



On your arrival at the Port of Tangier you will be met & assisted with Customs formalities and transferred from the Port to start your quick visit of Tangier "The Bride of the North". Tangier has no formal Mellah, but has instead an unprotected Jewish quarter dating from the second half of the 19th century where many synagogues were once concentrated in one narrow, winding street, "Synagogues Street," recently renamed "Synagogue Street" because only one now remains open. You will visit the medieval Medina, a vast, picturesque, vibrant souk – the 'Grand Socco' (Spanish for 'souk'); tea houses; the Mendoubia Gardens with their eight-hundred-year-old trees; the Sidi Bounabid Mosque, its minaret decorated with multi-hued faïences dominating the Medina, the Kasbah Square with its

portico of white marble columns and the great Méchouar where the pashas once granted audiences; the Moulay Ismail Mosque; the Tangier American Legation Museum and the Merinid College. We set out across fertile plains and through a narrow pass to Tetouan - in the Tamazight language of the Berber "Tittouan, meaning "Springs" - situated on a rocky plateau detached from the southern flank of the Jbel Dersa overlooking the fertile Martil Valley some 60 km to the south-east of the city of Tangier and to the north of the er-Rif Mountains, set in the middle of a belt of orchards that contain orange, almond, pomegranate and cypress trees. Behind it rise rugged masses of rock, the southern wall of Fahs Anjera countryside, once practically closed to Europeans; across the valley are hills which form the northern limit of the once-impenetrable er-Rif Mountains.



Founded in the 3rd century B.C., artefacts from both the Roman and the Phoenician era have been found in the site of Tamuda, a major town in the Roman Province of Mauretania Tingitana which was finally laid waste in 40 A.D. when the Romans put down a revolt by Aedemon, a freedman of Ptolemy. Around 1305 the town was rebuilt by the Merinid king Abu Thabit to serve as a base for attacks on Ceuta. Around 1399 it was destroyed by the Castilians of King Henry III as Barbary pirates were using it as a base for their attacks on his shipping. By the end of the 15th century it had been rebuilt by refugees from the *Reconquista* (reconquest of Spain from the Moorish Empire, completed by the fall of Granada in 1492), when those Andalusian Moors first erected thick walls to fill the enclosure with small houses. It was to be captured on 4 February 1860 by Spaniards under Leopoldo O'Donnell (a descendant of an old Irish royal family, O'Donnell of Tyrconnell, who was made hereditary Duke of Tetouan, later to become Prime Minister of Spain). In 1913 it became the capital of the part of Morocco under the Spanish Protectorate to be governed by the Caliph - a Moroccan prince, serving as Viceroy for the Sultan - and it remained its capital until 1956 when it became part of the independent state of Morocco. Many people in the city still speak Spanish and you'll notice road signs often bear names written both in Spanish and in Arabic, though others are in Arabic and French, the second language of Morocco.



Like Rabat, Fes and Sale, Tetouan is a "hedrya" town; that is, a centre of culture and refinement. The town contains many monuments: a fort, well-preserved walls; any number of mosques, fountains, fondouks (caravanserais or taverns) and, last but not least, the Khalifa's old palace which used to be the residence of his Majesty's representative at the time of the Protectorate, a palace built in the 17th century to be renovated and restored in 1948 retaining its ideal example of Hispano-Mauresque architecture. With streets fairly wide and straight, many of the houses of aristocratic Arabs - descendants of those expelled from the Moorish Spain during the Spanish Inquisition - possess marble fountains and small groves planted with orange trees. Within the houses the ceilings are often exquisitely carved and painted in Hispano-Mauresque designs, such as are found in the Alhambra of Granada; the tile-work (*zellige*) for which Tetouan is also known may be seen on floors, pillars and dados. Traditional industries include this tile work, inlaid with silver wire. Home once also to an important Sephardic Jewish community who once lived here in their Mellah, or Jewish Quarter,

separated from the rest of the town by gates which were closed at night. The word Mellah is derived from the Arabic word for salt because Muslims often forced the Jews to salt the heads of executed criminals.



These delightful streets wind among bluish white walls to open on to small squares, centres of intense activity. Each street is occupied by a trade guild; the street of dyers adjoins that of gunsmiths offering much-appreciated flintlocks, not far from weavers of artistic cloths used as capes and skirts by women of the rural areas and jewellers. Manufacturers of the thick-soled yellow slippers (babouches) and leather workers are close to the tanneries and other craft workshops. Early in the morning country women arrive to sell their wares, wrapped in their candy-striped clothes, wearing gaiters laced to the knee and wide-brimmed straw hats decorated with pompoms, to offer butter, honey, vegetables and herbs to a lively, hurrying clientele.

We shall visit Hassan II Square, situated at the point where the old and modern parts of the town converge to constitute the heart of the town. Reminiscent of Andalusia with its kiosks, fountains and flower boxes, the square remains an ideal meeting point for afternoon strollers from the time of the Spanish Protectorate; buildings with wrought iron balconies and shop windows filled with imported commodities to fascinate the passers-by. On to the very characteristic and traditional walled Medina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, here to find in the souk many white, low houses with weavers, jewellers and leather workers carrying out their artistry. We shall visit the Museum of Moroccan Art (closed, unfortunately, on Tuesdays) and the Handicrafts School. Light refreshments are taken in a café near the Bab el Oukla before returning to Tangiers and your awaiting ship. L.

OUR PRICES WILL INCLUDE: Private round trip transportation in an air-conditioned vehicle. Private guided sightseeing excursion and all related entrance fees. An English-speaking Licensed National Guide throughout. Medical or accident insurance. Bottled or gaseous water en-route. Lunch.

OUR PRICES WILL NOT INCLUDE: Gratuities to waiter, guide and driver. Any expenditure of a personal nature, nor anything not specifically mentioned in the itinerary.

IT IS RECOMMENDED YOU BRING WITH YOU: Day pack; hygienic 'wipes.' Good trainers; pullover and/or slicker (winter seasonal); day pack; hygienic 'wipes;' camera and Ziploc bags for sensitive lenses; sunglasses, sunscreen.