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## THE MARRAKECH SPECIAL TOUR

- Day 1: Arrive at Marrakech
- Day 2: Exploring Marrakech
- Day 3: Day trip to Essaouira
- Day 4: Cooking Class and Quad Biking in Marrakech
- Day 5: Atlas Mountains and the Berber Trail
- Day 6: Departure

Itinerary :

### Day 1: Arrive at Marrakech

When you arrive at Marrakech airport we collect you and drive to your riad in the medina. Overnight accommodation will be at riad Ksar Anika or similar, providing Bed and Breakfast (BB).

### Day 2: Exploring Marrakech

After breakfast in your riad, you will start exploring Marrakech "the red city of Morocco". Your guide will ensure that you explore the sites of historical and cultural interest including the Saadian Tombs, the Ben Youssef Coranic school, the Bahia Palace and the Koutoubia tower. After lunch, we will drive you outside the Medina to visit the Majorelle Gardens, one of the most fascinating gardens in Morocco and have a short visit to the new city. Afterwards you will have the opportunity to walk through the square entertained with magicians, story-tellers, tooth-pullers and food sellers. Overnight accommodation will be at riad Ksar Anika. (BB).

### Day 3: Day trip to Essaouira

After breakfast in your riad, you will start traveling to the coastal city of Essaouira. On our way - since this is the land of Argan culture - this is an opportunity to visit the women's co-operative of Argan oil where they extract the oil that is famous for its culinary, cosmetic and medical properties.

You will get to Essaouira around 11 am, and start exploring the city. You'll visit the Skala Fortress; see Thuya wood carved by artisans; walk through the alleys of the medina and view hundreds of handicrafts.

Essaouira is also known as the "City of the wind", and it attracts surfers from all over the world. So for surfers this might be a good place to spend a few days.

Essaouira knew many civilizations - including the Portuguese occupation, which affects much of its architecture - however, it remains a small village with much history. Because of its size and its characteristic blue doors and white washed walls, it is also regarded as Morocco's "Jewel of the Atlantic".

Our visit includes the Mellah - the Jewish headquarter, and the beach. There is an annual festival of "Gnawa music", where many musical groups come from different parts of Africa and the world. Today you will have lunch in a Moroccan way - bought fishes 'cooked to order'. In case you do not have time to go to the desert for the real camel trekking, here you will have the opportunity to take a short camel ride along the beach. In the afternoon, you will travel back to Marrakech. Overnight at Ksar Anika. (BB).

### Day 4: Cooking Class and Quad Biking in Marrakech

Today, after breakfast in your riad, you will start your optional cooking class or have a relaxing morning and enjoy the quad biking in the afternoon. At 10 am you will be driven to the cooking school where you will join your cooking class to discover the secrets of Moroccan cuisine and

spices.

Depending on the menu of the day, you will learn how to create Moroccan salads, Tagines, Couscous or Moroccan pastries. You can also choose to take a 2 hours quad biking session at the palms of Marrakech, during which you will meet a Berber family and enjoy both the landscape and Berber hospitality. Overnight at Ksar Anika. (BB).

#### **Day 5: The Atlas Mountains and the Berber Trail**

After breakfast in your riad, you will start traveling to Ourika Valley, via the villages of Asni and Tahnaout. This tour will take you through the three valleys including Tahnaout Valley, the Mulay Brahim Gorge and the Berber village of Asni. You will also have the opportunity to visit a Berber family and experience our culture. During this journey you will experience the breathtaking scenery and the fascinating views of the Toubkal and Oukaimden Mountains - the highest peaks in North Africa.

You will get to Ourika valley for lunch. This valley is one of the richest in Morocco: running water, the green trees and flowers, the blooming bushes, and the waterfalls. After lunch here, you'll have the option to take 2 hours hiking: You'll walk through the Berber village of Setti Fatma, and across the fields - where you may see monkeys in their natural environment - and will experience magnificent views over the waterfall.

Afterwards, we will drive back to your riad in Marrakech. Overnight accommodation at Ksar Anika. (BB).

#### **Day 6: Departure**

After breakfast in your riad, and depending on your flight departure time, we will drive you back to the airport. The tour ends at the airport.