

# Silk Steps

EXPLORE AND EXPERIENCE



## Morocco

*From the fascinating imperial city of Marrakech to spectacular lunar landscapes, flat-roofed Berber towns to picturesque hillside villages, and from beautifully preserved Kasbahs to stylish and atmospheric accommodation, Morocco combines history, culture, architecture and natural beauty in one endlessly alluring short-haul destination.*

Less than four hours from the UK - so perfect for both a weekend break and a longer journey of discovery - Morocco assaults the senses with the sounds, smells, sights and experiences of the place where Africa, Europe and the Middle East meet.



### WHEN IN MOROCCO WHY NOT....?

**Spoil yourself at a luxury retreat** Luxuriate at the Domaine de la Roseaie, easily reached from Marrakech, a resort set in delightful gardens in the heart of Berber country. The 44 rooms, spread throughout the gardens, are decorated in understated traditional Moroccan style. If you can tear yourself from the spa, three swimming pools and tennis courts you can go rambling or horse riding through the High Atlas Mountains and discover Berber villages and weekly markets.

**Learn to cook Moroccan cuisine** Spend one morning in Marrakech discovering the secrets of the distinctive taste of Moroccan cuisine. Learn to cook traditional dishes and then enjoy what you have prepared under fig and olive trees in the garden of the cookery school.

**Take a balloon flight over the High Atlas** Savour the early morning air as you float over oases, Berber villages and the High Atlas Mountains. On landing have a refreshing mint tea and a stroll around one of the villages before returning to Marrakech.



### WEATHER

Morocco is a year-round destination with a temperate climate in the winter, apart from in the mountains. The summers are hot and arid, particularly in the desert, and spring (April/May) and autumn (September/October) are ideal times to visit.



For more information, please contact: +44(0)1278 722460 [www.silksteps.co.uk](http://www.silksteps.co.uk)

# Suggested Itinerary



Nights stay at:	
1	Marrakech
2	
3	Ouarzazate
4	
5	Erfoud
6	
7	Meknes
8	
9	Fes
	Marrakech

## CLASSICAL MOROCCO

We have selected several of the highlights of Morocco, including three of the imperial cities, to bring you a cross-section of the culture that the country has to offer.

Start in Marrakech, one of the most fascinating of Morocco's imperial cities, with its impressive walled city, the Medina, the landmark Koutoubia minaret and the heart of the city, Djemaa El Fna, the buzzing main square.

Drive over a mountain pass to the former French Foreign Legion garrison town of Ouarzazate, stopping at Ait Ben Haddou en

route, a picturesque village perched on a hillside with beautifully preserved kasbahs, often used for film locations.



A spectacular drive awaits you as you enter the stunning Todra Gorge with its dramatic canyon walls and oases before crossing a lunar landscape to reach Erfoud with its extensive palm groves. From here you will take an excursion in a 4WD vehicle to the sand dunes at Merzouga, a small Saharan oasis, at the foot of the Erg Chebbi Dunes. The dunes extend for 19 miles and reach to over 800ft.

Leave the palm groves and cross the High Atlas and Middle Atlas mountains with high pastures dotted with shepherd's tents and head towards Meknes through flat-roofed Berber towns. Explore the lavish buildings in the kasbah of the imperial city of Meknes and the nearby Roman ruins of Volubilis. Finally, visit the imperial city of Fes with its palaces, mosques and medersas enclosed within ancient city walls, before returning to Marrakech for a final night before your departure flight.

### Cost per person

(based on two people travelling in a twin/double room) **FROM £1675.00**



# Suggested Itinerary



Nights stay at:

- 1 Marrakech
- 2
- 3 Ouarzazate
- 4 Chigaga
- 5 Taroudant
- 6
- 7 Essaouira
- 8

## MOROCCAN DISCOVERY

Discover lesser-visited Morocco in this journey that takes you from Marrakech, over mountains and into the desert.

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Experience a taste of adventure as you head south towards the great expanse of the Sahara where you will spend the night in a nomad tent surrounded by the vast Chigaga dunes. Head towards the coast, spending two nights in Taroudant en route. The imposing ramparts which encircle the town are themselves encircled by citrus and olive groves. The daily markets are not to be missed.

Your final destination is enchanting Essaouira where you can relax on the Atlantic beaches or explore the crenellated outer walls or the labyrinth of narrow streets of the Medina.

### Cost per person

(based on two people travelling in a twin/double room) **FROM £1495.00**



# Hotel Selection

# Ecoprojects

## RIADS

We use riads wherever possible, old townhouses surrounding courtyard gardens, which have been sensitively converted into small guesthouses and are evocative of a less hurried age. Most are 18th or 19th century Medina townhouses, so very centrally located, and have exquisite stucco and tilework. Many have roof terraces and some even have a plunge pool.

## Kasbah du Toubkal

Base yourself at the Kasbah du Toubkal, a mountain retreat and eco-lodge and once the home of a feudal caid (chief). Just 60km from Marrakech you can take day treks from the kasbah, discover the local village or just enjoy the views of Jbel Toubkal, the highest mountain in North Africa. The kasbah is run in partnership with the local Berber people and the work to restore the kasbah used traditional techniques and local materials which were brought in by mule.



### A Silk Steps inclusive holiday price includes:

- Private return transfers between airports and hotels (unless otherwise specified)
- The services of English-speaking guides and representatives at each stage of the tour.
- Accommodation in a standard room (shared twin) with private facilities (unless otherwise specified) with breakfast
- Government taxes and compulsory service charges
- All tours and sightseeing as specified, inclusive of entrance fees
- The services of our local representative

### Extras

- International flights – please contact us for up-to-date prices
- Travel insurance
- Meals – unless otherwise stated
- Optional sightseeing other than specified
- International airport departure tax payable overseas
- Single supplement (on request)

