

# OUARZAZATE

As part of a tour to the south of Morocco, we use Ouarzazate as a staging point to the desert areas of Morocco. Ouarzazate is 5 hours drive from Marrakech.

The town has evolved, over the years mainly due to the film business and now tourism. Ouarzazate has a small old town surrounded by modern buildings but within a very short distance, the local sites unfold.

The vast lake on the outskirts of town was used in the film Kundun as a Tibetan location with the backdrop of the Atlas Mountains. Further east, the oasis of Skoura with many ruined Kasbahs provides a contrast to the surrounding Hamada (pre desert terrain). To the north lies the UNESCO World Heritage Ait Ben Haddou with the famous Kasbah that have been used in numerous films including Lawrence of Arabia, Gladiator and Jesus of Nazareth. For those "movie buffs" a visit to the Atlas Studios on the outskirts of Ouarzazate is a must.

From Ouarzazate you can go east to the Gorges of the Todra, the rose growing centre of Morocco and the dunes of Mergouza. To the south, the Draa Valley, Zagora and onward into the Sahara desert. To the west you reach Taroudant and then the coastal region of Agadir.

