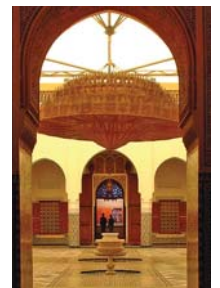




# An 8 night trip to Morocco

## Marrakech - The Atlas Mountains and Essaouira



*Day 1* On your arrival at Marrakech Menara Airport you will be chauffeur driven to your 5\* accommodation in the city. Dinner will be served at your hotel or riad.

*Day 2* After breakfast you will be collected from your accommodation and taken on a full day guided tour of Marrakech. Your tour starts at the 12th century Koutoubia Mosque whose beautiful minaret dominates the skyline of Marrakech and can be seen from almost every approach to the city. The

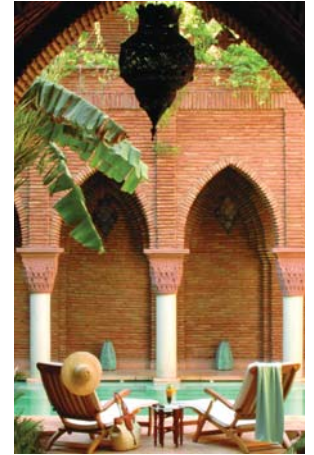
tour will include a visit to the medina and its colourful souks (marketplace) where you can barter for carpets, leather goods, jewellery, lanterns and spices. In the early evening we will head towards the frenetic Djemaa el-Fna, the most famous square in Africa, where snake charmers, storytellers, acrobats, medicine men and musicians compete for your attention. You may wish to dine at our recommended restaurant, the Al Fassia, one of the finest Moroccan restaurants in Marrakech. If you wish to do so, we can reserve a table for you on your behalf.



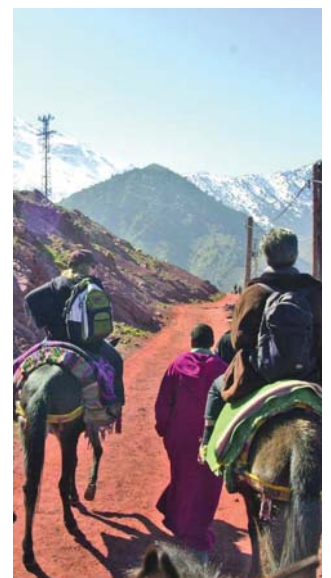
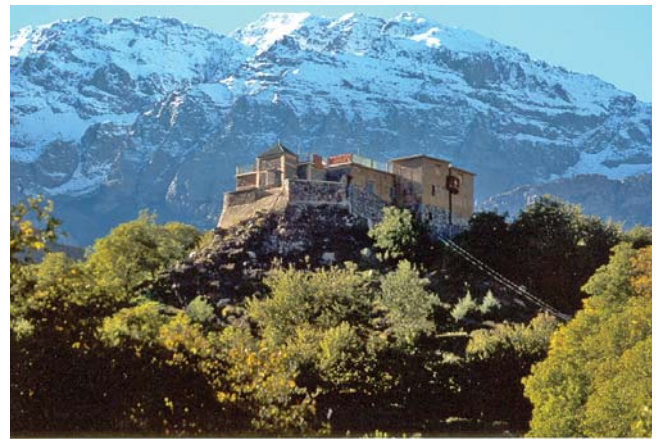
*Days 3* After breakfast you will be met by your guide and continue your tour of Marrakech where you will visit the Majorelle Gardens, the Saadian Tombs, the medieval Medersa Ben Youssef (Koranic university), the Musée de Marrakech and the Dar Bellarj cultural foundation. After lunch you will be driven south from Marrakech to visit the lush and verdant Ourika valley nestled in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains, where local Marrakchis often come at weekends to picnic with their families. For dinner you are free to dine at a restaurant of your choice or we can reserve a table for you at one of our recommended restaurants.



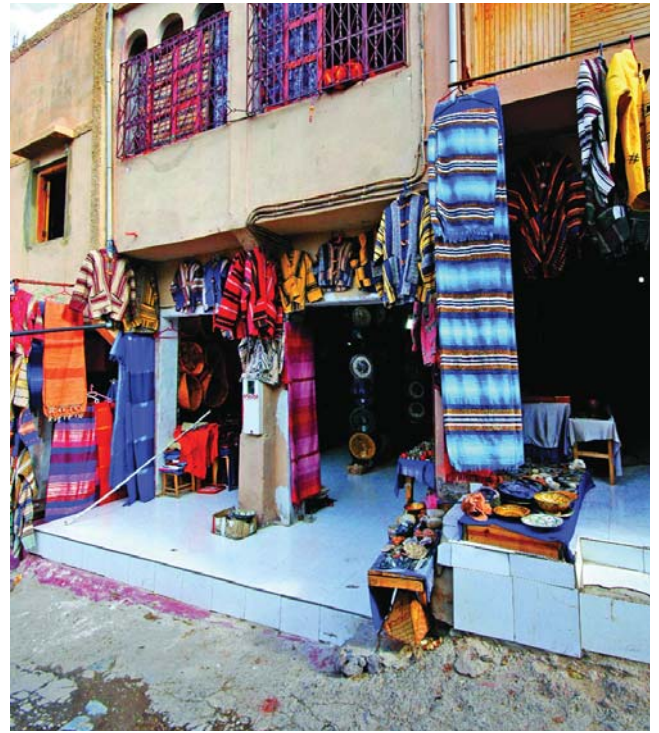
*Day 4* After breakfast you will be met at your accommodation and driven into the foothills of the stunning High Atlas Mountains. Here, you will have lunch at the world-renowned Kasbah du Toubkal, a stunning mountain retreat, standing 1800 metres above sea level. The Kasbah is located in the midst of reddish-brown mountains, walnut groves and mud-brick villages with the towering snow-capped Jbel Toubkal rising 4165 metres steeply



behind. The local Berber inhabitants live a way of life that has hardly changed in centuries. You will stay at the Kasbah du Toubkal on a full board basis. There are many walking opportunities available to you and we can offer guided treks around the local valleys and villages.



*Day 5* After breakfast you will be taken on a guided trek and enjoy a picnic lunch in the mountains. For those who prefer something less strenuous, we can provide mules for you to ride. On your return to the Kasbah you may wish to relax in the hammam before dinner or sit on the vast roof terraces admiring the stunning views.



*Day 6* After breakfast your driver will take you to the city of Essaouira, 105 miles from Marrakech. This magical fortified coastal town is in total contrast to Marrakech and offers many photographic opportunities. For dinner, we suggest dining at "Sams", a world-famous fish restaurant at the end of the harbour. Your accommodation whilst in Essaouira will be in a 5\* riad within the walls of the medina.



return to the medina and enjoy a drink on the roof bar of the Taros Café Restaurant where local musicians play relaxing blues and jazz music.

*Day 7* After breakfast, a guide will meet you and take you on a tour of the lively port, the colourful souk and the medina of Essaouira. For lunch you may wish to eat at one of the many fish stalls near to the port where the morning's catch is on display and cooked right in front of you.

In the afternoon your driver will take you out of the town into the surrounding countryside. On your return to the riad we recommend you dine at the excellent Sofitel Beach Restaurant. After dinner you may wish to





*Day 8* Return to Marrakech leaving Essaouira at 1000 hrs. This will bring you back to your hotel or riad in Marrakech by around 1300 hrs allowing you to spend time shopping or, relaxing.



*Day 9* You will be transferred back to Marrakech airport by your driver. If you have a late flight out, we can make any arrangements you may so require.