

MARRAKECH, THE COAST & THE HIGH ATLAS MOUNTAINS OF MOROCCO 3-CENTRE HOLIDAY

**2 NIGHTS IN MARRAKECH,
2 NIGHTS IN ESSAOUIRA AND
3 NIGHTS IN THE MOUNTAINS**



SUITABLE FOR BOTH INDIVIDUALS and families, this 3-centre holiday combines your visit to the mountains with a stay in the exotic city of Marrakech and the vibrant coastal town of Essaouira.

Marrakech

Marrakech is a fascinating city that has long since been high on the list of places to visit by the discerning traveller. It comprises the ancient *medina* (old town) and the new town of Guéliz, with its neighboring suburbs, which play host to modern restaurants, fast food chains and big brand stores.

Marrakech is built around the 12th century Koutoubia Mosque whose beautiful minaret dominates the skyline and can be seen from almost every approach to the city. Any visit to Marrakech must include a visit to the medina and its colourful *souk* (marketplace) where you can barter for carpets, leather goods, jewellery, lanterns and spices. Another must-see is the legendary Djemaa el-Fna, the busiest and most famous square in Africa, where snake charmers, storytellers, acrobats, medicine men and musicians compete for your attention.



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PRIVATE TOURS THROUGHOUT
MOROCCO SINCE 1978



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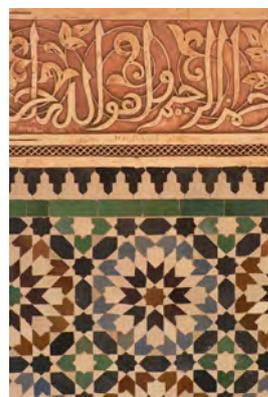
Trip reference: MEK

Two people sharing a room on a bed and breakfast basis for the first four nights, followed by half board basis throughout the 3 nights in the mountains (excluding flights and insurance):

970 euro per person
888 euro single supplement

There are several places to visit including the Majorelle Gardens owned by the late Yves Saint Laurent, the Menara Gardens, the Saadian Tombs, the medieval Medersa Ben Youssef (Koranic university) and the Musée de Marrakech.

Accommodation in Marrakech is on a bed and breakfast basis, giving you the opportunity to dine at some of the superb restaurants available in the city.



Essaouira

Essaouira, which lies approximately 105 miles from Marrakech, is a magical fortified coastal town on the Atlantic Ocean, built by the Portuguese in the 16th century. In total contrast to Marrakech, the pace of life here is relaxed and slow. Essaouira was made famous by Orson Welles who filmed *Othello* here, and more recently by Jimi Hendrix and the Rolling Stones who stayed here in the 1960s.

Unlike Marrakech and Fes, there are no single places of major historical note to visit, but Essaouira in itself has become an historic location and is not to be missed. The fishing port creates a lively backdrop to the white painted buildings of the Medina. The souk is small when compared to that of Marrakech and easy to navigate without a guide.

Essaouira is a haven for artists and as such handmade works of art are to be found in abundance. Being a fishing port, fresh fish is readily available and lunch on the port is a must as the day's catch is cooked in front of you. The wide-sweeping beach offers windsurfing, kite surfing, camel and horse riding and quad bike excursions.

Accommodation in Essaouira is also on a bed and breakfast basis, giving you the opportunity to discover the Coastal town or dine at your riad as you wish.



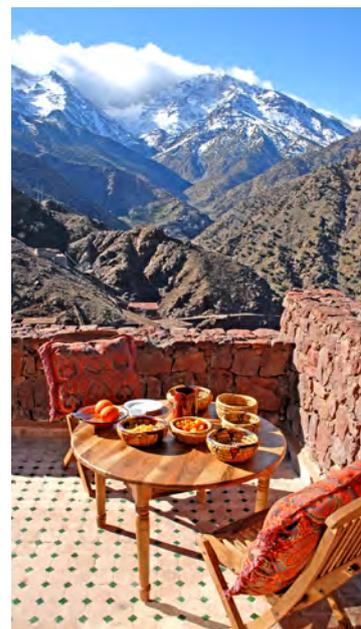
The High Atlas Mountains

The High Atlas Mountains, which dominate the skyline to the south of Marrakech, have always played an important role for the city, not least with regard to commerce.

With several peaks above 4000 metres, the Western High Atlas is part of a larger chain of mountains that spreads from the Atlantic Coast in the west to Tunisia in the east. The mountains are home to the indigenous Berber people who have inhabited Morocco for at least 5000 years. The Berbers live in small clusters of earthen adobe houses which cling precipitously to mountainsides and are often only accessible by mule or foot.

Guests will stay on a half-board basis in comfortable accommodation at The Kasbah du Toubkal (a National Geographic Lodge) in the trailhead village of Imlil (just 40 miles from Marrakech, but seemingly a thousand miles from the hubbub of the city!).

Guided half-day and full-day treks can be booked locally.



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Day 1 – Bed & Breakfast

Private transfer from Marrakech Menara Airport where you will check in at your *riad* (a traditional Moroccan house with an interior garden or courtyard). Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis, giving you the opportunity to dine at some of the superb restaurants that Marrakech offers.

Day 2 – Bed & Breakfast

After breakfast the day is free for you to explore the fascinating and vibrant city of Marrakech. Accommodation at your riad is provided.

Day 3 – Bed & Breakfast

After breakfast, your driver will take you to the seaside town of Essaouira, 105 miles from Marrakech, a journey of approximately 2.5 hours' duration, where you will check in to your riad. Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis, giving you the opportunity to dine at some of the superb restaurants that Essaouira offers. This magical fortified coastal town is in total contrast to Marrakech and offers many photographic opportunities.

Day 4 – Bed & Breakfast

After breakfast the day is free for you to explore the seaside town of Essaouira. Accommodation at your riad.

Day 5 – Half Board (Evening Meal)

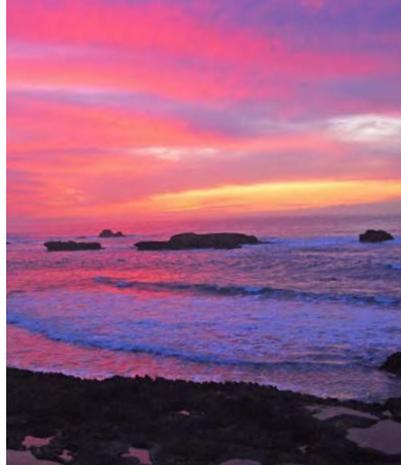
After breakfast, you will be taken to Imlil, a journey of approximately 4.5 hours' duration. Accommodation & Evening Meal will be provided at the Kasbah du Toubkal.

Days 6 & 7 – Half Board (Evening Meal)

A day to relax and enjoy free time in the Imlil area, or a chance to explore the Imlil Valley by booking a guided trek. This can be separate morning and afternoon walks or a full day trek. Alternatively, you may wish to venture further afield to an outlying valley. A picnic lunch will be provided if required or lunch can be taken at the Kasbah du Toubkal. Accommodation and Evening Meal at the Kasbah.

Day 8

After breakfast, return by private transfer to Marrakech Menara Airport for your departure.



Included in the price...

- Private transfer from Marrakech Menara Airport on Day 1 to your riad and the return journey on Day 8 from Imlil. Private transfer to Essaouira on Day 3 and to Imlil on Day 5.
- Food and tea/coffee drinks on a half board basis (breakfast & evening meal) during your stay in the High Atlas Mountains and on a bed and breakfast basis during your stay in Marrakech and Essaouira.
- The free use of a *hammam* when staying at the Kasbah.
- All taxes including a 5% levy to the Village Association in Imlil (further details on request).
- Mountain accommodation approximately 1800 metres above sea level.

PLEASE NOTE: Rooms at the Kasbah are based on our "standard ensuite rooms", however our superior and deluxe rooms are available on request at extra cost.

NOT INCLUDED: Alcoholic beverages (Kasbah du Toubkal is not licensed but has a "bring your own" policy), tips, personal shopping, travel and medical insurances.

CONTACT

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