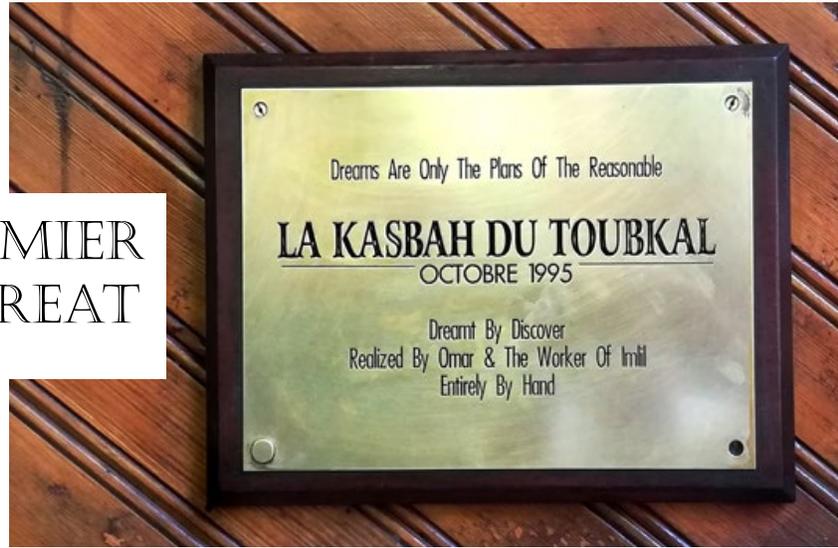


KASBAH DU TOUBKAL

MOROCCO'S PREMIER
MOUNTAIN RETREAT



Our first quarter century!

Suppose you gave a party and no-one could come? Sadly, that's the situation as regards celebrating Kasbah du Toubkal's 25th anniversary. And we're in good company, because the famous Wonder Wheel at New York's Coney Island did its first revolution one hundred years ago this year, but can't have a party either. A strange irony, really because this is the first time in a century that it didn't carry passengers, because of the pandemic, when it was actually built toward the end of the Spanish flu pandemic in 1919. Nonetheless, both the Kasbah and the Wonder Wheel will have their party – just delayed a while

As you can see, we have been awarded the Best of the Best accolade by Tripadvisor for 2020. What is especially important with this award, is that it is given based on votes by hotel guests and visitors, and it gives our cumulative hearts great pleasure to be one of the very few hotels to receive it. Thank you so much to everyone who voted, and we'll make sure we continue to maintain the high standards expected of us.

Despite not having a definite date when we can welcome you back to the Kasbah, we are extremely pleased with the bookings for next year. It's heartwarming to know that Morocco and the Kasbah are still high on the agenda when the skies open once again.

Mike and Chris McHugo
and everyone at KASBAH DU TOUBKAL

If you would like to be updated on the details of this special event when the date is set please email bookings@discover.ltd.uk with '25 years' in the title and we will send you details as soon as they are confirmed.



WITH YOUR COMFORT AND SECURITY IN MIND

Kasbah du Toubkal and Covid-19



Thanks to the strict controls put in place by Moroccan authorities, the reported cases of Covid-19 in the Kingdom are much lower than almost anywhere in Europe. While tourism is immensely important to the country, those controls will stay in place until visitors can be welcomed with a sense of personal security – and with the warmth of Moroccan culture, you will be made very welcome indeed. With our history of ‘care in the community’, Kasbah du Toubkal is taking great care of our staff, ensuring that not only have they been tested – and all found clear of the virus – but are temperature-checked daily to ensure any potential threat is nipped firmly in the bud. We brought in external auditors to run a course for our staff. to train them in how to minimize the risk of spreading Covid-19. The structure and location of the Kasbah, set as it is on a hill-top above the village of Imil, with the only access being by foot or mule, create a venue with a lower risk of possible infection spreading.

Surrounded by beautiful countryside, with fresh mountain air, the Kasbah has spacious gardens and diverse open areas where guests can remain in their own social group or relax individually, while still maintaining social distancing following all recommended safety guidelines as put forward by the WHO (World Health Authority).

Most of our rooms are effectively stand-alone rooms in the gardens, so are less enclosed than in most hotels. With the majority of the rooms having windows on more than one side (three of the tower rooms have windows on all four sides) there is a free flow of fresh air, meaning air conditioning isn’t necessary. In the unfortunate event a guest should show symptoms of the virus, we have a self-contained house that can be used for self-isolation.

We will continue monitoring the situation, ensuring we do everything possible to create a safe, secure and enjoyable experience for guests. Covid-19 may be wreaking havoc worldwide, but what it cannot do is destroy the beauty of the High Atlas Mountains, nor damage the charm and friendliness of the Berber people, all of which will still be here to welcome you when this beautiful country is finally able to open its borders.

Until then, if you have any further questions, please contact us on **+44 (0)1883 744667** or email us at **bookings@discover.ltd.uk**

**For more information about our
holidays and hotels, email us at
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or call our Advanced Booking office on
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Dipping a toe into Amazigh Culture

Kasbah du Toubkal prefers to be known as a Berber Hospitality Centre, rather than the more ubiquitous term, 'hotel', partly because it is run by Berbers from the mountain villages around Imlil, but also in reference to the reputation for hospitality the Berber people are known for. The Berber refer to themselves as Amazigh, meaning 'free people', who were originally spread across the south of the Mediterranean, the majority of them mainly living in Morocco and Algeria. With around 25-30 million Amazigh in North Africa, approxi-

mately 95% of the population speak one of seven major variations of Berber, now being unified under a written standard called Tamazight. Through the thousands of years the Berber's inhabited most of north Africa, as far east as Egypt and south to Mali and Niger, they created diverse and vibrant cultures, not really recognised as 'Berber', or preferably, 'Amazigh' until recently. Now their traditions and art are being recognised, and used by young artists to tell their story of the unique culture.



Tattoo Culture

Camelia Khadraoui uses digital art to document and preserve the Amazigh cultural practices and symbols that inspired her to become an artist.



And staying with tradition...

Morocco's Imilchil Wedding Festival: A Treasured Amazigh Tradition

Every year, the small Amazigh town of Imilchil comes alive with music, folklore, and a bustling marketplace as young men and women gather to seek out potential life partners.

Zineb Bouchra Revives Famous Art in Moroccan and Amazigh Style

"I chose to integrate Amazigh culture in my recreations because I am Amazigh and I believe the culture is rich with many artistic features."



Video 

Click on the images to
read the articles in



Disney's EPCOT Theme Park
Features Morocco in Limited
Edition Poster

The Final Stretch

While most of us are sitting tight as Covid-19 continues to disrupt our travel and holiday plans, on the 18th of August, **Alice Morrison** set out from her home in Imlil to complete the third and final leg of her epic exploration of the whole of Morocco –1400km across the Atlas Mountains from the Mediterranean to the Sahara. Follow her journey by clicking on her image, and you can discover how she found her home in a compound in Imlil in the article she wrote for **National Geographic**.

.....

Why we travel: Alice Morrison on making a home in Morocco's High Atlas mountains

Author Alice Morrison remains enthralled to a memory of visiting a small family compound high up in the mountains of Morocco, while training for an ultra marathon.



Trekking in Style - for Women, 8-13 February

When Helen Menhinick was chatting with her friend, Alan Ward, an International Mountain Leader (who is also her Technical Advisor), with many years of experience of the High Atlas Mountains, he suggested that the Trekking in Style package offered by Kasbah du Toubkal would be an ideal first trek for her to offer specifically for women.

“In the UK, my company, Bryn Walking, offers guided walks and delivers navigation and first aid courses. I am a qualified Hill and Moorland Leader, and really love teaching others to enjoy the countryside safely. My clients say they always feel relaxed, have lots of fun and appreciate my style of teaching. By far, the majority of my clients are women, and I think they find it refreshing to have a female instructor in a very much male dominated field.



I set up Bryn Walking for Women in April 2020 which has attracted a great deal of interest, and I plan to offer more treks of this kind in the future. It will be my first trip to Morocco and I am very excited to meet Latifa Asselouf, our female mountain guide, and to experience the luxury of the Kasbah and their Lodge in the Azzaden Valley.”

Click on the logo for more information

Bukky Goes Home

After four months in lockdown, mostly in Asni, at the end of July, EFA volunteer Bukky Lawson began her 3,511 kilometre trip home.

My name is Bukola Lawson. I am 26 years old and a national of Nigeria, in West Africa. I live in the city of Lagos, which is like living in New York, but on steroids!

For five years I worked in finance in Lagos, work I love, but by 2019 I started to experience burnout. I knew I had to take a step back, or forward in this case to do something that I hoped would leave a long lasting effect on my entire essence as a person. I found out about Education For All

through Karima Targoui, who is in charge of volunteers with EFA, and on the 31st of January 2020, I was bound for Morocco, to spend time teaching English and computing skills in ASNI to the EFA girls for three months.

As the pandemic progressed, on the 13th of March Morocco went into an abrupt lockdown for four months, barely two months into my program. All the students had to go back home to their families, and I remember the day I had to say goodbye to the girls; they were so heartbroken that they had to leave school and with the uncertainty surrounding the entire situation. I was to be in lockdown in Morocco for a total period of four-and-a-half months, 144 days!

Originally I was in Lockdown with Latifa Aliza, the house mother in Asni, and I can't stop saying how I feel about the type of person Latifa is; she's incredible!

We had a routine; she cooked for us, we would go up to the terrace when the weather was favorable and trade stories, and the most incredible thing – we fasted together during the month of Ramadan. It's incredible because I'm not religious, and Latifa was away from her family because she made the choice to stay with me during the period of the lockdown. I didn't want her to fast by herself because I know how daunting it can be doing it without the comfort of friends and family. I have never done anything like that in my life; it was such a beautiful experience.

During those four months Latifa and I spent together, I was constantly checking for commercial flights even though the international airspace both in Morocco and Nigeria were closed. I was in constant communication with my family and friends, and despite the fact that the world was in total chaos, there was a sense of peace

and calm in my heart. This was partly due to the fact that Asni is a beautiful village, with friendly locals, and I was in communication with the committee members, who gave me constant assurance. I didn't once feel stranded or that I was in any sort of trouble. I felt safe, I felt protected and this is very important because I had moments where I couldn't stop myself from panicking, and reminding myself of those facts helped to re-center my focus.

After about four months in Asni, the committee had to close the boarding house I was staying in, so I moved to Imlil, a beautiful village in the High Atlas Mountains, where I stayed in an apartment provided by EFA. I was introduced to Alice Morrison, and I don't think there's enough words to describe what an incredible time we had and what a gem she is! I spent two weeks in Imlil with Alice and met two other people who had also been stuck in Morocco for the same amount of time as I had. It was during this period I finally got a response from my embassy about a possible repatriation flight for the 29th of July.

I was very excited and weak at the thought of going back to Lagos, as my whole life and connections are rooted there, for now, and I was also very sad to be leaving Morocco, a country and its people that really took care of me as if I was one of their own. I began to make preparations to leave a country I had called home for six months, and on the 30th of July, 2020, after driving to Casablanca, I caught a flight home.

My whole experience in Morocco has expanded my mind, my life, to epic proportions, and I wouldn't trade my time in Morocco and with the whole Education For All organization, COVID-19 included, for anything in the world. I love Morocco, and the Moroccan people, and I hope I have the opportunity to come back as a proper tourist to say hi to my new family there and truly enjoy the country.

I've never considered myself a lucky person but my experience in Morocco and with EFA is making me rethink that!

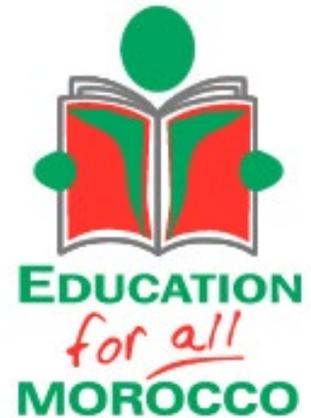


Education For All selected by the Global Giving Foundation to participate in its Accelerator Programme!



EFA launched a crowdfunding project on 14th September with the aim to equip the EFA girls with distance learning tools so they can keep learning during COVID-19. If we are successful, we will be permanently featured on GlobalGiving's website, can continue fundraising for additional projects, grow our network, and access online fundraising tools.

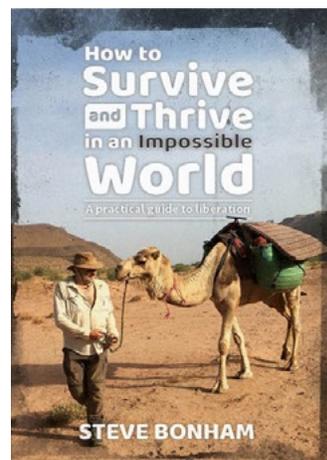
We have to raise \$5000 from 40 unique donors by September 30th, 11.59 p.m. We'd love your help to make this happen! If you can make a donation, or spread the word, it will give us the best chance to make our target.



CLICK THE LOGO TO
DONATE



Congratulations to Juliet Kinsman on the release of her book, *Easy Tips for the Eco-Friendly Traveller*. A simple guide to demystifying sustainable travel to help us all make better choices, it's light and pocket-sized yet packs a punch when it comes to tips.



How do we flourish in times of enormous uncertainty and in a world in which a rising tide of anxiety and disaster seems to be in danger of overwhelming us? The world we are moving into seems to be one on which the old rules do not apply or do not work.. So what are we going to do for ourselves if we are to

flourish as individuals and leaders? Steve Bonham, award-winning psychologist, writer, adventurer, musician, and 'vagabond philosopher' weaves a spell of new research, story, and wry observation from a life on the road to provide a 'liberation strategy' towards a more fulfilling life.

How to Survive and Thrive in an Impossible World is unlike any other 'How To' book you have ever read!

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