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# TASTE OF MOROCCO

## November 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

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**Nov 7<sup>th</sup>: – Welcome arrival – Marrakech**

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When you arrive at the airport in Marrakech, you will be met as you exit Customs by an English speaking guide and transfer by an air-conditioned Mercedes Viano to your hotel in the old medina of Marrakech.

- ❖ Check in and accommodation at **Hotel Les Jardins de La Medina** in Marrakech.

**Les Jardins de la Medina, the former home to a Moroccan Prince, is an excellent hotel located within the walls of the Medina. The accommodation is outstanding with air-conditioned rooms and suites. The gardens are a delight with the focal point being the good sized pool. The door opens into the Medina and you are a short walk from the key sightseeing points of the old city. The food and service are very highly regarded locally. The spa, Hammam and gym add another dimension to this high quality hotel.**



The remainder of the day is for sightseeing tour of Marrakech:

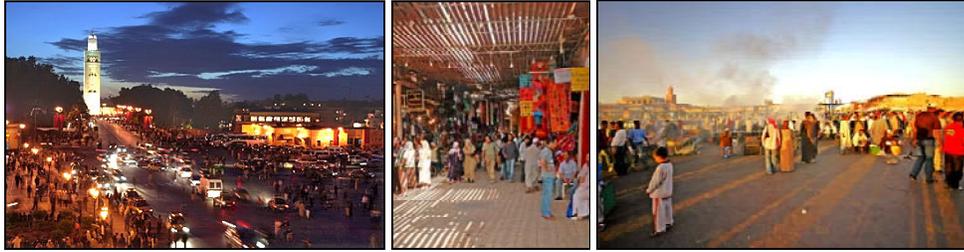
### **MARRAKECH**

Marrakech, founded over 1000 years ago, is also known as the "red city" and is perhaps the most famous city in Morocco. A combination of the old (the Medina) and the new (Guéliz), Marrakech is an exotic cocktail of sights and sounds. There are many historical places of interest to see including and the extraordinary Jemaa el-Fna, the main square in Marrakech. In the evenings, the square becomes a venue for alfresco eating and entertainment with troupes of costumed acrobats, storytellers, magicians, dancers, and semi-mystical Gnawa musicians. The souks offer a vast array of merchandise & offer an insight into a way of life unchanged in centuries.

The "new town" Guéliz, built by the French in the 1930's, is a total contrast to the Medina with its broad avenues, modern shops and cafés. The most visited site in Guéliz is the "Jardins Marjorelle" created by Yves St Laurent. A haven of peace set in an exotic garden.

**Group lunch at Restaurant Chahramane.**

**After lunch have time on own to relax before early evening market tour.**



**You will visit the Square, Jemaa el Fna by night.**

Jemaa el-Fna, translated as the Square of the art, is the main open space in Marrakech, and as old as the city itself. Once the scene of public executions, it is now the city's cultural epicenter, thronged day and night with a carnival of local life, including snake charmers ; dentists; scribes; herbalists; and beggars. In the evenings, the square becomes a venue for alfresco eating and entertainment of a bizarre nature with troupes of costumed acrobats, storytellers, magicians and semi-mystical Gnawa musicians.

**Dinner on own**

**Nov 8<sup>th</sup>: – Marrakech**

Breakfast at the hotel and at **9h30 am, full day walking tour** of Marrakech and visit:

**Saadian Tombs**

One of the most visited sites in Morocco is the Saadian Tombs which were only accessible via the mosque next door. However, in 1917 they were opened to the public and can now be accessed via a narrow passage that leads to an enclosed garden watched over by two mausoleums that include more than one hundred mosaic decorated tombs.

**Koutoubia Minaret**

The centre piece of Marrakech is the square tower of the Koutoubia minaret, attached to the Koutoubia Mosque, built in the late 12th century. It's not particularly high—about 250 feet—but it towers over the Medina thanks to a long-standing planning ordinance that forbids any other building in the old city to rise above the Koutoubia.



**El-Bahia Palace**

This 19th century palace is elaborate in its decoration and was built over a period seven years for Ba Ahmed, the son of the Grand Vizier Si Moussa, there are row after row of apartments—that once housed Ahmed's harem—a trapezoidal garden, a huge tiled courtyard, and many hidden treasures, both in the form of antique objets d'art and the palace's convergence of Andalusian and Moorish architecture.

**Time for lunch on own in the main market.  
After lunch continue the tour.**

### **The Souks**

At the heart of Marrakech, filling the alleys north of the central square, are the souks, mile after constricted mile of tiny, closet-sized emporia. The sheer number of shops is overwhelming—100 of them in 100 yards. Every section of the souk has its own specialty, with alleys devoted to everything from spices and ironwork to the ingredients necessary for casting magic spells.



### **Dinner on own**

**Nov 9<sup>th</sup> – Marrakech – Kasbah Du Toubkal**  
**Approximately 1 hour and half drive**

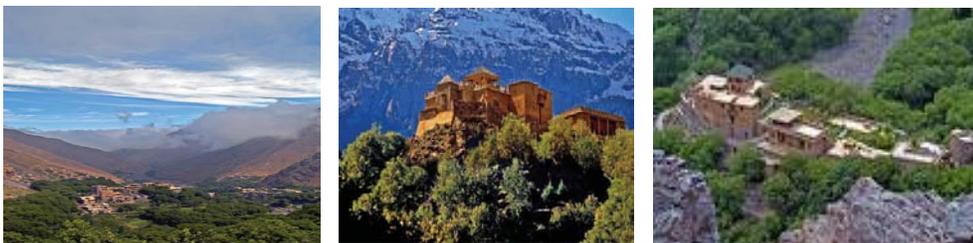
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Morning transfer to the High Atlas Mountains and Kasbah du Toubkal. Head south from Marrakech along the hairpin bends which eventually leads to one of only two passes through the High Atlas Mountains. Perhaps make a brief stop at the Berber villages of Tahanoute or Asni and continue to the village of Imlil, where you will take a ten minute walk up to Kasbah du Toubkal. Mules will be available if you prefer to ride!

Sited on a hilltop with commanding views of the surrounding valley, the Kasbah du Toubkal was built as a summer palace for the Pasha El Glaoui. It is now a wonderful place to experience Berber hospitality and a great base from which to explore the High Atlas.

Lunch at The Kasbah du Toubkal, afternoon at leisure to enjoy the area.

Dinner at **Kasbah du Toubkal**.



**Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – Kasbah Du Toubkal - Essaouira**  
**Approximately 4 hours drive**

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Morning is at your leisure in Imlil enjoying some shopping in the souks or experiencing the local culture. The Kasbah can suggest a half day hiking tour to discover the nearby Berber Villages. After lunch on own, transfer via van to Essaouira.

- ❖ Check in and accommodation at **Dar Loussia** in Essaouira.

**DAR LOUSSIA – ESSAOUIRA**

This charming property is located within the walls of the Medina. The Dar (house) was totally reconstructed some 5 years ago to suit today’s needs for comfort and relaxation. From the roof terrace you have excellent views over the ocean and port. The bedrooms are all en-suite and very spacious. The Dar has a first-rate restaurant, conference room, Hammam and a bar. The highly professional staff provides an excellent level of service.



The remainder of the day is at your leisure. Dinner on Own.

**Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – Essaouira**

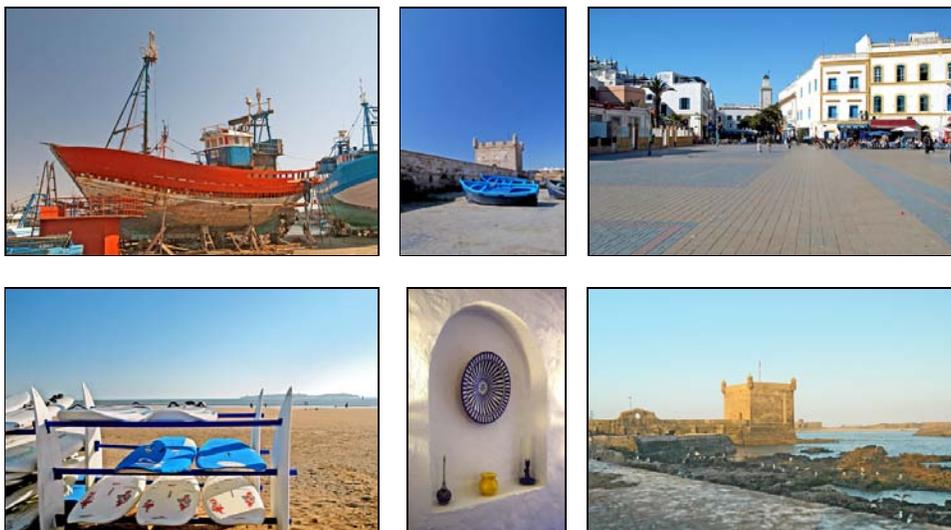
The guide will meet you at your hotel in the morning for full day guided tour of Essaouira:

**ESSAOUIRA**

Essaouira, 105 miles from Marrakech, is a magical fortified coastal town on the Atlantic Ocean. Built by the Portuguese in the 17<sup>th</sup> C. In total contrast to Marrakech, the pace of life here is relaxed and slow. Essaouira was made famous by Orson Wells, who filmed Othello here and more recently, by residents like Jimmy Hendrix and the Rolling Stones.

The fishing port creates a backdrop to the white painted buildings of the Medina. The souk is small by comparison to Marrakech and easy to navigate without a guide. Essaouira is a haven for artists and handmade works of art are abundant.

**Time for Group Lunch** at restaurant El Menzeh. **Dinner** on own.



**Nov 12<sup>th</sup> – Essaouira – Marrakech**  
**Approximately 2 hours and half drive**

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Transfer from Essaouira to Marrakech and the remainder of the day is at your leisure for last minute shopping, spa, casino, and much much more.

- ❖ Check in and accommodation at **Hotel Hivernage & Spa** in Marrakech.

**Nov 13<sup>th</sup>: – Marrakech/the check out**

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Transfer departure to Marrakech airport for your flight out.

**TOTAL COST PER PERSON BASED ON 7 DAY/6 NIGHT PACKAGE- \$1895.00**

**From Nov 7 to 9**

Hotel Les Jardins de la Medina Marrakech Superior room 2 Nights  
**Bed and Breakfast basis**

**From Nov 9 to 10**

Kasbah du Toubkal Imlil Superior room 1 Night  
**Breakfast and Dinner**

**From Nov 10 to 12**

Riad Loussia Essaouira Deluxe room 2 Nights  
**Bed and Breakfast**

**From Nov 12 to 13**

Hotel Hivernage & spa Marrakech Standard rooms 1 Night  
**Bed and Breakfast**

**In addition to Hotel also Includes;**

- Transportation
- Local Guide Service and Sightseeing Fees
- Limited Meals – 3 lunches and 1 dinner
- Dream Outdoors Escort

**Does Not Include;**

- Drinks, extras and personal expenses.
- Gratuities.
- Any meals not mentioned in itinerary
- International Airfare

Contact us today to discuss package details. Reservations must be secured by March 25<sup>th</sup> 2010. Group is based on a maximum of 8 guests so spaces are limited. Room upgrades and trip extensions are available upon request.

A 50% non refundable deposit is required per person to secure your booking. Final Payment is due 60 days prior to departure and is non-refundable. Travel Insurance can be arranged through Dream Outdoors and is highly recommended.

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