

Where! Travel

AMAZING MOROCCO

A COUNTRY OF DIZZYING DIVERSITY



VACUUM TRAVEL / WINDOW SEAT
DISCOVER: MARRAKECH, CASABLANCA, RABAT, MEKNES & FEZ
THE BEST RIADS & HOTELS TO STAY
CULTURAL GADGET

VOL. 2 | NOVEMBER 2017

Vacuum Travel

AND WELCOME

It was my first time in this country and I can confirm it was love in a first sight....

Morocco is a gateway to Africa, and a country of dizzying diversity. Here you'll find epic mountain ranges, ancient cities, sweeping deserts – and warm hospitality.

From Saharan dunes to the peaks of the High Atlas, Morocco is have been tailor-made for travellers. Lyrical landscapes carpet this slice of North Africa like the richly coloured and patterned rugs you'll lust after in local cooperatives. The mountains – not just the famous High Atlas but also the Rif and suntanned ranges leading to Saharan oases – offer simple, breathtaking pleasures: amazing sunsets, night skies glistening in the thin air, and views over a fluffy cloudbank from the Tizi n'Test pass. On lower ground, there are rugged coastlines, waterfalls and caves in forested hills, and the mighty desert.

Morocco's cities are some of the most exciting on the continent. Join the centuries-old trail of nomads and traders to their ancient hearts, from the winding medina maze of Fez to the carnivalesque street-theatre of the Djemaa el-Fna in Marrakesh. In the rocky deserts medinas are protected by kasbahs, on the coast by thick sea walls. But it's not just a heritage trip, as Morocco's cities are forward-facing too, with glitzy new urban design in Casablanca and Rabat looking to the future as well as paying homage to their roots.

Morocco, it was chosen by our experts, recommending various accommodation and adventure options. In the themes of tourist activities we can say that it is a very safe country, and with much to see and what to do. As soon as you finish some trip either in the medina, the desert or mountain, you can take refuge in one of its splendid Riads or Five Star Hotels. I can say that it will be very strange that you find bad service in these spaces. Everything is spotless! Enjoy also the delicious cuisine and local wine.

For lovers of the atypical, come with us on a dream trip!

WINDOW



SEAT

It is incredible how from the air you can see so much diversity of environments in Morocco. Morocco has a landscape of a spectacular variety, combining desert, sea and snow with unusual ease.

After an adventure we left from the airport of Fez to Europe, and in a short time already saw what I had checked in Moroccan lands before: the colorful of this country. Passing between rocky mountains and with vegetation towards the sandy desert and the Oasis of water that are between the dunes and then end in a beautiful blue and calm sea ...

I always feel nostalgic when I leave a country that I fell in love with ... It's pending to test the beaches of this beautiful land, without a doubt I will return because I do not want anyone to tell me and also I will need the photo from my seat next to the plane window.



The Charm of Morocco

" A magic place in the world "

Morocco is a storied country, that has, over the centuries, woven its ties to Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and the wider Middle East into whole cloth. Its mixed Arab and Berber population forms a strong national identity, but an increasingly youthful one, taking the best of its traditions and weaving the pattern anew – from the countryside to the city, from the call to prayer from the mosque to the beat of local hip hop. Morocco has a hundred faces and sounds, all ready to welcome the traveller looking for spice and adventure.

Morocco's cities are some of the most exciting on the continent. Join the centuries-old trail of nomads and traders to their ancient hearts, from the winding medina maze of Fez to the carnivalesque street-theatre of the Djemaa el-Fna in Marrakesh. In the rocky deserts medinas are protected by kasbahs, on the coast by thick sea walls. But it's not just a heritage trip, as Morocco's cities are forward-facing too, with glitzy new urban design in Casablanca, Rabat and Tangier looking to the future as well as paying homage to their roots.

Moroccan Activities

Enjoying Morocco starts with nothing more strenuous than its national pastime – people-watching in a street cafe with a coffee or a mint tea. Use the opportunity to plan your next moves – hiking up North Africa's highest peak, learning to roll couscous, camel trekking in the desert, shopping in the souqs or getting lost in the medina. Between the activities, you can sleep in boutique riads, relax on panoramic terraces and grand squares, and mop up delicately flavoured tajines – before sweating it all out in a restorative hammam.







M o r o c c o

From Saharan dunes to the peaks of the High Atlas, Morocco could have been tailor-made for travellers. Lyrical landscapes carpet this slice of North Africa like the richly coloured and patterned rugs you'll lust after in local cooperatives. The mountains – not just the famous High Atlas but also the Rif and sun-tanned ranges leading to Saharan oases – offer simple, breathtaking pleasures: night skies glistening in the thin air, and views over a fluffy cloudbank from the Tizi n'Test pass. On lower ground, there are rugged coastlines, waterfalls and caves in forested hills, and the mighty desert.

Discover with us some of the most amazing places in the most important cities of this magical country.

Marrakech

One of the most evocative places in the world

Casablanca

The best representation of the modern nation

Rabat

A good choice for a short sojourn.

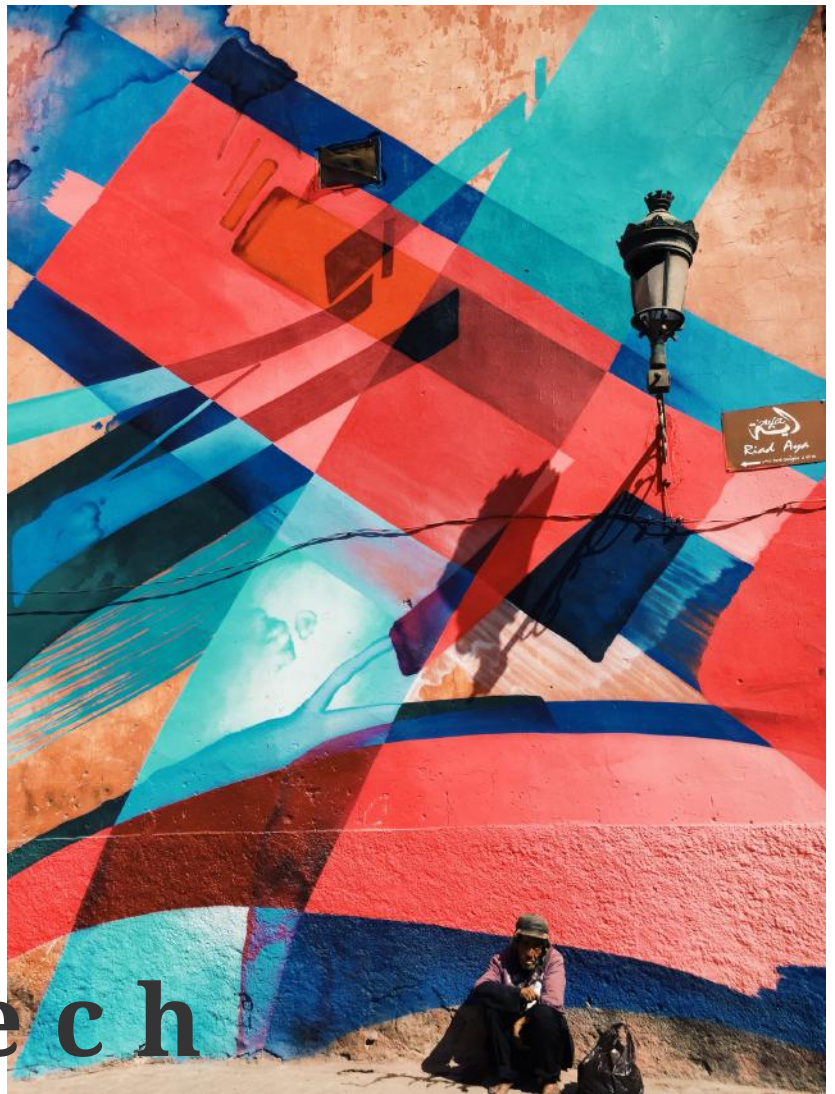
Meknes

The more laid-back with less hassle

Fez

An ancient breeding ground for scholars and artisans, imams and gourmands

**B A B D O U K K A L A ,
M A R R A K E S H , M O R O C C O**



M a r r a k e c h

Marrakech has stood for close to a thousand years, a city of history and culture. One of the most evocative places in the world, just the name conjures up images of this cultural melting pot – sandstone buildings, dusty streets and towering minarets against deep blue skies immediately spring to mind. Known as The Red City thanks to the hue of the thick walls surrounding the old city, Marrakech has been a popular tourist destination in Morocco since the 1960s, attracting everyone from the Beatles to Sienna Miller. It's a place to engage the senses, nowhere more so than in the famous souks.

These vibrant markets are a whirlwind of colour and noise, where throngs of people weave between tightly packed stalls exhibiting pyramids of brightly coloured spices, richly woven rugs and a thousand other exotic goods. Enticing smells waft through the souks, and the clamour of voices haggling and the cries of vendors competing for customers provides a constant backing track to the city. It's almost impossible to walk through Marrakech for more

than five minutes without finding some architectural wonder to marvel at. From the exquisite gardens to the intricately carved archways to the ornate mosques, this is a city that displays its history in its man-made environment. The Medina in particular is a sight to behold: designated a UNESCO World Heritage Centre it's a wonderful mix of Amazigh, Arabic and Moorish architecture. When it comes to entertainment, Marrakech blends cultures to magical effect. Jemaa El-Fnaa is the busiest square in the whole of Africa, packed with fire-eaters, cross-dressing bellydancers, Amazigh acrobats, astrologers, and a hundred other types of street entertainers. Marrakech also plays host to many festivals such as the Dakka Marrakchia, the Popular Arts Festival and the Marrakech Biennale. A more relaxed time can be had on one of Marrakech's fine golf courses, or for a delightful pampering experience then seek out one of the many hammams that are a speciality of the city

Discover *Marrakech*



JMAA EL FNA,

Jamaa el Fna is at the heart of the Medina, and serves as a main square. Stop here for lunch, as restaurants rule the scenery, and various foods and fare are up for the tasting. Sweet cakes and ginseng teas sold at stalls make for a wonderful after-meal dessert, and rooftop restaurants and terraced stalls offer equally tasty treats. So sit down to enjoy the amazing view a meal, or just a coffee or tea among the snake charmers and storytellers of Jemaa el Fna.

THE KOUTOUBIA MOSQUE

The Koutoubia Mosque, the largest Mosque in Marrakech, is a stunning sight by night or day. While it is floodlit by nightfall, by day its arching windows, beautiful gardens, burbling fountains, and stony facade can be appreciated to the fullest extent. Its minaret stands at over 250 feet tall, and can be seen from almost anywhere in Marrakech, leading the way to the Medina, and proving an architectural wonder. A short stroll around the Mosque and its surroundings is a refreshing and leisurely way to take in one of the city's most important structures.





MEDINA OF MARRAKECH

A short walk from the Jardin Majorelle, the Medina of Marrakech is one of the city's biggest draws and the grandest of all Berber marketplaces in Morocco. A swarming center of commerce, the souks at the Medina sell goods ranging from carpets to leathers, pottery to jewels, lanterns to spices, and more. Plus, snakes, monkeys, and donkeys with laden carts are added to the mix of traffic. Visit to have a mint tea, browse traditional wares and food, and soak up the colorful stalls and surrounding architecture. And do not forget to enjoy the Magrib from the terrace of Cafe de France, with the sunset at the end is an amazing experience.

SAADIAN TOMBS

Situated behind the Kasbah Mosque, the Saadian Tombs hail from the 16th century and were returned to their former glory and beauty after being re-discovered in the early 1900s. The mausoleum contains the intricate burials of over fifty members of Saadi Dynastic royalty, as well as an attractive garden area containing the grave sites of servants and soldiers. The highlight of the mosaic masterpiece is in one of the central three rooms, where the sultan's grandson Ahmad al-Mansur is buried. Columns raise the roof high above the marble detailing and cedar steel, a true monument not to be missed.





B E N Y O U S S E F M A D R A S A

The Ben Youssef Madrasa functioned as a theological college throughout the 14th century and into the 1960s.

Today, its halls, classrooms, courtyard, and dorms — decorated in gorgeous geometric and floral patterns of cedar, stucco, and marble — welcome visitors. A quiet, shaded place to rest and take in Morocco's scholarly and religious past, and to feel what it must have been like to learn in this venerable space.

**Y O U C A N A S K F O R T H E S E T O U R S
W H I L E Y O U A R E S T A Y I N G A T
R I A D L ' O R A N G E R A I E**



La Sultana

MARRAKECH

Authentic
Unique
Confidential

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FOLLOW
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La Sultana

**AUTHENTIQUE,
INSOLITE,
CONFIDENTIEL**

The largest terrace of the Medina's golden triangle is welcoming and opens out with panache over 1800 sm. The view is splendid at 360°! It overlooks the Saadian tombs and the Kasbah's great mosque and the Koutoubia, dominates the quarter's small picturesque and colourful market, close to a lucky stork nest, and spans the majestic ochre city and Atlas Mountains on the horizon.

Marrakech

The philosophy of the hotel reveals itself in the spirit of the place.

The fuzzy feeling, but palpable that you feel makes the place unique. It can not be compared to any other. Even during a short stay at the Sultana Marrakech, we feel that impression. Because everything was done to create harmony in an extraordinary place with such skill that everything seems to have always existed and it provides a sense of timelessness and eternity.

Located in UNESCO listed Medina world heritage site, La Sultana Marrakech own history that echoes to Moroccan great Royal History.

Once upon a time in the days of the Almohad dynasty (12th century), where La Sultana Marrakech is today, a granary supplies the royal family and the court of the Calife Yacoub El Mansour. The Calife just completed the Koutoubia and plans to add a Royal Kasbah to the city with access through the Bab Agnaou archway.

As a nod to this granary and the brick usage at that time, La Sultana Marrakech used the brick as the main material in the architecture of the Almohad patio.

T A B L E A U X E T O E U V R E S D ' A R T

The art objects shines at La Sultana 'Marrakech', sculptures, antiques, furnitures, paintings..., carefully put in display to amaze the eye. Over the years the private collection was enriched with paintings by famous Moroccan artists such as Gharbaoui, Louardiri, Denmati, Hassan El Glaoui, Mohamed Ben Allal... And Middle Eastern such us José-Cruz Herrera, Odette Bruno, Pontoy, Brunet Ouard...



In the 16th century, Marrakech undergo notable architectural achievements near La Sultana, under the Saadian rulers (1510-1669) when the El Badi Palace and the Saadian tombs were built. This dynasty has been a source of inspiration at large at La Sultana Marrakech with similar Moorish design in tiles patterns of the Saadian patio and white plaster work.

The Alaouite dynasty takes over in the 18th century with the Sultan Moulay Ismael dismantling the Badi palace to make a greater palace and decided to walled the Saadian tombs to see it fall into obscurity for hundreds of years.

The secret remained closely guarded until aerial photography exposed them in 1917. Today this monument is visible from above from the grand rooftop of La Sultana Marrakech.

At the end of the 19th century, the building corresponding to La Sultana Marrakech today was handed down to a former palace worker, Caïd Azzi Boujemaa as a gift for his devotion and loyalty to the dynasty. During the French protectorate, his son lovingly restored many of its original features and the address became synonymous with glamorous society balls and parties with his wife bearing for coquetry a French name Odette.

In 2001, in partnership with the Historical Monuments Organisation, it was revived once more to become a place of great hospitality. In its modern day apparel La Sultana captures the charm and elegance of residencies from a bygone era, offering the intimacy of a smaller hotel with unparalleled one-to-one service and experiences. Made-up of five separate riads, it feels maze-like and disguises its sprawling corridors and hidden chambers for the delight of its own guests.



“

There are places that are especially created to celebrate exceptional moments. The finest suites and the beautiful spaces of La Sultana Marrakech are for that ”



Majesty, luxury, a little excess, in a harmony of good taste, just a pinch of madness too. Things that will make you perfectly enjoy the appreciation of the event being celebrated.

One can dream of spending his honeymoon, celebrate an anniversary, offering a stay to relatives or friends or simply to have fun while enjoying a moment of happiness that magically transforms into eternity.



La Sultana has focused on the quality of its restaurant and the strengthening of its team. The combination of rigor and tradition is the watchword.

The chef produce master dishes which excite the diner taste buds . To ensure authenticity of the subtle flavors of Moroccan dishes by « Marrakchiates » lady cooks who make, identically the traditional dishes of their childhood: Lamb couscous and seven vegetables, Tangia «as before» Dada Brika , The beef tagine with its raisins and almonds « M'rouzia « way.

La Sultana knows that even though a house may be attractive in its decoration and atmosphere.

Therefore, I can personally say that their kitchen is a delight. If you do not know what to ask the chef will guide you between delicious dishes that you can accompany with an excellent Moroccan wine. Enjoy its restaurant on the terrace, with an impressive view of the medina and historical monuments. I can only say that you will fall in love.



Bien-Etre - Well being

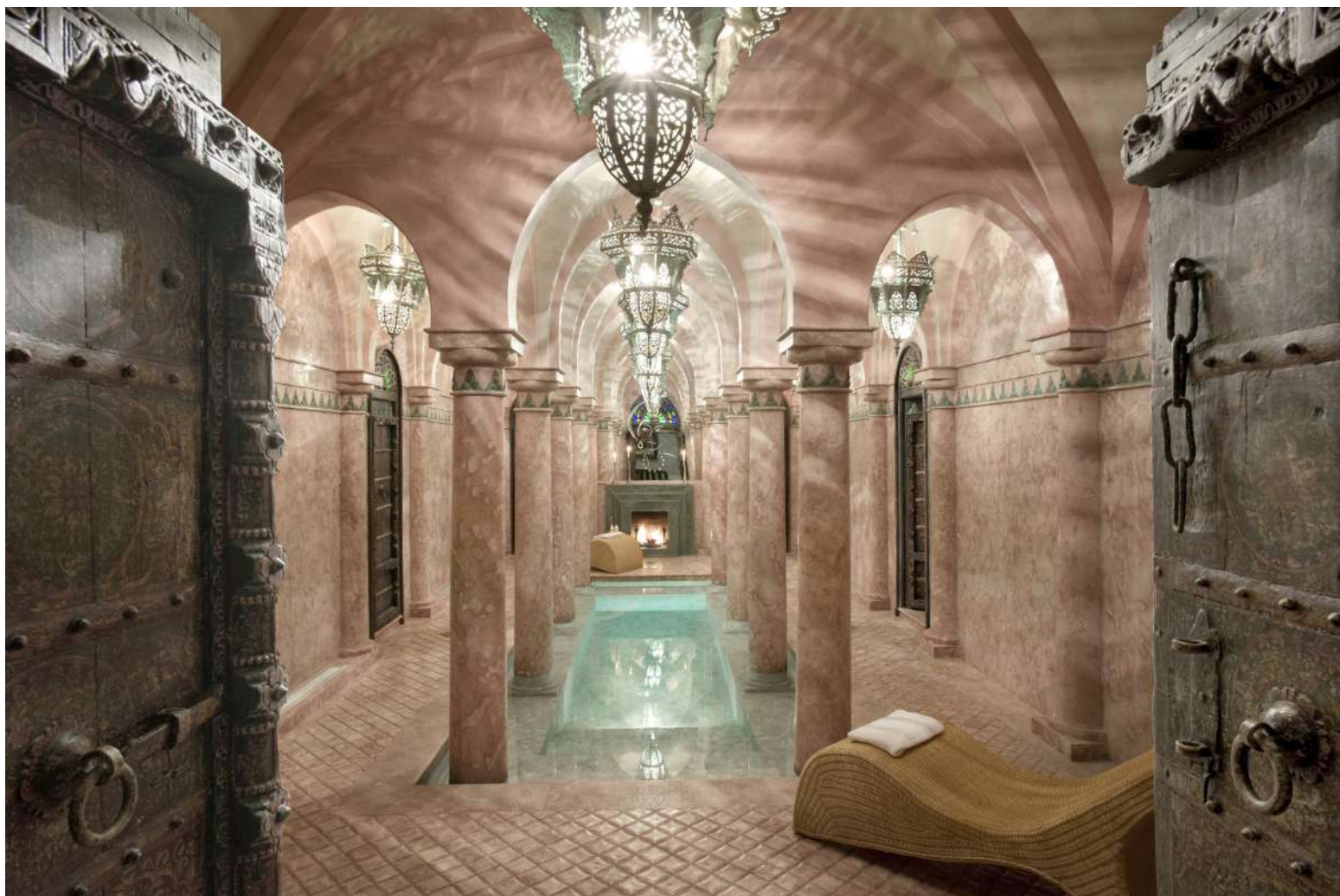
SECRETS OF LA SULTANA'S BEAUTY

The Sultana, advised by expert, provides an afternoon one of its spas, magical places that can be shared, in privacy, between selected friends.

In Marrakech or Oualidia, enjoy these beautiful places where you lose track of time. Between massages and steam baths, one whispers the latest trends address or preparations for an upcoming wedding. As in the old baths in Rome or in one of Eugene Delacroix's paintings. It's unique, trendy, and in.

Discreet, qualified and experienced people will particularly take care of you, pamper you, and massage you, according to ancient practices that have proven themselves. You'll love the creams and gels from Atlas plants and algae of the Ocean. You'll be amazed of the effects of chromo therapy and the latest technologies. And in the large heated pool, between the pink marble columns of Marrakech or carved stone pillars of Oualidia, you can swim in happiness.

The Sultana, high priestess of femininity will deliver you, friendly accomplice, on an unforgettable afternoon time all its beauty secrets.





Riad L'Orangeraiie

*"Escape to an exclusive oasis
of peace and perfection"*

Since you come to the front door of the Riad L'Orangeraiie, inside the Medina of Marrakech, you will realize that you have arrived at a very special place. The aromatic notes similar to an orange tree that stand out since you start the entrance through its finely decorated corridor will automatically make you feel comfortable and relaxed. In the center, a Spanish-style courtyard that matches the large windows of the first rooms, with a charming fountain full of petals flower and a carefully coordinated lights, give this place a totally charming look.

This, intertwined to a very personalized and affable attention from one of its owner, Cyril and his servicial and friendly team will make your stay the most unforgettable.

Riad
Orangerie
Boutique Hotel



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Tel. +212 (0) 661 238 789 | Reservations France +33 (0)6 23 92 40 05
Reservations UK +44 (0)798 268 36 12
e-mail: info@riadorangerie.com



Enjoy "Alfresco" dining on the roof top terrace and experience an unparalleled concierge service which will cater to your every request.

Riad L'Orangerie in Marrakech, restored to its original grandeur by two passionate French brothers, is an ancient traditional Moroccan 'riad' residence, which has been transformed into a delightful boutique hotel, harmoniously combining old traditions with the expectation of the contemporary world.

The central location of our riad affords its guests easy access to all that Marrakech can offer, harmoniously balanced with the calm and serenity within the Riad. Enjoy Marrakech from your beautiful riad in the heart of the old town (Medina)

R O O M S A N D S U I T E S

Riad l'Orangerie, boasts seven spicy suites and rooms, warm and colorful like their names, making this riad the perfect choice for romantic getaways. The jewel tones of the riad decor mirror the richness of Marrakech.

With a total capacity of 17 guests, they rented exclusively this typical Moroccan house hotel is also an ideal venue for celebrations and family reunions in Marrakech.

"All of the rooms are equipped with Air Conditioning, Heating, Guest Safes, Hair Dryers and Toiletries" This hotel riad offers complimentary Wi-Fi internet access throughout. During your stay they will also lend you free of charge a mobile phone in order for you to be able to reach the hotel riad at any time of the day or night. This enables their guests to avoid the cost of the roaming charges on their own mobiles.

Enjoy a fancy and different decoration in these rooms: Ginger, Cinnamon, Nutmeg, Paprika, Saffron and Turmeric





COURTYARDS AND INTERIORS

In the very heart of Marrakech's Medina, this Marrakech boutique hotel with seven rooms and suites, all bearing the names of local spices and colors, open out on to one of two internal courtyards. On the riad's 'Garden' side you will enjoy the sweet scent of plants and flowers, along with the soft sound of their fountain. The 'Oasis' side of this Marrakech boutique hotel will tempt you to indulge yourself as you relax by the pool, or soothe your cares away in the steam of the riad's very own 'hammam'.

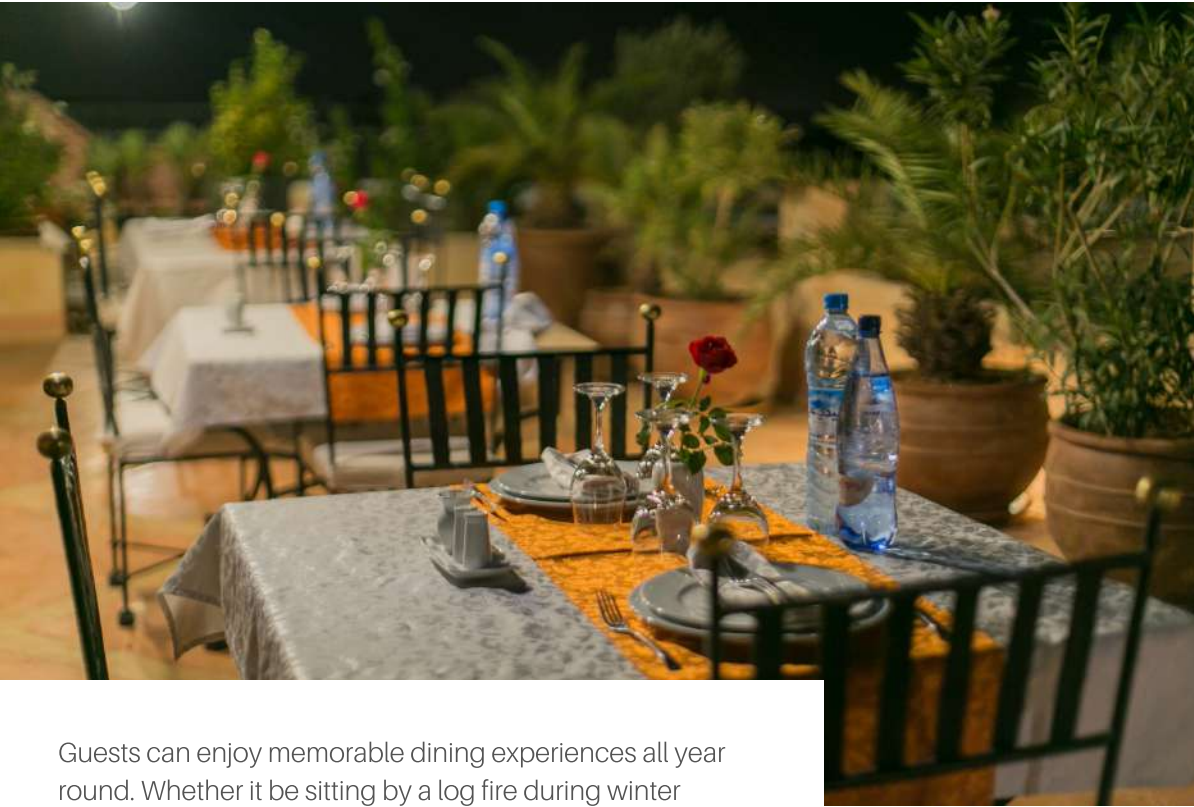


RIAD TERRACE & POOL

The elevated position - higher than neighboring riads - gives our riad magnificent and unrivalled views over Marrakech and out to the Atlas Mountains.

The riad's rooftop terrace also offers a truly tranquil and peaceful oasis. It provides escapism from your everyday lives and the setting to truly relax. There are sun loungers, covered terraces and plenty of private and open areas to unwind.

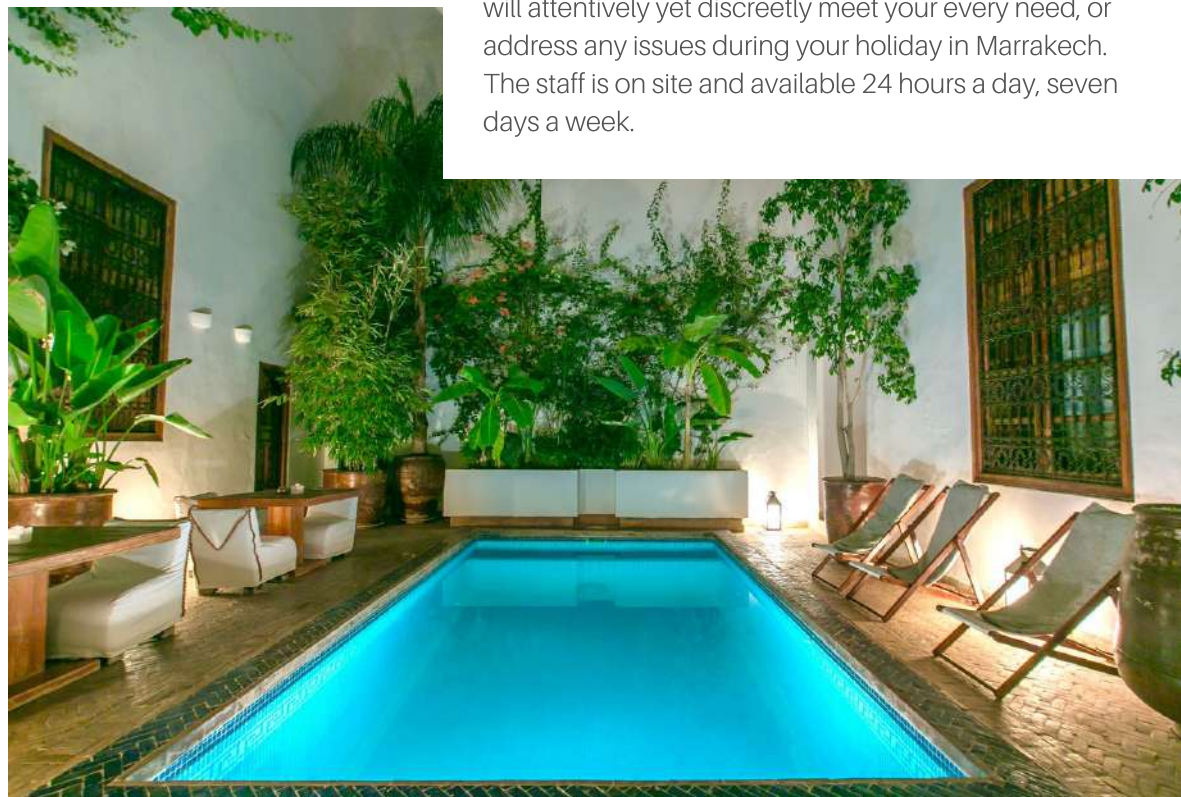




Guests can enjoy memorable dining experiences all year round. Whether it be sitting by a log fire during winter months or on the roof top terrace during the rest of the year. In the evenings Flambo burners provide an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful night sky on the terrace with a cocktail and candlelit dinner. The soaring Atlas Mountains become your vista to enjoy the sumptuous breakfasts freshly prepared each day.

The riad also boasts an open air pool located in one of their two courtyards. It's perfect for cooling off and refreshing yourself after a day in the Marrakech souks.

Guests at the luxury Riad L'Orangerie receive the full attention of the riad's staff, who are totally helpful. They will attentively yet discreetly meet your every need, or address any issues during your holiday in Marrakech. The staff is on site and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.





D I N I N G

As a luxury riad in Marrakech, they offer a full concierge service for restaurant bookings and other reservations. Also they will be happy to share their recommendations with you, based on your dining wishes that evening. We ourselves enjoy a good recommendations for a late lunch in a delicious Moroccan restaurant.

You can ask whether you wish to sample Moroccan cuisine, International, or 'Fusion' - whether you'd like to experience it in a traditional or contemporary setting - and whether you're looking for an intimate/romantic experience, or one offering the full spectacle of music and dance - they can steer you to a suitable choice, and take care of the reservation for you.

That said, as the local saying goes, you'll find that the best dining is to be found 'at home' - and Nadia, the chef, will delight you with her secret recipes - cooking for you to order from ingredients sourced that day in the market. You just need to tell before the morning that you'd like to dine 'chez nous', or ahead of your arrival if you'd like to dine on your first night, and leave the rest to the team. They can even arrange for you to attend a local cookery course lasting half a day, where you can learn some of the secrets of authentic Moroccan cuisine and then enjoy the results.

S P E C I A L C E L E B R A T I O N S

The team will be delighted to arrange special celebrations, drinks parties, weddings and anniversaries, birthdays or family reunions can be magical if celebrated right here in the riad.

Local musicians and dancers are easily booked if desired. Just talk, and the L'Orangerie team will work to make your stay here truly memorable.

E X C U R S I O N S

Your visit to Marrakech need not confine itself to the city. There is much to see and experience in the surrounding area as well. You can ask for recommendation too inside the riad and the team will help you with the arrange. You can visit amazing places like:

Ait Ben Haddou
Essaouira
The High Atlas
The Ourika Valley



LES JARDINS

DE LA KOUTOUBIA

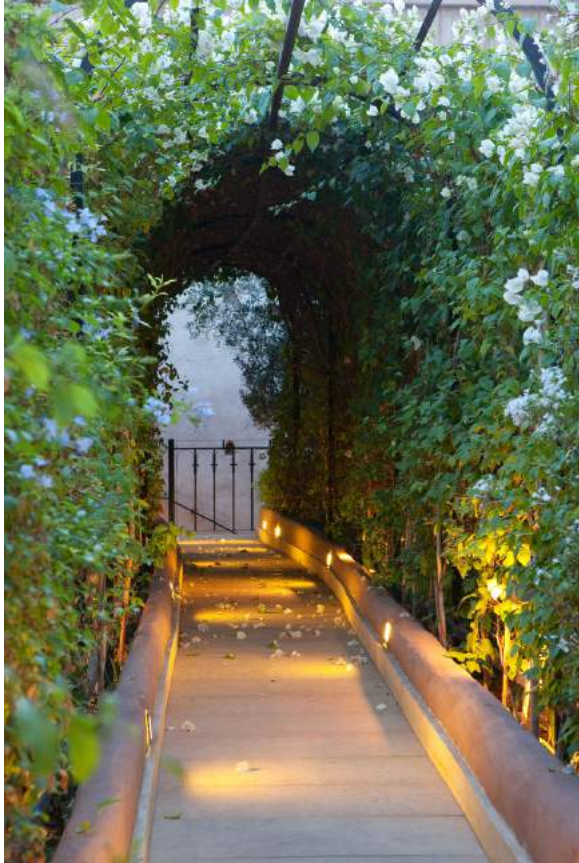
"A prestigious establishment appreciated for the quality of its service, a luxurious Spa and the diversity of its table"

In the heart of the Medina with miles and a scent and colors of Marrakech, near the legendary Jemaâ el Fna, established in the cool walls of the Riad Ouarzazi dating from the thirteenth century,

The warm welcome and attentions of all staff will make you feel more than in home. Everyone will be eager to help in your necessities and always with a smile!

You will love the public facilities and the charming rooms delicately decorated and with all the modern facilities

You can find this beautiful and luxury hotel with 108 rooms including 30 Mini Suites, 22 Junior Suites and 2 Royal Suites. Most of the rooms are open on the quiet of a patio, a perfect spot for read or just have a quiet moment before one visit of la Medina.



Sumptuous daydream in a single room, mini suite, junior suite. Even more spacious are the two suites with private terrace overlooking the Minaret of Koutoubia . At the top of this building of luxury and pleasure, the royal suite.





*Enjoy a Gourmet Experience and
the Flavors of the World*



One of the best things you can do in Marrakech and that I have enjoyed the most is its varied and delicious cuisine. Discover flavors and smells that you can not forget in one of the two restaurants: Moroccan Restaurant or the Paris Relay or the Snack Bar : Imlil. At the end of a dinner follow the night tasting one of the delicious local wines between pleasant conversations in their Piano Bar Ouarzazi.

RELAXATION AND WELL - BEING

Carita Paris

When in Les Jardins De La Koutoubia you can not forget a visit to its Spa, the Koutoubia Gardens have chosen the brand Carita Paris, an anti-aging specialist based on state-of-the-art and avant-garde technology, Carita signifies its difference and originality with its global beauty concept, face-body-hair.

A "glamour" without ostentation, made of refinement, sophistication and simplicity, which is found with subtlety as much in the material, the texture of the products as in the service.

The Spa puts at your disposal eight (8) treatment cabins and massages, four (4) hammams, one (1) hairdresser, one (1) indoor pool with jacuzzi, one (1) fitness center, one (1) relaxation area and tea room. A sweet scent of perfumes takes you to a screened cabin, ancestral accessories plunge you into the history of a country, hands massage you and take you to an elsewhere thousands of miles away from your daily life.

Luxury, Calm and Indulgence.



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HÔTEL LES JARDINS DE LA KOUTOUBIA
MARRAKECH

Selman Marrakech



*An essential and unedited
experience,
a return to the source of
forgotten luxury,
now found again under the
light of the
Selman's stars "*

At the foot of the Atlas Mountains, away from the hustle of the medina, what seemed like only a mirage has become a reality: Selman Marrakech, a palace of distinct, sublime and alluring charm. Passing through the immense portico, the gaze is drawn over the whole property by the geometry of the facades and gardens dotted with fountains, creating a sublime harmony. Across the Mechouar, the traveller gets a glimpse of the interior, a sensual contrast to the grandeur of the exterior.

Designed by Jacques Garcia and built by the best artisans, Selman seduces with its timeless harmony. At this intimate, personal and family-owned property, each guest shares in the joy, love and dreams of their warm and passionate hosts. In this timeless palace whose construction was the vision of the owner, the art of traditional Moroccan hospitality has been revived. Precious moments are embodied in the presence of the beautiful thoroughbred Arabian horses, symbols of a bygone grandeur, which capture the spirit of Selman and invite the joy of living. There are views of the horses from the terraces and the gardens where one can admire the majesty and poise of these animals. Moments of pure grace add to the perfection of this timeless experience.

The Bennani Smires family pursued their dream, without forgetting a single star. Everything is in place to receive friends and travellers as if into their own home.



The interior spaces are a critical part of the overall design; the Reception is off to one side of the entrance, hidden away so the guest enters into the heart of the place with a direct view onto the gardens and the sunken space, and on either side there are views of the bar and the restaurant, with the eye drawn by the path to the spa.

Jacques Garcia--



Like all great hotel stories, at the root of Selman is a family history. Saida and Abdeslam Bennani Smires are creating their grandfather's dream which was to see his family create a project in his hometown. A collector of Arabian thoroughbreds, educated at hotel school in Lausanne, Abdeslam is a young man driven by his endless enthusiasm, and in 2005 launched a project to combine his two passions within an extraordinary hospitality concept which would set new benchmarks: Selman. An unique project which would not have been possible without the support of his parents and most of all, his sister Saida's help, who brings to the table a calmness and pragmatism. Complementary personalities, Saida and Abdeslam have managed to create a place which reflects their characters, as spectacular as it is coherent, a reflection of their family history, brought alive by a lightness of touch.

The mother of the house is also a great passionate about hospitality and art, she actually have a collection of antiques that disposes all around the house for your visual pleasure. In each corner of the property you will find beautiful masterpieces and art objects.

A LUXURY PLACE WITH PASSION FOR THE HORSES

The Arabian horse, originally from ancient Persia, is at the heart of Moroccan culture. Its introduction, at the beginning of the 7th century, and then from the 11th century from Arabia, coincided with the gradual Islamisation of the country, and is synonymous with peace and civilization. As such, the thoroughbred stands, as much as Moorish architecture, for a golden age of Moroccan culture.

As such, Abdeslam Bennani Smires decided to pay tribute to this horse that has fascinated the world for millennia. It is the horse that has given his name - Selman is the father of a line of thoroughbreds - and its spirit to the hotel. It is of huge significance. Facing the Andalucian pavilion, the Selman stud has two lavish stables which have been designed and decorated by Jacques Garcia as palaces in their own right. In the gardens, five paddocks, fenced with post and rails are home to the Selman horses, bred from the hotel's own breeding program, roaming in their paddocks for the guests' delight. This equine ballet gives meaning and magic to the place. A visitor feels like the guest of honor at an exclusive stud farm whose doors would normally be open to privileged collectors. This is a truly unique experience.



Adjacent to the paddocks is a huge spring garden which will play host to prestigious events themed around the Arabian horse; garden parties with Arabian horse presentations, and international contests which pay homage to the horses' beauty and refinement and allow guests of Selman to share in this experience.



The Selman

The main restaurant of the hotel, which stretches over 300 m² from the lobby. Designed by Jacques Garcia in sparkling shades of green and purple in contrast to the austerity of grandiose architecture, Selman is a chic but casual dining place that is open to the outside. With a direct link to the lobby the restaurant is made up of two parts; a large room with a fireplace sharing the perspective of the lobby and bar, and an extended covered patio. Open to outside guests, The Selman offers an international menu without being pretentious.

The Pavilion

The Pavilion is the perfect place to restore your energy at any time of the day. At the other end of the pool, The Pavilion provides a stunning view over the stables and paddocks where the Selmans' thoroughbred Arabian horses parade. One can eat lunch just a few steps from these spectacular creatures, taking advantage of this unique show. From 12:00 to 16:30, the Pavilion offers a Mediterranean-inspired menu: simple, tasty and fresh.



Assyl

With its authentic and charming setting, Assyl offers a gourmet menu that puts the spotlight on the richness of Moroccan cuisine in accordance with pure local traditions. With space for around 50 people, the restaurant is opened from Tuesday to Saturday from 7.p.m, offering dinner accompanied by a live group of Andalusian musicians.





AN OASIS WITHIN AN OASIS

Espace Vitalité Chenot

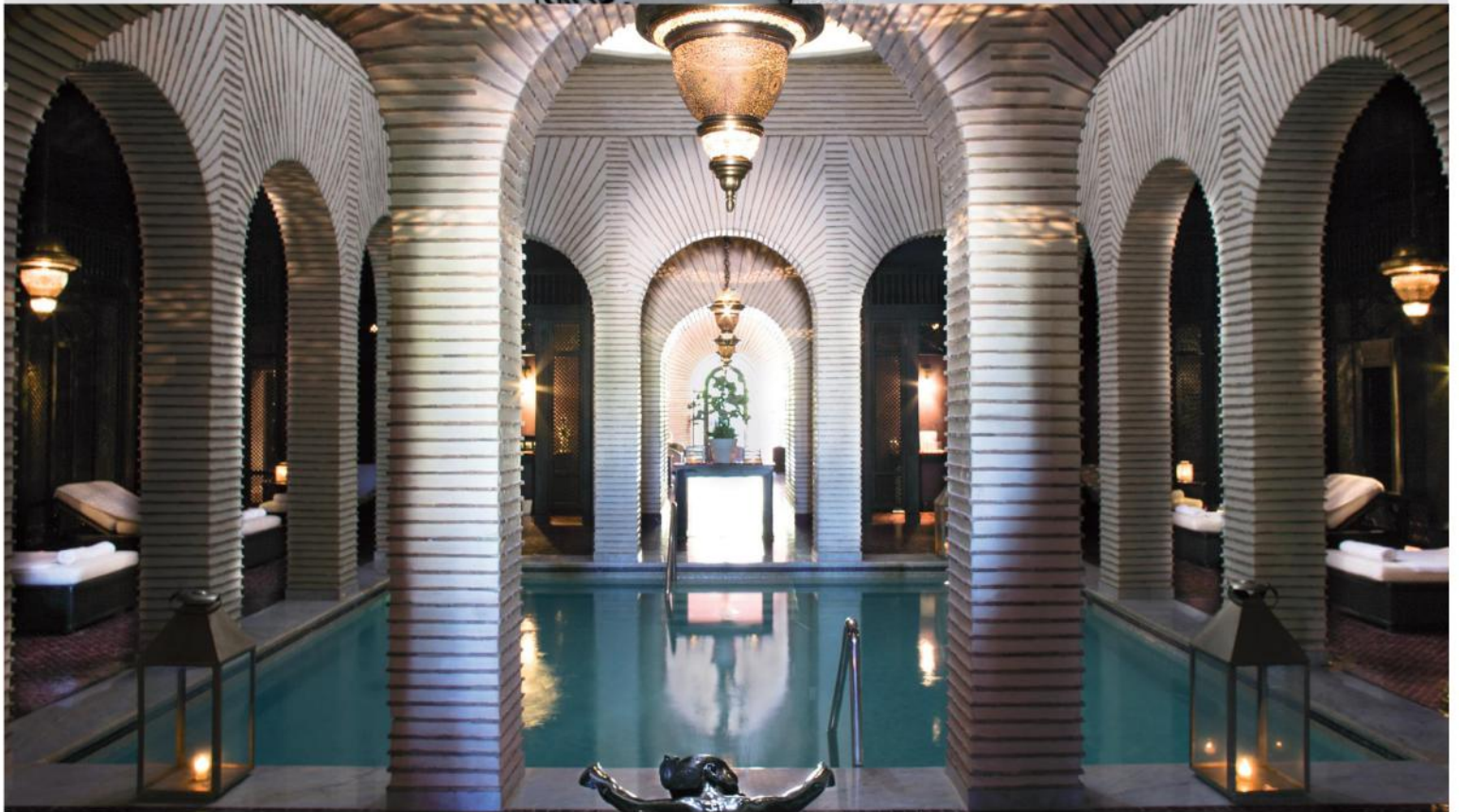
Built away from the grand pool, sheltered by the main building, the spa of Selmam Marrakech is a tribute to Oriental well-being. Arranged around a central square pool, its seven treatment rooms are hidden behind latticework screens. The vaulted ceiling seems to sparkle like a starry sky, perforated to let light gently filter down from above while the main room and arcade are plunged in semi-darkness, promoting utter relaxation. Light and dark, shadow play, shimmering mosaic tiles, traditional plasterwork... unquestionably inspired by the Orient, equipped with two heated outdoor pools and completely secluded from the rest of the hotel, evoking the ancient Hammam of Istanbul. Steam room, sauna, water jets, hydrotherapy... all contribute to a matchless state of being.

In a sophisticated setting, at the Espace Vitalité Chenot we apply the treatments and wellbeing programmes based on the renowned Chenot Method, which aims to promote health while rebalancing body, mind and spirit. His concept of health focuses on the principle of "Biontology", based on understanding the evolution of vital resources for the human body at different ages of life. The Henri Chenot method is completely unique and is based on 40 years of experience. Its mission is to rebalance the body by helping it rid itself of toxins. Through a personalized care program it restores the body's wellbeing.

A unique hotel experience

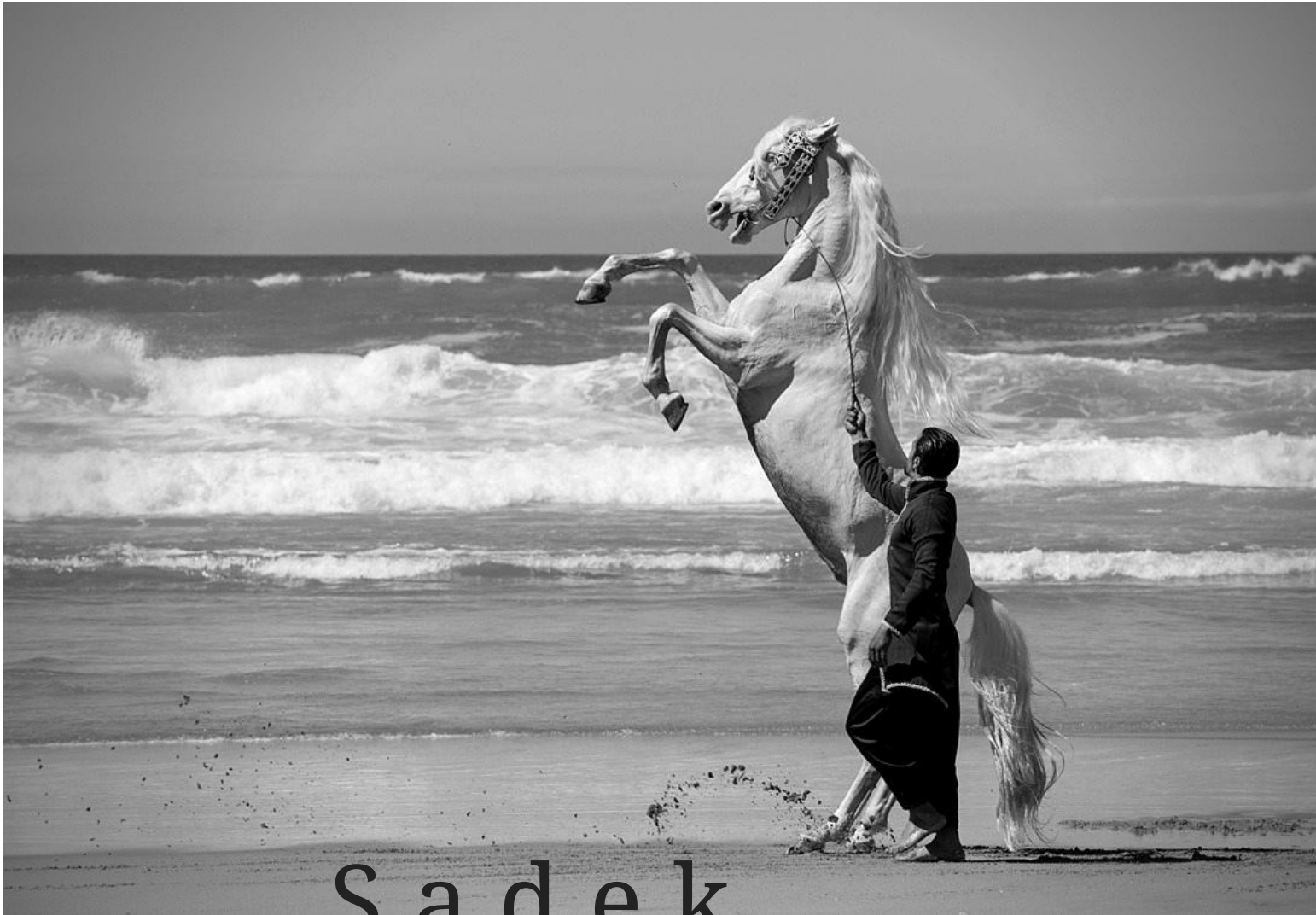


ESPACE VITALITÉ
CHENOT
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*Niché au cœur de l'hôtel Selman Marrakech,
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S a d e k
E Q U E S T R I A N A R T

*" The horse made me the man I am
and taught me humility, love and respect "*

These words of Sadek El Bahjaoui perfectly summarize the unwavering links, woven over the years, which unite this artist-rider to his companions forever.

It is above all an intuition, a communion with his accomplices who offer to the spectator this magic, this invisible and yet perceptible link between Sadek and his partners who are his horses. A magic he has shared around the world, for several years, in exceptional shows full of poetry and elegance.

This fusion, which can be read in the equestrian shows given by Sadek, Princess Sabah, Chenel, Fado and Khumba, is the result of a long-term work and a passion born in the rider in his early childhood.

S A D E K , T H E C H I L D P R O D I G Y

Sadek's love for horses goes back as far as his memories carry him. And it is from the age of 6 that this attachment is accompanied by a technical training at the Academy of Equestrian Art of Morocco, Ouirgane, in the Atlas Mountains, for this child born in Marrakesh.

For three years, he followed, rigorously, an apprenticeship to aerobatics, dressage, foot work and acrobatics, with his older brothers. A rigor rewarded since he integrates, at 9, the circus Fratellini in Paris for his first tour as a young artist.

A childhood punctuated by years of training, learning, rigor and perseverance that seem to have prepared him for the meeting.



Horse Experience

By Sadek at Selman Marrakech

DRESSAGE EXPERIENCE

Slip into your centaur skin again as you fine tune your dressage skills in an intimate encounter between horse and rider under the tutelage of Sadek.

CONFIDE IN THE LIBERTY EXPERIENCE

Be still and listen to the horse-whisperer as he murmurs his secrets to freely execute the most elegant moves in perfect harmony with the horse.

PONY CIRCUS EXPERIENCE

Offer your child the pleasure of a magnificent riding display with a carefully trained pony.

COMBINED HORSE & RIDER WARM - UP EXPERIENCE

Stretch and relax alongside and in harmony with your horse. A new way of looking at wellness across species.

E l F e n n , M a r r a k e c h

*"Combination of indulgence in a hip hotel with the heritage
of seven traditional houses"*



Vanessa Branson and Howell James' unique boutique hotel in the Marrakech medina combines the indulgence of a hip hotel with the heritage of seven traditional courtyard houses and one of the finest contemporary art collections in Morocco. A riot of colour, the décor is Moroccan with both contemporary and retro twists.

The hotel's labyrinth of suites, bedrooms and public spaces retain a special intimacy yet the hotel is now able to cater for 65 guests across the main building (23 bedrooms/suites, which includes a two bedroom private house and a three bedroom private house) and a newly-refurbished five-bedroom annex..

The secret of El Fenn lies in the contrast between its large scale grandeur and its plentiful private corners. Guests tend to stay cocooned within the ancient walls, whether immersing themselves in the tranquillity of three main courtyards filled with bougainvillea and birdsong, or curling up with a book on a sofa in one of the many hidden nooks found throughout the hotel. The hammam and spa are popular spots in which to relax. Among the many ways it sets itself apart from other hotels is the stunning 7,000 sq.ft (650m²) roof terrace with views of the Koutoubia mosque and the snow-capped Atlas Mountains beyond. Accessed by a staircase or the lift, it is the place for a delicious breakfast, a long lunch, or a drink with friends.

Guests can expect luxury on a sumptuous scale, thanks to the meticulous renovation and interior design by El Fenn's general manager, Willem Smit. Creating comforts of the rooms include spacious seating areas, marble baths, dual sinks and monsoon showers, while some of the 650 sq ft suites feature hand-stitched camel leather floors, open wood fireplaces, plunge pools and private terraces. Owner Vanessa Branson has built up an extensive private collection of works by contemporary artists over the years. Much of it now hangs in El Fenn where it is considered to be one of the most important collections of contemporary art in Morocco. With Ms Branson's art works seen throughout the public spaces and bedrooms, guests may find themselves dining under a stunning chandelier created by Francis Upritchard or sleeping beside a series of ink studies by Antony Gormley.

So many El Fenn guests wished to replicate the El Fenn style, which Branson had created with her business partner, Howell James and Willem Smit, that, in November 2015, the former lofty restaurant and theatre was transformed into a roomy concept store-cum-bar and restaurant. The interior of the new space has a classic English Old School vibe, complete with vintage-style lampshades, and there is still space for 35 diners and more drinkers to prop up the bar. Adorning the walls currently are works from Casablanca based Cultures Interface.



Co-curating the concept store's collection, with general manager Willem Smit, is one of the biggest names in model making and fashion, ex-Ford Models, Paul Rowland. The store stocks - from new designers - a wonderful range of vintage-style clothes, many with a Moroccan vibe and an urban twist. Also on offer are vintage bags, accessories, beautiful jewellery, coffee table books, perfumes, and home accessories from the finest bed linens to the best of Fez pottery. Welcoming day shoppers and hotel guests alike, El Fenn's shopping experience removes the need for haggling in the souks.



Those who wish to explore find that El Fenn's location beside the Bab El Ksour gate also allows instant access to both ancient and modern Marrakech. The bustle of Djemma El Fna square and the souks are just a three-minute walk away, while the shops, bars and restaurants of Gueliz and Hivernage are a five-minute taxi ride.

In 2005 Vanessa Branson founded the Marrakech Biennale. With a thriving visual art, literature and film programme, it has become internationally recognised. Last year she was awarded the Royal distinction of Officer of the Order of Ouissam Alaouite, in recognition of the contribution she has made to the Moroccan cultural scene and, in particular, for her efforts in establishing Marrakech as a richly diverse and eclectic platform for the arts.



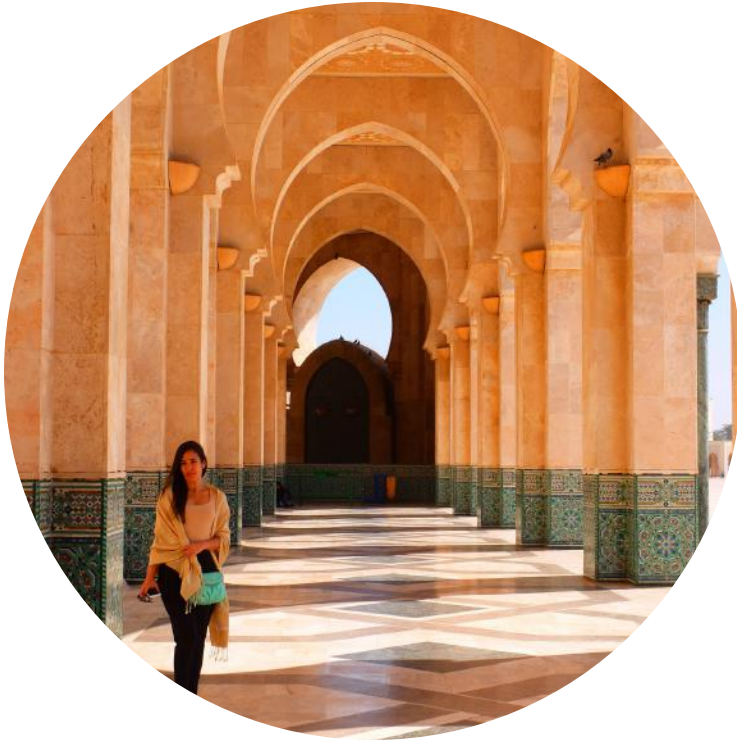
HASSAN II MOSQUE
CASABLANCA



Casablanca

Though not as atmospheric as other Moroccan cities, Casablanca is the best representation of the modern nation. This is where money is being made, where young Moroccans come to seek their fortunes and where business and the creative industries prosper. The number of construction projects currently under way here is simply extraordinary - major redevelopments include those at Pl Mohammed V and the Parc de la Ligue Arabe, and new public buildings include the Grand Théâtre de Casablanca. The city's handsome Mauresque buildings, which meld French-colonial design and traditional Moroccan style, are best admired in the downtown area. Visitors who spend time there, in the Quartier Habous and in the beachside suburb of Ain Diab, are sure to get into the local swing of things and realise that this old pirate lair is looking towards the future, embracing the European-flavoured urban sophistication that has underpinned life here for the past century.

Discover *Casablanca*



HASSAN II MOSQUE

Guided tours are possible from Saturday to Thursday, at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00 or 14:00, or daily at 14:30 in the summer. o Guided tours cost 120 dirhams (around \$12). o Visitors need to respect a strict dress code: no shoes, covered knees and shoulders.

It all started in the mid-1980s when the King of Morocco, Hassan II, acknowledged the important lack of architectural and historical landmarks in Casablanca. The city had covered herself in apartment buildings, offices and headquarters, but had very little cultural life, or anything to offer to a rapidly growing tourism flow. The Hassan II Mosque was indeed built on a promontory over the Atlantic Ocean, the seabed being visible from the glass floor in the great hall. The construction, however, wasn't free of controversy: much of the \$750 million needed to build the Mosque was financed directly from Moroccans themselves. Every single family was obligated to pay a set minimum amount, in exchange for a certificate of donation. The Mosque, at completion in 1993, became Morocco's largest, and the 7th largest in the whole world.

Its minaret, at 210 metres high, is the highest in the world. The entire Mosque's complex covers over 22 acres of land: the main hall can welcome around 25,000 worshippers while over 80,000 people can gather on the outside grounds. Interestingly enough, only the stained glass and chandeliers were imported from Italy. All the other materials, like cedar, marble and granite, were brought from different regions of the country.

The truth is, I will gladly go back again if only to step into this spectacular building. The guided tour was fascinating, and very informative for Islamic neophytes. The traditions related to prayers and the Islamic culture were very well explained and set the tone for the rest of my time in Morocco.

Mövenpick

HOTEL CASABLANCA



With a established and successful Swiss traditions Mövenpick hotel enable you to enjoy top service around the clock and indulge your palate with their superb gastronomy

For the Mövenpick hotels the hospitality also means that the guest is a friend of the house at all times.

And feeling at home is what you can expect when you get to Mövenpick Hotel in Casablanca. This hotel is a contemporary 5 star hotel located in the heart of Casablanca within the business district, yet a short distance of the old Medina.

Perfect for business or leisure, the hotel offers a number of innovative city breaks in Casablanca from business to family package, weekend breaks and much more.

Mövenpick Hotel Casablanca is centrally located within the business district and a short distance from Casablanca's most popular tourist sites. The hotel's ideal location at Rond Point Hassan II, only 5 minutes away from the train station and 30 km from Mohamed V Airport, makes it easy to reach and accessible from all parts of Casablanca.



ROOMS AND AMENITIES

All 184 spacious contemporary rooms and suites reflect the style and colours of Moroccan life. Generous room sizes from 30 square metres to a range of luxury suites with spaces up to 70 square metres. Amenities include safety deposit box, mini bar, tea and coffee making facilities, iron and ironing board, choice of pillows, a wide variety of international satellite TV channels, individual A/C controls, hair dryer, 24 hour room service, complimentary Wi-Fi high speed internet access as an amenity in all guest rooms, free access to our fitness facilities.



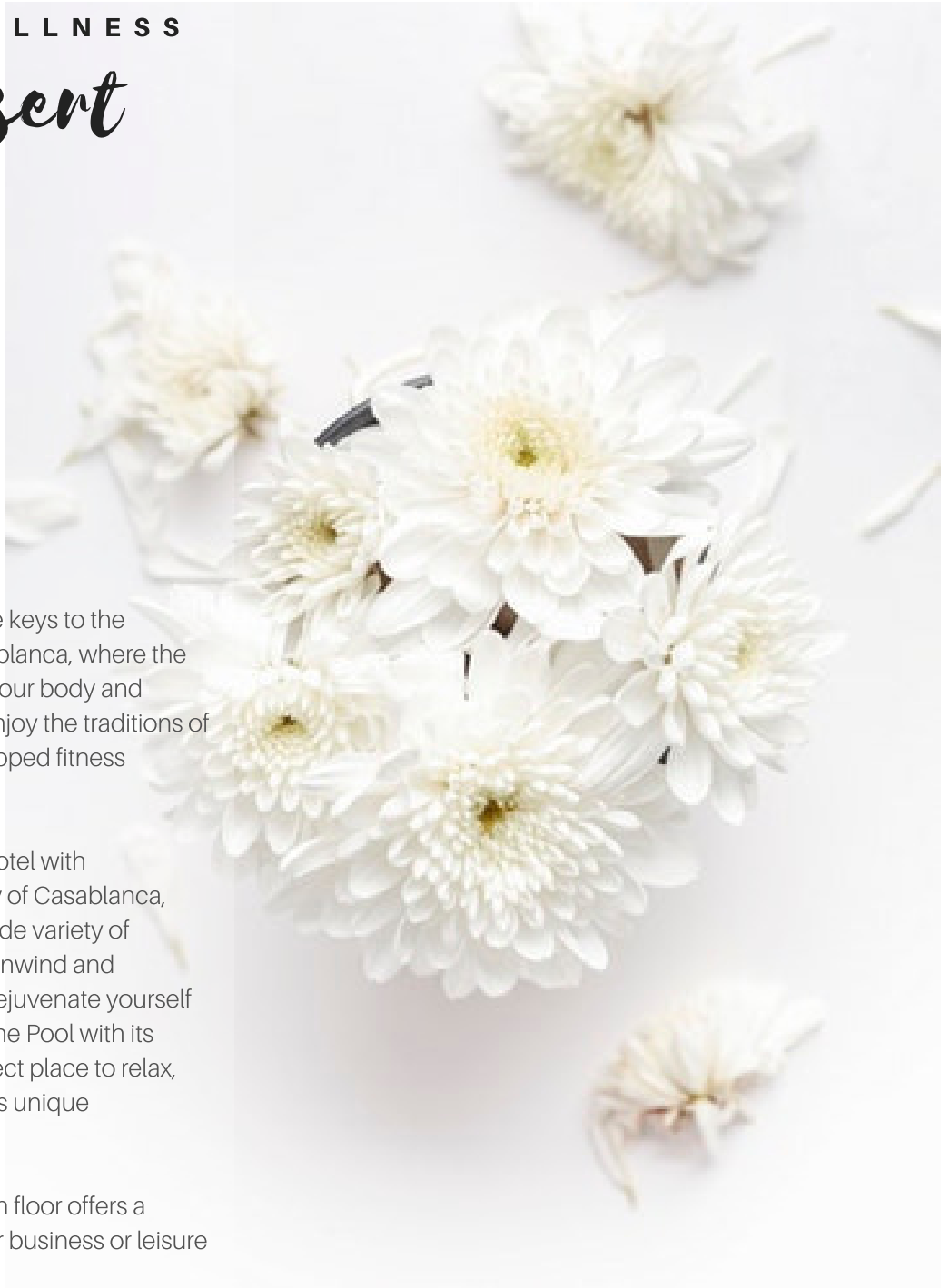
DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT

Within the heart of Casablanca, Mövenpick Hotel Casablanca offers several exciting dining options. Restaurants are open seven days a week for breakfast lunch and dinner, offering a wide variety of international dishes. The "Seixieme Floor" offers the ideal location to relax after a long day in the city or at the office and has become the city's place to meet and to be seen.



LEISURE AND WELLNESS

Rose du Desert

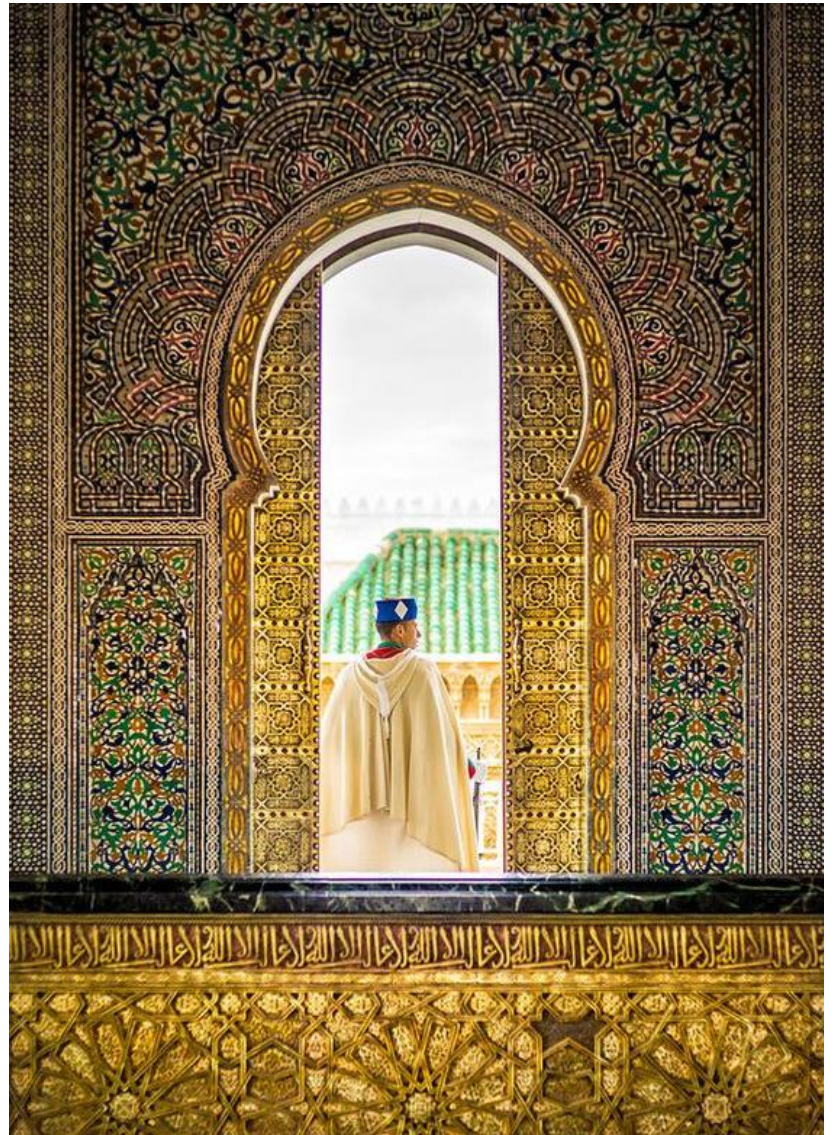


A healthy mind and healthy body are keys to the approach of Mövenpick Hotel Casablanca, where the Rose du Désert Spa will rejuvenate your body and refresh your mind. Inside the hotel enjoy the traditions of Hammam and massage, a fully-equipped fitness club and rooftop pool.

Situated on the 16th floor atop the hotel with breathtaking views of the vibrant city of Casablanca, The "Rose du Desert" Spa offers a wide variety of treatments authentic to the region. Unwind and relax in the traditional Hammam or rejuvenate yourself with a traditional Moroccan scrub. The Pool with its stunning views of the city is the perfect place to relax, exercise or simply meet friends in this unique environment.

The Wellness Center located on 16th floor offers a sanctuary for hotel guests staying for business or leisure alike.

HASSAN TOWER,
RABAT, MOROCCO



R a b a t

Morocco's political and administrative capital may be short on top-drawer tourist attractions, but it compensates with plenty of charm. The ville nouvelle's palm-lined boulevards are clean, well kept and relatively free of traffic – a blessed relief for those who have spent time in Casablanca. There's a clean central beach, an intact and evocative kasbah, and an attractive walled medina that is far less touristy than those in other large cities. All in all, the city is a good choice for a short sojourn.

Discover *Rabat*



H A S S A N T O W E R

Guarded at all times by elaborately dressed royal guards and fez-topped security personnel, Rabat's two most visited sites stand opposite each other along the magnificent Bou Regreg river. Hassan Tower (or Tour Hassan) and the Mausoleum of Mohammed V are two of Morocco's most mystical places: one is an incomplete project of majestic proportions and the other stands as a masterpiece of modern Moroccan architecture, holding inside the grand tombs of past kings. Wander through the ruins of columns and enter the ornamental grandeur that is the exquisite mausoleum to discover a part of Moroccan history that will forever remain incomplete.

It was the beginning of the 12th century when the great Sultan Yacoub al Mansour ordered the construction of the Hassan Tower and its adjoining mosque in Rabat. Having already planned the creation of the iconic Koutoubia Mosque in Marrakech and planned the restoration of the ancient Udayas Kasbah, the sultan now moved on to another impressive project: the building of the world's tallest minaret and largest mosque.

Construction thus began in 1195 with the intention of erecting a minaret that would reach 86 meters (260 feet) in height, and a mosque large enough to accommodate 20,000 worshipers. This grand project was designed to be centerpiece of the celebration of the sultan's victory over the Spanish Christians at Alarcos but the sultan's death in 1199 led to a dramatic halt in construction which was never picked up thereafter.

What was left was a minaret standing 44 meters (145 feet) tall and about 200 columns that would have sustained the impressive projected mosque.

An earthquake in 1755 further damaged the incomplete site, tearing down some of the central columns of the mosque. Most of these, however, were restored and help to portray the intended dimensions of the original project. The imposing minaret also survived the earthquake and dominates almost every view of the magnificent city of Rabat.

A M O D E R N M A S T E R P I E C E

Just across these unfinished ruins stands the striking Mausoleum of Mohammed V. Built in the 1950s and inaugurated six years after the death of Mohammed V in 1961, the structure is considered today a masterpiece of modern Alouite dynasty architecture.

Its seemingly plain exterior of white walls and typical green-tiled roof contrasts deeply with the elaborately ornamented interior.

Morocco's exquisite traditional craftsmanship is one of the main features guarded within the walls of the mausoleum, with magnificent zellij mosaics rising from marble floors to a ceiling of hand-carved cedar wood and gold leaf.

Of course, the main feature of mausoleum are the glorious tombs of King Mohammed V (the grandfather of Morocco's current king) and his two sons.

Set on the ground floor of the mausoleum, the white onyx-carved tombs are guarded by royal guards and fez-topped (that hat and not the city of Fez) security agents and can be admired from an interior balcony which surrounds them.

This magnificent site is open daily for all visitors and non-Muslims are welcome to enter the holy mausoleum and even the small mosque next door. The royal guards, who are mounted on horses and dressed in an elaborate uniform, stand at the main entrance and are also usually open to being photographed. Visitors are simply asked to dress respectfully and avoid coming between noon and 2pm, when the mausoleum closes for midday prayers in the mosque.



DAR AL - MAKHZEN PALACE

Located in the centre of Rabat, Morocco, the Dar al-Makhzen Palace, also called Palais Royal, is the official residence of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and his family. It should not be confused with the Dar el Makhzen in Tangier, Morocco. Alaouite sultans and kings have had a residence in the Moroccan capital since Muhammad al-Nafs al-Zakiyya reigned in the 700s. The beautifully designed palace now standing was initially built in 1864 as a replacement for the old palace that had been built by Sultan Muhammad IV. It is situated on a parade ground called a mechouar which is used for large public gatherings. A mosque, accommodations for the Royal Guard, a cookery school, a ground floor library and the Collège Royal. The latter educates senior members of the Moroccan Royal Family. The library contains the manuscript collection of King Hassan II. Immaculate gardens are on the ground of the palace, as well. These gardens were designed with both French and Arab influences.

Morocco began negotiations for its independence from France in 1956, and after independence had been declared, the Dar al-Makhzen Palace remained as the main and working palace for the King.

As the official home and working palace for the Moroccan Royal Family, it has played host to the wedding of King Mohammed to Salma Bennati (now Princess Lalla Salma); it was also the birthplace of the late King Hassan II who reigned from 1961 to his death in 1999. His son now reigns as King Mohammed VI. Unlike many of its counterparts in Europe, Dar al-Makhzen Palace is not open to visitors. However, those who have been in Rabat have said that you can get decently close to the Palace before the guards begin to get uneasy and ask you to leave.



KASBAH OF THE UDAYAS

Rabat's historic citadel occupies the site of the original ribat (fortress-monastery) that gave the city its name. Predominately residential, its narrow streets are lined with whitewashed houses – most of which were built by Muslim refugees from Spain.

There are scenic views over the river and ocean from the Plateforme du Sémaphore at its highest point, and the attractive Andalusian Gardens at its southern edge are a popular relaxation and meeting point for locals. The most dramatic entry to the kasbah is through the enormous Almohad gate of Bab Oudaia, built in 1195. Its location, facing the heart of the city and just outside the original palace, made it more ceremonial than defensive and the gateway is elaborately decorated with a series of carved arches. These days, it is only occasionally open so most visitors enter through a much smaller nearby gateway. Inside, the main street, Rue Jamaa, runs straight through the kasbah to the Plateforme du Sémaphore.

About 200m ahead on the left is the oldest mosque in Rabat, built in the 10th century and restored in the 18th with funds donated by an English pirate known as Ahmed el Inlisi, one of the feared Sallee Rovers.

The View Hotel Rabat

"A High-End Business and Leisure Hotel"

When you are looking for a business and leisure hotel with a high demand when it comes to facilities and commodities and for a perfect space where you can celebrate your business issues and experiment the life outside to the hotel as well... You can choose The View Hotel, if your business trip takes you to Rabat, the Morocco Kingdom Capital.





HOTEL OVERVIEW

The View Hotel Rabat is a full-service hotel with 145 guest rooms, a space of elegance and refinement, these rooms are exquisite, bright, with breathtaking views of the capital by day and night, a true discovery of one of the most beautiful cities of the Kingdom.

Whether traveling for business or pleasure, the most discerning traveler will find that The View Hotel Rabat is the perfect blend of comfort and charm. 100% smoke-free, newly refurbished Guest Rooms and Luxury Suites with all the modern amenities will make you feel at home but in a luxury one.

SUITES AND BEDROOMS

The Suites and Bedrooms are designed by Italian decorators and brand, timeless colors, relaxing and bright, enhanced by a traditional Moroccan touch, including curtains with the notion of "TerzRbati".

You can enjoy, starting from the Legend Panorama Room (between the 6th and 12th floors) a breathtaking view, as well as exclusive services that start with a hotel airport transfer offered in Maserati to a discount on the Spa, Hermes Home products and an American Breakfast in Room Service at the price of Continental and much more. Also, you can enjoy the amenities for an exceptional business and discovery trip.



THE VIEW FORUM

For all types of events, The View Hotel Rabat has a meeting & conference center to suit your ambitions, hosting the largest MICE events in a resolutely high-tech environment.

Entirely flexible, the space of 600 m² is adapted according to the events and the needs.

It is composed of 5 non-modular rooms of different capacities including a room which can welcome up to 350 people.

Congresses, seminars, study days, fashion shows, art exhibitions. The View Forum is the ideal address to hold different types of events, both cultural and professional.

With individualized service, the amazing team carefully listen to your needs. Then they make complete arrangements for a stress-free meeting environment and anticipate any additional needs that may arise. All the personal are committed to give you an excellent service before, during and even after your event.



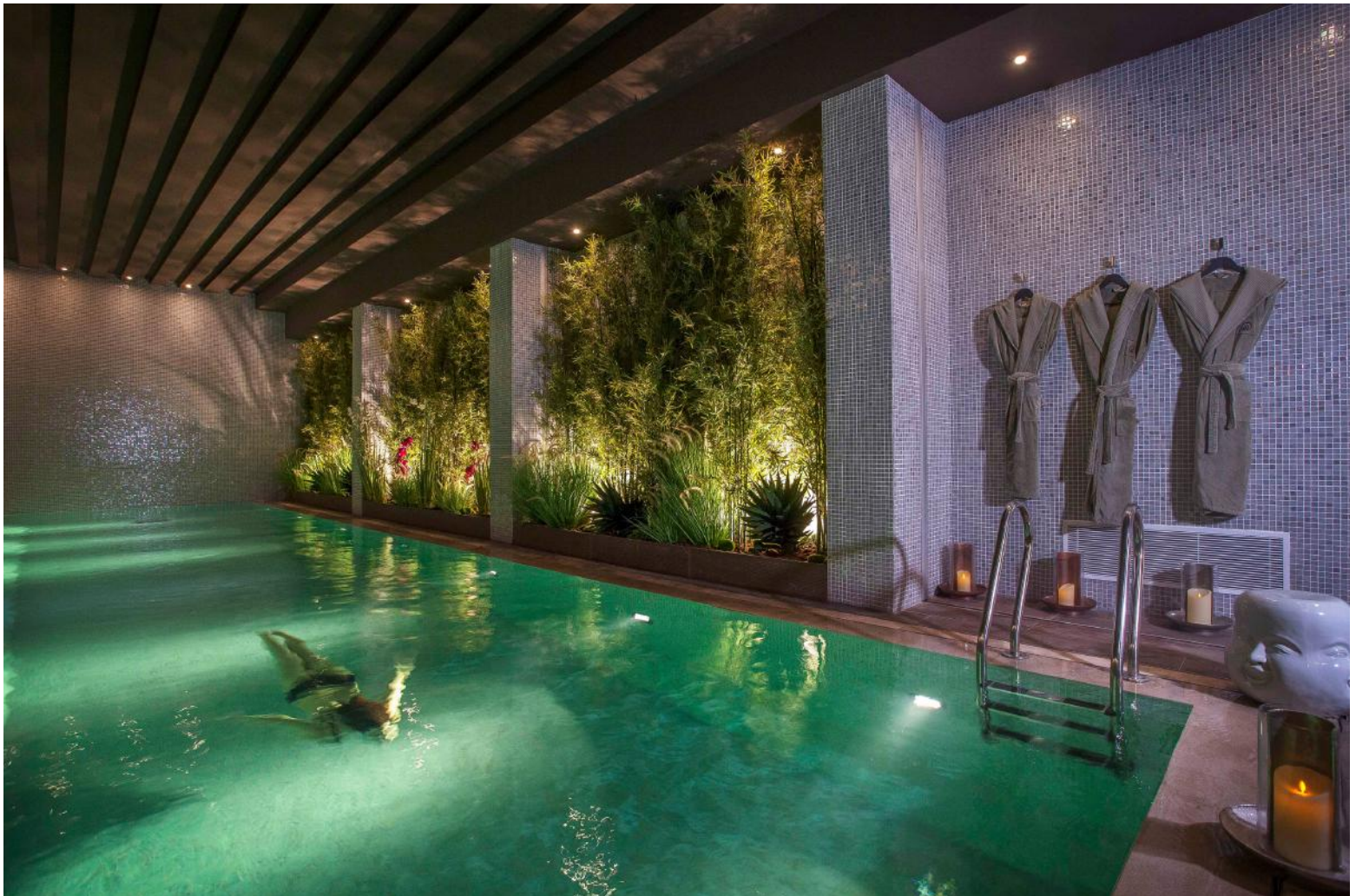
THE VIEW SPA BY *Maison D'Asa*

The Maison d'Asa Spa by The View is an invitation to push the doors of a journey to the heart of an ancient civilization, a specialist in the well-being of body and mind. Maison d'Asa initiates the escape, the discovery of the traditions of Moroccan care, through the land "Jasmin" in Tunisia or going further in Asia, not to mention his passport to Bali.

Each ceremony is meant to be a pure sensory experience ... The products praise countries and pay tribute to these destinations. They want to be natural and organic, get married to unite efficiency and well being.

The Maison d'Asa concept is a range of signature treatments exclusively created for the brand. The Maison d'Asa guests will be spoiled for choice between the various treatments that draw on the ancestral rites and traditions of well-being. A wide menu of treatments and cures are offered all made with organic products, with pure aromatic notes.

Featuring evocative names such as 'Moroccan Delights, Argan Seed Facial', 'Melt-away Slimming Wrap based on fruit extracts'...



DINING, TABLE & LOUNGE

“When Gastronomy Meets Elegance”



The View Hotel offers to their guests and also to the people who wants just enjoy a delicious gastronomic and award-winning experience, alike a variety of casual and special occasion dining options, from tasty breakfast dishes to your favorite bar bites and libations.

You can choose the following Resturants & Bar options:

- Sahar
- The Sensya
- The Cedar
- The Legend Club




THE
VIEW
HOTEL



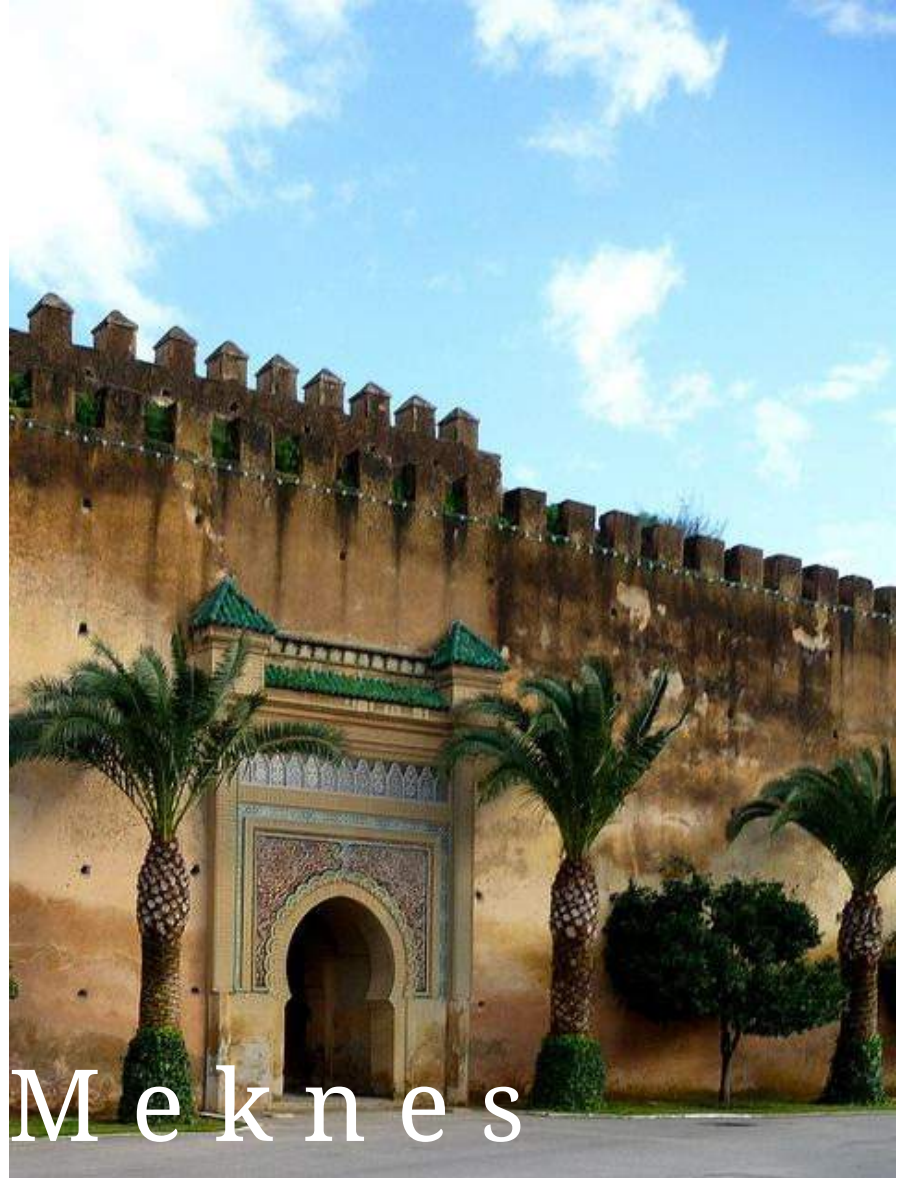
THE VIEW

MAGICALLY RABAT

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BAB MANSOUR LALEUJ,
MEKNES, MOROCCO



Quieter and smaller than its grand neighbour Fez, Meknès feels rather overshadowed and receives fewer visitors than it should. It's more laid-back with less hassle, yet still has all the winding narrow medina streets and grand buildings that it warrants as an imperial city and one-time home of the Moroccan sultanate. Sultan Moulay Ismail, the architect of Meknès' glory days, might be a little disgruntled at the city's current modesty, but visitors will find much to be enchanted by. Remnants of no less than three sets of fortifications, ingeniously incorporated into the city's road networks, make it clear how important this city once was. The king's tomb sits at the heart of what remains of the original imperial city, flanked by an almighty royal granary, the magnificent Bab el-Mansour – the likes of which even Fez can't compete with – and Pl el-Hedim, a local mini-me of Marrakesh's popular Djemaa el-Fna.

Discover *Meknes*



MEDERSA BOU INANIA

Opposite the Grande Mosquée, the Medersa Bou Inania is typical of the exquisite interior design that distinguishes Merenid monuments. It was completed in 1358 by Bou Inan, after whom a more lavish medersa in Fez is also named. This medersa is a good display of the classic Moroccan decorative styles – the zellij base, delicate stucco midriff and carved cedar-wood ceiling. You can climb onto the roof for views of the green-tiled roof and minaret of the Grande Mosquée nearby. Students aged eight to 10 years once lived two to a cell on the ground floor, while older students and teachers lived on the 1st floor in the luxury of private rooms. On the right when you enter is the school room with a deep mihrab for natural amplification.

BABEL MANSOUR

The focus of Pl el-Hedim is the huge gate of Bab el-Mansour, the grandest of all imperial Moroccan gateways. The gate is well preserved with lavish (if faded) zellij and inscriptions across the top. It was completed by Moulay Ismail's son, Moulay Abdallah, in 1732. The two white columns either side of the bab are Corinthian marble, plundered from a Marrakesh palace. They were acquired by Moulay Ismail during his lifetime but only added to the babby Monlay Abdallah after his father's death. Along the top of the gate, the Arabic inscription extols Bab el-Mansour's virtues with a confidence befitting of the king. It reads: 'I am the most beautiful gate in Morocco. I'm like the moon in the sky. Property and wealth are written on my front.'





PLACE EL - HEDIM

The heart of the Meknès medina is Pl el-Hedim, the large square facing Bab el-Mansour. Before Moulay Ismail swept through town a kasbah stood on this spot, but once the bab was erected the king ordered for it to be demolished in favour of a broad plaza from which the gate could be better admired. Originally used for royal announcements and public executions, it's a good place to sit and watch the world go by.

There's definitely parallels to be drawn between this square and its grand cousin, Marrakesh's Djemaa el-Fna. The Meknasi version, however, has a lot more of a local flavour. There's always something going on - kids playing football, musicians drawing crowds, and promenading families treating their toddlers to spins in electric toy cars. Sadly you'll also sometimes see shackled monkeys captured from the nearby Middle Atlas, providing local entertainment.

One edge is lined with cafes and restaurants; behind these is an excellent, covered produce market.

VIEW FROM THE CITY OF
THE TERRACE OF
RIAD FÈS RELAIS & CHÂTEAUX



F e z

An ancient breeding ground for scholars and artisans, imams and gourmands – Fez is a supremely self-confident city with a historical and cultural lineage that beguiles visitors. And there is something intangibly raw about a place where 70,000 people still choose to live in the maelstrom of a medina so dark, dense and dilapidated that it remains the world's largest car-free urban area. Donkeys cart goods down the warren of alleyways as they have done since medieval times, and ruinous pockets loom around every corner – though a government drive to restore Fès el-Bali to its former glory is spurring changes.

Discover *Fez*



MEDERSA BOU INANIA

A short walk down Talaa Kebira from Bab Bou Jeloud, the Medersa Bou Inania is the finest of Fez' theological colleges. It was built by the Merenid sultan Bou Inan between 1351 and 1357, and has been impressively restored with elaborate zellij (tiles) and carved plaster, beautiful cedar mashrabiyyas (lattice screens) and massive brass entrance doors. Whereas most medersas just have a simple prayer hall, the Bou Inania is unusual in that it hosts a complete mosque. The mihrab (niche facing Mecca) has a particularly fine ceiling and onyx marble columns. It's thought that the medersa required a larger-scale mosque because there was none other nearby at the time; it includes a beautiful green-tiled minaret.

CHEFCHAOUEN

Beautifully perched beneath the raw peaks of the Rif, Chefchaouen is one of the prettiest towns in Morocco, an artsy, blue-washed mountain village that feels like its own world. While tourism has definitely taken hold, the balance between ease and authenticity is just right. The old medina is a delight of Moroccan and Andalucian influence with red-tiled roofs, bright-blue buildings and narrow lanes converging on busy Plaza Uta el-Hammam and its restored kasbah. Long known to backpackers for the easy availability of kif (cannabis), the town has rapidly gentrified and offers a range of quality accommodation, good food, lots to do and no hassles to speak of, making it a strong alternative to a hectic multicity tour. This is a great place to relax, explore and take day trips to the cool green hills.



YOU CAN ASK FOR THESE TOURS
WHILE YOU ARE STAYING AT
RIAD FÈS RELAIS & CHÂTEAUX



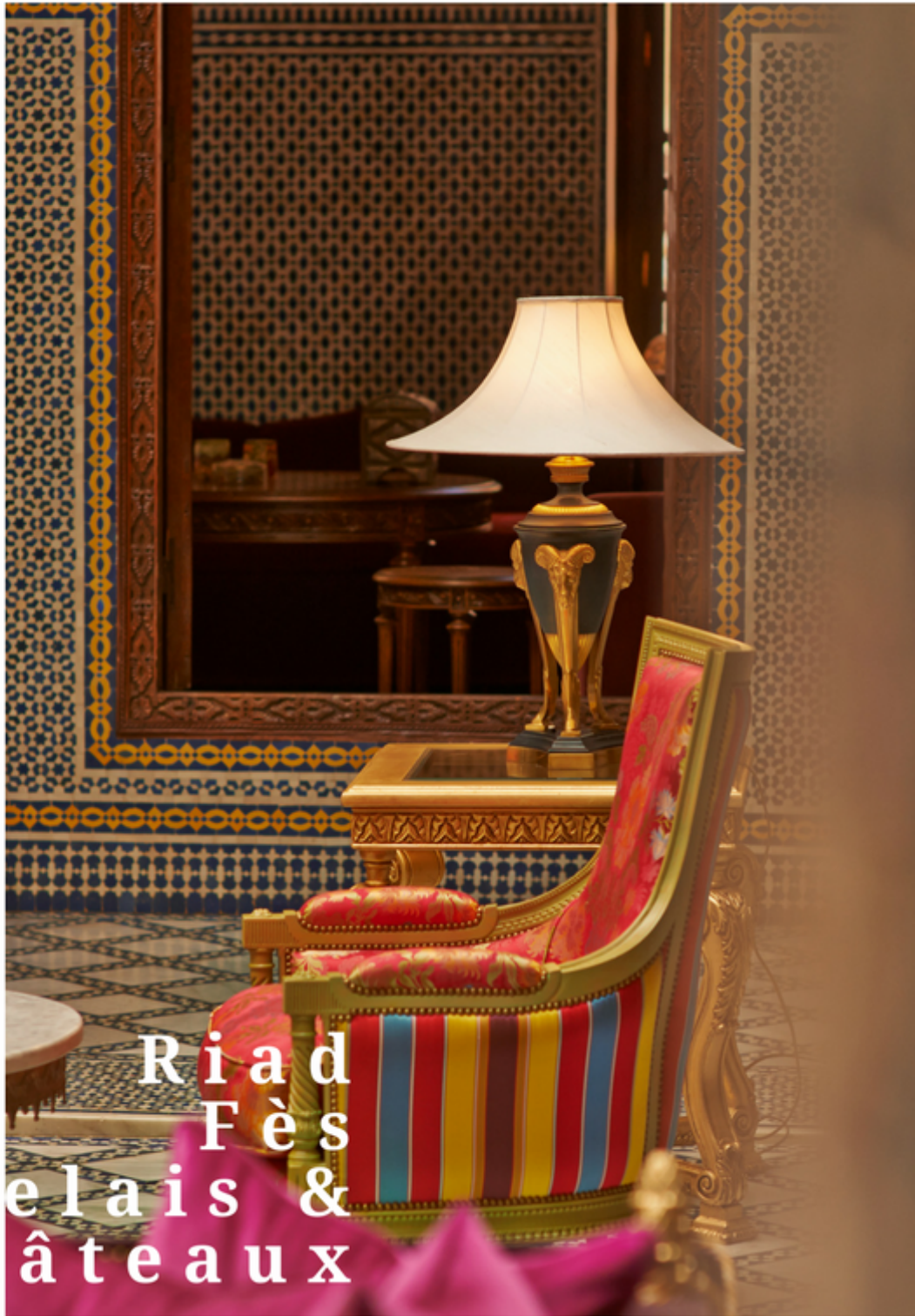
MEDINA OF FEZ

Founded in the 9th century and home to the oldest university in the world, Fez reached its height in the 13th–14th centuries under the Marinids, when it replaced Marrakesh as the capital of the kingdom. The urban fabric and the principal monuments in the medina – madrasas, fondouks, palaces, residences, mosques and fountains - date from this period. Although the political capital of Morocco was transferred to Rabat in 1912, Fez has retained its status as the country's cultural and spiritual centre.

The Medina of Fez preserves, in an ancient part comprising numerous monumental buildings, the memory of the capital founded by the Idrisid dynasty between 789 and 808 A.D. The original town was comprised of two large fortified quarters separated by the Fez wadi: the banks of the Andalous and those of the Kairouanais. In the 11th century, the Almoravids reunited the town within a sole rampart and, under the dynasty of the Almohads (12th and 13th centuries), the original town (Fez el-bali) already grew to its present-day size. Under the Merinids (13th to 15th centuries), a new town (Fez Jedid) was founded (in 1276) to the west of the ancient one (Fez El-Bali).

It contains the royal palace, the army headquarters, fortifications and residential areas. At that time, the two entities of the Medina of Fez evolve in symbiosis forming one of the largest Islamic metropolis's representing a great variety of architectural forms and urban landscapes. They include a considerable number of religious, civil and military monuments that brought about a multi-cultural society.

This architecture is characterised by construction techniques and decoration developed over a period of more than ten centuries, and where local knowledge and skills are interwoven with diverse outside inspiration (Andalousian, Oriental and African). The Medina of Fez is considered as one of the most extensive and best conserved historic towns of the Arab-Muslim world. The unpaved urban space conserves the majority of its original functions and attribute. It not only represents an outstanding architectural, archaeological and urban heritage, but also transmits a life style, skills and a culture that persist and are renewed despite the diverse effects of the evolving modern societies.



Riad
Fès
Relais &
Châteaux

Between 1880 and 1930, following the international trade liberalisation, some prominent citizens of Fez left their town to settle in Western metropolises such as Manchester, Barcelona, Lyon, Marseille, etc. Their trade activities engendered significant cultural changes not only at the level of the historical city but also at the level of Morocco in general.

The layout of houses, the interior design, the dress code and the gastronomy developed rapidly and gave birth to a new life style. The Western "contemporary" art combined with the ancestral traditions of Fez and bred new forms of civilisation that are clearly reflected in what Riad Fes is today.

Ben Slimane, a famous judge and intellectual from Fez, started to rebuild a forsaken neighbourhood of the city. He conceded a lot of the land to the prominent person and tradesman Lahlou who laid the foundation of the main building of Riad Fes at the beginning of 1900.

Other buildings that date back to 17th and 18th centuries shelter the Riad Fes restaurant and the Prince's quarters.

In 1999, the SEFRIOUI family (architect and hoteliers) purchased progressively the different pavilions of Riad Fes and began their restoration in a full respect of Fez traditions and arts.

At present, the establishment of this place offers all the facilities and services of a Deluxe hotel in a traditional and comfortable setting.

On November 15th 2009, Riad Fès joined Relais & Châteaux, the exclusive collection of 530 of the finest charming hotels and gourmet restaurants in more than 64 countries.

Riad Fès is renowned for its luxury, impeccable service and fine restaurant. Restored to its original glory, Riad Fès - Relais & Châteaux is located in the heart of the ancient city of Fez. It has succeeded in combining refinement with inspiration and invites you to relax and enjoy your stay in a serene atmosphere with decor reminiscent of Arabian Nights. Riad Fes provides guests with the opportunity to travel back in time and enjoy the splendour and authenticity of the lifestyle of Fassi nobility. The prestigious history and refined civilization of this Imperial city are reflected in the Spanish Moorish architecture and attention to detail seen in the decor.

With spectacular views of the Medina and the Atlas Mountains, Riad Fès - Relais & Châteaux is ideal for those travelling for business or pleasure. The inherently different styles of the four patios of Riad Fès - Relais & Châteaux provide guests four experiences in one.

The first patio is a quintessence of clear, sober Moorish art. Islamic carvings, antique doors, myriad mosaics and a grand piano beneath a truly impressive Fassi lamp create a dazzling atmosphere.

A distinctive setting unveils as you step into the second Patio. Gleaming vistas of Alhambra-like patios, colonnades, subtle marbles and bright arches march round a stunning emerald-green pool.

The third surprise comes from the Baroque Patio. A new atmosphere in a Moroccan traditional architecture combined with a baroque style. Here, walls in grey Tadelakt, black zelliges blended with a veined marble, crystal ceiling lights are mixed in a perfect harmony.

Their style 'Contemporain', designed by Christophe Pillet, immerses you in a universe mingling warm colors and fine materials such as stone and wood in a harmony of modernity, comfort and design.



**Riad Fès
Relais & Châteaux**

View of the pool and one of the
rooms reserved for leisure



The Riad Fès – Relais & Châteaux is composed of 30 rooms located in different buildings in the same palace, and consists in five (5) pavilions:

The Traditional ,In the ground floor you can discover a 450 m2 covered patio with sofas, grand piano, wall fountain, an elevator, a reception lounge, a Quobba lounge of 34 m2, a business center and a gift shop.

The Garden , with a fountain sitting areas and suites

The Andalusian , with a dining room seating 70 persons, one traditional dining room seating 20 guests, a bar lounge with a terrace by the basin and with an ornamental fountain

The Baroque Patio , with a glass cover and a small common lounge.

The Contemporain , designed to complete the services offered to our customers, the "Contemporain Pavilion" was designed in collaboration with one of the greatest names in Design and has one of the greatest names of Spa.Christophe Pillet has created in the heart of Riad Fès a lush of purity with contemporary lines and the natural materials such as stone and wood.

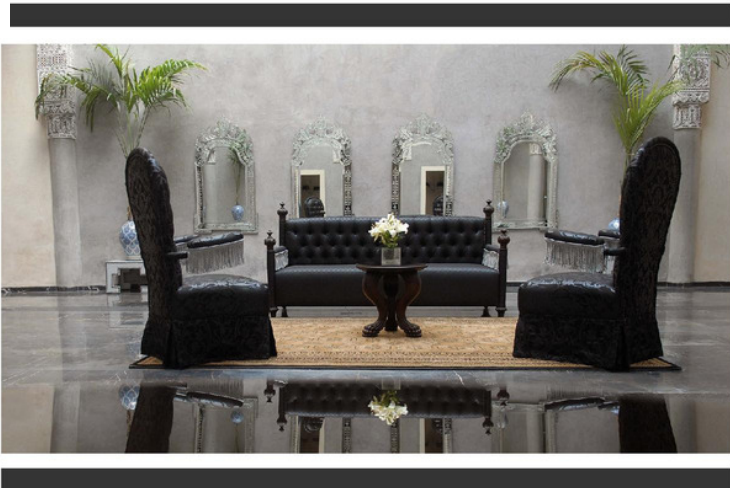
Three new rooms including two Junior Suites and one Deluxe room complete the other 27. Harmony of modernity, comfort and design, the client is immersed in a universe mingling warm colors and noble materials.

A Wine Bar, with over 200 references of great wines from Morocco, France and the New World and overlooking the pool and the green walls will satisfy the most discerning wine lovers.

Concierge

Here you can find a Business center with office facilities, WIFI, fax, photocopier, message service, all types of reservations, Welcoming, assistance, and transfer from airport to the Riad, Guided tours in the medina, Excursions in the Fez region, Services of babysitting, nurse, photographer, doctor, hairdresser, and beautician, henna tattooing, massage, hammam, and others.

Don't miss out crafts workshops with local artisans and cooking classes at the Riad.

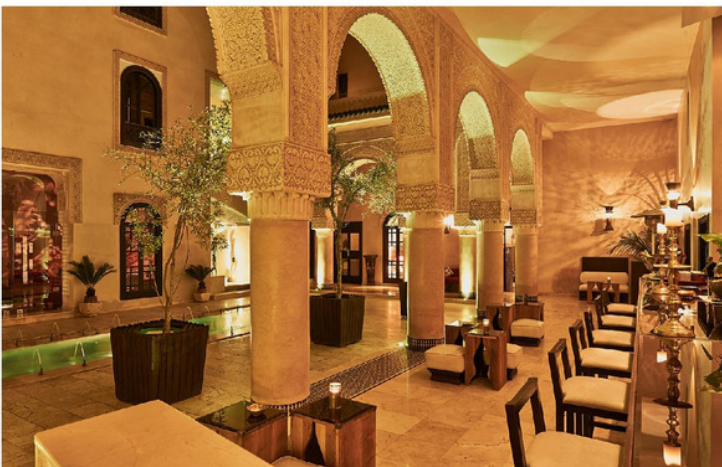




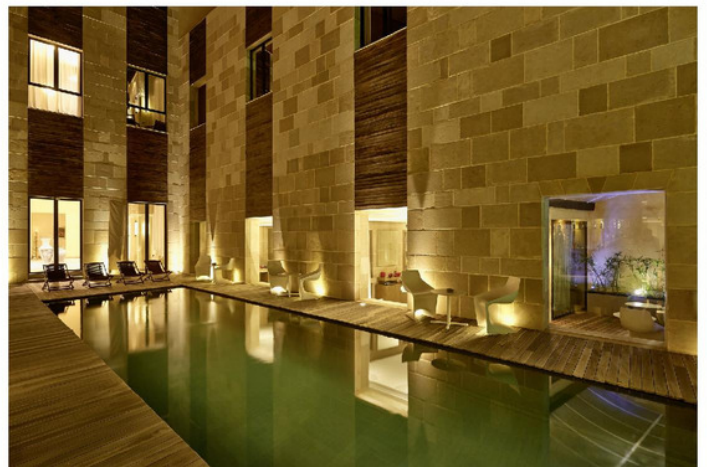
One of the thirty rooms. Designs characterised for their elegant and refined luxury



breathtaking view from the rooftop



A view of the bar and patio



A view of the pool at night



Riad Fès

DISCOVER THE AUTHENTICITY AND SPLENDOR
OF THE LIFE OF THE NOBLE FAMILIES OF FEZ

Spa Riad Fès by Cinq Mondes



A haven of purity and tranquillity created by the designer Christophe Pillet, the Spa Riad Fès by Cinq Mondes invites your guests to enjoy a unique experience in luxurious and comfortable surroundings.

With a selection of the best treatments, massages and traditional formulas marked by Quality, Authenticity and Ceremony designed and developed by Cinq Mondes, this Spa will take your guests on genuine Sensoriel Journeys.

The Spa spans 200 sqm and includes two cabins for hammam, three for massages, one for cares and treatment, a fitness area, a relaxation patio and a heated outdoor swimming-pool 14 meters long with a depth of 1.50 meter.

Brochures can be sent on request.

Riad Tizwa

CONTEMPORARY COMFORT



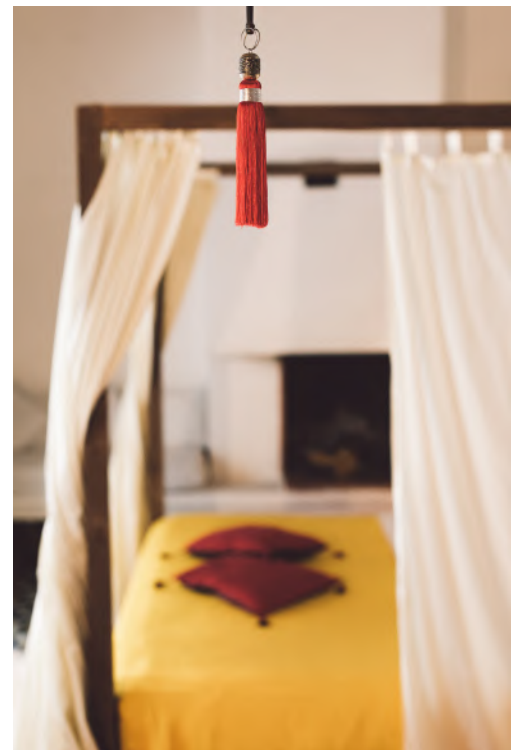
Riad Tizwa Fes is a beautifully proportioned Moroccan riad located within the walls of the Medina (old town). The hotel is a stylish, calm sanctuary situated in what is quite simply the best location in the Fes medina, Batha. This lovingly refurbished traditional home has been restored to the highest standard - ensuring Moroccan and Faisian style prevail within the attentions of contemporary comfort. The riad has English and French speaking Moroccan staff and is perfect for the discerning traveller who wants to experience genuine Moroccan culture without compromising on comfort on their luxury holiday. The rooms benefit from the grandeur of Faisian living.

On arrival in Fes you can be met by a car and a driver who will take you the 25 minute journey to your home. Each morning, breakfast is prepared for you at a time and place of your choosing. i.e. roof terrace, dining room or your bedroom. Wherever possible, our food is supplied from local organic farmers. The riad blends the best of modern European comforts to traditional Moroccan craftsmanship and design with bedrooms up to 10 metres long. The linen, duvets and pillows are the finest and have been flown in. The courtyard is scented with local perfumes and each room comes with natural handmade Moroccan soaps.



**RELAXING,
PICTURESQUE
AND FRIENDLY**

Riad Tizwa is perfect destination for a long weekend break or part of a longer exploration of Morocco itself.






In Riad Tizwa you can enjoy a local masseur, that is bookable on request for essential oil treatments. The Riad can also provide an event planning service for weddings, birthday parties and feasts think: local musicians, belly dancers and delicious food a memorable evening. In addition to the full time staff, extra help is available for large parties and babysitting.

Morocco is a long haul destination with a short haul flight. Accessible by a direct flight from UK airports the flights last only 3 hours from London. 2.5 hours from Paris and 2 hours from Madrid.

With its ancient intact Fes welcomes the visitor to a completely different civilisation. Riad Tizwa is perfect destination for a long weekend break or part of a longer exploration of Morocco itself. Fes is less than an hour from the Roman remains of Vollubilis, the hills of the middle atlas and the spa towns of Sidi Yacoub. But the actual medina of Fes is a true wonder of traditional life. A must visit for the discerning traveller.



A calm
sanctuary
in the best
location
of Fes

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RIAD TIZWA

Cultural Gadget

AND TIPS TO SUCCEED IN YOUR VISIT

Morocco has been called “home” by many different people throughout the centuries. In addition to the indigenous Amazigh (Berbers), the country has hosted a variety of cultures coming from the East (Phoenicians and Arabs), the South (Sub-Saharan Africans), and the North (Romans and Spanish Andalusians – both Muslim and Jewish) throughout history.

Today, the majority of the population identifies as Berber or Arab and the country’s official language is Arabic. Morocco is a Muslim country, with 99% of its population identifying as Sunni Muslim, but religious minorities are widely respected.

Moroccans are a very welcoming and tolerant people towards different cultures, ideas and ways of life. This doesn’t mean they don’t have strong beliefs and cultural norms – and you should definitely avoid offending those at all costs. Things that may be commonplace in your native culture can be misinterpreted when discussing culture and etiquette in Morocco.


some details that you should keep in mind when visiting Morocco, for example, with the way of dressing in cosmopolitan cities, such as Marrakesh, Rabat and Fez, the dress code is more relaxed and common to see women wear short-sleeve tops and knee-length skirts and men often wear sleeveless t-shirts. If you are ever unsure about what to wear, keep in mind that the best guide to knowing what is appropriate is to note how the locals dress and follow their lead. But if you visit rural areas you should always attempt to cover body parts considered “private”. For women, this can mean covering the arms (or at least the shoulders) and the knees up. For men, it requires covering up the shoulders and above the knee.

Moroccans tend to be more formal when greeting than Westerners. When you meet someone for the first time, it is common to inquire about marital status, children, as well as the health and well-being of one’s family. Moroccans typically greet with a handshake and sometimes two kisses (starting with the left cheek) but this only occurs when the two people greeting are of the same sex. In any greeting that takes place between a man and a woman, the woman should extend her hand first if she wants to be greeted – if she does not do this, a man should bow his head in greeting.

Public displays of affection in Morocco should also be kept to a minimum, as this is a conservative culture.

Any gesture you make in Morocco should be done with your right hand (yes, even if you’re traditionally a lefty!). The left hand is considered impure and is saved for bathroom duties and cleaning chores. All greetings, dining manners and other gestures should be done with your right hand. It is also impolite in Morocco to point at someone with your index finger to motion them towards you. You should instead beckon someone by placing your palm downward and sweeping your hand towards yourself.

If you visit a mosque and you are not Muslim, Unfortunately you are not allowed to enter most mosques in Morocco. The only exceptions to this rule are the ancient Tin Mal Mosque in the High Atlas, the Great Mosque at Smara in the Western Sahara, the courtyard of the imperial sanctuary-mosque of Moulay Ismail in Meknes, and the Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca.



If you happen to be invited into someone's home, know you will have an amazing experience. However there are also some rules of etiquette to be followed. First, it's important to always make sure that your spouse was also invited with you. Some Moroccan families may be more conservative and thus not entertain mixed-sex groups or may organize separate dining areas for women and men.

As soon as you enter the home, you should remove your shoes and leave them by the door (your host will let you know if such a formality is not needed). It is also a good custom to come bearing gifts. These can typically be a treat such as pastries, figs, dates, nuts or fresh juices. Fresh flowers can also make a great gift and you can also consider bringing a smaller present for the children of the household. Avoid bringing alcohol (unless you know that your host drinks and exactly what they enjoy) and never bring hot dishes.

Once dinner is ready, expect to be seated on a floor mat around a knee-high round table with one communal dish in the middle, or on couches around a large round table. Before the meal is served, a wash basin may be brought to the table: hold your hands over it while the water is poured and then dry them on the towel provided.

When your host starts eating you may begin as well. If you are eating from a communal dish, keep to the triangle of food immediately in front of you. It is custom to use your right hand to eat however if you are left handed it typically is not an issue or faux pas.

Expect more food to be offered to you once you stop eating. It is polite to refuse the first time and then take a small portion upon a second food offering. If you are completely full, simply pat your stomach and shake your head while saying "La, shukrran" ("No, thank you"). Do not be surprised if your host continues to push you to eat, it is a sign of respect and generosity.

About tipping, in Morocco is customary, so you will be expected to leave a few dirham in a number of places during your travels through the country. Although there is no standard amount you should always leave in different establishments and different circumstances, we've covered the most basic rules of thumb to help you out. In all cases, tipping is a very emotive attitude and it's often based on a personal perception of the quality of the service provided. Even though it is customary to tip in Morocco, how generous you are can be left up to you and to your satisfaction.

With respect to the woman tourist, there is no doubt that for traveling in Morocco it is different than traveling in a Western country. In Morocco, gender roles are much more defined and the traditional views of a patriarchal society are quite prominent which means women will have to take extra precautions when discovering the colorful streets of Morocco.

Women may experience catcalling and more attention from members of the opposite sex, the best way to deal with this is to completely ignore them. Should you feel uncomfortable at any time, promptly alert the nearest police officer for assistance.

Women are generally expected to dress more modestly, not engage in drinking or smoking in public, and avoid physical contact with men. Although this code of behavior is now more relaxed in big cities such as Rabat, Marrakesh and Fez, it is important to follow it in rural Morocco. Pay attention to the Moroccan women around you to gain helpful clues as to what is acceptable. Visiting women are not expected to dress as Moroccans do, but a little bit of respect can go a long way.

We hope these basic culture and etiquette tips will help you have an enjoyable time in this amazing country without worry!

Ricky





EXOTIC AND BEGUILING...

Zagora Desert

Nomadic accommodation style has started to gain interest and impression for its unique and exotic form as well as and the environment where the nomadic camp is set up.

We enjoyed the Zagora experience with a purely Berber staff. This Desert Camp is established to create a new mix of desert splendor and nomadic civilization that is attributed to the tent. Therefore Zagora camp perfectly meet the two dimensions to open up a mesmerizing night experience amid sands, stars and mountains.

This desert camp is situated in the south eastern of Morocco. It is a Berber trademark which developed into a set of tents serving as traditional and comfortable accommodation for its guests. Offering a starting the night with a tasty berber "wisky", and followed by a pleasant and leisurely conversation with one of our hosts, the night looked promising.

The bivouac offers a splendid atmosphere of desert night life for peace seekers, desert lovers, stars followers, differente cultural experience, and why not? For the music lovers you the hosts will delight you with beautiful berber songs and one or another friend who joins with an tipical instrument and makes the night something special.

The Camp occupies an area of about 500 m² amid sand dunes. Tents are set up in the traditional Berber shape; enabling guests explore what the local Berbers make for shelter. There are currently 12 tents for accommodation, in addition to a restaurant tent, and bathrooms. All tents make a circle around the bivouac yard, which is often exploited for different usages. Each of the tents is illuminated by electric lamps in and outside the tents.



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