



Two trips, one country: Morocco.



Morocco is a country that has contributed to a significant part of my love for traveling. From the smells of the vibrant markets to the busy medinas, and rows and rows of olive trees. Morocco is a country unlike many others and I've been most fortunate to be able to visit twice in my 21 years. I visited Morocco for the first time in May of 2023. During this time I spent a couple weeks on an



In the Sahara desert.



Memorable trip to the Sahara desert.

unforgettable cross country road trip with my boyfriend and his family. My second time visiting was with ICS, where I spent an amazing few days exploring new cities with my amazing friends and classmates. Throughout my time with ICS we focused more on the northern cities of Morocco. Both trips were incredible in their own ways, but they offered me two completely different lenses through which to experience Morocco.

During my first visit we traveled to a few major cities including Fez, Marrakech, Casablanca, and the capital of Morocco called Rabat. In addition we stayed in a couple smaller cities or communes which includes Ait Zineb where we stayed a night in a Kasbah. As well as Merzouga where we took camels into the Sahara desert and camped under the stars. This experience was immersive, exciting, and new as it was my first experience with unknown expectations. I felt as though I stepped back in time while wandering the streets of the Medina or walking on the sand of the Sahara. Since I was there for longer we had more time to immerse at our own speed. I loved this experience and being able to share it with people that I hold very close to me also made it feel even more magical.



Two trips, one country: Morocco.

Part II



The trip I took to Morocco with ICS was short, but sweet. My classmates and I spent three days exploring some of the beautiful northern cities in Morocco called Tangier, Chefchaouen, and Tétouan. Coming to Morocco a second time gave me a chance to gain a deeper understanding of the rich history that the country has as well as the difference in culture. We had the opportunity to go visit the city of Chefchaouen where we had a guided tour through the streets of blue painted walls and doors. While this experience brought more



With my friends & classmates in Chefchaouen.

of the educational value to traveling, it also gave me a chance to bond with friends that I had met just a couple months prior. I noticed the value of sharing this experience with people of different backgrounds because it leads to different conversations. The smells and the views brought many memories and feelings back from the last time I came and helped confirm my love for the country.



Group shot in the "Blue Pearl of Morocco".

Despite the differences between the two trips, I felt the impact that each one had on my idea of traveling. While one was longer and a bit more adventurous, the second one gave me valuable education that I hadn't known before. Morocco reminded me why I love to travel. It's a country that continues to teach me, surprise me, and inspire me—and I hope to return again someday to discover even more. I urge those who are interested in exploring Morocco to embrace its diversity, dive into its rich culture, and allow yourself to get lost in the magic of its cities and landscapes. You'll discover something new with every step you take.