



**3 nights and 4 days**

Experience the South of Morocco and the extraordinary pre desert regions. For those spending time in the Marrakech region, we offer a unique experience with exceptional.

**Day 1 Transfer from Marrakech to Ait Ben Haddou**

Your guide and personal driver with your air-conditioned 4x4 vehicle will meet you shortly after breakfast, at your 5\* Riad/hotel in Marrakech, to transfer you southwards for your pre-Sahara adventure. Your bi-lingual driver is your expert guide. The main road from Marrakech to Ouarzazate crosses the High Atlas Mountains via the dramatic Tizi n'Tichka pass, offering spectacular scenery. On the northern side of the pass, take time to notice the many beautifully-terraced valleys and adobe villages perched precipitously on the hillsides. On the southern side, the contrast between the greenery of the palm oases, the irrigated farmland and the arid landscape becomes striking.



Shortly after leaving the mountain pass you will leave the main road and follow a verdant valley to reach the village of Telouet, made famous for the faded glory of the palace of the 'Lord of the Atlas', once the Vizier of Marrakech, dating to early 20th Century.

Leaving Telouet, drive through yet another beautiful valley, with colourful terraced fields on the river banks and small villages dotted throughout. 1 hour further south you reach the village of Ait Ben Haddou, located along the former caravan route between the Sahara and Marrakech and has been used in numerous Hollywood film productions for its distinctive architecture of 'pise'-constructed Kasbahs. It has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1987. Visit the village, and take lunch within the walls at a unique property.

Your overnight accommodation is a short distance from the village, the hotel of Ksar Ighnda, a sophisticated hotel built to resemble the local architecture around it. It has extensive gardens, patios and terraces and offers all the modern comforts of a quality hotel. Dinner is included.



### Day 2 Transfer from Ait Ben Haddou to Skoura

After breakfast make the short transfer to the date-palm oasis of Skoura, approx. 30km further east of Ouarzazate. Travel time approx. 1 hour. Once in Skoura, and after checking in to your hotel, you may take an exploration of the Palmariaie, by foot, horse-ride, off-road buggy or in your private 4x4 vehicle with driver and guide. The views of the High Atlas from here are simply wonderful. The horse-riding and buggy driving are escorted activities. We provide a picnic lunch. Skoura also lays claim to its long line of Kasbahs located along two seasonal rivers.

Your two nights' accommodation is the Kasbah Ait Ben Moro, located at the entrance of the palm grove and facing the snow-capped mountains. Opened in recent years, this XVIII century Kasbah, now redesigned with modern comforts, welcomes visitors to relax in its Moroccan lounges, and on its terraces and patios. Dinner is included.



### Day 3 Excursion from Skoura along the route of a thousand Kasbahs

After an early breakfast, leave Skoura with your guide, and driver and 4x4, head eastwards along the self-titled "route of a thousand Kasbahs", driving through the valley of roses, famed for the rose festival that occurs in May with the harvest for mass rose water production.

Just beyond Tineghir (approx. 3hrs drive Skoura to Tineghir), visit one of the most striking natural sights in Morocco, the Todra Gorge. Craggy and pink-coloured rock walls of up to 300m loom over a lush narrow valley dotted with oasis-like date palms and irrigated fields of grain.



Lunch will be taken in Tineghir at a local home, the ideal opportunity to enjoy famed Berber hospitality and to gain an insight into a way of life far removed from the West's. Expect to taste a rather special dish of Saharaoui stuffed bread. En route back to Skoura, if time permits, visit the Dades River Gorge, via the village of Ait Youl. Marvel at the natural beauty of the unusual rock shapes and colours that enclose the lush farmland on the banks of the river, and at the ruined splendour of abandoned Kasbahs perching on vantage points along the Gorge. Arrival back to Skoura early evening. Dinner is included.

### Day 4 Transfer from Skoura to Marrakech

After breakfast make the transfer back to Marrakech stopping en route in Ouarzazate if you choose to. Visit the film studios there and some of the town's historic sites (the ancient ramparts and renowned, now ruined, Kasbah). Travel time to Marrakech from Skoura is approx. 4.5 hours. Night back in Marrakech at your chosen accommodation (not included).

Prices are on application. All our trips are tailor-made to suit a client's preferences