

# KASBAH DU TOUBKAL

MOROCCO'S PREMIER MOUNTAIN RETREAT

## Keep on Trekkin'

*(With apologies to The Temptations.)*

**“If ever there was a place to stop carrying the world on your shoulders, it's the Atlas”**

**Discover or Re-Discover the Beauty Of Jbel Toubkal and the High Atlas**



**“The sun burned off, revealing a sight of such beauty that I had to sit and stare at it for some time, to be sure I'd remember it.”**

*Anthony Sattin*

This beautifully written article from Condé Nast Traveller may be sixteen years old, but some things don't change.

**“I ate lunch with two competing views: to one side, a long, clear drop to the Imlil Valley and Kasbah du Toubkal; to the other, an ocean of thick, swirling cloud.”**

“I still find it hard to believe that in three days we achieved so much in such an unhurried and positive environment. The climb to the summit of Mount Toubkal was a life enhancing experience that will always be with me. I would recommend spending time in the very well appointed and comfortable Kasbah to anyone who is looking to gain deeper insights into what is really valuable and worth doing in this world.” *Nigel Southern*

**RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL** Guides



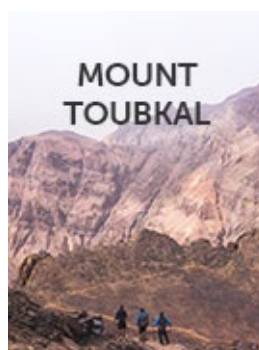
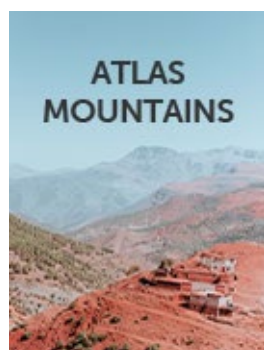
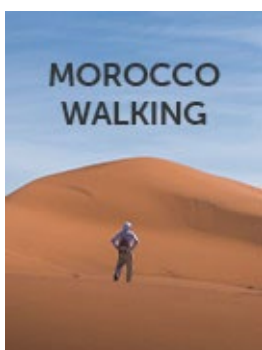
## INGA'S ADVENTURES

At 5,900 feet, the fresh, clean air in the High Atlas Mountains is remarkably refreshing while Marrakech shimmers with heat below. Apple and cherry orchards perfumed the air. It was harvest time in October, and walnut orchards dotted the hillsides between traditional Berber villages. Imlil is a newer village that sprang up to service the needs of tourists who come to take advantage of trekking, climbing and mountaineering activities in the High Atlas Mountains. The trekking crown is 13,665-foot Mt. Toubkal.

**TEMPTED!** The trekking routes are open, Imlil is ready to welcome you with true Berber hospitality, so why lose the most beautiful months of the year to enjoy the High Atlas Mountains?

**For information on all our treks:**

**KASBAH DU TOUBKAL**  
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And client reviews...



... be sure to watch the video!

# Welcome To VILLAGE DU TOUBKAL



VILLAGE DU TOUBKAL  
MOROCCO

It's all systems go to hit our target of having Kasbah du Toubkal up-and-running by Christmas, but you don't have to wait until then to make the most of the High Atlas crisp air after an invigorating trek.

Imlil is as busy a Moroccan mountain village as it ever has been; all our treks to the glorious views from the peak of Jbel Toubkal and the day-long treks through the pine and juniper forests to Aït Aïssa in the Azzaden Valley, home to our Toubkal Trekking Lodge, are as peaceful and serene as the walks have been for generations.

While work is underway at the Kasbah, we are offering guests accommodation at Village du Toubkal on the opposite side of the valley. The décor, service and Berber friendliness are exactly as you have experienced at the Kasbah – and if you haven't yet experienced it, you have something to look forward to.

If you are in Imlil for the trekking, you can ease your weary bones in the Village's private hammam, the traditional steam and water-based bathing that relaxes the body and mind like no other. Then nothing more energetic than sitting on your private balcony with its long, long vistas of the Imlil Valley, before lunch or dinner in our cozy dining room or or 200m2 spectacular roof terrace. The food served in our restaurant uses aromatic herbs of the mountains, adding a Berber touch to the delicious cuisine of Morocco. But you don't have to be in Imlil for the trekking; whatever your reason, the hammam, your balcony with views of the valley, and the delicious food is all there for you to enjoy.

*For more information about Village du Toubkal, click on the logo above or contact*

[bookings@discover.ltd.uk](mailto:bookings@discover.ltd.uk)



# Azzaden Trekking Lodge

## Aït Aïssa

“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 four-bedroom High Atlas Mountains trekking lodge.” **TIME**

It’s six in the evening, the time of the paseo, and I sit on a rock on the edge of Aït Aïssa, a mud-brick village clinging to the hillside, the next but last in the Azzaden Valley before the road comes to a dead end at Tizi Oussems. One way in, one way out. Kids play a game, posing with huge smiles until I raise my camera, then instantly dropping into a huddle and hiding their faces.

Much of the vegetables sold in local markets are grown here; potatoes, onions, cherries, apples, and it’s said that the rich red earth on the west side of the valley adds a sweetness to the flavour that the grey soil on the other side doesn’t have. Some of the produce will appear in the meal I’ll be eating at the trekking lodge, a mini version of the Berber comfort of Kasbah du Toubkal.

Behind me is a five-hour trek from Kasbah, during which my guide, Abdeslam Maachou, a young man who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the flora and fauna of the area despite his age, has kept me entertained and informed, everything from how the locals trap squirrels with walnuts (although you need a few of them

to make a passable meal), to helping me recognise the lemon thyme, wild sage and juniper that I can cook them with.

On our climb we were accompanied by the insistent clatter of cicadas, that retreated into a stony silence as we approached. The air was so crystal clear that I felt as if I could touch the other side of the valley. Stoically climbing with us was Brahim and his mule, and when I ask why he sometimes rides cowboy style, legs either side of the animal, and sometimes side-saddle, he explains that he rides side-saddle on the rockier slopes so that if his mule takes an unexpected tumble he can get off quicker. Good thinking when your livelihood depends on a good pair of legs.

Tomorrow we return to Kasbah over Tizi Oudid, at 2219 metres, but before that I have the pleasure of a chicken tajine to look forward to and a night of silence and twinkling stars.



Photos by Andrey Andreev

“Even the most jaded world trekkers will find the valleys of the High Atlas surprising. The uniqueness of the Berber culture, the signs written in the exotic Tifnagh alphabet, soaring mountains echoing with the call to prayer, terraces filled with walnut and cherry trees.”

# We will just have to come back!

**Lovely team. The three nights here were great** – we even did yoga one night out on the balcony. The room has everything that you would need.

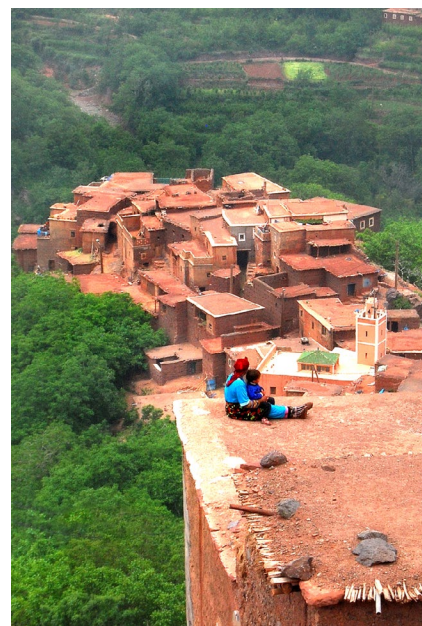
Our guide Mohammed – kind, thoughtful, intelligent. He got the pace just right for us – he knew I was nervous about Toubkal but I had so much confidence in him. We set off from the refuge at 4.30 and summited at sunrise – perfect. The refuge what an amazing place and I love the fact we still got a table cloth – great food and amazing to have a breakfast including pancakes at 4am! It was particularly fantastic to have a room to ourselves – I know there are not that many of them. We were looked after so well.

The remote trekking lodge was great. We really enjoyed the circular trek to the lodge and back round to Imlil.

The Atlas Mountains are just amazing and the people wonderful to be around. It was pretty special having the mules and a cook with us for all the treks. It made it a fantastic experience.

The organisation was amazing and the walking was great for us. We will just have to come back!

OCTOBER 2023 REBECCA



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## **We had a great stay in Morocco.**

Dar Imlil in Imlil - The staff were very friendly and helpful - this included preparing a hot meal for us when we finally arrived after 11pm due to a delayed flight. The beds in particular were good (super king size with good mattresses).

Abdul our guide was excellent. We discussed our plans on the first morning which we broadly stuck to although he suggested some (sensible) changes for the last day based on how the previous 3 days had gone. He shared various interesting facts with us throughout our time trekking. Our transfers in and around Marrakech with regard to drivers and porters to and from the Riad. - Drivers were both great - we had transfers from the airport to Imlil, back to Marrakech and then to Essaouira and finally back to the airport. Very punctual and smart.

The 'in style' aspect of trekking was brilliant - having your lunch prepared in an idyllic spot ahead of your arrival was just superb and I have already recommended it to friends :) The support offered by yourself and colleagues was really appreciated and made it feel quite personal (even to my needy out-of-hours questions!). The scenery in the Atlas mountains was breathtaking.

Everything went really smoothly during our holiday and there is little that could be improved. Please repeat our thanks to everyone (in UK and Morocco) who helped make this such a memorable holiday.

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**Mohammed is an absolutely superb guide** with great knowledge of the local area and people. His English is excellent. He was very good at adjusting pace on some of the more strenuous parts of the hikes. He is perhaps the most sociable person in Morocco and was chatting away to pretty much everyone we met. This led to us having tea, freshly baked bread and walnuts on the terrace of a house in one of the Azzaden villages after it turned out one of the women he was speaking to knew his grandmother. He helped out another family on crossing the river after that and we ended up hiking up the valley walls with them and being invited to their home for lunch. He is an amazing ambassador for the place and people.

The room at the Remote Trekking Lodge was everything we would ask for. The views down into the village and across the valley really gave an insight into the daily life going on around us. Food was truly wonderful and just a generally lovely atmosphere thanks to the amazing staff.

Given we enjoyed pretty much every minute, and I would say do try and get out amongst the villages, especially in the Azzaden Valley. Despite the general hardships of life in the valleys, the spirit and generosity of the people was genuinely uplifting.

The quality of the food on the picnic lunches whilst trekking, was genuinely exceptional, even at 2,400m, and we had a couple of dishes that were as good as anything we've ever had. Not sure how the cook managed it on a single calor gas burner but we were very grateful for such a skilled and friendly chef.