnight at luxury Berber Camp
- **Fez:** Gate of Fez | Bou Inania Madrasa | Andalusian Quarter | Fez el-Bali | El Glaoui Palace | Palais el Mokri | Dar Batha Museum | Marinid Tombs
- **Rabat:** Hassan Tower | Bab Challah | Mausoleum of Mohammed V | One of the main gates of the Royal Palace | Ouda Kabsh | Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca

Sights

Atlas Mountains | Marrakesh palaces and tombs | Marrakesh Souks of Medina | Tizi-N-Tichka pass | Berber villages | Sahara Desert | Rose Valley | Dades Valley and Gorges | Ouarzazate, UNESCO World Heritage Site | Ait Ben Hadou, UNESCO World Heritage Site | Fez Medina | Fez palaces and tombs | Morocco's iconic Blue City of Chefchaouen | Rabat city sights | Casablanca city sights

PLUS

- Private tour director for the entire duration of the land tour
- All service charges and local taxes

Optional Activities (not included in land package price):

- Tagine cooking class in Marrakesh
- Hammam Spa visit in Marrakesh



EXPERIENCES

This trip has been carefully designed for young travelers and features fantastic inclusions and highlights. For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: www.aesu.com/aspects-awt



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE/ACTIVE

This trip features a full and active itinerary sometimes at a fast pace and offers activities with higher intensity. For more details, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>



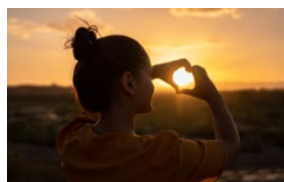
HOTELS

Hotels are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$625 applies. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged the single supplement will apply.



MAGIC MOROCCO ITINERARY

- DAY 1 FLIGHT TO MOROCCO**
 Let the adventure begin as you board your overnight flight to Marrakesh.
Meals: In-flight
- DAY 2 LAND TOUR START DAY: MARRAKESH**
 Welcome to Marrakesh! Transfer to the hotel in Marrakesh city, then get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant souks, stunning palaces, and unforgettable atmosphere of this magical city. Tonight, join us for a Moroccan welcome dinner at a local restaurant.
Meals: In-flight | Dinner
Inclusions: Private airport transfer with purchased AESU group airfare (includes meet and greet in arrival hall and assistance with luggage) | Moroccan welcome dinner at a local restaurant
- DAY 3 MARRAKESH**
 After breakfast we start exploring Marrakesh, the 'Red City of Morocco,' with our local English-speaking expert. Marrakesh was an important trading point for tribes of the Atlas Mountains and has Berber roots. The old red sandstone walls gave the city its nickname. We visit important historical and cultural sites, such as the Majorelle Gardens, the Koutoubia Tower, the Saadian tombs, the Bahia Palace and main square place Ljamaa Lfna. After lunch at a restaurant near the square, we continue our walk through the souks, a sensory overload filled with vibrant colors, captivating scents, and the lively buzz of haggling merchants. During free time continue exploring the medina, visit stunning palaces, wander souks, relax in tranquil gardens, and experience the bustling atmosphere of Jemaa el-Fnaa square. Check out Souk el Attarin, Souk Chouari, and Souk Smata for a selection of spices, woodwork, and babouche (traditional Moroccan slippers). Visit Souk of Tanneries or the dyers' souk to see how cloth and yarn are dyed using traditional methods, or admire the fine example of Moroccan Islamic architecture of the Ben Youssef Madrasa, a 16th-century Koranic school with its carved cedar ceilings, sculpted plaster, and zellij tiling. Tonight, immerse yourself in the magic of a Moroccan Fantasia Show, an electrifying adventure in the Marrakesh Palmeraie. Upon arrival at the iconic Chez Ali complex, we will be welcomed into an authentic Caidal tent. Prepare for an unforgettable night filled with exotic belly dancing, fearless fire eaters, and thrilling acrobats. Enjoy a feast of traditional Moroccan dishes, including harira soup, tender mechoui (slow-roasted lamb), couscous with fresh vegetables, and a selection of Moroccan pastries, all served by waitstaff in vibrant tribal attire. As the night unfolds, marvel at spectacular horseback stunts, folklore troupes dancing and singing, and a dazzling fireworks display that lights up the sky, making this an evening to remember.
Meals: Breakfast | Lunch at a local restaurant near the square | Moroccan dinner show Fantasia Chez Ali
Inclusions: Tour of Marrakesh, guided by a local English-speaking expert
Sights include: Badi Palace (admission included) | Saadian Tombs | Bahia Palace (admission included) | Jemaa el Fna | Medersa Ben Youssef Marrakesh | Koutoubia Mosque | Jardin Majorelle (admission included)



DAY 4

MARRAKESH

Today is your chance to explore more of Morocco's magic at your leisure. You can also choose from two optional activities to enhance your experience. Indulge in the ultimate luxury with a Moroccan hammam spa visit: relax in lavish steam rooms, delight in revitalizing scrubs, and enjoy soothing massages in a serene setting. Alternatively, if you're a food enthusiast, dive into Moroccan cuisine with a local chef during a tagine cooking class. Begin with a market tour to select fresh produce and learn about traditional herbs and spices. Then, get hands-on in the kitchen to create an appetizer, main course, and dessert, all while receiving guidance from an expert chef. Conclude with a delicious 3-course meal, with menu adaptations available for dietary restrictions.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Free day in Marrakesh

Optional activities: Hammam Spa experience | Tagine cooking class including ingredient shopping at local market and dinner

DAY 5

MARRAKESH – AIT BEN HADOU – OUARZAZATE - DADES

Today, we embark on a journey through the Tizi-N-Tichka pass in the Atlas Mountains, where breathtaking landscapes await. Our first stop is a charming Berber village for a delightful breakfast before we continue our ascent to the highest point of the Atlas Mountains. We arrive at Ait Ben Hadou, where a local guide will share the rich history of this remarkable site. It is renowned for its well-preserved adobe architecture and its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, showcasing the quintessential design of Moroccan earthen fortifications and traditional ksars. After free time for lunch, we'll head to Ouarzazate, known as the "Gateway to the Sahara." This area is famed for its stunning desert vistas, historic kasbahs, and its role as a popular film location, earning it the nickname "Hollywood of Morocco." Our journey continues through Rose Valley and Skoura Palm Grove before reaching the Dades Valley and Gorges, where we spend the night in a traditional Moroccan hotel nestled in the heart of the gorges.

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner

Inclusions: Private transfer with local English-speaking guide | Atlas Mountain views | Tizi-N-Tichka pass | Breakfast at Berber village en route | Guided visit of Ait Ben Hadou, UNESCO World Heritage Site | Guided visit of Ouarzazate City, incl Taourirt Kabash and Atlas Studio visit | Scenic drive through the Rose Valley, Skoura Palm Grove | Dades Valley and Dades Gorges

DAY 6

DADES VALLEY - SAHARA DESERT CAMP MERZOUGA

Our journey takes us on the road of 1000 Kasbahs around the colorful Berber villages of Dades Valley. We stop at the picturesque oasis of Tineghir known for its stunning natural beauty and celebrated for its lush palm groves, traditional Berber architecture, and vibrant local culture. Tineghir's Jewish quarter, known as the "Mellah," reflects the once-thriving Jewish community that lived here and contributed to its cultural and economic life. Next, we head to the Erg Chebbi dunes in the Merzouga Sahara Desert. Enjoy free time for lunch en route to Erfoud. Upon arrival, set off on a mesmerizing camel ride at sunset, gliding through the golden sands to an enchanting oasis where our luxurious camp awaits. Spend the night beneath a blanket of stars in a traditional bivouac or cozy up inside elegant nomadic tents, immersing yourself in the magic of the Sahara. Join the camel drivers for some drumming and savor a delicious dinner before spending the night in the heart of the Merzouga Sahara Desert.

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner

Inclusions: Private transfer with local English-speaking guide | Stop en route in Tineghir for lunch on own | Sunset camel ride in the Merzouga Desert (Optional 4x4 Jeep ride) | Overnight at luxury Camp | Dades Valley and Dades Gorges | Overnight at the Azawad Luxury Desert Camp in the Sahara Desert (or similar) | Jeep 4x4 will transfer luggage to camp / option to drive in Jeep vs. riding camel

DAY 7

SAHARA DESERT – MIDELT - FEZ

Rise early to witness what may be the most breathtaking sunrise of your life. As the sun rises, it casts a golden glow over the majestic Erg Chebbi sand dunes, creating a spectacular and unforgettable display of light and color. We return to camp for breakfast before embarking on a peaceful camel trek back to Merzouga. Here, we visit the village of El Khamlia and listen to the soulful rhythms of traditional Gnawa music. Though today's journey will be long, the captivating stops along the way make it well worth the trip. Our first highlight is the stunning Ziz Valley, known for its polyculture, where lush palm trees grow alongside fruit orchards, cumin fields, grains, alfalfa, and vegetables. It's an agricultural paradise amidst the desert. Stretch your legs and enjoy some free time for lunch in the charming town of Midelt, nestled between the Atlas Mountains and the Sahara Desert. As we continue, we pass through the majestic Cedar Forest, home to ancient trees and curious Barbary macaques, before heading through the scenic town of Ifrane, often called "Little Switzerland" for its Alpine-style architecture, before finally arriving in the vibrant city of Fez.

Savor a delicious dinner of local specialties before retreating to your hotel for a well-deserved night of restful relaxation.

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner

Inclusions: Private transfer with local English-speaking guide | Sunrise watch in the Sahara Desert | Jeep 4x4 transfer to Merzouga | Midelt stop with free time for lunch(local foods) and walk around village | Welcome to Fez dinner

DAY 8

FEZ

After breakfast, we take an exciting journey through Morocco's oldest and most culturally rich city, Fez, often hailed as the cultural capital of the country. Our guide will take you deep into the heart of its ancient Medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we wander through narrow alleys, bustling souks, and hidden gems that echo with centuries of history. Visit the stunning Royal Palace gates, the iconic Blue Gate, or Bab Boujloud, which marks the entrance to the Medina, then explore the Jewish Quarter, or Mellah, the very first of its kind in Morocco, dating back to the 14th century. Along the way, we encounter some of the city's most remarkable landmarks, including the world-renowned Al-Qarawiyyin University, recognized as the oldest continuously operating university in the world. We stop by the fascinating Chouara Tanneries, where leather is still dyed using traditional methods, and the sacred Moulay Idriss Mausoleum, honoring the founder of Fez. After free time for lunch, we visit a local tiles cooperative to see skilled artisans at work, crafting the intricate zellige tiles that Fez is famous for. Finally, cap off the day with a stunning panoramic view of the entire Medina, offering a breathtaking perspective on this ancient and vibrant city. Enjoy a free evening to explore Fez with fellow travelers.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Sightseeing tour of Fez with local English-speaking guide

Visits include: Gate of Fez (Bab Bou Jeloud) | Bou Inania Madrasa | Andalusian Quarter | Fez el-Bali | El Glaoui Palace | Palais el Mokri | Dar Batha Museum | Marinid Tombs

DAY 9

FEZ – CHEFCHAOUEN

After breakfast in Fez, we continue our journey to one of Morocco's most Instagrammable destinations.

Welcome to the breathtaking Blue City, Chefchaouen. Nestled in the stunning Rif Mountains, this picture-perfect town is known for its vibrant shades of blue that cover the walls of its ancient medina. Every corner offers a dreamy backdrop for selfies and snapshots that will make your social feed pop. As we explore the steep cobble streets, we discover charming leather and weaving workshops, where artisans handcraft unique goods. In the heart of the city lies Outa el Hammam, a shaded central square home to the red-walled kasbah, a 15th-century fortress featuring ethnographic and artistic exhibitions. Nearby, the octagonal minaret of the Great Mosque towers over the medina, adding to the city's enchanting charm. Chefchaouen is not just about its beauty; it's also a blend of rich history and cool vibes, making it the ultimate destination for culture lovers and selfie seekers alike. Get ready to capture the magic of Morocco's iconic Blue City. This is your day to enjoy however you wish!

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Private transfer to Chefchaouen with local English-speaking guide | Free time to explore the Blue City of Chefchaouen on your own

DAY 10

CHEFCHAOUEN – RABAT - CASABLANCA

Before reaching our final destination, Casablanca, we explore Morocco's captivating capital, Rabat. Visit Hassan Tower, an unfinished minaret that dates back to the 12th century, standing as a symbol of Rabat's ancient grandeur and Bab Chellah, the impressive gate leading to the ruins of the Roman city of Sala Colonia and a medieval necropolis. See the stunning Mausoleum of Mohammed V, the final resting place of the beloved king, beautifully adorned with intricate Moroccan craftsmanship, then get a glimpse at one of the grand gates of the Royal Palace, home to the reigning monarchy. Before lunch, we explore the charming Oudaya Kasbah, a picturesque fortress offering stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean, where narrow streets lined with blue-and-white houses create the perfect photo opportunity. Upon arrival in Casablanca, prepare to be awed by the iconic Hassan II Mosque, the largest mosque in Morocco, perched dramatically on the coast with its towering minaret rising 210 meters, the tallest in the world. As the day winds down, enjoy free time to stroll along the beach, and enjoy the refreshing ocean breeze. For our farewell dinner, we'll enjoy a delicious meal at a local restaurant, savoring authentic Moroccan flavors. Afterward, why not stop by Rick's Café, a charming bar designed to recreate the atmosphere of the iconic café from the classic 1942 film Casablanca? While the original was a Hollywood set, Rick's Café, opened in 2004 in a traditional Moroccan mansion near the old medina and port, brings the magic to life.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Inclusions: Private transfer to Casablanca via Rabat with local English-speaking guide | Guided visit of Rabat with local English-speaking guide | Casablanca farewell dinner

Sights include: Hassan Tower | Bab Chellah | Mausoleum of Mohammed V | One of the main gates of the Royal Palace | Oudaya Kasbah | Lunch at a local restaurant in Rabat | Hassan II, largest mosque in Casablanca (admission included)

Guided visit of Casablanca with local English-speaking guide

DAY 11

TRAVEL HOME

All great adventures must come to an end. As we say goodbye to Morocco, we leave with cherished memories, a promise to return to our favorite spots, and plans to reunite with the new friends we've made along the way.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Airport transfer included with purchased AESU group airfare

“ THIS WAS THE BEST VACATION. I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME AND MADE LIFELONG FRIENDS WHICH MADE IT EVEN BETTER. ”

TOUR DIRECTORS

Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel. Show the tour director and driver your appreciation with a tip. We suggest \$6-7 per person/per day for your tour director and \$4 per person/per day for your driver. To learn more visit www.aesu.com/tour-directors

By booking your trip with AESU, you are agreeing to all the terms and conditions as outlined on our website: www.aesu.com/terms-conditions-awt/