

# KASBAH DU TOUBKAL

MOROCCO'S PREMIER  
MOUNTAIN RETREAT



Image: Alan Ward

## *You'll Soon Be Here!*

Hard on the heels of the EU including Morocco in a draft list of countries permitted access to the region, based on countries' ability to manage the COVID-19 crisis, the Kingdom is preparing to open its international borders in July. Morocco is one of the fourteen countries who meet the criteria, recognising the protective measures the country took to curb the spread of COVID-19.

So why not plan a friends and family get-together at the Kasbah in the glorious tranquility of the High Atlas Mountains, with views that seem to go on forever and the air so crisp and clear it sparkles? Tie that in with the colourful chaos that is Marrakech, dine on fish fresh from the sea in Essaouira, or spend the night under elegant canvas in the Agafay Desert, and you will be making memories for years to come.

*Mike and Chris McHugo*

and everyone at KASBAH DU TOUBKAL

  
UNIQUE LODGES  
OF THE WORLD

Morocco Prepares to Reopen Borders  
in July



 [The full story](#)

*What a fabulous long weekend in the Atlas Mountains. A truly memorable occasion for all the right reasons. The Kasbah du Toubkal is such a hidden treasure and provided a unique spot for a celebration. The staff did us all proud with warm and generous hospitality and a very splendid party. Trekking in those beautiful, unspoilt mountains was a real treat as was the delicious picnic the chaps provided for us at the top!*



# Jennifer's Birthday Adventure

As the eldest of four siblings, there was an expectation of something special – and a reputation to keep up – when Jennifer Davies chose somewhere to celebrate her 70th birthday in early March.

A memory of somewhere she'd come across a few years earlier required more research.....

(Read the full story of Jennifer's planning and birthday adventure [HERE](#))

## *To everyone at Kasbah du Toubkal,*

I would like to thank you all for making my birthday weekend at the Kasbah such a success. In part due to the magnificent location, the facilities and the cloudless weather, but also because of the friendliness, professionalism and sheer goodwill of the Berber staff.

We couldn't have been better looked after, from trekking to a memorable evening of slow roasted lamb and Berber music. My family and friends have been effusive in their thanks to me for organising the trip, and below I give a flavour of their comments.

So thank you all – it was an even better than expected weekend and birthday celebration, and the memories will linger long in the imagination. It couldn't have been a more perfect venue, and I know the word will spread from those present to their friends.

For me the backstory of the Kasbah story and the support they have given and continue to give to the local people is inspirational, and adds to my feeling of satisfaction for having spent some of my money in their direction.

With thanks,

*Jenny*



*The Kasbah was an amazing find in such a spectacular location. I thought the hotel, service and food were all excellent and the party they gave you was one of the best.*



*The weekend was magical. The Kasbah is in such a wonderful position and with superb Berber hospitality.*

*The Kasbah was ideal and in such an impressive and beautiful location. The meal and entertainment on your birthday was amazing.*



# Our 'Family' of Hotels

This year is the twenty-fifth anniversary of opening Kasbah du Toubkal. We have been expanding both the building and the holidays we offer, always ensuring that the quality of service and accommodation is of the highest. Careful selection of properties we partner with has resulted in our 'family' of hotels, where we combine the beauty of Morocco with interesting and intriguing surroundings. Click on the main image of each hotel for the full review and what you can enjoy when you visit.

## Dar Doukkala



The arched wooden doorway that leads you into Dar Doukkala from the busy street of the same name in Marrakech Medina is pleasing, the stately sweep of the stairway just inside is pretty spiffy, and the internal garden is delightful, but it's when you get to the bedrooms that the 'Oh my giddy aunt!' effect kicks in, backed up later when you take yourself down to dinner in the long, chi-chi dining room that's just made for romantic evenings and whispered conversations. It doesn't take long to realise that this is no ordinary riad, and certainly no ordinary restoration.

---

## Les Yeux Bleus



While registration is being taken care of, I take mint tea, lounging in a Colonial easy chair at the side of the pool, nothing to disturb the silence other than the chirruping of birds and the low murmur of staff about their business. The scent of citrus floats on the air, the sun filters through orange trees and a stand of bamboo. I feel relaxed, and begin to doze.

Registration done, I'm shown to my room, a sumptuous ensemble of deep blue walls, armchair in lush pink velvet and a bed the size of a small island, on which I flop and continue my doze for another half-hour.



# Azzaden Lodge



*"How many mountain refuges in the Alps offer rose water to sprinkle on your hands and face after a hard day's hike? If that and other traditional Berber touches sound tempting, then look no further than the Kasbah du Toubkal's three-bedroom lodge"*

Tala Skari, TIME Magazine,



The lodge sits above the village of Aït Aïssa in the Azzaden valley. It offers similar levels of facilities to the Kasbah's Garden House and allows guests to stay right in the heart of the spectacular Atlas Mountain without having to compromise on accommodation.

# Dar L'Oussia, Essaouira



In a city that is a delightful blend of French, Berber and Portuguese architecture, Hotel Dar L'Oussia has been a caravanserai, a grain warehouse and a range of commercial premises before being converted in 1949 to create a family home. Three decades later the building, by now in a very bad state of repair, it was totally restored to create the exquisite hotel you see now.

Breakfast on the roof, with views to the left across the broad sweep of the beach as it curves into the distance, dinner in an arcaded restaurant warmed by an open fireplace, with a thick duvet to snuggle under in the winter months.



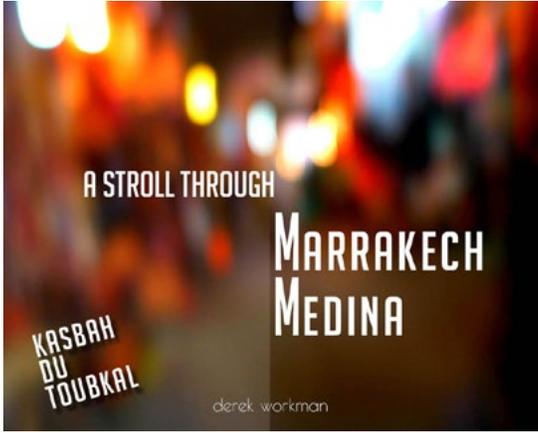
# Agafay Desert Camp

I'm welcomed to Agafay Desert Camp, by Muhammed Monou, dressed in a gelaba and turban of Toureg blue, and a smile that is welcome in any tribe. He is attentive and knowledgeable, especially when it comes to describing the superb meal served by candle light later, but for the moment I'm offered the ubiquitous mint tea and shown my home for the night. Set separately on the rise of a small hill, it looks small from the outside but is deceptively large when you stoop through the low canvas doorway and step inside. A king-size double bed, comfortable sofa, a desk and stool, a low round coffee table and two bedside tables with cane lamps still leave a spacious feeling.



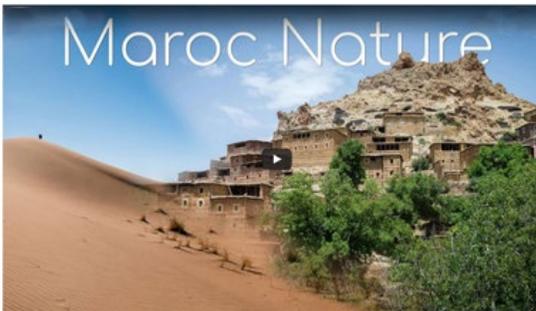
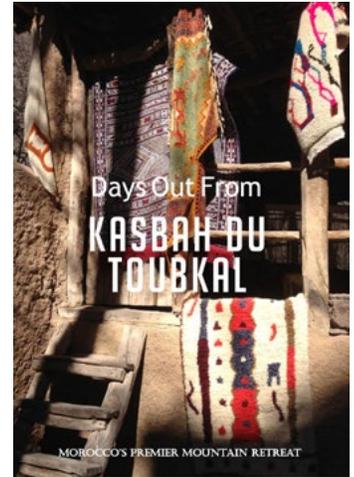
# SO MUCH TO ENJOY

Travelling solo or as part of a group of family and friends, there is so much more to Marrakech and the High Atlas Mountains than you might think. Click on the images or logos to find out more.



A visual tour of the beautiful chaos that is Marrakech Medina

Whether staying at the Kasbah, in one of our hotels in Marrakech, or travelling between, there are plenty of interesting trips out to enjoy



From Marrakech, a few tens of kilometers finds you in the heart of the Toubkal National Park with its villages and terraced crops, clinging to the sides of the mountain, to then climb the snow-capped peaks of northern Africa under the gaze of the sheep. and the flight of eagles. A delightful short video from Jean-Pierre Datchary.



International Mountain leader Alan Ward took a winter walk on Jbel Toubkal. His story of what you can expect on a five-day trek.

CARDIFF TIMES  
YOUR QUALITY LOCAL MAGAZINE



In Morocco, our partner Kasbah du Toubkal's tourism operations may be paused for now but their charity Education for All must still continue raising awareness and funds without their usual tourism.

# Tell us about your holiday plans for this year and 2021

We are working with AITO to understand peoples' attitudes to holidays in the future, so we and the wider travel industry can plan and meet your needs. All you have to do is complete this quick survey – it will take around five minutes, and your responses are strictly confidential.

We would really appreciate it if you could take part in our survey and help us understand the future of travel, with the opportunity of winning a £100 Love2shop gift voucher. Click on the logo to take part. Many thanks for your feedback.



## Retrospective: Three Years On

As Her Royal Majesty's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco, Thomas Reilly ends his three-year stay in the country with memories of great achievements and small, very personal moments. "With the Embassy, we have put Morocco on the UK political map through Royal Visitors, Cabinet Ministers and Senior Officials. We have brought the UK here through the visits of the Royal Household Cavalry, The Welsh National Opera and the London Community Gospel Choir. We have brought sports teams here to compete on land and water. We have brought chefs and bakers, academics and historians.

"But amongst all of these wonderful memories and the amazing things we have done, the thing of which I am most proud, and the people who make me most confident about Morocco's future is the Embassy's close association with the smiling and ever-optimistic girls of Education For All. They are the future of Morocco, and the future of Morocco is bright." Thomas will be remembered – and greatly missed – for his dedication to EFA and his encouragement to the girls under its care make their way in the world. On behalf of Education For All and everyone associated with it, I would like to thank him for his endeavours and wish him the very best for the future.



*Mike McHugo and everyone at Education For All*

Read Thomas Reilly's  
**Retrospective: Three Years On**  
at



**For more information about our holidays and hotels, email us at [bookings@discover.ltd.uk](mailto:bookings@discover.ltd.uk) or call our Advanced Booking office on +44 (0)1883 744667**



## Instagram



**kasbahdutoubkal** • Following  
Imlil, Marrakesh-Safi



**reillytsa** One of the most wonderful places I have had the privilege of staying during my tour in #Morocco. Magical. Simple. Pure. Revivifying. A great place. And made all the more amazing for the wonderful work it does supporting its local community, including educating girls. @efa\_morocco