

Marrakech

North African Metropolis between cultural diversity and historical tradition

November 9 - 13, 2019



Travel team

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Tour operator is Peter Grooss, Billetkontoret A/S

**A warm thank you for the fruitful
collaboration and sharing of contacts to**

Maria Wittendorff, journalist, communicator and author of the books *Din guide til Marrakech* (Muusmann 2019) and *Marrakech – Smag, steder, stemninger* (Muusmann 2017)

Peter Bergmann, director and owner of Riad Ifoulki

The Royal Danish Embassy of Denmark in Morocco
by Houda Kaddioui and Nassim Regragui

Danish Honorary Consulate in Marrakech
by Mr. Khaldoune

Fouzia Mouna, manager at Thé a la Menthe in Copenhagen

And many more...



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Welcome to Marrakech

Morocco's cultural capital Marrakech lies at the foot of the Atlas Mountains. With just under one million inhabitants, Marrakech is Morocco's fourth largest city. Founded by the Berber Almoravide dynasty in the 11th century, the city is known for its red stone houses created from gravel and stone found in the Atlas Mountains. Since its foundation, Marrakesh has been a political, economic and cultural centre for the entire region, and its influence is seen throughout the western Muslim world - from North Africa to Andalusia.

Between tradition and contemporary living

Marrakech consists of an old city centre called the Medina and some newer city districts outside the city wall. Inside the Medina it buzzes with life and activity all day long. In the evening the central square, Jamaa el-Fna, becomes one big and labyrinthine pop-up of food stalls, jugglers and storytellers, lights, sounds and taste impressions. Marrakech is said to be the most exotic city in the entire Arab world - a kind of realization of the scenery of the *Thousand-and-One-Night* adventure.

With its fusion of different cultures and sources of origin, Marrakech stays a diverse metropolis, embracing many different people and cultures: Arabs, Berbers, Desert people and foreigners. For decades, the city has also attracted artists and creative souls, and in the 1960s the city became almost a magnet for hippies and creative people such as The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix and, not least, designer Yves Saint Laurent.

The pronounced cultural diversity is also marked by the fact that every year a vast number of festivals for art, music, literature, film etc. are held - and it is not without reason that Marrakech is called Morocco's cultural capital.

The new Marrakech

Today's Marrakech is so much more than clay-clad houses and historic palaces. Outside the Medina, a number of new neighbourhoods have been popping up - one of them called "Ville Nouvelle" - the new city - and here you will find the city's more wealthy citizens walking around the wide boulevards with shops and small galleries - quite similar to Paris.

With one leg in the Arab world and one leg in the west, with one leg planted in the western world and one leg planted in the Arab world, Marrakech reveals a world of complexity and cultural confluence that together create a beautiful, vibrant and magical city. A *Thousand- and One-Night's* adventure that invites you into a world of labyrinth urban structures, Arabian palaces, paradise gardens and contemporary oriental luxury.



Our program

In Marrakech, we will dive into the variety of the architectural, cultural and urban characteristics. A listing of some of the key points of our program includes:

- The city's history and architectural features - from the gently refurbished riads (town houses) and courtyards to historic palaces and mosques
- The labyrinthine structure of the old medina and the souk
- Meeting with the city planning department with presentations on the city's development and future
- The impressive garden architecture of Jardin Majorelle
- Guided tour of the new built Musée Yves Saint Laurent and visit to the renowned architecture studio behind the building: Studio KO with offices in Paris and Marrakech
- Excursion to the well-preserved Jewish quarter "Mellah" which has been renewed up to COP22
- The fascinating discovery of Jardin Secret and the renovation and preservation of the adjacent buildings – including insights into the building materials and methods
- Visit an exciting current construction site in the new modern district of Hivernage, which is next to Gueliz.

The aim of the study trip

- Inspiration, network and knowledge exchange between people engaged in the Danish building industry and the local actors in Marrakech
- Further knowledge of urban developments, historic preservation and cultural architecture in Marrakech – both historic and modern



Check in & take off

Departure: Saturday 9 November

Austrian Airlines

Copenhagen-Vienna: 07:15-09:00 (local time) OS308

Vienna-Marrakech 09:50-14:00 (local time) OS899

Return: Wednesday 13 November

Marrakech-Vienna: 14:55-19:05 (local time) OS900

Vienna-Copenhagen: 20:25-22:15 (local time) OS307

Check in & seating:

Check-in on your own at Kastrup Airport or at www.austrian.com 22 hours before take off. We are pre-seated as a group, so you should not try to change your seat but only check in. If you want to sit next to someone specific, you can subsequently change the plane.

After check-in and security we will meet at the gate 06:30, where program and profiles will be handed out.

Luggage allowed: A suitcase of 23 kilo plus one piece of hand luggage of 8 kg (55x38x20cm).



Hotel

We will be staying at Riad Ifoulki – a large classic town house that has been transformed into a hotel. The location is absolutely central and within walking distance to most areas and attractions within the Medina.

The address (- always hold on to this so you can ask for directions if you are lost)

Riad Ifoulki

11, Derb Mqqadem
Arset Loghzail
Marrakech Medina



The riad is owned by Danish Peter Bergmann, who has stayed in Marrakech since the 1960s. Peter Bergmann lives in the Riad and can tell many exciting stories about the city and the population through time - and how he has refurbished the large continuous riad with several inner courtyards in accordance with maroccan design and building methods.

Read more:

<https://www.berlingske.dk/rejser/guide-til-marrakech>

Each room is uniquely designed - with its own bath and fine decorations.



Saturday, November 9

- 05.15 **Check-in Kastrup Airport**
- 06.30 We meet at the gate. Program and profile handout.
- 07.15 **Departure Copenhagen** 07:15 with stopover in Vienna
(Austrian Airlines OS308 & OS899)
- 14.00 **Arrival in Marrakesh Menara Airport (RAK)**
Luggage pick-up and walk to our two busses (*see page 28)
- 15.30 **Pick up by bus to our hotel:** Riad Ifoulki in Marrakech
** Read more about Riad Ifoulki on page 8 and 20.*
- 16.00 **Check in at the Riad Ifoulki** including an afternoon break
with local refreshments and thé a la menthe.
- 17.00 **Walk in two groups to Jamaa el-Fna**
Time on your own in the souk.



** Read more about the medina and the souk on page 18.*

*** Read more about Jamaa el-Fna on page 19.*

- 18:30 **We gather at our meeting point: Cafe Glacier de la Place**
(first floor balcony) at Jamaa el-Fna.
- 19:00 We walk back to Riad Ifoulki together.
- 19:30 **Welcome drink at the roof terrace of Riad Ifoulki**
Welcome to our host Peter Bergmann, who will introduce us to
the history and transformation of Riad Ifoulki.
- 20:00 **Family style dinner** in the inner courtyard of Riad Ifoulki
Including a special welcoming event!

07:00 **Breakfast in the courtyard**
(Anytime between 07:00-08:30)

09.00 We meet on the roof terrace. Briefing on today's program.

09.30 **Pick up by bus to New City Gueliz**

10:00 **Visit with guide to Musée Yves Saint Laurent**
Address: Rue Yves St Laurent, Marrakech

Walking tour of Jardin Majorelle
& Berber Museum

** Read more about these sights on pages 22-23.*

12:30 **Walk to Grand Café de la Poste** via Rue de la Liberté
and the boulevards of Gueliz.

** Read more about Gueliz on page 22.*

13:00 **Lunch at Grand Café de la Poste**
Address: Angle Boulevard El Mansour Eddahbi et Avenue
Imam· Marrakesh



** Read more about Grand Café de la Poste on pages 23-24.*

14.30 **By bus to Musée de L'eau**
Address: Circuit de la Palmeraie - Route de Casablanca

15:00 **Visit to Musée de L'eau** (Musée Muhammed VI)



** Read more about Musée de L'eau on page 24.*

(Sunday, November 10, continued)

16:30 **By bus to Riad Ifoulki**

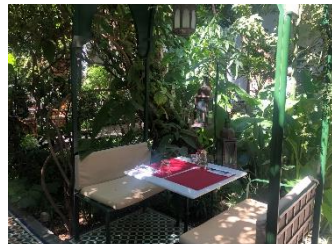
17:00 **Break at Riad Ifoulki**

(time for Hammam/time on your own)

19:00 **Walk to Restaurant La Table du Palais**

63 Rue Sidi el Yamani, Marrakesh

(Approximately 15 min by foot from Riad Ifoulki)



19:30 **Drink at the roof terrace**

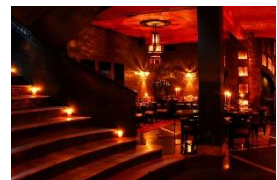
20:00 **Dinner at La Table du Palais**

Later suggestions:

Night cap at Riad Ifoulki roof top or Bar Pergola (jazz club inside the Medina)

Other suggestions for late evenings: Nightclub in Gueliz (various alternatives: Bar Sinatra (good cocktails, dance and live music), Comptoir (club atmosphere), 555, Buddha Bar etc.)

Or simply go for a *Thousand and One Nights' Sleep* in the Riad!



Monday, November 11

- 07.00 **Breakfast**
- 08:15 **Briefing on today's program in the courtyard**
- 08.30 **Pick up by bus from Riad Ifoulki to Gueliz**
- 09:00 **Visit to the Royal Danish Consulate of Marrakech**
Address: 28, Rue Yacoub Almarini, Gueliz

Program as follows:

09 : 00	Welcome and word by M ^r KHALDOUN the Honorary Consul of Marrakech
09 : 15	Presentation by M ^r Hassan AMILLAT Director of the House of the Elect « Investment opportunities in the region of Marrakech Safi »
09 : 45	Presentation by M ^r Said LOQMANE Director of Marrakech Urbaine Agency «Marrakech city plan »
10 : 15	Presentation by M ^{rs} Safa BOUMRAH Regional Director of Housing and City Politics «Upgrading of the Medina»
10 : 45	Presentation by the Architect M ^r Karim JAMALI «City history of Marrakech»
11 : 15	Questions

- 12:00 **Cocktail Lunch at the Consulate**
- 13:00 **Pick up by bus to Hivernage**
- 13:15 **Visit to large construction site M Avenue**
Architect Mr. Karim Jamali will present the visions of the new city area and take us through the site of construction.

** Read more about M Avenue on page 25.*
- 14:00 **Pick up by bus to go to the Jewish Quarter Mellah**
On the way we pass by the famous Minareth Koutoubia

*** Read more about Koutobia and the Mellah Quarter on pages 25-26.*

(Monday, November 11, continued)

14:30 **Guided tour of the Mellah Quarter**

15:00 **Visit inside the Bahia Palace**



** Read more about the Bahia Palace on page 26.*

16:00 **Pick up by bus to Gueliz**
Meeting point: *Place des Ferblantiers*

16:30 **Visit to architecture company Studio KO**
Address: 127, Avenue Mohamed V, Gueliz

Presentation by Fayçal Tiaïba - architect and partner at KO

- Introduction to the architecture and history of Studio KO
- The architectural ideas behind Musée Yves Saint Laurent
- The renovating and updating the Grand Café de la Poste
- What is it like to work as an architect in Marrakech?
(- differences between European and North African culture)

** Read more about Studio KO on page 24*

17:30 **Return by bus to Riad Ifoulki**

18:00 **Break at Riad Ifoulki**
(time for hamman/time on your own)

19:30 **Walk from Riad Ifoulki to restaurant Ksar Essaoussane**
Address: 3 Rue el Ksour, Marrakech

(Approximately 15 min by foot from Riad Ifoulki)

20:00 **Dinner at Ksar Essaoussane**

** Later suggestions: See page 11.*

Tuesday, November 12

- 07.00 **Breakfast at the hotel**
(Anytime between 07:00 and 08:30).
- 08:30 **Briefing of today's program at the roof terrace**
- 09.00 **Walk to Jardin Secret** (approximately 20 minutes)
Address: Rue Mouassine 121, 40030 - Marrakesh Medina
- 09:30 **Meeting with Italian owner, Lauro Milan**, who will tell us
about the discovery of the historic park and the careful
renovation of the garden and adjacent buildings.



* Read more about Jardin Secret on page 27.

- 11:30 **Lunch at Cafe Arabe**
184 Rue Mouassine, Marrakesh



- 13.00 **Visit to Musee Mouassine**
- revealing a wealthy Riad of the Saadie Dynasty
Address: 4-5 Derb El Hammam· Rue Mouassine, Marrakesh

(Tuesday, November 12, continued)

13:15 **We meet with the owner Patrick Mana'ch**
who will give us a tour of the museum and show us
some of the amazing elements of the building itself.

** Read more about Musée Mouassine on page 27.*

14:30 **Visit to Riad Spa Azzouz**
Address: 4 Derb Azzouz, Marrakech
We meet with the French couple Beatrice and Jean-Luc,
who will show us the upgrade and interior design of the
renovated Riad.

15:00 **Tour of Riad Spa Azzouz**



15:30 **Special Mint Tea Ceremony at Riad Spa Azzouz**



In Morocco, preparing and serving tea is a **sacred ritual** that represents culture, hospitality and friendship. The most popular tea in the country is Moroccan mint tea, also called Maghreb or Touareg mint tea. It is prepared using green tea leaves to a smooth and sweet consistency.

16:00 Visit to the Italian neighbor Fabricio, who has
built an African landscape on his roof top.

(Tuesday, November 12, continued)

16:30 **Walking tour of the medina**, including a visit to the old city walls and passing the street with many religious facades.



17.30 **Break at Riad Ifoulki**
Time for hamman / time on your own

19:40 We meet in the central courtyard of Riad Ifoulki

19:45 **We walk to restaurant PEPE NERO**
Address: 17 Derb Cherkaoui, Marrakech (approx. 10 min)

20:00 **Farewell dinner at PEPE NERO**



Later suggestions: See page 11.

Wednesday, November 13

08:30

Late breakfast at Riad Ifoulki

10:00

Local craftsmanship with Peter Bergmann

A unique look into the workshops of the local carpenters, bronze casters, tile casters, lantern makers etc.



We divide into two groups:

At 10:00

Group A: Early birds (meeting point in the courtyard of Ifoulki)

Tour of local craftsmanship

Group B: Time on your own

At 11:00

Group B: Late birds (meeting point in the courtyard of Ifoulki)

Tour of local craftsmanship

Group A: Time on your own

11:30

Quick lunch or lunch-to-go at Riad Ifoulki

12:15

Goodbye and pick up by bus





More about places and buildings in Marrakech

The Medina

The ancient streets, souks, businesses and homes of the Marrakech Medina tell the story of a thousand years of urban development at the western edge of the Islamic world.

The entire Medina appears red as it is built of stones and gravel from the surrounding mountains that have a high content of ochre.

When the sun goes down, the red color is even more conspicuous, and you understand why the Moroccans call it "the red city".

The streets are a grid of narrow labyrinth streets – all protected by a city wall that is 19 km long. The core of the Medina consists of a vast network of walking paths and souks including Africa's largest market space, Jamaa el-Fna.



Many streets within the city walls are car-free, but mopeds, donkey carts, push-carts, bicycles and tiny, hand-painted trucks all pass through the narrow streets at high pace – so be careful and keep to the side as you walk.

If you need to take a break from the buzzing street level, go to the rooftop of any restaurant or riad. From just a few stories up, you can see the Atlas Mountains, the Koutoubia Mosque and a glimpse of a thousand rooftop patios and courtyards.



The houses and buildings of the Medina are mostly *riads* - old townhouses, that are protected by thick walls from the outside and reveal the most beautiful and peaceful patios on the inside. The immense contrasts between inside and outside can be explained by the Islamic notions of privacy and the realities of harsh desert climates.

The Souks

The souks of Marrakech are the largest in Morocco and famed throughout the world as some of the most exotic marketplaces to shop in. The souks thread north from the Jamaa el-Fna square and are laid out according to the separate commodities (metal, wood, pottery, tile, jewelry, silk, spices, wickerwork etc.) being made and sold.

The best way to approach the sensory overload of the souks of Marrakech is to take a breath and dive in.



There is never a 'correct price' – if you want something and are satisfied with the price, then you've paid the right amount.

Don't ask the price of something unless you are willing to buy it - and be prepared to take your time. The



general rule of thumb is to offer half of the seller's first price and go from there.

Jamaa el-Fna

The central square of the Medina, **Jamaa el-Fna**, is full of life and overwhelming at the first meeting. Here, acrobats, musicians, street vendors, food trucks, snake charmers etc. move in from early morning till late evening bringing a buzzing atmosphere to the square all day long. In the evening, the square transforms into a large street food market.





Lost in the souks?

If you ever get lost in the souks you can always ask for the direction to the square or Jamaa el-Fna, then people will know where to guide you. The square is the gathering point for almost everybody in Marrakech.

On the first day of our study trip we will try to test this. We will set you all free at Jamaa el-Fna and here, we will point out a common meeting point: **Café Glacier de la Place**, which rises centrally on the square. **We gather at the first floor (Le Grand Balcon)** at Café Glacier de la Place at 6:30 pm in the afternoon and walk back to the riad together at seven o'clock to celebrate the arrival in Marrakech.



Riad Ifoulki

Riad Ifoulki is an example of one of the truly authentic places in the city. When you sit in one of the riad's inner courtyards you can feel the atmosphere from a hundred years back. The riad is owned by Danish Peter Bergmann, who came to Marrakech in the happy hippie days of the 1960s and has been here ever since.

The house is composed of three houses and holds a total of 17 rooms - each with its own special interior.

At the top floor you will find a large rooftop, where you can enjoy the view of the city as well as a glass of wine in the late evenings. The staff are incredibly friendly and take pride in engaging personally with each of their guests.

Don't miss a visit to the hammam of Riad Ifoulki. It is possible to reserve time for treatment during the breaks our program



Hamman

One of the most popular and traditional ways to unwind is by visiting a hammam, a Moroccan bathhouse. Hammams are found in every neighbourhood in Marrakesh, and they are a weekly ritual for many locals, which is worth adopting while you're here.

Gnawa

Gnawa is a special type of music that came to Morocco along with the black slaves. Many of the songs are about the grief and suffering of the ancestors that had to walk the long distance through the desert with nothing else in the horizon but to remain slaves. The music has a mythical character holding African magic as well as Islamic rituals – and the music is still deeply rooted in the Moroccan culture.

Jewish Quarter Mellah

In Morocco, the Mellah is a term used to describe an area of residents of Jewish origin. It is generally surrounded by high walls to separate them from other parts of the population such as Christians and Muslims. Since 1438, following the great wave of immigration of Jews from Spain, several urban mellahs were created on the Moroccan territory. The Mellah of Marrakech is considered as one of the largest in Morocco.

While most of the Jews first settled in the Mouassine district, the reigning Sultan of Marrakech, Moulay Abdallah, in 1557 offered the Jews protection in their own neighborhood – the Mellah, which was closed behind high walls and locked off at night. Many of the Jews then moved from the Atlas Mountains to the city to be part of the congregation, and Marrakech became the largest Jewish center in Morocco. However, not many Jews are left in the neighborhood. During the 20th century, most Jews left the city to settle in i.e. Casablanca, France, Israel or the United States.

The Jews have still made a large impact on the city. Known to be skilled traders and craftsmen the Jews have left traces of a vibrant city district with several open markets and souks. Notice for example the beautiful square, Place des Ferblantiers, which means "square of the tin blacksmiths".





Gueliz – ville nouvelle

Marrakech's *ville nouvelle* was constructed during the French Protectorate from 1912-1956. Minutes away from the Medina, where the local people reside, Gueliz was originally built to house the city's foreign inhabitants – complete with church and chapel.

Inspired by the great boulevards of Paris, the two main avenues, Mohammed VI and Mohammed V, compose the heart of the modern part of Marrakech. This area houses international clothing shops like Zara and H&M, as well as modern restaurants and cafés.

Avenue Mohamed V is the neighborhood's main drag. Here you'll find Galerie 127 and the office of architects Karl Fournier and Olivier Marty – **STUDIO KO** – known for their designs of the nearby **Grand Café de la Poste** and the **Yves Saint Laurent Museum**. Avenue Mohammed V houses the most expensive boutiques and high-end stores of Marrakech.



Rue de la Liberté is one of the popular streets with designer shops, galleries and street art. We will pass by this street as we walk from Jardin Majorelle to La Grand Café de la Poste.

On the corner of Rue de la Liberté and Rue de Yougoslavie, Hicham Daoudi, who founded the Marrakech Art Fair, has turned a former mining-company building into the Comptoir des Mines.

Musée Yves Saint Laurent

The Musée Yves Saint Laurent in Marrakech opened in October 2017.



The museum sets to celebrate the life and work of one of the 20th century's most defining figures in fashion. The museum is designed by the French-Maroccan architecture company **Studio KO** and features a permanent collection of Saint Laurent's work, as well as a gallery, café, and restaurant.

Musée des Berbes

The newly refurbished Berber museum located in the Jardin Majorelle is a fine pearl of a museum cataloguing the essentials of domestic life, clothing and jewelry of the Berber culture - with all regions of Morocco represented. The exterior appears in the distinctive Majorelle blue and the interior exhibits are beautifully displayed.



Jardin Majorelle



Jardin Majorelle extends over 9,000 m² and is one of the most captivating and mysterious gardens in Morocco.

Created over the course of forty years, the garden is enclosed by outer walls, and consists of a labyrinth of crisscrossing walking paths of different levels and buildings that blend both Art

Deco and Moorish influences. The French painter Jacques Majorelle conceived of this large and luxuriant garden as a sanctuary and botanical 'laboratory'. In 1980, Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé, who first arrived in Morocco in 1966, purchased the Jardin Majorelle to save it from destruction at the hands of hotel developers. The new owners decided to live in Jacques Majorelle's villa, which they renamed the Villa Oasis.

Le Grand Café de la Poste

Le Grand Café de la Poste was built in the 1920s as a venerable post office with restaurant in what was then the outskirts of the city. Today, as the city has grown, the restaurant has a central location in the newer district of Gueliz, where the French-Moroccan Architecture Company, **Studio KO**, has renovated and recalled the restaurant's elegant and authentic expression.



Studio KO

Studio KO has offices in both Paris and Marrakech. One of their special features is the combination of precisely French and Arabic culture in a modern aesthetic expression.

Following in the footsteps of Yves Saint Laurent, the architecture duo Studio KO has designed a temple to the fashion designer's legacy in his cherished Marrakech.



On Monday 11 November we will visit the famous architecture studio in Gueliz, where partner and architect **Fayçal Tiaïba** will give us a presentation of their ideas of design.

Musee de L'eau - Museum Mohammed VI



The Mohammed VI Museum of the Water Civilization in Morocco is one of the most modern cultural sites in Africa. Inaugurated in May 2017 it is the newest exhibition center in Marrakech that highlights the essence of water in the history and heritage of the country.



Aware of the strategic issues related to the water sector, the Kingdom of Morocco has implemented a **development strategy based on the development of water resources**. The Mohammed VI Museum for the Civilization of Water plays a key role in this process and highlights the traditional hydraulic heritage in all its technical, social and cultural aspects.

The permanent exhibition tells the great story of water through 10 themes that show a tremendous Moroccan know-how in water management and sharing. Like in many other regions, Morocco today is under water stress. Irregular rainfall, drought/flood events, pollution, waste have been the reason for this climate change which seem almost irreversible. In 1960, water resources were 2,800 m³ per capita. In 2008, they amounted to only 900 m³. And in 2020, they should go down to 650 m³ - a rate well below the water stress threshold of 1000 m³.

The Museum of the Moroccan Water Civilization brings the subject of water to the public debate, raising awareness about the issues of sustainable development, demanding a new strategic vision of water.



M Avenue

M Avenue, scheduled to open in late 2019, is a new 500-metre-long “Garden Avenue” located in the heart of Marrakech. This unique development, which is adjacent to the Four Seasons Resort Marrakech, will create a new city centre that will revitalize the city and will offer an innovative mix of properties including Four Seasons Private Residences, the Pestana CR7 hotel, shops, restaurants, cafes, offices, art galleries, spa facilities, clinics, a culture centre and exhibition venues. The vision is to become an international lifestyle

destination for design, fashion, food, recreation and culture.

Koutoubia Minaret

The Koutoubia Mosque rises above Marrakech and can be seen from almost every roof terrace in the city. The meeting point in the heart of the city was built in the 12th century by the Almohad dynasty.

70 meters high, the minaret today remains the tallest building in Marrakech, and the Koutoubia Mosque the largest mosque. Local laws limit all new construction projects to exceed the height of the minaret, providing an unchallengeable common icon for all inhabitants.





El Badi Palace

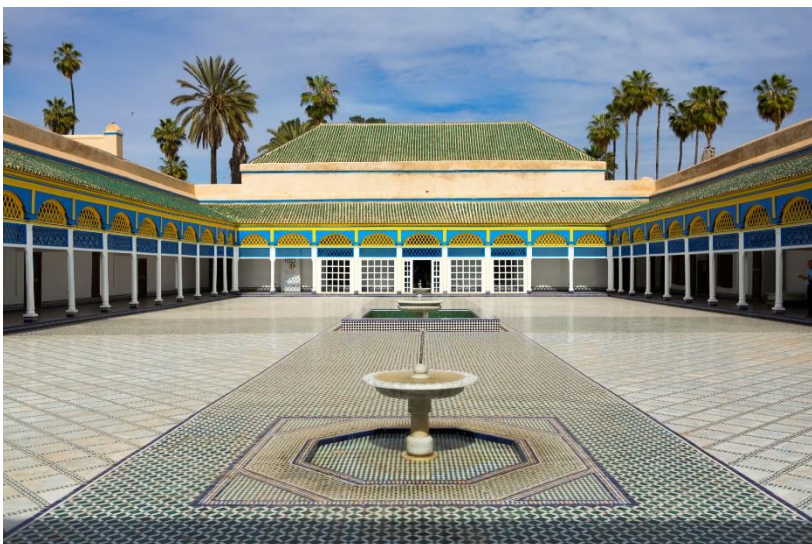
The El Badi Palace (meaning "Palace of the Creator of Wonder") is a ruined palace located commissioned by the sultan Ahmad al-Mansur of the Saadian dynasty shortly after his accession in 1578. The palace's construction was funded by a substantial ransom paid by the Portuguese. The palace took fifteen years to build, with construction finally completed around 1593 and was a lavish display of the best craftsmanship of the Saadian period.

Bahia Palace

The palace of Bahia ("Palace of the beautiful, the brilliant") is a nineteenth century palace of eight hectares located centrally in Marrakech. It is one of the masterpieces of Moroccan architecture and one of the major monuments of the country's cultural heritage.

The palace comprises 8000 m² and is the largest and most luxurious palace of Morocco of its time. It is built in the south-east of the medina of Marrakech, close to the current royal palace, by the Moroccan architect El Mekki.

It was built for Si Moussa, chamberlain of Sultan Hassan I of Morocco. Ahmed ben Moussa (1841-1900, son of Si Moussa, successor to his father as chamberlain) reign over Morocco from 1894 to his demise in 1900 as regent of the young sultan Abd al-Aziz of Morocco. During his reign, Ahmed ben Moussa enlarged the southern part of the official palace and their many children. The powerful Ahmed Ben Moussa would have erected this palace for his favorite mistress, hence the name of Bahia "the beautiful, the brilliant".





At the death of Ben Moussa, Sultan Abd al-Aziz of Morocco takes power and orders the looting of the palace. The latter established the French protectorate in Morocco, under which General Lyautey, then resident general of France in Morocco (future Marshal of France) in fact, from 1912, his personal place of residence and a residence of French officers in there, adding fireplaces, heating and electricity.

Le Jardin Secret

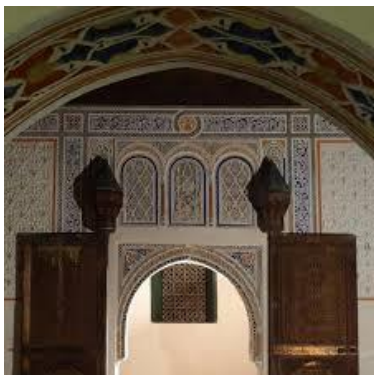
Le Jardin Secret – den hemmelige have – er et fascinerende historisk haveanlæg opdaget af en italiensk developer, Lauro Milan, der under et byggeprojekt fik øje på parkens underliggende vandingsanlæg og besluttede sig for at genskabe parken og dens unikke bygninger. Vi skal høre om anlægget, restaureringen, byggematerialer -og metoder.

Musée de Mouassine

Patrick Menac'h is the owner of Musée de Mouassine and is also the man behind Maison de la Photographie. The many Saadie-treasures of the house were discovered by coincidence, while Patrick was looking for a place to live. After buying the house in rue de Mouassine, Patrick began the works of renovation, and what he discovered underneath the multiple layers of plaster was to his great surprise the amazing materials and colors dating back to the origins of the 15th and 1600s, where the Saadies unfolded their golden age.

The Musée Mouassine today houses several of the riches of the Saadie dynasty. While the ground-floor holds a small collection of Berber artefacts, the impressive interior of the upstairs salons, with their beautiful friezes and painted woodwork, are the true jewel – and an example of domestic Saadian architecture.

The culturally engaged owner Patrick will show us around the house and give us a valuable insight into the cultural and architectural characteristics.



Practical information

Transportation: We will be driving in two minor busses that can easily pass through the narrow streets and alleys of the medina.

Currency: Moroccan Dirham (MAD) 1 dh = 70 cents, deduct to 30% of the price

Languages: Primarily Arabic and French. Some of the people also speak English (and German) very well.

Time zone: Morocco is one hour behind us (= minus 1 hour)

Alcohol is allowed, but not in all restaurants...

The mosques have access for Muslims only

What to wear in November? Pack for both hot and slightly cooler weather... (average temperatures are 18-25 degrees Celsius)



Local lingo

A few good lines (the words are written as they sound)

Shukra = tak

Shukra bsaf = ekstra mange tak

Laf dak = bless you (gerne med hånden lagt på hjertet)

La baz = how are you

Wash = whats up

Thank you in advance

In order to get the most out of our visit to Marrakech, it is important that we stick to the schedule and the program that we have prepared in collaboration with our hosts.



List of participants and phone chain

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Noter





Noter

Noter

**BYENS
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