**A Moroccan & Spanish Experience**

**For Independent Women**

**2020 FULL ITINERARY \*\* - subject to change** ©

**10 OCT (Sat)                  Leave ADELAIDE for CASABLANCA**

**11 OCT (Sun)                 CASABLANCA – *(Hotel & Spa De la Doge).***

Arrival in Casablanca where you are met by Penny and **transferred to our hotel.**

Walk in our area with Penny. Coffee stop and a cultural update.

Tonight, **Rick’s Café for Dinner**

**12 OCT  (Mon)                CASABLANCA – FES** – ***(Riad Arabesque)***

A relaxed morning in historic Casablanca with Penny. Visit the main square,with its shops and old French colonial buildings. Off to Fes today.

**13 OCT (Tues)                FES**

An interesting morning in **Fes-** **visit with a local guide to the Medina and colourful souks with the famous tanneries quarter**. Culture Download at Café Clock

**14 OCT  (Wed)**

**This morning a tour of Fes -**visit the Karaouiyne University, Nejarrine Fountain, the historic Medersas and the Mechouar of the Royal Palace. Fun lesson in Arabic Calligraphy.  Free afternoon to look around.

**15 OCT   (Thurs)             FES – MEKNES – VOLUBILIS – MOULAY IDRISS – RABAT**

Depart Fes and travel to the Imperial city of Meknes.  Enjoy a **tour with local guide** including, the massive gate which is the entrance to the old city and the Jewish quarter, the Royal Granaries and the city ramparts.   Continue on to Volubilis, famous for its magnificent in situ mosaics.  Most of the visible ruins date back from the 3rd century CE.  On to Moulay Idriss, a holy town and important place of pilgrimage where you will enjoy ***lunch reservation* at the lovely Scorpion House restaurant.** After a wonderful lunch, a leisurely drive to reach Rabat (***Overnight at Villa Mandarine, Rabat.)***

**16 OCT  (Fri)              RABAT – MARRAKESH – *( Riad Chergui)***

**Enjoy a morning tour with your driver,** visiting the Mechouar of the Royal Palace, the ruins of Chellah, the Mohammed V Mausoleum, the and the Hassan tower - an historic minaret which is the city's landmark. You will also stop at the Kasbah Des Ouadayas, built out on the bluff overlooking the estuary and ocean.  Then, back on the road again to travel south to Marrakesh…..

**17 OCT   (Sat)              MARRAKESH**

**Enjoy a half day tour of the city today.** You will visit the Saadian tombs, Bahia Palace and explore the colourful souks with your guide.  .  \*\*The Souks of Marrakesh are some of the best in Morocco, producing a wide variety of high-quality crafts, including brass plates, leather work, woodwork and carpets.  A highlight of your tour is a visit to a women’s cooperative in the heart of the Medina. After lunch we visit the wonderful blue gardens that Yves St Laurent willed to the city

**18 OCT  (Sun)               MARRAKESH**

**Special full day in the Atlas Mountains** – the heart of Berber country with picturesque villages, hamlets, forests, orchards and rose gardens (blooming April > December) LUNCH at Kasbah Tamadot in Asni . OR - Free day at leisure.

 DINNER: at the Riad.

**19 OCT   (Mon)             MARRAKESH – GRANADA- *(Hotel La Casa de la Trinidad)***

**Morning transfer to Casablanca airport for your flight departing Casablanca at 1245hrs** A walk with our guide Gayle through the Arab quarter the 'Albaizin', to dinner of tapas this evening.. This corner of the city, clinging to the hillside opposite the Alhambra, is where one feels closest to Granada's Moorish ancestry. Along the cobbled alleys stand villas with Moorish decoration and gardens, secluded from the world by their high walls.

**20 OCT (Tues) GRANADA** A highlight today - visit the **Alhambra Palace and Gardens of the Generalife.** The beauty of Granada’s legendary Alhambra, last bastion of the Moors in Spain. The adjacent gardens of the Generalife - the name derives from Yannat al Arif meaning 'the garden of lofty paradise' - are also stunningly beautiful. Free afternoon at leisure to enjoy shops or the old town – or both!

**21 OCT (Wed) GRANADA** A leisurely day in Granada with our guide Gayle. Starting at lunch time and continuing through the artisan quarter, the ‘old town’ and stopping at a wonderful leather worker.

**22 OCT (Thurs) GRANADA – SEVILLA *–( Hotel Inglaterra)*.... Transfer to regional train to Sevilla. Arrival and transfer to our hotel.** Walk with Penny in our area. We meet our guide Paloma for a **Santa Cruz walk and Flamenco tablao** (performance)

**23 OCT (Fri) SEVILLA** Morning free. …….Late start today. Paloma will take us to see the famous **Alcazar** in the afternoon. We will take horse carriages to dinner in the lanes.

**24 OCT (Sat) SEVILLA – JEREZ Morning departure for the famous sherry town of Jerez.** Here we visit the famous bodega (winery) where sherry is made. Stop for lunch.Then, on to the Royal Equestrian School for an audience with the ‘airs above the ground’ horses.Return to Seville for dinner

**25 OCT (Sun) SEVILLA – RONDA**

 **Excursion today to visit Ronda and its wineries.** As well as the town being a tourist attraction, the area around Ronda is becoming well-known among enthusiasts as a producer of very good wines..See the process of artisan winemaking and taste the wine. Visit two wineries and have a **traditional lunch** in a place where gastronomy is as important as wine. Enjoy a walk in this lovely town and back to Sevilla.

**26 OCT (Mon) SEVILLA – BARCELONA – *(Hotel Barcelona Centro)* Transfer to the airport today for your short flight to Barcelona. Arrival and transfer to your hotel.** Welcome to Barcelona! (Spain’s second city and capital of the region of Catalunya) Lunch on the rooftop of our hotel! Settle in and walk the area with Penny..

**27 OCT (Tues) BARCELONA** This morning enjoy a **walking tour of Modernist Barcelona with our guide.** A specially designed walking route to explore the Eixample district of the city, with its great Modernist buildings, including those of famed architect, Antoni Gaudi. The tour includes a visit inside his supreme yet unfinished work, the Sagrada Familia Cathedral, (emblem of the city). The tour will end at a famous restaurant of Modernist design, where we will stay for lunch. Free afternoon.

**28 OCT (Wed) BARCELONA** A gourmet morning as we an **Epicurian Markets walking tour.** We visit Barcelona’s two great food markets – the famous Boqueria market and the traditional Santa Caterina market. Free afternoon to explore at leisure. Enjoy strolling along the Ramblas boulevard and visit the Barceloneta beach. . **DINNER:** at the famous ***Els 4 Gats,*** the famous Modernist artists café frequented by a young Picasso and architect Antoni Gaudi.

**29 OCT (Thurs) BARCELONA** A free day at leisure. Great museums to see here, including the Picasso Museum Barcelona was the centre of Modernism, Spain's Belle Epoque, and proudly displays its most innovative and dynamic architecture at every turn. Or visit the boutique shops along the Ramblas…..

**30 OCT (Fri) DEPART BARCELONA**

Breakfast together and then - The journey comes to an end today as you farewell Spain and are **transferred to the airport for our flights home.**

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