

Discover Portugal & Morocco Itinerary

Day 1 / Sunday 6th September 2020

Bathurst – Sydney – Doha

- Lisbon

Meet and depart BVIC 09.30am & travel to Sydney for our departure at 15:45 on Qatar Airlines QR907. Flying via Doha to Lisbon

Day 2 / Monday 7th September 2020

Lisbon

Meals included: Dinner

Arrive Lisbon 07:25am, we will be met by a Peregrine representative and transferred to your hotel where we have early check-in booked. The rest of the day is free to self-explore or relax and get over the long flight. Portugal's vibrant capital, one of Europe's most pleasant capital cities, Lisbon combines the best elements of Portuguese life, offering fantastic architecture, a multicultural population, delicious seafood and non-stop nightlife. At 6pm we will meet with our Peregrine leader who will give us a briefing and take us for an included welcome dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel My Story Tejo or similar



Day 3 / Tuesday 8th September 2020

Lisbon

Meals included: Breakfast

Today you'll explore the treasures of Lisbon, which is located on the banks of the Tagus (Tejo) River and is truly one of Europe's great cities. Much of Lisbon's character and charm lies in its beautiful renovated buildings, grand boulevards and impressive castles and churches. We will visit one of the most symbolic buildings in the city, Lisbon Cathedral, which was built on the site of an old mosque in 1150 by Lisbon's first bishop, Gilbert of Hastings. Inside are nine chapels, each with their own story to tell, and the wonderful Gothic cloister.

After the guided tour you will have time to visit the medieval citadel of Sao Jorge Castle at your own pace. The citadel dates back to Moorish times and sits on the highest point of the Old Town. Although much of the original castle has been destroyed throughout history, some sections of walls and 18 different towers remain today. Look down on a city swarming with endless angular white houses and buildings with distinct red terracotta rooftops. The afternoon is free to make further discoveries of Lisbon - roam through the charming narrow streets of local neighborhoods and see local life play out, visit Belem Tower (a wonderful building originally designed as a lighthouse) and the vast, spectacular Monastery of the Jeronimos.

Accommodation: Hotel My Story Tejo or similar

Day 4 / Wednesday 9th September 2020

Lisbon

Meals included: Breakfast, Guided food tasting tour

Enjoy a free morning at leisure. In the afternoon we will go on a guided food tasting tour, which will introduce you to the Portuguese cuisine. Learn about their strong café-culture, see the dried and salted Bacalhau, Portuguese sausages, hams and cheeses. Get the true local experience of sipping Ginginha and learn the meaning of "With or without?" The most beloved snack in Lisbon is known all over the country as Bifana and is best paired up with a draft beer, but the Portuguese also have several different types of wine on offer; white, red and green.

Accommodation: Hotel My Story Tejo or similar



Day 5 / Thursday 10th September 2020

Lisbon

Meals included: Breakfast

Travel outside of the city today for a full-day excursion from Lisbon. First to Sintra, which is an absolute jewel of Portugal. This bewitching place, with its fairytale atmosphere, is set amidst lush vegetation and rugged, mystical hills. The cooler climes made it a summer retreat for royalty, and it has drawn and inspired many poets, writers and travellers for centuries, including Lord Byron. Spend some time here exploring Sintra's Pena Palace and Gardens. The views across the Serra de Sintra mountain range are stunning. Then we continue to Cabo da Rocha, a cape which forms the westernmost extent of mainland Portugal and continental Europe. After the colourful Bay of Cascais and its dazzling beaches, stop in cosmopolitan Cascais. Once a quiet fishing village, later Cascais became a residence of the Portuguese royal court in the 19th century and is now a glamorous holiday destination of designer boutiques and upscale restaurants. During our free time here, why not sit down in one of the little restaurants and try some local delicacies? On the drive back to Lisbon along the coast in the afternoon, see a different perspective of the capital as you approach it from the other side of the Tagus River. After a great full day of sights, enjoy this evening at your leisure in Lisbon.

Accommodation: Hotel My Story Tejo or similar

Day 6 / Friday 11th September 2020**Coimbra****Meals included:** Breakfast

This morning, farewell Lisbon and travel to the impressive Monastery of Batalha (approximately 2 hours), one of Europe's best examples of Gothic architecture. A World Heritage-listed structure, this monastery was built to celebrate Portugal's 1385 victory over the Castilians at the Battle of Aljubarrota. Your destination for today, and base for the evening, is the university city of Coimbra (approximately 1.5 hours). Sitting dignified on the banks of the River Mondego, Coimbra was once the capital of the county, and its royal heritage can be felt in its ancient streets and buildings. Join our tour leader on a wander through the lanes and squares of the Old Quarter and University of Coimbra – the oldest in Portugal. This evening, regroup and experience more of Portugal's cultural heritage with an evening that includes traditional 'Fado' music show. Tonight's dinner is at your own expense.

Accommodation: Hotel Vila Gale Coimbra or similar**Day 7 / Saturday 12th September 2020****Porto****Meals included:** Breakfast, Guided food tasting tour

Leaving Coimbra today, travel northbound to Portugal's second largest city, Porto (Oporto), the capital of the north that sits between the River Douro and the Atlantic Ocean (approximately 1.5 hours). This will be your base for the next four nights. The World Heritage-listed Ribeira district is filled with a collection of twisting alleys, criss-crossing staircases and baroque churches. On a guided tour, discover one of Portugal's most romantic cities. Passing majestic bridges, medieval riverside district with cobbled streets, merchants' houses and cafes, stop by the cathedral, the Tower of Clérigos, and the impressive hall of Porto's Sao Bento Railway Station. The tower offers

sensational sweeping views across the whole city, while the grand train station and its historic entrance hall panels evokes a more refined age of rail travel. On our exploration today we will also discover lesser known parts of the city; in fact known well, but only to the local people and experts. We'll go under the skin of this beautiful city by tasting some of the best coffee and pastry in town, in small, classic cafes, enjoying best local Port wine in cosy local taverns and sampling some of the local specialities like codfish and the Francesinha. You can spend the evening soaking up the atmosphere of this coastal strolling along the riverside or observing local life in action from one of many rooftop bars.

Accommodation: Hotel Vila Gale Ribeira or similar**Day 8 / Sunday 13th September 2020****Porto****Meals included:** Breakfast

Today you will journey outside of Porto to Guimarães (approximately 1 hour). Portugal's first capital and the birthplace of the country's first king (the 'conqueror', which gives the town its name), the town consists of a well-preserved old city and an impressive castle. Explore Palace of the Dukes of Braganza located in the historical centre of the city and witness the greatness of the Guimarães Castle, one of the most complete medieval strongholds in Portugal, dating from the 10th century. As the believed birthplace of King Afonso Henriques, the castle is something of a national shrine.

Next it's on to Braga (30 minutes), considered by many to be one of Portugal's most stunning cities. It has long been a religious centre, and overflows with churches, monasteries, and chapels. The charm of this place lies in its impressive Baroque buildings, most notably the Bom Jesus Sanctuary. On the western slopes of Monte Espinho, the sanctuary is lead to by a magnificent criss crossing staircase that has 14 different chapels, each representing a station of the cross. Drive back to Porto after your day of exploration.

Included Activities

Guided tour of Guimarães

Accommodation: Hotel Vila Gale Ribeira or similar**Day 9 / Monday 14th September 2020****Porto****Meals included:** Breakfast, dinner

Enjoy a day at leisure. The city's World Heritage-listed Ribeira district is great to explore on foot. Sao Francisco church is known for its lavish interior with ornate gilded carvings. The palatial 19th-century Palácio de Bolsa, formerly a stock market, was built to impress potential European investors. For a sensational views head to Torre dos Clerigos. Rejoin in the evening for dinner in a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Hotel Vila Gale Ribeira or similar**Day 10 / Tuesday 15th September 2020****Porto****Meals included:** Breakfast, lunch

Today you will be picked up from your hotel and travel by private transport on the winding roads through the Douro Valley and enjoy views of the spectacular scenery. Stop for a visit at a winery for a Port wine tasting followed by a traditional Portuguese lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch we will go for a walk along the river promenade. Great spot from some photos of the Douro river, followed by a one-hour boat ride on a traditional rabelo boat. Return to Porto by the highway and get dropped off at your hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel Vila Gale Ribeira or similar

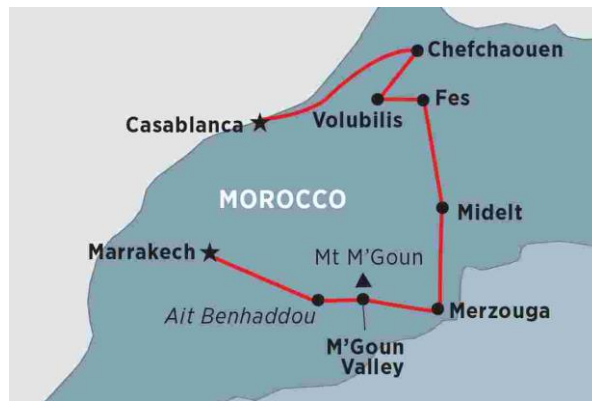
Day 11 / Wednesday 16th September 2020

Casablanca

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner

Travel by private transfer to the airport. Today you will leave Porto and Europe behind, as you board a 01:30pm flight bound for Casablanca in Africa. Salaam Aleikum! Welcome to Morocco. Aromatic tajines, red-earthed landscapes and limitless generosity define this friendly, vibrant and flavourful Berber-Arab-Spanish-Portuguese-French melting pot. Modelled after Marseille in France, the bustling port city of Casablanca has a curious architectural style – famous for its art deco French-colonial buildings, an old medina, and the modern-day masterpiece of the Hassan II Mosque. On arrival at 03:05pm Casablanca Airport, we will be met by a Peregrine representative and transferred to our hotel. This evening we will meet with our Peregrine leader at 6pm. Our Peregrine leader will take us to our Moroccan welcome dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel Idou Anfa or similar



Day 12 / Thursday 17th September 2020

Chefchaouen

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch

Start the day with a typical Casablanca market breakfast. Choose from dishes like msmen (layered, grilled bread), khlea (a type of Moroccan preserved meat), bessara soup, or a variety of other options found amongst the stalls. Breakfast must, of course, be served with mint tea, the perfect beverage to shake off the cobwebs and begin a day in Morocco. After breakfast, take a turn around the characterful Central Market, where fresh meat, fish, fruit and vegetable sellers call out their prices and local women bargain for their daily ingredients. Here you'll discover an array of produce that makes up the building blocks of Moroccan cuisine – the grains, herbs and, of course, the spices. Continue to the sight that dominates the city – the vast Hassan II Mosque. Opened in 1993, and second only in size to the great mosque at Mecca, the huge building is part on land and part on sea, and in one area water can be seen through a glass floor. Leave Casablanca and travel north. Stop at the seaside city of Kenitra for lunch, then stretch your legs in the delightful fishing village of Asilah (approximately 3.5 hours). Enclosed by Portuguese fortifications, white-and-blue washed houses give the town a very Mediterranean feel. Continue on to Chefchaouen, arriving by early evening (approximately 2.5 hours).

Accommodation: Riad Hicham or similar



Day 13 / Friday 18th September 2020

Chefchaouen

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner

Set against a wide valley and nestled between two peaks in the stunning Rif Mountains, the isolated town of Chefchaouen is a surprising delight. Much of Chefchaouen was recreated by Andalusian refugees escaping the Reconquista, so its striking blue and whitewashed houses, red-tiled roofs and artistic doorways give it the feel of the Spanish hills. Spend your morning exploring the sights, sounds, and smells of the medina, the shops in the square selling woven goods and small sweets, and, most importantly, enjoy a taste of the town's famous goat's cheese. Herds of goats wander the sparse hillsides that surround Chefchaouen, and their cheese is sold in great fresh rounds in the street markets. The afternoon is free to relax or explore more of the town. Within the plaza is the walled fortress of the Kasbah – you can wander through the tranquil gardens inside, visit the ethnographic museum, and soak in wonderful views from the rooftop. Alternatively, you might prefer to get out of town and enjoy a short hike in the surrounding hills. This evening you'll get a real insight into Moroccan food with a home-cooked dinner prepared with seasonal ingredients – bursting with flavour and made with love.

Accommodation: Riad Hicham or similar

Day 14 / Saturday 19th September 2020

Fes

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Descend from the hills and travel south through the centre of the peninsula towards the sacred pilgrimage town of Moulay Idriss (approximately 3 hours). From here it's a short journey out to the World Heritage site of Volubilis. The remains of this Roman city make an undeniably impressive sight as they come into view on the edge of a long, high plateau. Take a tour around the arches, basilicas, and superb mosaics along the Decumanus Maximus, many of which remain intact. The reward for walking in the sun lies in a memorable lunch of traditional Roman recipes in the shadow of the ancient ruins. Recline on Moroccan Kilims and dine on locally-sourced ingredients, much like the Romans did a thousand years ago. Once forbidden to non-Muslims, your next stop at ancient Moulay Idriss offers a great insight into traditional Moroccan life. Here the faithful gather to pay homage at the tomb of Moulay Idriss I – the great-grandson of Mohammed and the man who brought Islam to Morocco. Perhaps sampling the famous nougat candy sold at street-side stalls and stop at an olive press and see how this golden unctuous liquid is extracted from the olives which grow in abundance around this region. Continue on to Fes, arriving by evening (approximately 1.5 hours), the spiritual heart of Morocco. Perhaps seek out some Fassi specialties for dinner or enjoy a rooftop drink at your riad. Watching the sun set over the medina while a dozen prayer calls vie for attention is an experience you'll likely remember. **Accommodation:** Riad Tafilalet or similar



Day 15 / Sunday 20th September 2020

Fes

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner

The old city of Fes el Bali is home to perhaps the greatest of all medinas. Descending into its labyrinthine alleyways is like stepping back to the Middle Ages. Donkeys wander the streets and the smell of spices fills the air. With a local guide, navigate narrow streets alive with craftsmen, markets, tanneries, mosques and colourful local characters. Explore the different speciality sections of the Medina that are known for specific types of food – from natural butters and fats, to pastries, to crepes and soups to dried and fresh produce. Taste your way through dried meats, milawi, harsha, briwats, spicy sardines, spicy potato cakes, soups and olives. Move on to the honey souk, where you'll discover the importance of this liquid gold to Moroccan cooking. Get a closer insight into the

culinary traditions of the city by visiting a 400-year-old communal oven and bakery. In the late afternoon, complete the gourmet day with a cooking demonstration, learning to create one of the city's signature dishes – pastilla (or b'stilla) – a salty and sweet pastry parcel.

Special Information

Today's experience will include shopping in carefully selected places. As the receipt of commissions or kickbacks in exchange for recommending particular shops, services or activities is ingrained in the culture of the Moroccan tourism industry, Peregrine has established a centralised system of receiving and distributing payments from these recommended suppliers.

Accommodation: Riad Tafilalet or similar

Day 16 / Monday 21st September 2020

Midelt

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Today, leave the intensity of the city behind for the simplicity of the High Atlas Mountains. Drive south, inland through a variety of spectacular scenery – fertile valleys, cedar and pine forests and barren, rocky landscapes – to the small town of Midelt (approximately 3.5 hours). Midelt is a market town nestled in the high plains surrounding the Moulouya River, between the Middle and High Atlas mountain ranges. Join some local Berber women for an insight into the preparation of hand-rolled couscous. Find out how much more delicious it tastes after all that effort. After lunch, stretch your legs for a few hours on an easy hike in the nearby hills. Be prepared for some astonishing views of the Atlas Mountains, with snowy peaks almost touching the sky. Wander through plantations of apple trees on the way back to your accommodation for a relaxing evening.

Accommodation: Hotel Taddart or similar

Day 17 / Tuesday 22nd September 2020

Merzouga

Meals included: Breakfast, dinner

This morning there's time to haggle in the markets before driving through shifting scenery on the journey to Merzouga. With a backdrop of the orange-coloured Erg Chebbi sand dunes, this charming Saharan village feels wonderfully isolated, like the modern world has left it behind. Erg Chebbi's dunes are the most stunning in the country, towering up to 150 metres in height. They're easily an essential part of any visit to Morocco. Located at the end of a sealed road and just 20 kilometres from the Algerian border - this truly feels like frontier country. You will leave your gear at a simple auberge and then ride camels into the edge of the Sahara Desert, enjoying a spectacular sunset along the way. The dunes are stunning, especially as the evening light plays across them and sets off the colours. Tonight you will camp out in traditional style, where you will be treated to a demonstration of medfouna (also called Berber pizza). Stay late after the dinner, enjoying lively music, drumming, Bedouin stories and dancing under the stars.

Accommodation: Hotel Yasmina – Luxury desert camp or similar



Day 18 / Wednesday 23rd September 2020

M'Goun

Meals included: Breakfast

Continue your journey inland for tonight's destination, M'goun (approximately 1 hour). Your accommodation for the next two nights is at a charming family-run guest-house in an area known as the Valley of Roses. In the spring-time, this region is covered in flowers and forms a centre of Moroccan rose-water production. Dinner this evening will be a feast of mechoui – slowcooked lamb on the spit - lovingly prepared by our hosts.

Accommodation: Gite Tamaloute or similar

Day 19 / Thursday 24th September 2020**M'Goun****Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

While the morning holds the option of exploring the nearby village souk of Kelaat M'gouna or witnessing Moroccan breadmaking techniques in action, today's adventure will give you until sunset to explore the beauty of this largely untouched Moroccan backcountry. Accompanied by a local guide, pass through Berber villages, meeting local people along the way. Learn tea-making secrets with a Berber family. You'll take a trail that undulates slightly here and there, but isn't too challenging if you have a basic level of fitness - plus a picnic in these beautiful surrounds is definitely worth the walk.

Accommodation: Gite Tamaloute or similar***Special Information***

The trek today will be an easy walking pace with a low gradient (approximately 2 hours). Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

**Day 20 / Friday 25th September 2020****Marrakech****Meals included:** Breakfast, dinner

Travel to the Moroccan city of Marrakech (approximately 6 hours), an exotic place where European modernity has meshed with ancient traditions. On the way, stop for lunch at the impressive Ait Benhaddou. Perched on a hilltop and almost unchanged since the 11th century, Ait Benhaddou is one of Morocco's most iconic sites. Its grand kasbah is one of the most beautiful in Morocco and the fortified village is a fine example of clay architecture. If you think you recognise the place, you probably do, as the town has a long list of film and TV credits, including Lawrence of Arabia, Game of Thrones and Gladiator. Arrive in Marrakech by late afternoon. On arrival, join a passionate local foodie for a true insider's guide to the medina and

a tasting tour of the incredible Djemma el Fna. Smell and see the famous spice mix, ras el hanout, prepared fresh to order; drop past a traditional wood-fired bakery and watch the smoking stalls of the Djemma el Fna night market come to life. This is one of the largest public spaces in the world and unique to Marrakech. Snake-charmers, henna-painters, performers and storytellers share the square with a street food bazaar of stalls laden with Moroccan delicacies – it's sure to be a memorable start to your time in this city.

Accommodation: Riad Goloboy or similar**Day 21 / Saturday 26th September 2020****Marrakech****Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

This morning, rise early for a hands-on cooking class with a celebrated local chef. You will explore his organic kitchen garden surrounded by beautiful olive groves and orchards set in a traditional Berber douar. Harvest ingredients fresh from the garden and let the chef teach you the art of seasoning with aromatic Moroccan herbs. Learn to cook tagines and salads, and then savour your creations over a delicious lunch. Return to the city for a guided tour of some of the famed sites of Marrakech, including the Palais Bahia, a superb example of Muslim architecture, as well as the well-known Koutoubia Mosque and its 12th century minaret, which was the famous prototype for the Giralda tower in Seville. For your final evening, choose to join your fellow travellers for a final celebratory meal. There are a plethora of options, a favourite restaurant of ours being Al Fassiah, renowned for outstanding renditions of traditional dishes. Others may be drawn back to Djemaa el Fna for a bowl of snails or a slow-cooked tanjia.

Accommodation: Riad Goloboy or similar**Day 22 / Sunday 27th September 2020****Marrakech - Casablanca****Meals included:** Breakfast

Today a relaxing departure from Marrakech as we have a private bus transfer back to Casablanca to start our trip home. Our Qatar flight departs Casablanca at 5:35pm and fly's via Doha arriving back in Sydney 6:30am on Tuesday 29 September.

Day 24 / Tuesday 29th September 2020**Sydney – Bathurst**

Arrive on Sydney at 6:30am where we will catch our transport back to Bathurst