# KASBAH DU TOUBKAL MOROCCO'S PREMIER MOUNTAIN RETREAT Why should you visit Morocco?

"If tourists stop traveling to Morocco it will have a huge impact on the livelihoods of the people and businesses that rely on them – visitors bring with them hope of recovery." *Vanessa Branson* 

Owner of El Fenn Hotel, Marrakech

Morocco is a big country, almost twice the size of the UK. The disaster of the recent earthquake mainly affected the mountains and vallies of the High Atlas and parts of Marrakech, but most of the country is unchanged. Anything you could have enjoyed before Friday 8th of September you can enjoy equally now, more-so perhaps because you know that your holiday spends are benefitting the community as a whole. "The last thing the Moroccans want is to be hit by an earthquake and then hit by an economic downturn," says Mike McHugo. So why *should* you go to Morocco?

## The New York Times

A Walk in Marrakesh: A Spider Web of Passageways



New York Times Names Marrakech Among World's Great Cities for Walks

The New York Times asked writers in cities around the world to suggest routes that let you immerse yourself in the essence of a place at your own speed. Marrakech stood out as a remarkable destination.

## Morocco's Ait Ben Haddou Among 20 Prettiest Villages in The World



(Click on logos or images for full story)

## MOROCCO WORLD NEWS

Callejon El Asri Among Worlds Most Beautiful Streets



Morocco's "blue city" of Chefchaouen is an azure dream wherever you turn, but the little alley of Callejon El Asri is a favorite of photographers, thanks to its collection of flower pots.



Morocco's Ait Ben Haddou has earned its spot among the 20 prettiest villages in the world. Located in the country's Atlas Mountains, Ait Ben Haddou presents a blend of history, architecture, and breathtaking landscapes.

This ancient village is renowned for its captivating earthen clay architecture, which forms a series of interconnected buildings and narrow alleyways that climb up the hillside.

## AFAR

#### A Letter from Morocco and How to Help

"The buildings in Imlil, the village where Kasbah du Toubkal is located and a trekking center, are relatively untouched and have largely stood up to the earthquake," McHugo told Afar. "This is a village that has benefited from tourism money, leading to people having the ability to build more modern houses and infrastructure. Tourism has indirectly improved the lives of the local population."

"Now, just days later, there's a keen sense in the city that, in spite of the tragedy, life has to go on." Nicola Chilton

**The Washington Post** In Morocco, no city can match Tangier's famous cafe culture



## Merzouga Ranked As World's Third Most Beautiful Tourist Destination



Morocco is home to some of the world's most beautiful deserts, and Erg Chebbi is the most evocative stretch of Sahara sand imaginable. Beyond the town of Merzouga, the Erg Chebbi dunes are a spectacular vision of shape-shifting golden sands that rise up to



### Should tourists still visit Morocco in earthquake aftermath?

Alice Morrison is an adventurer and author. She has lived in Imlil for five years and was there when the earthquake struck.

"Guests are from God" is the saying in the mountains, and the resounding message from Morocco is that it wants its vistors to return.

LEISURE TRAVEL Ivioualy Julies Zeihoun Ranked As World's Seventh Most Beautiful Village



Chefchaouen is famous for its Instagrammable blue hues. But the more low-key, maze-like town of Moulay Idriss Zerhoun in the Fès-Meknès region of northwern Morocco definitely deserves attention. Extending over two hillsides at the bottom of Mount Zerhoun, this holy destination houses one of the country's most significant sites, the mausoleum of ruler Idris I. It also has many stairs, alleyways, and terraces for a bird'seye view of everything.



Hospitality is an intrinsic part of Berber culture. To offer a guest the hand of generosity a piece of bread and a cup a tea - is an innate Berber quality passed down from countless generations, pre-dating the tourism industry by thousands of years.

Everybody I have spoken with since the earthquake has had the same message – "don't forget us, tell your clients to come." Jarrod Kyte, Steppes Travel

From October we will be running trips to our sister properties in Imlil village, and to our Trekking Lodge in the beautiful Azzaden Valley.



### 300 metres tall and span over 28km in the heart of

the Sahara.



#### "Morocco. It is not just an earthquake. It is a people. It is a culture" Colleen Cassar, tour leader Roam Like Queens

