

GARDEN TOURS



Magical Morocco Tour 2012

May 8th – 17th, 2012

MOROCCO



MAGICAL MOROCCO TOUR

Morocco, with its palaces, gardens and monuments, its history and passions, is a country you will fall in love with. Join us for this exclusive one of a kind tour and make magical memories!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Airport Pickup and Delivery
- 1 night 5 Star Deluxe Kenzi Hotel Casablanca
- 2 nights 5 Star Luxury Sofitel Jardins Des Roses Rabat
- 2 nights 5 Star Luxury Palais Jamai Fes
- 4 nights 5 Star Luxury Sofitel Marrakech Lounge & Spa
- All Breakfasts are incredible buffets to delight and satisfy
- 6 Lunches including Le Pilotis, Villa Mandarine, Relais De Paris, Palais Jamai, Beni Mellal and La Mamounia
- 2 Dinners including Moroccan gastronomic cuisine at Dinarjat in Rabat and Moroccan traditional cuisine at La Maison Bleue in Fes
- All Lunches and Dinners are Best Restaurants in Morocco Listed!
- Visits as outlined – see full itinerary for more information
- Transportation in A/C vehicle
- National English Speaking Guide
- Tips & Gratuities to driver and guides
- Memories to last a lifetime!

Morocco, with its palaces and monuments, its history and passions, is a country you will fall in love with.

In the cities of Rabat and Casablanca, French post-colonial influence is dominant. Rabat is also markedly modern in its European grid, but also contains some of the finest historical monuments in Morocco dating from the Almohad and Merinid dynasties. Don't picture some exotic destination as both towns were developed by the French and look very much like any other modern European city.

In fact, Casablanca's main attraction is its unique colonial landmarks in the city center, a French idealization of traditional Moroccan style. If you haven't seen the movie 'Casablanca' in a while, now would be a good time to refresh yourself. Warner Brothers originally wanted Ronald Reagan and Ann Sheridan to star in a medium budget picture called "Everybody Goes to Rick's?" Deciding instead to capitalize on the rising popularity of Humphrey Bogart, they rethought the project, gave him a new leading lady, Ingrid Bergman, and renamed the movie 'Casablanca'. And remember that part about the 'medium budget? It wasn't even filmed in Casablanca!

Since its foundation in the 8th century by Moulay Ismail, Fes or Fez as it is also known has been the seat of government of the great dynasties of the Merenids, Wattasids and Alaouites. As the imperial capital for close to ten centuries of the Moroccan empire, Fes was the major intellectual and cultural center of the Islamic world, rivaling the greatest cities in Europe.

Today, Fes is unique not only in Morocco but in the wider world, in preserving the external appearance and way of life of its distant medieval past. It is a city that seems suspended between the middle ages and the modern world.

In terms of historical monuments, mosques and madrassas, Fes has as much as Marrakech, Meknes and other imperial cities put together.

Marrakech, Morocco's most popular tourist destination holds an enduring fantasy and immediate excitement for visitors. Even those tourists who return many times will always find it a compelling place with a delirious imagination, a thousand stories to tell, an enchanted carnival city that opens a door to a past that has lasted thousands of years and shows no signs of stopping.

The setting of Marrakech itself is magnificent: the capital of the South with close proximity to the Sahara, it is dominated by the peaks of the magnificent Atlas Mountains. The forbidding appearance of the peaks, hazy in the scorching heat of summer, make for an amazing view behind the city's palmery in winter: shimmering white with snow!

Let us savour this journey of discovery - for you shall certainly learn much, appreciate more and return home with wonderful memories

Your incredible land itinerary:

Tuesday 08 May 2012: Arrival Day into Casablanca

Individual pick up at airport and delivery to hotel. Rest of the day at leisure.

Hotel Kenzi Tower, Casablanca



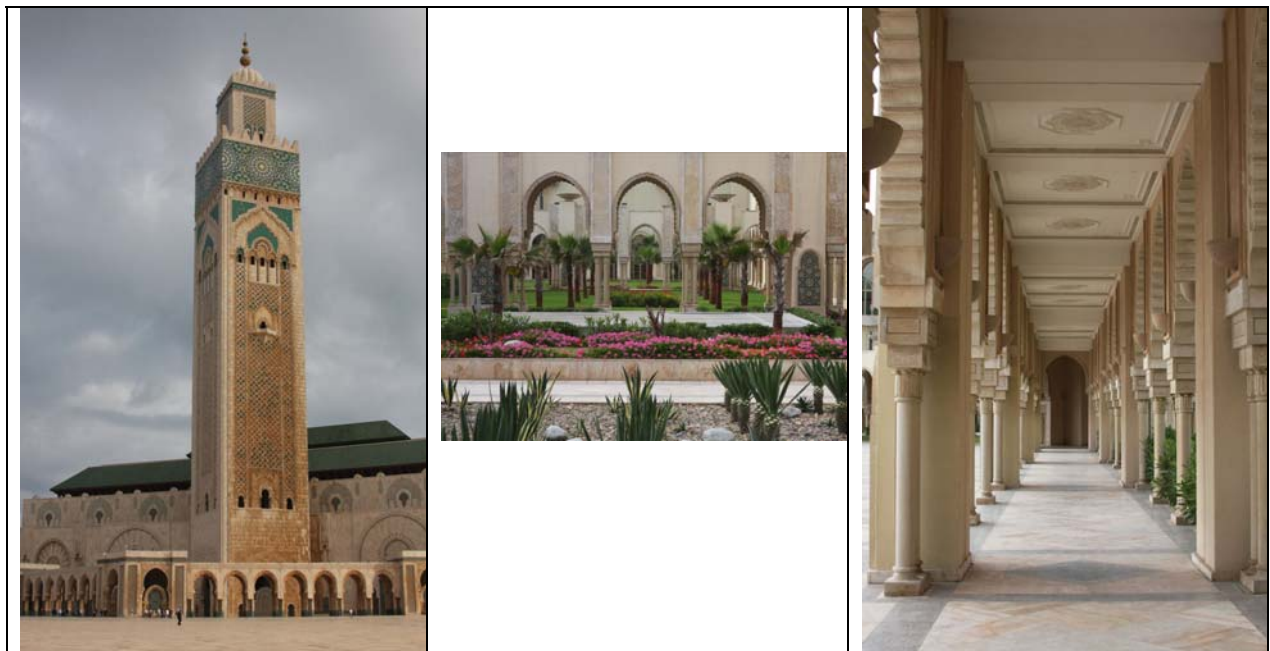
Ideally located in the heart of Casablanca, the Kenzi Tower Hotel offers an overwhelming view over the city, the ocean, the Hassan II Mosque and the port. All rooms are furnished with luxury fabrics. Guests have free access to the hot tub, hammams and indoor heated swimming pool.

Other facilities include a free fitness center, free Wi-Fi in guest lobby and bar and if you arrive weary you can always book a massage or beauty treatment in the Kenzi's Clarins Spa.

<http://www.kenzi-hotels.com/eng/hotels/casa/tower-hotel.html>

Wednesday 09 May 2012: CASABLANCA-RABAT

After a leisurely breakfast we will all gather at an appointed time to depart to Rabat. On the way there we will visit the Hassan II Mosque.



A breathtaking landmark of Casablanca with its tallest minaret at 210m, its architecture takes its majestic inspiration from Arabic and Islamic traditions but boldly surpasses them. In size: it occupies an esplanade covering 2 hectares that can

receive up to 105,000 faithful for prayers 5 times a day. In technology: the 1,100 ton cedar ceiling in the immense prayer room slides back and forth in 5 minutes! In visibility: from the top of the minaret, a laser beam indicates the direction of Mecca. It is also the only mosque in the country to be open to non-Muslims. Hassan II Mosque; is the third largest religious monument in the world. Completed in 1993, this ornate modern marvel is the work of over 10,000 artisans and craftsmen whose talents are evident in the intricate decorations in the 33,000 sq metres of carved cedar from the Atlas Mountains and embellishments like the Murano glass chandeliers. There are 10,000 sq. metres of mosaics. The ablution hall has 41 fountains made with marble from either here in Morocco or Italy. It was designed by the French architect Michel Pinseau and took 6 years to build. Its most distinctive features are a glass floor [for royal use and off limits to visitors] built out over the Atlantic that allows worshippers to see the ocean as they kneel to pray and a sliding ceiling opened on special occasions to grant visions of the sky above as well. This building is so big, it must be stood in to be appreciated. You feel very tiny here. 20,000 men can pray on the main floor with the hanging mezzanine above holding 5,000 women. A further 80,000 can pray outside.

Time should permit us to visit other things as well...we will decide as the day progresses.

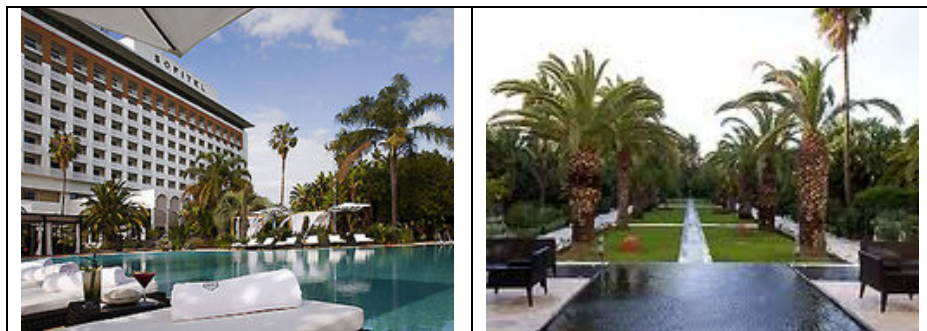
Lunch at Le Pilotis



this place is remarkable...the view alone is worth the visit. I can hardly wait for you to try it yourself...this will be my third time!

and continue for approx. one hour drive to Rabat.

Two nights at Sofitel Jardins Des Roses – Superior Room



The Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses Hotel occupies a majestic position in the heart of the capital city Rabat, close to the Royal Palace and Mausoleum of Mohammed V. Completely renovated, its contemporary design blends with the best in Moroccan architecture. This 5-star luxury hotel is set amongst a 17-acre garden. A real palace with an international reputation, its history is closely tied to the great conferences and international events that have taken place within the kingdom. The hotel's exclusive features are its Andalusian gardens, orange grove, outdoor swimming pool and golf range, making this palace an oasis of relaxation and pleasure. Its fitness center is one of the best in the kingdom. Your Superior Room includes a balcony with a view over Rabat or the gardens. Moroccan architecture and designer decor by Didier Gomez, marble bathroom with bathtub or shower and hairdryer.

<http://www.sofitel.com/gb/hotel-6813-sofitel-rabat-jardin-des-roses/room.shtml>



Dinner this evening will be at the Dinarjat

On arrival you are welcomed and taken to your place. The magic continues with your dinner in the light of candles and traditional music.

Thursday 10 May 2012 RABAT

After breakfast, we enjoy a full day visit of Rabat, the administrative capital of the Moroccan kingdom and one of the oldest cities. Pirate stronghold, breakaway republic, Imperial City and today's capital, Rabat has worn many cloaks during its 700 year history. Poised above the Atlantic is the Oudaia Kasbah, Rabat's evocative citadel, like a spider at the heart of a 5 Km web of ramparts. The capital of a modern nation, Rabat symbolizes the infinite variety of Morocco. Set in a rich, amber coloured landscape, dotted with distinctive nettle trees, it elegantly combines an ancient history with modern culture.



We visit the Royal palace courtyards with its massive doors, well decorated buildings with beautiful mosaics and lovely gardens. Next to the palace, you will appreciate the impressive and unmatched Mohammed V Mausoleum: the burial ground of the two late Alouite kings - Mohammed V and Hassan II where you will be attracted by the beautiful scents of the place and the very beautiful mosaics.



The Kasbah Oudaya, a lovely Andalusian garden and a museum situated in the 17th century royal residence containing old Moroccan jewelry from different parts of the country. The museum of archaeology exhibiting objects discovered during

excavations of pre-historic Punic and roman sites, some marbles and bronzes which come from Volubilis are some of the things you will see today!

Lunch at Villa Mandarine - a wonderful English style garden with a Moroccan twist is also here to enjoy complete with peacocks! Oh, and did I mention how delicious the lunch is?



In the afternoon, drive across Salé to reach the Botanical garden of Bouknadel.

The Exotic Gardens of Bouknadel are on the main road between Sale and Kenitra. The Gardens feature several acres of manicured greenery, especially vines, palms, and other tropical plants, with special sections like a Japanese garden, and a jungle with rope bridges. There are plants here from China, South Asia, the Congo, Japan, Brazil and Polynesia in 14 different gardens plus an aviary.

Return to the hotel

Overnight Sofitel Jardins Des Roses

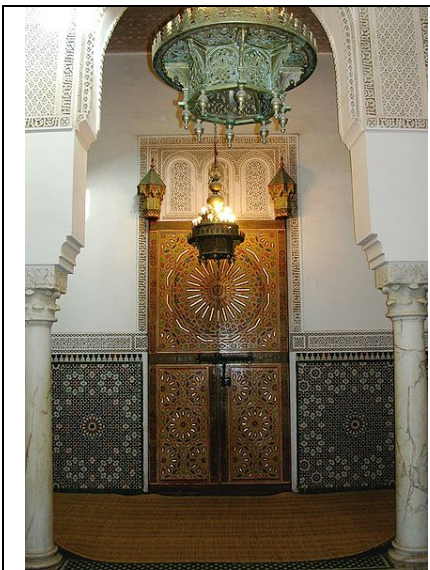
Friday 11 May 2012 RABAT - MEKNES – VOLUBILIS – FES

This morning after breakfast you will leave for Meknes, one of the four imperial cities. This old capital of Morocco was prosperous during the reign of Moulay Ismail who had diplomatic relations with Louis XIV of France and James II of England.

Visits today include

Bab Mansour which is considered as the most monumental gate in the whole country,





(photo courtesy Bernard Gagnon)

Moulay Ismail mausoleum which is the only mosque that non Muslims can have access to besides the one in Casablanca and where you can admire one of the highlights of Moorish architecture in Meknes..

The mausoleum had been constructed during the reign of Moulay Ismail and since his death has been a point of reverence. Despite his excesses, Moulay Ismail is remembered for driving out the Spanish and British from Morocco, uniting the country and of course his establishment of the Alaouite dynasty. His strict observance of orthodox Islamic ritual has also conferred a kind of healing power on him. You will see many Moroccans visiting the shrine seeking baraka or intercession to receive health, well-being and luck. The mausoleum consists of a series of courts and chambers decorated in bright tile and spiraling stuccowork. Behind these courts lie the sanctuary that holds the remains of Moulay Ismail and his family members.

Called the "Moroccan Versailles", its medina has been on the UNESCO world heritage list since 1996. You will love the nobility and style of Meknès! It is one of the most beautiful imperial cities in Morocco with its 25km of ramparts and its magnificent gates including Bab el Mansour, which was reconstructed in Paris in 1999 to celebrate the year of Morocco in France. You will also love the warmth of the people and atmosphere of the souks in the medina where everyday life is an

exceptional spectacle, combining colours, fragrances and spicy aromas. There are also the palaces, including the splendid Jamaï Palace housing the museum of Moroccan Arts - Dar Jamaï, like the Palais Jamaï in Fez, was built by the Jamaï family of viziers in 1882. It was initially used as a family residence, before being converted into a military hospital in 1912 and finally becoming the Museum of Moroccan Art in 1920.

And for something a bit different...

We will take a little stroll in the 9 hole golf course situated in the former gardens of the royal palace. The gardens are beautifully kept and it is entirely surrounded by palace walls. They have opened it to the public since September 2007 so now it's possible to slip in to have a peek.

"Nine holes rooted deep in history; the incomparable Meknes Royal Golf Club laid out at the heart of the imperial city of the Sultan Moulay Ismail, with the roofs and minarets of the medina as a background, in a garden overflowing with flowers, plum, orange, palm, olive and apricot trees. With ramparts in which storks nest, a fountain decorated with mosaics, sculpted windows and niches, colonnades and crenellated towers - the golfer travels back in time as he plays his round..."

Close to green number 4, a Moorish door leads into the Royal Palace ... On the green of number 7 an exquisite staircase in white and green faience leads to the ramparts where the club house is situated. The enchantment lasts throughout the round, and even into the night if you so desire, for here you can play by floodlight- or even by the light of the moon.'

Not that we are going to golf, but this just sounded so romantic...I had to include it.

<http://www.moroccotravelandtours.com/meknesroyalgolfclub.htm>



Lunch at Le Relais De Paris in Meknes

After lunch, continue north to the Roman archaeological site of Volubilis. This town was the western capital of heavily Romanized but semi-autonomous Berber kingdom of Mauritania and where very beautiful mosaics in good state of

preservation as well as the capitol and triumphal arch are to be admired.



Volubilis: a very impressive setting selected by the UNESCO as a cultural heritage for humanity. On the way there we will again be entranced by the beautiful landscape of colours. The Roman ruins of Volubilis are a striking sight, set in the ledge of a high plateau, some 33 kilometres north of Meknes. It is by far the most important Roman settlement in Morocco and the best preserved, having been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997. The scope of the ruins may well be familiar to you: it is the setting of Martin Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ*. The ancient Roman city that has some of the best mosaics in North Africa. What you discover today will be a treasured memory of your Morocco tour. Oddly enough, many of the columns and much of the marble that you see in Meknes were looted from these ruins.

We found out that Volubilis means morning glory...I guess we should have known that! In its heyday it had over 20,000 people living here and it is at the exact opposite end of Hadrian's Wall!

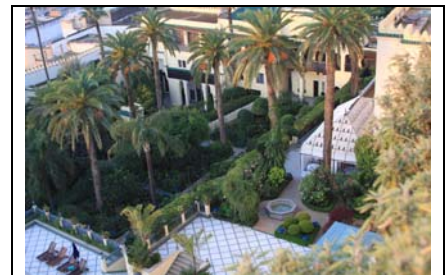
Continuation to Fes

Two nights Sofitel Palais Jamai Luxury Medina View Room



Our Hotel for the next 2 nights is the Palais Jamai Hotel, just recently rated by Travel and Leisure Magazine as the best hotel in Fes and one of the world's top 500 hotels. Stay here and you will know why. Each of our rooms faces out onto 9th century, 14th century and 19th century Fes. Nothing prepares you for this view from your own private balcony. Your room includes: moroccan decor, balcony, medina view, bathtub with shower, separate toilet, satellite TV, Wifi, hairdryer.

The Palais Jamai is positioned around a magnificent Andalusian garden of orange, lemon and palm trees, and medicinal herbs. Despite its location just steps from the hustle and bustle of the Medina, its marble fountains and terraces overlooking the city offer a tranquil sanctuary. Designed and built with great deference to Arab-Moorish style 1879 by the Jamai family and intended for escape, for pleasure to the eyes and peace for the soul. The palace was transformed into a hotel in the 1930's and has since been the host to a multitude of distinguished visitors to Fes. The most historic and famous hotel in Morocco, only rivaled by the Mamounia in Marrakech. An elegant nineteenth century palace set in wonderful Andalusian gardens overlooking the Medina. Sofitel Palais Jamai preserves the authenticity of Fez, the spiritual and cultural capital of Morocco.



The breakfast area is on the pool level and a wonderful way to start your day!

<http://sofitel.com/gb/hotel-2141-sofitel-fes-palais-jamai/index.shtml>

Saturday 12 May 2012 FES

Travel back in time in the Fes el-Bali, the ancient medina, or walled city, of Fes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site believed to be the largest car-free urban area in the world. With its labyrinth of narrow, endlessly twisting streets bustling with shops, tanneries, workshops and stalls selling fruit or spices, it is one of the largest living medieval cities on the planet.

After a glorious day of discovery you'll be welcomed to La Maison Bleue, an elegant riad, for a Moroccan dinner this evening – another highlight.

Start your day with a tour of the ramparts for a generous introduction to the history and the culture of the city. Fez will stimulate all your senses as you go for your guided tour inside Fes el Bali (old Fes) across food and spice markets, handicraft quarters, auction markets and colourful Souks. Visit the medieval children's school and meet the school teacher and the pupils, enter artisan workshops and discover the secrets of their ancestral arts, visit the public bakeries and pastry makers in the residential quarters and see their historical fountains, mosques and sanctuaries.

Some thoughts on going into the souks...



Watch out! When you hear Balack, Balack, move fast to the sides of the walls as donkeys are coming laden down and do not stop for anyone. You cannot hear them either as they do not have the traditional metal horse shoes. They wear rubber and it is usually tire rubber.



For the most part walking through these areas is an exercise for all the senses. You must approach them as an experience. They are a labyrinth of paths, shops, lanes, people, product, animals and noise. You come out of them exhausted because you have never had all your senses so aware at the same time. But you come out of them smiling because you have just experienced life as it was, as it is now and as it forever shall be... Everyone came out smelling of spices, it was wonderful!



The highlight of your morning visit will be inside the 14th century Medersa (theological school) for its most intricate architecture, and around the Karaouine mosque which was once the oldest university in the world, founded in 857 ad. by a lady from Fez. The Bou Inania Medersa is one of the most beautiful and extravagant monuments in Fez. This Merenid monument is infinitely splendid and almost perfect in every aspect – its carved cedar is a masterpiece of handcrafted sculpture involving endless hours of pinpoint concentration. The Medersa shares its name with the powerful first ruler of the Merenid Dynasty, Sultan Abu Inane. The Sultan completed – although he did not initiate – the building of the medersa between 1351 and 1358 and its twin sister by the same name in Meknes. The layout of the medersa is similar in design to many mansions in Fez: a large courtyard opening into an oratory and surrounded by halls. The courtyard holds much of the extravagant decoration that covers every possible surface. Cedar eaves and the upper patio walls are carved in floral and geometrical motifs, mid-level walls carved in stucco and the lower walls covered with geometrical designs and an elegant Kufi script praising the Sultan.

Lunch at Palais Jamai



Start the afternoon with a visit the pottery quarter. You will have the chance to see how pottery is made including the famous tiles. Here you can buy tagines that are safe to cook in as well hugely less expensive than back home as well as many other pottery items. (be warned, past tour guests loved this place including me! I now have three tagines myself!) oh, and if you want something shipped – like a fountain perhaps, they can do it. They can ship anything anywhere...very professional.



Continue the visit to the royal palace of the late 19th century where King Hassan I lived and see the central four parts garden and the gigantic oak. Dar Batha is an elegant late nineteenth-century palace designed for the reception of foreign ambassadors and now serving as a Museum of Moroccan Arts and Crafts.

Continue the walk through the historical park and gardens of Jnan Sbil and see their medieval irrigational system before you reach Fez El Jedid (new Fez) for a stroll in the Jewish quarter where you will be able to visit a 17th century synagogue.

Dinner at La Maison Bleue

Dinner at La Maison Bleue- which is the ancient home of the astronomers of Fes . La Maison Bleue was built as a family palace in 1915 by Sidi Mohammed El Abbadi, a famous judge and astrologer of the times. Today, Si Mohammed's grandchildren keep the spirit of the house alive by opening it to guests. Here, you may enter the mysterious inner courtyards and lifestyle of the city of Fès, jewel of the Arab world, where blue zellij mosaics, finely carved cedar-wood doors, stained glass windows with wrought iron grilles and stucco cornices come together in refined harmony to make for a beautiful ambiance for your meal this evening.

A beautiful and very romantic place to enjoy dinner.

<http://www.maisonbleue.com/maisonbleue/en/index.php>

Overnight Sofitel Palais Jamai

Sunday 13 May 2012 FES – BENI MELLAL – MARRAKECH

After breakfast, departure to Marrakech passing by the ski resort of Ifrane, the village of Azrou, famous for its handicrafts and the Cedar Woods of the Middle Atlas. Cross Beni Mellal, a famous Berber city and one of the agricultural centres of Morocco.

Travel through the spectacular scenery of the Middle Atlas mountains as we journey from Fes to Marrakech. Drive through diverse landscapes, from abundant orchards and fertile farmland to mountainous terrain, and through many villages and towns that reveal more of the varied lifestyles in present-day Morocco.

I always look forward to a day like this because is surely is the only way to see the countryside and the people. At this time of year the fields should be full of wild flowers and the bright colours set against the muted tones of their homes is magnificent. We will have stops to break up the driving and before you know it, we will be in beautiful Marrakech! We may even see some truffle sellers and if we do, I wonder how many of you will know what these sellers stands actually look like? Don't worry, we will point them out to you.

Lunch en route

Arrival to Marrakech in the late afternoon and check-in at the hotel. (approx driving time is 6 hours)

Marrakech – the very name brings images of magic, mystery and intrigue to mind – has fascinated travelers for centuries. Absorb the flavor of Marrakech as you explore the souks of the medina. The setting of Marrakech itself is magnificent: the capital of the South with close proximity to the Sahara, it is dominated by the peaks of the magnificent Atlas Mountains. Marrakech will always draw parallels with Fes, the other great Moroccan imperial city. However, what really sets Marrakech apart is not so much its historical landmarks but rather its spectacular location and lively atmosphere. Unlike Fes, Marrakech is not suspended between past and present; it is more rooted in present while maintaining a strong bond to its distant past. Marrakech, the capital of the south, is a very charming city and the one that has many of the loveliest gardens all over Morocco. While in Marrakech the visitor's curiosity to discover more and more about this beautiful city never ceases.

Last four nights Sofitel Marrakech Superior Balcony Room Overlooking Gardens



Designed in a contemporary Andalusian style and situated in sumptuous gardens, the Sofitel Marrakech Lounge & Spa is a place of calm and sensual pleasure dedicated to the development of all of your senses. In this enchanting environment, the Sofitel Marrakech Lounge & Spa raises the art of well-being and absolute relaxation to the highest level of excellence. Revitalize your body and mind in this luxurious haven of peace, serenity and sensuality - just a few steps from the Medina. Your room includes balcony overlooking gardens, marble bathroom with tub, L'Occitane welcome products, hairdryer, Wi-Fi, cable/satellite television, minibar, safe and air conditioning.

<http://www.sofitel.com/gb/hotel-3569-sofitel-marrakech-lounge-and-spa/index.shtml>

Monday 14 May 2012 MARRAKECH

After breakfast your morning is at leisure. In the afternoon, we will journey out for our guided tour of the second imperial city and its rich monuments such as the Koutoubia minaret, a symbol for the city since 800 years, the Bahia palace with its lovely courtyards and late Moorish architecture, the remains of El Badia palace of the 16th century and the Saadian tombs with the sumptuous royal pavilion.



Koutoubia Gardens - The Koutoubia is to Marrakech what the Statue of Liberty is to New York and the Eiffel Tower is to Paris. Nearly seventy metres in height and visible for miles afar, the Koutoubia is a landmark that dominates the whole of Marrakech, rising from the lowrise buildings of the old town and the plains of the north. Originally built by the early Almohads, this is the oldest and most complete of three great Almohad towers – the other two are the Hassan Tower in Rabat and the Giralda in Seville. Koutoubia Mosque, the most perfect minaret in Morocco and a great piece of Almohad architecture. Built in the 12th Century.



Bahia Palace to put some charm on the visitor's senses! Originally built in 1867 by Si Moussa, a grand vizier of Moulay Hassan, it was enlarged by his son Bou Ahmed, who added a mosque, a hammam and a garden. The Bahia Palace was recently restored to its former glory and splendour, although some work is still yet to be carried out. You enter the Palace through an arcade courtyard that leads to a small riad beautifully decorated in cedarwood and carved stucco. In the riad itself, there are three adjoining salons leading through elaborate reception halls, pleasure gardens, living quarters and numerous



secluded courtyards. You can only visit part of the Palace, as some of it is still used by the royal family. The Bahia palace and

gardens were built in the late 19th century, intended to be the greatest palace of its time. The name means 'brilliance'. As in other buildings of the period in other countries, it was intended to capture the essence of the nation's style: Moroccan and Islamic. There is a 2 acre garden with rooms opening onto courtyards.

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xhpgjj_el-bahia-palace-great-attractions-marrakech-morocco_travel

Saadian Tombs



Photo by Luc Viatour

The mausoleum comprises the corpses of about sixty members of the Saadi Dynasty that originated in the valley of the Draa River. Among the graves are those of Ahmad al-Mansur and his family. The building is composed of three rooms. The most famous is the room with the twelve columns. This room contains the grave of the son of the sultan's son Ahmad al-Mansur. The stele is in finely worked cedar wood and stucco work. The monuments are made of Italian Carrera marble.

Outside the building is a garden and the graves of soldiers and servants.

http://www.qantara-med.org/qantara4/public/show_document.php?do_id=784&lang=en

El Badi Palace - meaning the *incomparable palace* consists nowadays of the remnants of a palace built by the Saadian King Ahmad al-Mansur in 1578. The original building is thought to have consisted of 360 rooms, a courtyard of 135 m by 110 m and a pool of 90 m by 20 m, richly decorated with Italian marbles and large amounts of gold imported from Sudan. The palace, which took approximately 25 years to construct, was torn apart by the Alaouite Sultan Moulay Ismail who used the materials to decorate his own palace in Meknes. The design of the palace is influenced by the Alhambra in Granada

Overnight Sofitel Marrakech

Tuesday 15 May 2012 MARRAKECH



Day at leisure

Are you game for some shopping? The Souks are not that far from our hotel and quite likely there will be a few of you wanting to go. You must pay attention to our guide if you do go as they can be very frustrating once you are inside these areas...you could get lost if your sense of direction is not good. Saying that, we had some guests go on their own last tour and they did just fine and loved the sense of freedom to walk at their own pace and enjoy the ambiance of the Souks. Be sure to take a hotel business card with you in case you may need it, but many speak English.

Or...perhaps you just want to spend time around the pool...the choice is yours and we will sort it out at the proper time.

Overnight Sofitel Marrakech

Wednesday 16 May 2012 MARRAKECH



For your last day in Marrakech we will walk outside of our hotel to horse carriages to ride along the city walls of the medieval city. You will discover how green the city is from all the gardens and parks.



Indulge yourself in the cool, very-blue oasis of the Le Jardin Majorelle, the stunning gardens surrounding Villa Majorelle, home of the noted French painter, Jacques Majorelle. Over 400 species of plants and over 1,800 different types of cacti compete for your attention outdoors. The Majorelle Garden is a small, meticulously planned botanical garden just off Avenue Yacob al Mansour.



Today, the Majorelle is maintained by fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent. It conveys both tranquility and strong colour. The keynote colour on buildings, a vivid cobalt blue, offsets the multicoloured bougainvillea, pink geranium and orange nasturtiums. The garden was made in the 1920s with marble pools, raised pathways, banana trees, groves of bamboo, coconut palms and bougainvillea. Perhaps unsurprisingly - the garden was designed by a painter yet composed and coloured like a painting.

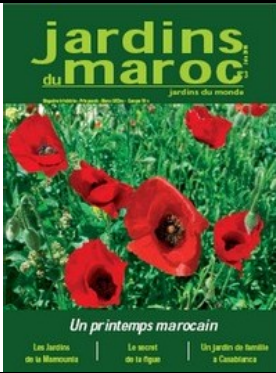


Many of the built features were painted in a dark blue ('Majorelle Blue') which works very well with the soil, climate and plants. In fact, Majorelle's garden rather than his paintings was his masterpiece. Water is an important feature of the garden - there are channels, lily-filled ponds and fountains. Majorelle was an avid plant collector. After years of neglect,

the garden was then taken over and restored by the fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent and his partner Pierre Berge.

<http://www.jardinmajorelle.com/en/>





Continue to visit the private garden of Mr Benchaabane, the former director of the Majorelle gardens and the publisher of the magazine “Les Jardins Du Maroc” and also visit his work shop where he makes some local perfumes such as “Soir De Marrakech”.

‘My rational behind my interests is that I love to make people happy, be it through photography, perfumery, or writing. I believe that no photo, article or perfume can make sense if it’s not shared. I try to communicate whatever I create to people.’

‘To create a perfume that smells of a complex composition of a poetic

atmosphere and imagination, brings a story with passion and memories and gets lost in the labyrinths of secret gardens of our being.

In creating the fragrance of the sun (Soir De Marrakech) I wanted in my own way, to offer to share another side of the art of living in my country. ’

Abderrazak Benchaabane



As a side note, the La Mamounia carries his products.



Buffet lunch at La Mamounia around the pool

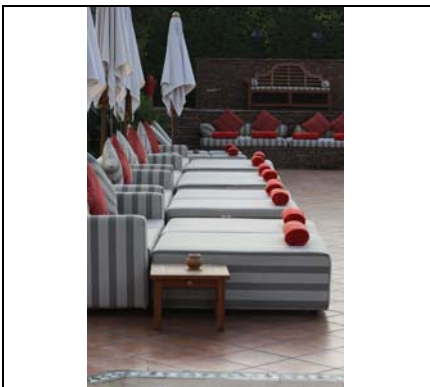
After lunch, take a stroll in the very private gardens of the hotel. Once you are finished, our hotel is but a short walk back.



La Mamounia is named for its 200-year-old gardens, which were given as an 18th century wedding gift to Prince Moulay Mamoun by his father. Today the gardens cover nearly 20 acres and display an incredible variety of flowers and trees. Not only these to see but a wonderful veggie garden and along pathways there are even potager gardens...truly worth visiting and we are very lucky indeed to be able to go here and see them. Winston Churchill loved coming here and several of his paintings of La Mamounia’s gardens hang in the Churchill Museum in England.

Overnight Sofitel Marrakech

Thursday 17 May 2012 MARRAKECH - CASABLANCA



Sleep in, enjoy a leisurely breakfast and when the time comes to check out, we have arranged a couple of day rooms for the group to use until we have to leave for Casablanca. These rooms will be used to store our luggage and freshen up before our coach ride. We will bring in extra towels for your use as well so you can shower if you choose to swim. We will then leave from here to be at the Casablanca airport in plenty of time for check in.

Your land package includes:

- Airport Pickup and Delivery
- 1 night 5 Star Deluxe Kenzi Hotel Casablanca
- 2 nights 5 Star Luxury Sofitel Jardins Des Roses Rabat
- 2 nights 5 Star Luxury Palais Jamai Fes
- 4 nights 5 Star Luxury Sofitel Marrakech Lounge & Spa
- All Breakfasts are incredible buffets to delight and satisfy
- 6 Lunches including Le Pilotis, Villa Mandarine, Relais De Paris, Palais Jamai, Beni Mellal and La Mamounia
- 2 Dinners including Moroccan gastronomic cuisine at Dinarjat in Rabat and Moroccan traditional cuisine at La Maison Bleue in Fes
- All Lunches and Dinners are Best Restaurants in Morocco Listed!
- Visits as outlined – see full itinerary for more information
- Transportation in A/C vehicle
- National English Speaking Guide
- Tips & Gratuities to driver and guides
- Memories to last a lifetime!

Not included:

Expenses of personal nature such as laundry, telephones, international airfare, travel insurance, departure tax and drinks not included with meals.

VISAS

Canadian Citizens only need a Canadian Passport to enter into Morocco. This passport must be valid for a period of six months after the tour ends.

Citizens from the U.S. only need an American Passport to enter into Morocco. This passport must be valid for a period of six months after the tour ends.

If you are booking your own air, please do not do that until you have heard that the tour is a go. CWT can also look after booking your flights, insurance etc.

We have secured a Pre tour night rate at the Kenzi Tower Hotel of CAD \$154 Per person based on double occupancy inclusive of all taxes and breakfast. For Single Occupancy add Supplement of \$110 CAD

Tour Dates: May 8th – May 17th, 2012



LAND only \$4,745 CDN p/p sharing
SINGLE Supplement \$1,350 CDN (very limited)

See **Highlights Box** for all inclusions on this tour.

NOTE : Minimum of 10 tour registrants required for this tour to run, so do not book your air until you have heard from us that the tour is confirmed.

Email: donna@icangarden.com

Toll Free – 1-866-642-7120

Subject to change without notice – September 28, 2011