

7-Day Marrakech Itinerary: Souks, Sunrise Balloons & Desert Camps

Marrakech is having a moment for 2026, and it earns it — a walled medina of palaces and souks, snow-capped Atlas peaks less than an hour away, and a stretch of stony desert close enough for a sunset dinner under the stars. This itinerary stays put in one city instead of racing across the country, going deep on the medina, the mountains, and the desert on its doorstep.

DURATION

7 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

March – May & Sept – Nov

mild days, cool nights

FROM

\$1,590 USD / person

for 2 people, double occupancy

Day 1

Arrive in Marrakech, Settle into the Medina

Land at Marrakech Menara Airport (RAK) and head straight into the walled medina — riads sit down car-free lanes, so budget a few extra minutes for a porter to walk you in from where the car stops.

Private Airport Transfer — Marrakech Menara (RAK) to the Medina

~20 minutes · About \$30 USD for 2 people

A fixed-price private transfer skips the haggling with taxi drivers outside arrivals and drops you as close to your riad's door as the medina's alleys allow.

Marrakech Airport Transfer · marrakechairporttransfer.com

Overnight — Riad Yasmine

From \$185–205 USD / night, for 2 people

A four-star riad built around a green-and-white tiled courtyard and small plunge pool, a few minutes' walk from the Ben Youssef Madrasa and just over a kilometer from Jemaa el-Fnaa.

Riad Yasmine riad-yasmine.com · +212 524 377 012

Dinner at Jemaa el-Fnaa

Est. \$10–20 USD / person

On your own — the square's food stalls fire up at dusk with grilled meats, snail soup, and fresh orange juice carts. Pick

Day 2

Medina Palaces, Souks & a Rooftop Lunch

A full day inside the walls — the ochre grandeur of two 19th-century palaces, then losing an hour or three in the souks between them.

Bahia Palace & Saadian Tombs

~2 hours · About \$18 USD / person (combined admission)

A 19th-century vizier's palace of carved cedar ceilings and zellige tilework, paired with the royal tombs sealed up for nearly 200 years until their rediscovery in 1917. Go early to beat the tour groups funneling in from the souks.

Guided Souk & Artisan Walk

~3 hours · About \$45 USD / person

A local guide threads the dye souk, the babouche-slipper makers, and the metalwork lanes around Place Rahba Lakdima, with enough context to actually understand what you're bargaining for once you're on your own.

GetYourGuide · getyourguide.com

Lunch at Nomad

Est. \$20–30 USD / person

A modern Moroccan rooftop overlooking the spice souk — book ahead for a terrace table at lunch, when the light over the medina rooftops is best.

Nomad · nomadmarrakech.com

Overnight — Riad Yasmine

From \$185–205 USD / night, for 2 people

Second night at the same riad.

Riad Yasmine · riad-yasmine.com

Day 3

Jardin Majorelle & a Moroccan Cooking Class

Cobalt-blue gardens in the morning, hands in a tagine by the afternoon — a full-immersion day for anyone who wants to bring a bit of Marrakech home in the suitcase.

Jardin Majorelle & Musée YSL

~2 hours · About \$26 USD / person (combined ticket)

A cobalt-blue villa and cactus garden created by French painter Jacques Majorelle, later restored by Yves Saint Laurent, paired with the adjacent museum of his fashion work. Book timed entry online — daily capacity is limited.

Jardin Majorelle · jardinmajorelle.com

Moroccan Cooking Workshop — La Maison Arabe

~4 hours (market + class + lunch) · About \$105 USD / person

Marrakech's original cooking school, running since the 1940s — a market visit for spices and produce, then a hands-on class making tagine, salads, and pastilla in a dedicated teaching kitchen, followed by the meal you cooked.

La Maison Arabe lamaisonarabe.com · +212 524 387 010

Overnight — Riad Yasmine

From \$185–205 USD / night, for 2 people

Third night at the same riad.

Riad Yasmine · riad-yasmine.com

Day 4

Atlas Mountains Day Trip to Imlil

An hour outside Marrakech, the flat medina gives way to the snow-capped High Atlas — a full day trading souks for Berber villages and mountain air.

Atlas Mountains & Imlil Valley Day Trip

~8 hours · About \$65 USD / person, lunch included

A driver-guide takes you up through Berber villages and walnut groves to Imlil, the trailhead village below Mount Toubkal, with a valley walk past waterfalls and terraced fields and a traditional lunch in a local home.

Marrakech Desert Trips · marrakech-desert-trips.com

Overnight — Riad Yasmine

From \$185–205 USD / night, for 2 people

Fourth and final night here — check out is the next morning.

Riad Yasmine · riad-yasmine.com

Day 5

Sunrise Balloon & the Agafay Desert

Up before dawn for the day's first stop, then out of the medina entirely — this is the day the itinerary trades tiled courtyards for a tent under a very large sky.

Sunrise Hot Air Balloon over the Palmeraie

~4.5 hours total (1 hour flight) · About \$195 USD / person, hotel pickup & breakfast included

A pre-dawn pickup, an hour aloft over palm groves and Berber villages with the Atlas Mountains on the horizon, then a Berber breakfast on landing. Operating since 1997 — one of the original hot air balloon companies in Marrakech.

Ciel d'Afrique cieldafrique.info · +212 524 432 843

Transfer — Marrakech to the Agafay Desert

~45 minutes · About \$55 USD for 2 people

A short drive southwest of the city into the stony, moon-like Agafay desert — no sand dunes here, but the same wide-open desert sky, well under an hour from the medina.

Overnight — Scarabeo Camp, Agafay Desert

From \$260–320 USD / night, for 2 people, dinner & breakfast included

A luxury tented camp on the edge of the Agafay plateau, with private en-suite tents, a communal dinner under the stars, and Atlas Mountain views at sunrise.

Scarabeo Camp · scarabeocamp.com

Day 6

Desert Morning, Hammam & a Final Night in Style

A quiet desert morning, then back into the city for the two things every Marrakech trip should end with — a proper hammam and a night at one of the world's most storied hotels.

Camel Ride & Quad Biking, Agafay

~1.5 hours · About \$40 USD / person

An optional add-on before checkout — a camel ride across the plateau or a quad bike run through the dry riverbeds, both easily arranged at the camp desk.

Traditional Hammam & Massage — Les Bains de Marrakech

~1.5 hours · About \$95 USD / person

A black-soap scrub and steam in a tiled hammam followed by a massage — the traditional reset before a night out, in a quieter, more private setting than the medina's public bathhouses.

Les Bains de Marrakech lesbainsdemarrakech.com · +212 524 381 428

Overnight — La Mamounia

From \$650–750 USD / night, for 2 people

The grande dame of Marrakech hotels since 1923, set in eight hectares of gardens just inside the medina walls — worth the splurge for the last night, even just for a walk through the gardens at dusk.

La Mamounia mamounia.com · +212 524 388 600

Day 7

Depart from Marrakech Menara Airport (RAK)

Last stretch of the trip — a slow morning in the medina, then a short transfer back out to the airport for the flight home.

Last-Minute Souvenir Stop in the Souks

~1 hour · Budget varies

On your own — a final pass through the souks near the riad for olive-wood boxes, ceramics, or a last round of mint tea before checkout.

Private Transfer — La Mamounia to Marrakech Menara Airport (RAK)

~20 minutes · About \$30 USD for 2 people

The hotel concierge can arrange this directly, or book ahead with the same transfer company from Day 1.

Marrakech Airport Transfer · marrakechairporttransfer.com

