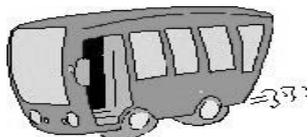


MOROCCO Flyer Combination TOUR

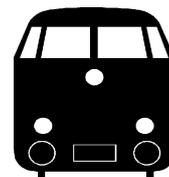
(A NINE-DAY TOUR BY RAIL & ROAD)

Saturday 9th to Sunday 17th November 2019

CAMEL & FEZ NOT INCLUDED!



All-inclusive fare of only £530.50



Hotel Single Room Supplement £170.00(optional)
A minimum deposit of £135.00 will secure your seat on this tour,
and the balance must be paid by 27th September

It is hard to believe that 15 years have elapsed since we ran our last tour to Morocco, but that 2003 tour, and the one the previous year, remain our only tours to be run outside Europe with the notable exception of the five USA tours. Despite the passage of time our experience of the previous tours has put us into the ideal position to lay the perfect plans for this tour. It's almost a case of 'no stone unturned.' We are able to include every major depot and installation in the country and all rail routes bar one. There is a very real possibility that participants will achieve a country clearance in 'one hit.' Once more the timing of the tour is dictated by the climate in North Africa. It has to be between November and March otherwise it's just too hot. Even so, we are sure to experience temperatures between 20 - 25 °C during the day, but wait for it to plummet down to almost freezing when darkness descends!

Reasonably priced connecting flights are available from London with British Airways and Iberia, and there are low-cost airlines operating into Rabat and Marrakesh.

We will be updating the STARS ONCF Stock book, which will be supplied FREE OF CHARGE to all those booked.

RAIL TICKETS

Unfortunately, Rail Tickets cannot be bought outside the Country but we are aware that a 7-day rail pass does exist, which would be ideal for five days of this tour from Wednesday to Saturday and the other two days used on the journey to and from the airport. However, rail travel is very cheap and it may be more economic to purchase individual tickets. We are further researching the option and will publish our findings in the next STARS Magazine and / or post them on STARS Website.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Saturday 9th November

ARRIVAL – Check into the Hotel

Overnight (Sat 9th to Wed.13th inclusive) – Hotel Ibis Casablanca Voyageurs

Day 2 - Sunday 10th November

For today and tomorrow we must travel in road transport in order to cover the industrial lines in the East of the country, the prolific Phosphate mines, where the passenger services are practically non-existent. We begin this big anti-clockwise round trip with **El Jadida Station SP**. The interest will then intensify when we arrive at **Jorf Lasfar Plant Depot**. This is followed by the first depot of the tour, **Safi** dedicated solely to freight locos. Before we leave we will check **Safi Port** where at least one loco is kept. We continue to **Yousseoufia SP** and on to **Ben Guerir Station SP** from where we 'trawl' the lines to & from the Phosphate Mines, before returning to Casablanca.

Day 3 - Monday 11th November

The second and final day in the vehicle, but not such a long one. We spend the morning locally, visiting **Casablanca Voyageurs Station SP & CS, Casablanca Electric Depot & Workshops, and Casablanca Port Depot**. In the afternoon we journey into the countryside to cover the phosphate mine stabling points at **Khouribga & Qued Zem**.

Day 4 - Tuesday 12th November

At last we can take to the trains and the destination is **Marrakesh Depot & Station** (where you could be picking oranges and lemons from the trees that line the platforms!) Both on the way out and on the return, we pass **Ben Guerir & Settat**, where a sighting is always likely.

Day 5 - Wednesday 13th November

Probably the most intensive day of the tour with the farthest objective being ONCF's main repair facility at **Meknes Works**. There is also **Meknes Depot** to interest us. On the outward journey there are many minor Stabling Points at **Ain Sebaa, Mohammedia, Rabat Ville, Sale Tabriquet, Sidi Yahia and Sidi Slimane**. There are also other bigger locations we will have passed on the way out, but we will attend to them on our return. They are **Sidi Kacem Depot, Kenetra Depot & Rabat Agdal** where, at the main offices of ONCF, we will find a plinthed steam loco and, hopefully, a glimpse of the Royal Train.

Day 6 - Thursday 14th November

We change our location today and, in doing so, travel West over vast desert. The latter part of the journey will be long, but the scenery truly breath-taking! The route to Meknes will be familiar from yesterday, but beyond is **Fes**. A quick view of the depot will be all that's possible but we will be back tomorrow. The same is true of **Taza**, passing the Stabling Point today. On the other side of the desert is Oujda, at one end of the only freight line in the country we cannot cover. We hope that the only locomotive on the line will appear at Oujda. If it does, the total clearance is on!

Overnight – Hotel Ibis Oujda

Day 7 – Friday 15th November

Before we leave there is the formality of visits to **Oujda Depot & Works**. We then return across the desert, breaking for a visit to the **Taza Museum**. This time when we arrive at **Fes** there will be a full depot visit prior to checking in.

Overnight – Hotel Ibis Fes

Day 8 - Saturday 16th November

Leaving Fes today we have only one 'rail arm' of the country to cover and that is the Northern Port of **Tanger**. The depot here disappeared about 20 years ago, but the **Station** and **SP** still sport many items. From here a direct train will take us back to Casablanca for our final night of the tour.

Overnight – Hotel Ibis Casablanca Voyageurs

Day 8 - Sunday 17th November

Dispersal.

Remember - Do Not Book Your Flight or Travel Arrangements until we confirm the Tour as Running