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# Spectacular Landscapes, Gardens, Imperial Cities & Kasbahs of Morocco 2026

26 MAR – 14 APR 2026

*Code: 22603*

Tour Leaders Professor Tim Entwisle, Lynda Entwisle

Fitness Level

**Level 3 - Challenging**
Among our most physically demanding

Explore Morocco's rich culture in gardening and landscape design, art, architecture & craft in medieval cities with old palaces and souqs, on high mountain ranges and in pre-Saharan desert fortresses.

# Overview

This tour, led by Professor Timothy Entwisle, former Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, is a feast of splendid gardens, great monuments and natural landscapes of Morocco. Tim will be assisted by Lynda Entwisle who first joined ASA as a tour manager to Spain in 2019.

- Spend a day in Marrakesh, with French landscape designers Arnaud Maurières and Éric Ossart, exploring their garden projects designed for a dry climate including Dar Azaren and Ourika Community Gardens.
- Discover Taroudant, the authentic Berber market town in the heart of the Souss Valley, with the best-preserved *pise* (reinforced mud) walls in Morocco and explore private gardens.
- Visit Olinto, a secluded Atlas Mountain retreat in Ouirgane, view the gardens and private house and art collection of antique expert Fabrizio Ruspoli.
- In Tangier, with the assistance of François Gilles, the UK's most respected importer of Moroccan carpets, spend two days visiting private gardens and learn about the world of Moroccan interiors.
- View the stunning garden of Umberto Pasti, Italian novelist and horticulturalist, which preserves the botanical richness of Tangier.
- In Marrakesh, visit Yves Saint Laurent Museum, Jardin Majorelle, Le Jardin Secret, the palmeraie Jnane Tamsna and André Heller's Anima.
- Explore the work of American landscape architect, Madison Cox: visit Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé's private gardens of the Villa Oasis, the garden of the Yves Saint Laurent Museum in Marrakesh and Villa Mabrouka in Tangier.
- Wander through the UNESCO World Heritage-listed medinas of Fes and Marrakesh bustling with merchants selling textiles, jewellery, carpets, carved woodwork and other crafts.
- Journey across the pre-Sahara and through date palm plantations of verdant oasis river valleys to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Ksar of Ait Ben Haddou.
- Encounter the rich urban architecture of Andalusian mosques and madrasas, and desert mud-brick *qasbas* and villages.
- Cross Morocco's majestic Middle, High and Anti Atlas mountain ranges and past small Berber mountain villages.
- Enjoy traditional food in old palaces whilst listening to exquisite Andalusian music, and enjoy New Moroccan cuisine at Restaurant Nur.
- Stay in charming *riads* lovingly restored by local artisans: La Maison Bleue in Fes, La Maison Arabe in Marrakesh, Riad Villa Blanche in Agadir surrounded by gardens designed by Eric Ossart and Arnaud Maurières; and Domaine de La Roseraie located in the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains.

Overnight Agadir (1 night) • Taroudant (1 night) • Val d'Ouirgane (2 nights) • Marrakesh (4 nights) • Ouarzazate (1 night) • Tineghir (1 night) • Merzouga (1 night) • Fes (3 nights) • Chefchaouen (1 night) • Tangier (3 nights) • Rabat (1 night)

## Introduction

The tour explores the dynamic relationship between Morocco's unique and diverse environments and the country's gardening traditions. It focuses on five key themes: the tradition of the Andalusian courtyard garden; the cultivation of date plantations and palmeraies in the desert and in the south around Marrakesh; the creation of ecologically sustainable desert gardens; the cultivation of gardens and plantations in high mountain locations, and the innovations of expatriates in garden design.

In Agadir, Taroudant and Marrakesh we study landscape design projects by Arnaud Maurières and Éric Ossart and the ecology of the region, and then travel north from the arid pre-Sahara to the well-watered

coastal plain across the Atlas mountains. In the grand, medieval Imperial cities of Marrakesh and Fes we will be introduced not only to traditional 'Andalusian' courtyard gardens but also to the latest in garden design. In cosmopolitan Tangiers, Morocco's equivalent of the Côte d'Azur, we explore the wonderful houses and gardens of international expatriates.

In the south we encounter powerful contrasts between lowland and mountain plantings, observing many of Morocco's unique flora as well as imported and acclimatised specimens. In Marrakesh, the red city of the south, we enjoy extraordinary gardens like that of Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé in which verdant plants contrast with vivid blue buildings. Beyond the Atlas Mountains we stay in a desert house and encounter rich palm oases that follow rivers as they snake through the empty desert. These extraordinary 'rivers of green' are complemented by luscious vegetable gardens in small villages. Here we learn how precious water is shared amongst the village farmers. We'll also come to understand how traditional architecture relates to its garden armature, and how contemporary architects, gardeners and plantsmen have adapted traditional relationships to create new, fascinating environments.

To complement this fascinating study of the relationship between diverse ecologies and garden design, we'll learn about the unique history of Morocco, its artistic and architectural traditions. Fes is arguably the least changed medieval city in the world, with lovely 15th-century *madrasas* and *funduks* (caravanserai). In exploring Morocco's vivid craft traditions, we'll learn how traditional plant dyes are used in carpets, textiles, the colouring of leather and in painting. We'll come to understand the vital influence of Iberia upon Morocco's development and how the countries six great dynasties, the Idrissi, Almoravids, Almohads, Merinids, Sa'adi and Alawi have interacted with Mediterranean Europe. We'll wander through souqs selling all manner of wares from fine copper to carved wood, textiles, ceramics and Morocco's ubiquitous carpets and also have ample opportunities to sample Morocco's fine cuisine in a number of carefully selected restaurants.

### Testimonials

*A kaleidoscope of colour and movement transfixed our eyes, hearts and minds on this truly spectacular ASA experience. Every day provided new opportunities to deepen and nurture our understanding of this ancient country and its culture.* Sue, VIC.

*The tour provided an authentic insight into the cultural life of Morocco, and the opportunity to view vast landscapes and magnificent private gardens behind high walls.* Meredyth, SA.

# Leaders

## Professor Tim Entwisle

Tim is an author, broadcaster and passionate tour leader. Former director of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, senior executive at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (UK) and director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust in Sydney, Tim first joined ASA in 2017 and currently leads tours to Spain, Morocco, England and New Zealand.

Tim is a highly respected author, broadcaster, botanist and garden expert, who has held senior roles in three of the world's leading botanic gardens. From 2013 to 2023 Tim was Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, following two years in an executive role with responsibilities for over half of Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (London), and eight as Executive Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust in Sydney. Tim is an Honorary Professorial Fellow in the School of Botany at The University of Melbourne and has been a Visiting Professor in the School of Biological and Biomedical Science, Durham University. During his 30 years or so working in botanic gardens, Tim has travelled throughout the world visiting botanic and other gardens on all continents; since 2016, he has been President of the International Association of Botanic Gardens.

Tim has a broad interest in plants and gardens, including editing and writing for the 4-volume *Flora of Victoria, as well as authoring numerous magazine articles and books. Tim is best known for his* 2014 publication *Sprinter and Sprummer: Australia's Changing Seasons*, challenging the use of the traditional four seasons in Australia, and his 'wildly rich memoir' Evergreen: The Botanical Life of a Plant Punk published in 2022. Tim writes regularly to *Gardening Australia Magazine*.

Tim has a strong profile on various social media platforms, including a long-running and prize-winning blog (*TalkingPlants*) since 2008 and regular contributions to Instagram and X (ex-Twitter). He looks for any opportunity to promote science, plants and gardens and is a frequent speaker at clubs and specialist societies. Tim is a frequent guest on Australian radio and television, and writes opinion pieces for major newspapers. Over the summers of 2014-15 and 2015-16 Tim hosted ABC Radio National's first gardening show, *Talking Plants*, and he continues to contribute regularly to RN's *Blueprint for Living*.

Tim first joined ASA in 2017 and has since led two garden tours to Spain. His next tour, to England, was postponed due to COVID, but he is now keen to make up for lost time with tours planned for England, Morocco and New Zealand. Tim has travelled extensively in his professional and personal life, visiting gardens and meeting horticultural experts and garden owners all over the world. He is excited by the opportunity to show ASA travellers some of his favourite places and favourite plants.

## Lynda Entwisle

Lynda is a keen gardener, and vice-chair and newsletter editor for the Victorian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society. Lynda was a language teacher for 25 years, and is fluent in French and Spanish.

Lynda initially completed a BSc in Botany and worked in research laboratories for a number of years. Her love of Language saw her complete a BA majoring in French & Linguistics, in her spare time, and from there she went on to secondary teaching for the larger part of her career. She has taught students of all ages, including adult classes and has led student tours to New Caledonia and to France.

During her career she has worked and volunteered in a variety of places, where she has been able to expand her knowledge of the plant world and famous gardens while enjoying any opportunities to practise her language skills. While living in Kew Gardens, London she volunteered with the Schools & Families Program to assist with school visits and to be a 'Palm House Explainer', which involved engaging visitors with displays in the famous glasshouse at Kew. Another role she undertook in London, was that of Art History Coordinator for the Australian Women's Club. The visits to many cultural institutions and exposure to such rich collections stimulated an ongoing interest in Fine Arts.

Until recently, Lynda was an active committee member of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society and an enthusiastic volunteer with the award-winning Orchid Conservation Program, based at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. In her spare time, she enjoys taking Botanical Art classes and has completed a series of drawings of endangered native orchids for the Orchid Conservation program.

Lynda joined ASA in 2017 and enjoys travelling with like-minded travellers as they explore international gardens and cultural sites.

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## *Combine this tour with*

**Uzbekistan: The Silk Road Cities 2026**
21 APR – 4 MAY 2026

# Itinerary

The following itinerary describes a range of gardens and estates we plan to visit. Many are accessible to the public, but others require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure in 2026. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight schedules and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents prior to departure. Meals included in the tour price and are indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=light lunch or picnic lunch and D=dinner.

## Agadir - 1 night

### Day 1: Thursday 26 March, Arrive Agadir

- Tour commences at 3pm in the foyer of Riad Villa Blanche
- Welcome Meeting & visit of garden designed by Arnaud Maurières and Éric Ossart
- Welcome Dinner

Meeting Point: The tour commences at 3pm in the foyer of the Riad Villa Blanche. The riad is 20km from the Agadir International Airport (approximately 30min by car). Check-in is at 3pm. Please contact ASA if you wish to reserve additional accommodation prior to the commencement of the tour.

For over 25 years, Arnaud Maurières and Éric Ossart designed gardens in France and throughout the Mediterranean region. When they moved to southern Morocco, they designed low-maintenance gardens for a dry climate. Their work focused on preserving areas of unspoiled natural wilderness, designing, and building gardens and rammed-earth houses.

Following a short Welcome Meeting we visit the riad's private garden designed by Maurières and Ossart which consist of splendid endemic plants, oases of rare flowers, exotic plants, palm trees and cacti.

We end the day with a welcome dinner at the hotel's atmospheric restaurant. (Overnight Agadir) D

## Taroudant – 1 night

### Day 2: Friday 27 March, Agadir – Taroudant

- La Tour des Faucons, garden and lunch
- Les Jardins de Andrew *(To be confirmed)*

This morning we depart Agadir and drive 83 kms east to Taroudant, a walled Berber market town which lies just south of the High Atlas and to the north of the Anti Atlas. It gained commercial and political importance thanks to its position at the heart of the fertile Souss Valley. The Sa'adi made it their capital for a short time in the 16th century before moving on to Marrakesh. The 7.5 kilometres of ramparts surrounding Taroudant are among the best-preserved *pise* (reinforced mud) walls in Morocco. As the sun moves across the sky their colour changes from golden brown to the deepest red.

Built in the 16th and 17th century, a string of mighty defensive towers create the gates of the city. One of the most commonly used of these gates is the impressive, triple-arched Bab el-Kasbah, approached along an avenue of orange trees. Beyond and to the right past an olive press stands another gate, Bab Sedra that leads to the old qasba quarter – a fortress built by Moulay Ismail in the 17th century that is now the poorest part of town.

La Tour des Faucons (The Falcon's Villa) is located in the countryside outside of Taroudant. Welcomed by Karl Morcher, the owner and designer, we visit his renovated farmhouse and its extensive grounds of palm and olive trees (producing their own organic olive oil) and exotic flower-filled gardens. We also view his unique collection of Berber arts in his contemporary style villa, and enjoy a buffet lunch.

This afternoon we visit Les Jardins de Andrew. Andrew was an eccentric British collector with a taste for whimsical constructions. His garden, located outside the ramparts, is punctuated by fanciful creations that lend an air of mystery to their lush surroundings. Ossart and Maurières described their work thus: "We laid out here a very formal garden corresponding exactly to the architecture of the house. Keeping in mind the advice of the great Brazilian designer Roberto Burle Marx, we used the right plant in the right place, whether rare or commonplace, native or exotic. We often use bold swaths of the same plant to get different moods even in this relatively small garden". (Overnight Taroudant) BLD

## Ouirgane – 2 nights

### Day 3: Saturday 28 March, Taroudant – Ouirgane

- Scenic drive to Ouirgane
- Domaine de la Roseraie, Ouirgane

Today we journey north following one of the most spectacular routes in Morocco. It winds its way up and then down through the High Atlas, above the beautiful valleys and past isolated villages, eventually reaching the Tizi-n-Test Pass, with its breathtaking views across the Souss Valley to the Anti Atlas.

In the afternoon we arrive in Ouirgane, a small village surrounded by stunning greenery, red-earth hills and pine forests. We settle for two nights in Domaine de la Roseraie set in the middle of 25 hectares of flower beds, olive trees, orchards and, as the name suggests, plenty of rose bushes. (Overnight Domaine de la Roseraie, Ouirgane) BLD

### Day 4: Sunday 29 March, Ouirgane

- Domaine de la Roseraie, Ouirgane: Gardens
- Olinto, Ouirgane: Garden, Private House tour incl. art collection and Lunch
- Afternoon at leisure

This morning we take a tour of the gardens of Domaine de la Roseraie. Winding paths through the estate offer unique views over the Toubkal range. Mt Toubkal is the highest peak in the Atlas mountains, and in North Africa, at 4167 metres.

Nearby we visit Olinto, the recently opened hotel, creation of Prince Fabrizio Ruspoli Di Poggio Suasa, a Franco-Italian aristocrat and antiques expert. The mountain retreat is set in a former working olive grove – some 35 acres, with 2,000 trees. The grounds are redolent with the scent of roses, oleander, and fragrant pines. Nature stretches out around the hotel: On one side is a private hunting reserve, and on the other is the Toubkal national park. After leading a tour of gardens, Fabrizio Ruspoli will escort the group to his private house to view his art and antiques collection. A light lunch will be served by the pool. Then we return to Domaine de la Roseraie where the afternoon is at leisure. (Overnight Domaine de la Roseraie, Ouirgane) BLD

## Marrakesh - 4 nights

### Day 5: Monday 30 March, Ouirgane – Ourika Valley – Marrakesh

- Anima Garden
- Ourika Community Gardens, guided by Arnaud Maurières and Eric Ossart (*To be confirmed)*
- Private gardens of Dar Azaren, Tnine Ourika, guided by Arnaud Maurières and Eric Ossart (*To be confirmed)*

This morning we drive to the Ourika Valley to visit Anima, one of the most beautiful and imaginative gardens in Morocco. Austrian multi-media artist André Heller's opulent, two-hectare botanical garden is a magical place of sensuality and wonder. It combines unusual sculptures with flowers and plants, paying homage to local traditions and fauna, as well as incorporating modern Western elements.

Accompanied by landscape designers Arnaud Maurières and Eric Ossart, we visit the Ourika Community Gardens they recently created for Yves Saint Laurent Beauty. Covering 20,000 square metres, the gardens feature a growing area that is home to more than 200 botanical species, along with an experimental and observation laboratory plants from which active ingredients are developed, and a decorative garden paying tribute to the iconic flowers that inspired Yves Saint Laurent.

Then Maurières and Ossart will guide us in the secluded retreat of Dar Azaren, owned by Liliane Fawcett. This *dar* (house), set in 6.5 hectares, is nestled within olive groves and walled gardens, and offers spectacular views of the High Atlas Mountains. The grounds and gardens blend subtle plantations of fragrant flowers and sculptural cacti with local crops. The colours of the landscape using the grey santolina, mauve lantana and enormous Kalanchoe set a dramatic scene.

Following our lunch and visit at Dar Azaren, we drive to Marrakesh. Tonight we dine at La Maison Arabe's renowned restaurant 'Les Trois Saveurs'. (Overnight Marrakesh) BLD

## Introduction to Marrakesh

Marrakesh is one of four imperial cities in Morocco, founded in 1070 by the Almoravid Abu Bakr. He chose

the site because it was well watered and flat: perfect as a camping ground for the Almoravid army, composed of nomads from the Sahara. Marrakesh began as the perfect springboard for the Almoravid conquest of North Morocco, but it soon became the Almoravid capital by virtue of its location on the trans-Saharan trade route.

After the Almoravids had conquered much of Spain, a period of cultural and artistic exchange ensued bringing the sophisticated urban culture of al-Andalus (Iberia) to Marrakesh. All that remains of Almoravid Marrakesh is an exquisite *qubba*, (domed chamber), which may indicate the site of the lost Almoravid great mosque of Marrakesh.

In 1147 Marrakesh fell to the Almohads, who then captured North Morocco, Muslim Spain, and North Africa as far as Tunis. The most famous Almohad ruler, Ya'qub al-Mansur, builder of the Qasba of the Udaya and Hassan Tower in Rabat and the Giralda of Seville, constructed a spectacular Almohad great mosque (1190), sister to the great mosques of Rabat and Seville here. The mosque soon became known as the Kutubiyya, or Booksellers' Mosque, as a result of the book market which grew up in its shadow.

The minaret of the Kutubiyya is one of the most important extant Almohad buildings as the only Almohad minaret which has survived intact. Like the Hassan Tower, the minaret's façades are decorated with intricate screenwork, punctuated on the upper levels with small windows. It is crowned with a small domed pavilion surmounted with a gold spike holding three gold balls and a crescent, and gives an impression of how the Hassan Tower would have looked. Ya'qub al-Mansur also enclosed the city in a new set of walls punctuated by gateways, of which the most important is the Bab Agnaou. The Almohads also constructed the suburban Menara Gardens with their huge central pool and olive groves as a place for recreation and physical training of the Almohad army.

The Marinids showed little interest in Marrakesh but nevertheless commissioned the Bin Yusuf or Yusufiyya Madrasa here. Like Morocco's other Marinid madrasas, the Yusufiyya has a central courtyard leading to a prayer hall flanked by students' cells.

The Sa'di dynasty added palaces, shrines and mosques to Marrakesh. The greatest Sa'di sultan, Ahmad al-Mansur al-Dhahabi, embellished the Sa'di tomb complex and renovated the Yusufiyya Madrasa. The Sa'di reproduced Andalusian stucco work in marble from Italy.

Fes, Meknes, Rabat and Marrakesh all became 'Alawi capitals when this dynasty supplanted the Sa'adi. Many 'Alawi sultans loved Marrakesh and built palaces and gardens here. Mawlay 'Abd al-Rahman (1822-1859) restored the Agdal gardens and his son, Sidi Muhammad sponsored agricultural projects in the area. His grandson's minister, Mawlay al-Hassan (1873-1894), built the Bahia and Dar Si Sa'id palaces.

### Day 6: Tuesday 31 March, Marrakesh

- Bab Agnaou
- Sa'di Tombs
- Monde des Arts de la Parure (MAP)
- Kutubiyya Mosque

This morning we visit the 12th-century, horseshoe-arched Bab Agnaou. The Almohad Bab Agnaou is one of the 19 gates of Marrakesh. Then we view the Sa'di Tombs. Sultan Ahmed al Mansour constructed the Sa'di Tombs in Marrakech during his rule of Morocco (16th century) as a burial ground for himself and some 200 of his descendants. The most significant chamber in the tombs is the Hall of Twelve Columns. Here rests the Sultan Ahmed el Mansour and his entire family. This chamber has a vaulted roof, Italian marble columns,

beautifully decorated cedar doors and carved wooden screens. Inside the inner mausoleum lies Mohammed esh Sheikh, founder of the Sa'di dynasty, as well as the tomb of his mother. The tombs are surrounded by a small garden with richly coloured and scented roses.

We end the morning with a visit to Monde des Arts de la Parure (MAP) – a new museum containing a fine collection of ornaments, jewellery and ceremonial clothing. Lunch will be provided in the museum's garden rooftop terrace which offers views of the Badii Palace and the minaret of the Moulay El Yazid Mosque. The hanging gardens were designed by landscape architect, Marius Boulesteix.

Following lunch we visit the Kutubiyya Mosque, Marrakesh's largest, is ornament with curved windows, a band of ceramic inlay, pointed merlons, and decorative arches. It was completed under the reign of the Almohad Caliph Yaqub al-Mansur (1184-1199). (Overnight Marrakesh) BL

### Day 7: Wednesday 1 April, Marrakesh

- Dar El Bacha: Museum of Confluences
- Gardens of Jnane Tamsna with Gary Martin and Meryanne Loum-Martin
- Yusufiyya Madrasa
- Jama' al-Fana'

This morning we start the day with a visit to Dar El Bacha, also known as the "Palace of the Pasha". Built in 1910, it was the residence of Thami El Glaoui, the powerful Pasha of Marrakesh, who played a significant role in Moroccan history during the early 20th century. It features a harmonious blend of traditional Moroccan elements, including intricate *zellige* tilework, carved cedarwood ceilings, and beautifully landscaped gardens. The Palace is now home to the recently opened Museum of Confluences. Each corner of the palace tells a story of Morocco's rich cultural heritage, from the ornate courtyards to the grand reception hall.

Then we transfer to Jnane Tamsna. Owned by ethnobotanist Gary Martin and his wife Meryanne Loum-Martin, this beautifully designed boutique guesthouse boasts a magnificent botany collection. It is set in the Palmeraie area of Marrakesh where tens of thousands of palm trees create shade for other plants to prosper, providing the atmosphere of an oasis. The free-flow approach (there are no formal lawns), adds to the ambience with grounds that encourage aromatic herb gardens, olive groves, lemon trees, vegetable plots and flower beds. The organic gardens are spread over nearly 9 hectares, and are watered constantly by traditional groundwater flow (*khettara*) and drip irrigation, while the air is naturally scented by gardenia, jasmine and white bougainvillea. We enjoy a visit of the garden and the estate before enjoying lunch.

In the afternoon we visit the religious heart of old Marrakesh where the Almoravid Qubba, the Yusufiyya Madrasa and Yusufiyya Mosque stand, probably on the site of the original Almoravid great mosque of Marrakesh. We shall also walk through the old medina visiting the city's fascinating souqs. Marrakesh's souqs are renowned for their vast size and the quality and variety of crafted goods on sale there. As in other Moroccan cities, each different craft can be found in its own particular street or alley: we shall see streets dedicated to gold jewellery, silver, cedar wood carving, silk robes, textiles, leather slippers, copper utensils, ceramics, rugs and carpets. The market area is covered by reed lattices whose dappled shade shelters the alleys from the hot southern sun.

We walk through the old city to its commercial and recreational heart, the Jama' al-Fana', an extraordinary public arena lined with booths selling fresh orange and grapefruit juice, nuts and sweets. In the centre a number of stalls offer snacks and meals of infinite variety, and numerous people provide public services and entertainments. Dentists, preachers, acrobats, black musicians from the Gnawa religious brotherhood, letter

writers, snake charmers and story tellers all mingle in the Jama' al-Fana' from dusk late into the night. This square is very dear to the people of Marrakesh, a place to meet and promenade. This is evening is at leisure. You may wish to stay on in the Jama' al-Fana' to enjoy its extraordinary atmosphere. (Overnight Marrakesh) BL

### Day 8: Thursday 2 April, Marrakesh

- Jardin Majorelle and Musée d'Art Berbère
- Villa Oasis: the private garden of Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé (*to be confirmed in 2026*)
- Yves Saint Laurent Museum
- Le Jardin Secret
- Afternoon at leisure

Marrakesh, perhaps known best for its souqs (markets), squares and spices, also has many lush gardens. Green spaces have always been an integral part of life in Marrakesh. The city's gardens have also inspired many artists, fashion designers and writers over the years. The British writer Osbert Sitwell said Marrakesh "is the ideal African city of water-lawns, cool, pillared palaces and orange groves." Matisse, Delacroix, Yves Saint Laurent, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Jean-Paul Getty visited too, finding inspiration and spending long periods in the city.

Early this morning we visit the Jardin Majorelle, created by the French painter Jacques Majorelle (1886-1962) and later owned by Yves Saint Laurent. The garden presents a cacophony of pink bougainvillea, blush-coloured water lilies, and a vast array of cacti. The inner walls are painted a vibrant 'Majorelle' blue, named after the garden's founder. Majorelle's art-deco studio houses a Berber Art Museum which displays valuable ceramics, weapons and magnificent jewellery, textiles, carpets, woodwork and other treasures. We also, by special invitation, will visit the garden of Villa Oasis, Yves Saint Laurent's private home adjoining the Jardin Majorelle. The garden was designed by Madison Cox.

Located right next to the Jardin Majorelle is the Yves Saint Laurent Museum dedicated to the work of the French fashion designer. This new museum houses an important selection from the Fondation Pierre Bergé – Yves Saint Laurent's impressive collection, which comprises 5000 items of clothing, 15,000 haute couture accessories as well as tens of thousands of sketches and assorted objects. The museum's landscaped areas are also designed by Madison Cox.

Then we visit Le Jardin Secret, a public garden designed by English landscape architect, Tom Stuart-Smith. The garden is located on the former site of the Riad of the Governor of the medina in the 19th century. Described by Tom Stuart-Smith: "Part of the garden is a faithful reconstruction of an Islamic garden that could have existed in Marrakech in the 19th century. The smaller garden has been largely reconfigured and is a more romantic interpretation of a Moroccan garden, full of the sorts of flowers and colour that would not be found in the more traditional garden. The west courtyard has a citrus grove with underplanting of *Stipa tenuissima*, California poppy, Lavender and Tulbaghia."

The remainder of the day is at leisure. (Overnight Marrakesh) B

## Ouarzazate - 1 night

### Day 9: Friday 3 April, Marrakesh – Ait Ben Haddou – Ouarzazate

- Tiz n'Tishka Pass
- Ksar of Ait Ben Haddou: UNESCO World Heritage Site

This morning we cross the High Atlas by way of the Tiz n'Tishka Pass, opening up on the landscapes of the pre-Sahara with its *pisé qasbas* and *qsars*, the verdant palm groves of the Ziz valleys, and the rocky drama of the gorges.

This afternoon we drive to Ait Ben Haddou, one of the fortified villages under control of the Glawi family in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Located in the foothills of the High Atlas, Ait Ben Haddu is the most famous *qsar* in the Ounila Valley, and a striking example of southern Moroccan architecture. This fortified village in its dramatic landscape is regularly used as settings for films. (Overnight Ouarzazate) BLD

## Tineghir - 1 night

### Day 10: Saturday 4 April, Ouarzazate – Taourirt – Tineghir

- Qasba de Taourirt
- Qsars of Tineghir

This morning we travel west via the Route of the Qasbahs to visit the Qasba of Taourirt located in the town of Ouarzazate. Built late in the 19th century, the qasba became important in the 1930s when the local Glawi dynasty's powers were at their peak. The qasba was never actually resided in by the Glawi chiefs but rather by their second tier of command, including their sons and cousins and their massive entourages of extended family members, servants, builders, and craftsmen. The qasba has close to 300 rooms grouped in more than 20 riads (apartments).

We have lunch in Tineghir and then visit the *qsar* (fortified village). (Overnight Tineghir) BLD

## Merzouga - 1 night

### Day 11: Sunday 5 April, Tineghir – Tudgha Gorge – Erfoud – Rissani – Merzouga

- Tudgha Gorge
- Moroccan *khettara*
- Rissani Market
- Sunset Camel Excursion (Optional)

This morning we head up the spectacular Tudgha Gorge. En route we take a leisurely walk through one of the rich, cultivated areas nestling on the banks of the Tudgha river.

Near Tineghir the High Atlas meets the Jabal Saghru, a small massif which is part of the Anti Atlas range. The deep gorges of Tudgha and Dades mark the fault line between these two mountain ranges. Both gorges were carved out of the rock by torrents of melt water from the peaks above them. As they widen, small terraces of crops line each watercourse and villages cling to their sides, placed above the line of the torrential meltwaters which can close the gorges in spring. Here the mud-brick is the same brilliant red as the soil, creating a striking contrast to the rich green crops.

Then we take the Tinjdad road east to the town of Erfoud. This road marks the start of the Route of the Qasbas, so-called because of the many fortified houses, or *qasbas*, which line its edges. Along the way we stop to view part of the 300-kilometre network of *khettara* (qanat) – subsurface irrigation channels which were excavated in the Tafilalt basin beginning in the late 14th century. More than 75 of these chains

provided perennial water following the breakup of the ancient city of Sijilmassa. *Khettara* continued to function for much of the northern oasis until the early 1970s, when new technologies and government policies forced changes.

After lunch in Erfoud, we depart for Rissani, the capital of the province of Tafilalt and ancestral home of the 'Alawi dynasty. Rissani lies alongside the ruins of the early Islamic town of Sijilmassa which controlled Moroccan trade with sub-Saharan Africa from the early 8th century until the 14th century. Sijilmassa's vast ruins reflect the wealth of this medieval city, but by the 16th century it was no more than one of a number of fortified mud-brick villages (*qsars*). These mud-brick villages are composed of many small houses wedged together whose outer walls form a continuous outer rampart through which a single ornate portal provides access to the village. The modern town of Rissani itself, constructed this century, grew out of the largest set of local *qsars*. In Rissani's Sunday market, we may view wandering traders, nomads, Berbers and Arab desert dwellers who come to sell all kinds of clothing, wares, plants, spices and vegetables, and animals.

We continue to Merzouga, on the edge of the Sahara, where we will spend the night. After an optional sunset excursion to the sand dunes of Merzouga, we enjoy dinner at the hotel. (Overnight Merzouga) BLD

## Fes - 3 nights

### Day 12: Monday 6 April, Merzouga – Midelt – Ifrane – Fes

- Midelt
- Ifrane

Today we travel to Fes through the Middle Atlas mountains. Midelt marks the start of one of the main routes through the eastern High Atlas mountains to the Sahara. This route was carved through the mountains by the Wad Ziz, a river which snakes south alongside the road. As we drive south the cedars and oaks of the north gradually give way to barren rock, clusters of date palms marking water sources, and finally the sand of the desert. We emerge from the mountains into the fertile Ziz Valley down which vast numbers of date palms stretch to the horizon like brilliant green rivers; dates are a Moroccan staple and one of the country's major exports. From Midelt we will drive to Ifrane through some of Morocco's most magnificent scenery in which broad high plains are framed everywhere by snow-capped mountains.

We shall pass through Ifrane, a small mountain town built by the French to escape the summer heat of the plains. The town is famous for its luscious gardens. Just outside Ifrane we drive through huge cedar forests, second only to those of Lebanon. These forests provided the wood to be carved into the magnificent decoration of Moroccan monuments. (Overnight Fes) BLD

## Introduction to Fes

Fes is the oldest of Morocco's imperial cities and is still its historic religious and cultural centre. Fes is actually composed of three discrete entities: Fes al-Bali (old Fes), wedged into the narrow valley of the Wad Fes (River Fes); Fes al-Jadid (New Fes), originally a royal complex; and the Ville Nouvelle (New Town), the modern French-built section of the city.

Fes al-Bali, was founded by Idris I around 799. His son, Idris II made Fes his capital in 809 and its population was swelled by immigrants from other Arabo-Islamic lands. Fes soon became an important centre for religious scholarship, commerce and artisanship. Fes benefited from its position at the juncture of land trade routes to and from al-Andalus (Islamic Spain), sub-Saharan Africa and the Islamic east.

The 11th-12th century Almoravid dynasty conquered North Morocco and incorporated Muslim Spain into its empire. Although the Almoravids founded Marrakesh as their capital in 1070, they also built mosques, baths, *funduqs* (multi-storey lodging houses for merchants and their wares), and fountains in Fes. Many Hispano-Muslim artisans moved to Fes to work on Almoravid buildings, which were renowned for their stuccowork decoration.

After 1154 the Almohads gave the city new walls which still define the limits of Fes al-Bali to the present day. The Qarawiyyin Mosque could now hold approximately 20,000 worshippers. The Qarawiyyin is quite different to Hispano-Muslim mosques and medieval European cathedral architecture for despite its vast size it hides within the narrow streets of the city and has no defined exterior or monumental façade.

In the 1240s the Marinid dynasty replaced the Almohads and fought against the Christians in Spain. Moroccan rulers henceforth dedicated themselves to holy war (*jihad*) against the aggressive Christians. Much of Fes' exquisite architecture dates from the Marinid period (13th-15th century). They amalgamated Moroccan and Hispanic elements in a style subsequently known as 'Andalusian', which remains dominant in Fes and other Moroccan cities to this day. The Marinids built the royal complex of Fes al-Jadid which included palaces, mosques and residential quarters for the sultan's troops. They commissioned a series of palaces and *funduqs* in Fes al-Bali and introduced the 'madrasa' or theological college to Morocco, constructing a series of wonderful madrasas in Fes. These *madrasas* have a central courtyard, a prayer hall, and several storeys of student rooms wrapped around the courtyard and prayer hall. They are all decorated in the distinctive registers of carved cedarwood, stuccowork, and mosaic tile, a hallmark of the Moroccan Andalusian style. The Marinids also created the shrine of Idris II.

In the 15th century Morocco broke up into small principalities ruled by strong men able to resist Spanish and Portuguese aggression. Fes' cultural and commercial life was nevertheless enriched by Jewish and Hispano-Muslim migrants fleeing Spain. Fes consequently maintained its religious and cultural importance despite the 16th-century Sa'di dynasty's choice of Marrakesh as their capital. The 'Alawi sultans also recognised the importance of Fes and added palaces, fortifications and the Jewish quarter (*mellah*).

## Day 13: Tuesday 7 April, Fes

- Al-Andalus Mosque
- 'Attarin Madrasa
- Qarawiyyin Mosque (exterior)
- Shrine of Mawlay Idris II (exterior)
- Fondouk el-Nejjarine
- The Dyers' Street
- The Tanneries
- Souqs of Fes
- Lunch at Le Jardin des Biehn
- Dinner at La Maison Bleue

Today we explore the al-Andalus quarter; Marinid madrasas in the city; areas of artisanal production and the souqs, or markets.

The al-Andalus quarter lies on the eastern side of the Wad Fes, and has its own great mosque with a dramatic monumental gateway with a horseshoe arch. We descend to the river and cross to the Qarawiyyin quarter of the city to see the street of the dyers and the tanneries. Every morning, when the tanneries are at their most active, cascades of water pour through holes that were once the windows of houses. Here, hundreds of skins lie spread out on the rooftops to dry, while amid the vats of dye and pigeon dung tanners

treat the hides. The rotation of colours in the honeycombed vats follows a traditional sequence – yellow (supposedly 'saffron', in fact turmeric), red (poppy), blue (indigo), green (mint) and black (antimony) – although vegetable dyes have largely been replaced by chemicals, to the detriment of workers' health. This 'innovation' and the occasional rinsing machine aside, there can have been little change here since the sixteenth century, when Fes replaced Córdoba as the pre-eminent city of leather production.

We also visit the Qarawiyyin Mosque and the shrine of Mawlay Idris II. The two buildings form the sacred core of the city, and the prestigious markets for perfumes, spices and silk garments are located nearby adding pungency and fragrance to the air. Although non-Muslims may not enter these buildings, we can view their interiors through their gateways.

Then we visit the Fondouk el-Nejjarine, home to the Museum of Wooden Arts and Crafts which showcases the skill of woodcarvers and artists both in the embellishments of the building and the intricately decorated items on display. Various types of timber are used in Moroccan woodcarving, including oak, mahogany, acacia and cedar, with the latter being one of the most popular, most likely due to its availability in Morocco, particularly in the Middle Atlas regions, but also because of its durability, warm shades of colour and its texture which is particularly suited to carving. Declared a national monument in 1916, the *funduq* was originally built in the 18th century as a *caravanserai* (roadside inn) where travellers could rest before continuing their, sometimes arduous, journey. These buildings, which are found throughout Morocco, were typically built in a square or rectangular shape around an inner courtyard, usually with a fountain in the middle creating an oasis from the Moroccan heat.

During the day we break for lunch at Le Jardin des Biehn, a large Andalusian garden in the middle of the medina, scented by Isfahan roses, jasmine, orange blossom and bergamot. The gardens, surrounded by a former 20th-century summer palace, were redeveloped by Michel Biehn. Its quadrants are divided by mosaic paths, with tingling streams and fountains, and include flowers, aromatic herbs, fruits and vegetables.

Dinner tonight will be at La Maison Bleue, a traditional Moroccan residence built in 1915 by Sidi Mohammed El Abbadi, a judge and astronomer. (Overnight Fes) BLD

### Day 14: Wednesday 8 April, Fes

- Burj al-Janub
- Dar al-Makhzen (Royal Palace), Fes al-Jadid (Exterior)
- Mellah, Jewish Quarter & Synagogue Ibn Danan
- Palace and Andalusian Gardens of Fes, including the Jnane Sbil Garden (Bou Jeloud Garden)
- Bu 'Inaniyya Madrasa
- Museum Dar Batha (*to be confirmed in 2026*)

We start today with a visit to the Burj al-Janub, or South Tower, which gives a panoramic view of Fes from the alternate side to the North Tower.

Fes was one of the first cities in the world to build a water distribution network which enabled it to develop the art of gardening. Today we explore some of the city's palaces and Andalusian gardens.

The Royal Palace or Dar al-Makhzen is the palace of the King of Morocco in Fez. Its original foundation goes back to the establishment of Fes al-Jadid, the royal citadel of the Marinid dynasty, in 1276 CE. We view the gates decorated with elaborate mosaic tilework, carved cedar wood, and doors of gilt bronze.

Morocco's first official *mellah*, or Jewish quarter, was established in Fez in 1438 in the shadow of the Royal Palace. The name *mellah* derives from a salt marsh or the Oued Mellah (Salt River) that runs under the palace. Afterwards, the name came to be associated by analogy with similar Jewish districts that were later created in other cities. The district's main street is lined with homes with open balconies – a distinct architectural feature brought by the Jews expelled from Andalusia by Catholic monarchs, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Aragon. Since 1981, the *mellah* has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and has gone through extensive restoration, including the synagogue Ibn Danan that we visit.

The 19th-century Jnane Sbil Park (formerly Bou Jeloud Gardens), covering an area of 7.5 hectares, underwent 4 years of extensive renovations which were completed in 2012. Renovations works included the rehabilitation of its old and ingenious hydraulic systems (including fountains, *seguias*, channels and *norias*), restoration of the central boulevard and bamboo garden, as well as the creation of the Garden of Scents. The Oued Fes (Fes river) and the Oued Jawahir (river of pearls) flowed through the garden; a water wheel remains as a reminder of how the medieval city provided power to its craftsmen and their workshops.

From Jnane Sbil Gardens we proceed through the vividly decorated Bab Bou Jeloud Gate to Fes al-Bali, unique in its maintenance of an urban plan dating to the ninth century. The narrowness of its steep, winding streets means that motor vehicles may not enter and donkeys, mules and handcarts still transport food and merchandise around the city. Many of the religious, domestic and commercial structures lining the streets date to the fourteenth century, providing a unique insight into the physical experience of living in a medieval city.

Then we visit the 14th-century Bu 'Inaniyya Madrasa which served as residence for students at the great mosques of Fes rather than as teaching centres.

Midday we enjoy a special lunch at Restaurant Nur, which features New Moroccan Cuisine. Chef Najat Kaanache has worked around the world, including a stint at Spain's famous El Bulli restaurant.

Finally we visit the Dar Batha Museum, a collection of antique Moroccan woodwork, marblework and other craftwork housed in a converted 'Alawi palace. This museum contains the original carved wood doors of some of Fes' madrasas and a marble doorway from the Sa'di palace in Marrakesh, along with many other artefacts which demonstrate Moroccan adaptation of Hispano-Muslim styles. The palace's garden shaded with citrus trees and perfumed with orange blossom, red roses and sweet-scented jasmine, provided a serene escape from the bustling medina. Its layout is based on the principles of *charbagh* – a Persian-style garden where the quadrilateral layout is divided by walkways or flowing water that intersect at the garden's centre. In Persian, *char* means 'four' and *bagh* means 'garden'. This highly structured geometrical scheme, became a powerful metaphor for the organisation and domestication of the landscape, itself a symbol of political territory. The gardens were restored by landscape architect, Carey Duncan in 2005. Duncan worked with Cotecno and Architect Raffael Gorjux from Italy recreating the Andalusian Garden while keeping existing large trees, but replanting the undergrowth which was either bare or overtaken by weeds, and revitalising the existing planting. (Overnight Fes) BL

## Chefchaouen - 1 night

### Day 15: Thursday 9 April, Fes – Volubilis – Chefchaouen

- Roman Site of Volubilis: UNESCO World Heritage Site

Today we travel north from Fes to Chefchaouen via Volubilis. The Roman city of Volubilis was built in the 1st century BC on the site of earlier Prehistoric and Phoenician settlements when Morocco and Algeria were

incorporated into the Roman Empire as the client kingdom of Mauretania. The kingdom was ruled by Juba II, the Roman-educated son of its vanquished Berber ruler. Juba II was a classmate of both Octavian and Cleopatra Selene, daughter of Antony and Cleopatra. When Octavian became Augustus, he married Juba II to Cleopatra Selene, and made them client rulers of Mauretania. They founded two capitals: Iol Caesarea in Eastern Algeria and Volubilis in Morocco. The wealth of Volubilis was based on local production of grain, olive oil and copper which were exported to the rest of the empire.

In 40 AD Caligula had Juba's son, Ptolemy, assassinated. Mauretania went into revolt only to be formally annexed to Rome and made into the directly-governed province of Mauretania Tingitania. The wealth of Volubulis' agricultural hinterland ensured its ongoing importance to the Romans. Despite the shrinking Roman presence in Morocco from the 3rd century onwards, Volubilis probably remained partly Romanised until the 7th century.

We visit the ruins of Volubilis, which is set in broad wheat bearing plains as it was in the Roman period, and fields of wildflowers. Its monuments include the well-preserved Basilica and Arch of Caracalla and there is a fine collection of very important Roman mosaic floors. We also explore the House of Orpheus, the Baths of Gallienus, the Forum, the Temple of Saturn and a number of houses. From Volubilis we travel north to Chefchaouen, a small town nestling in a deep, narrow valley at the western end of the Rif mountains, where we spend the night. (Overnight Chefchaouen) BLD

## Tangier - 3 nights

### Day 16: Friday 10 April, Chefchaouen – Tetouan – Tangier

- Old Town of Chefchaouen
- The Royal Artisan School, Tetouan (Dar Sanaa)
- Welcome Drinks in the private garden of Jean-Louis Riccardi with interior designer François Gilles, Tangier

This morning we explore the old town of Chefchaouen. 'Chefchaouen' is a Berber name, meaning 'two horns', which refers to two rocky peaks that dominate the town. The town was founded in the 15th century by a descendant of the Prophet, called Mawlay 'Ali ibn Rashid, and refugees from Spain who sought to create a mountain stronghold where they would be safe at last from the Christians. Around 1760 Sultan Mohammed Ben Abdallah (Mohammed III) ordered the Jewish families to move into the medina, their *mellah* (walled Jewish quarter of a city) taking in the area that today encompasses the southern quarter between the *qasba* and Bab el Aïn. Until this century, Chefchaouen was completely closed to Europeans, who risked their lives if they tried to enter its gates.

The Hispanic origin of Chefchaouen's inhabitants is clearly evident in the architecture of this little town which has much in common with villages of southern Spain. Small, whitewashed ochre houses with balconies, windows covered by ornate metal grilles, tiled roofs and Andalusian-style courtyards, pile up upon one another. Chefchaouen's famous shades of blue arose when the Jews added indigo into the whitewash to contrast the *mellah* against the traditional green of Islam. The town's stone-built Friday mosque resembles rural Spanish churches. The focus of town life is the central plaza where the inhabitants promenade in the balmy dusk air.

Midday we travel along the picturesque mountain road from Chefchaouen to Tangier. We break our journey in the city of Tetouan, situated on the slopes of the fertile Martil Valley. Tetouan, from the Berber word *tit'ta'ouin* means 'springs', which explains the greenery of the town, its many fountains, its flowering

gardens and its surrounding fertile plains. The city was of particular importance from the 8th century onwards as it served as the main point of contact between Morocco and Andalusia. After the Spanish Reconquest, the town was rebuilt by Andalusian refugees who had been expelled by Isabella and Ferdinand (1492). This is reflected in its art and architecture, which reveal clear Andalusian influences.

Tetouan's ancient walled medina is a UNESCO World Heritage site whose houses reflect a rich aristocratic tradition. Throughout Morocco we will find carpets, textiles and leather that are dyed with natural pigments that are derived from indigenous plants. Deftly woven carpets, expertly crafted leatherwork, intricately carved woodwork, superbly tooled metal work, colourful tiles and exquisite ceramics are all to be found in Tetouan. We visit Dar Sanaa, the Royal Artisan School where local children are apprenticed to masters for 4 years of intense training in traditional artisan work.

In the afternoon we continue our journey north to reach Tangier. Tangier is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Morocco. Founded by the Phoenicians (c.1100 BC) it was subsequently incorporated into the Roman Empire as Tingis, capital of the province of Mauretania Tingitania. With Rome's decline (4th century AD) it became the only surviving Roman town of any consequence in Morocco. Temporarily lost during the Vandal invasions, Tingis was recaptured by the Byzantines in the 6th century.

In the late 7th century, Tingis was captured by Muslim armies and transformed into the garrison and port of Tangier. It served as a stepping-stone for Muslim attacks on the Iberian peninsula (Spain & Portugal). When the Castilians and Portuguese eventually reconquered Iberia and began attacking north Africa, Tangier became a regular victim of Portuguese raids and was finally captured late in the 15th century. The Portuguese monarchy ceded it to Britain in the 17th century as part of the dowry of Catharine of Braganza, wife of Charles II. But the expense of retaining Tangier against constant Muslim attacks persuaded the British to withdraw in 1684 and Tangier again became a Muslim city. Morocco's 'Alawi dynastly added new defences and a *qasba* and Tangier became a small port trading with Cadiz and other Spanish ports. In the 19th century, Tangier became the 'City of the Consuls', the residence of European diplomats and it became an 'international zone' in the early 20th century during the French Protectorate. Tangier gained a shady reputation for espionage, prostitution and drug-smuggling. Since Independence in 1956 the city has been gradually re-integrated into the Moroccan cultural mainstream, although it still has a large expatriate community, especially of writers, artists and gardeners.

This evening we enjoy welcome drinks with François Gilles. François is a London-based interior designer who has been sourcing Moroccan textiles for over 30 years. We enjoyed welcome drinks in the garden of French interior designer Jean-Louis Riccardi. Located on the cliffs facing the Strait of Gibraltar, the garden is home to a myriad trees and plants creating an incredible natural setting. The owner wanted to pay tribute to his good friend Madeleine Castaing through the garden. He worked with the great interior designer for 5 years and she even helped him plant the first flowers here. Most of the plants in the garden are wild and grow on their own. We return to our hotel for our evening meal. (Overnight Tangier) BLD

### Day 17: Saturday 11 April, Tangier

- Cape Malabata
- American Legation
- Dar Al Makhzan Museum
- Lunch and Private garden of Villa Mabrouka (*to be confirmed*)
- Private house and garden of Elena Prentice (*to be confirmed*)

When, in 1923, Tangier was declared an international zone the city began to attract artists, poets, and philosophers, much as the Côte d'Azur did on the other side of the Mediterranean. Henri Matisse, William

S. Burroughs, Jean Genet, Paul and Jane Bowles, Tennessee Williams, Patricia Highsmith and Allen Ginsberg were all inspired by Tangier. Foreign residents, many of them artists, today own some of its most stylish homes including American painter Elena Prentice, the Italian interior designer Roberto Peregalli and the American garden designer Madison Cox. "It is alarming," Truman Capote wrote, "the number of travellers who have landed here on a brief holiday, then settled down and let the years go by".

In the company of François Gilles, we begin the day at Cape Malabata, located 6 miles east of Tangier, for a morning view (with the sun behind us) of the Strait of Gibraltar.

Returning to the heart of Tangier, we take a short tour through the old town where traces of Tangier's intimate relations with Europe abound. Many consular buildings, such as the American Legation, dot its narrow streets and its architectural styles bear witness to ongoing northern Mediterranean influence.

The American legation is an elaborate Moorish-style building of stuccoed masonry. This complex structure contains the two storey mud and stone building presented to the United States in 1821 by Sultan Moulay Suliman. The first property acquired abroad by the United States government, it housed the United States Legation and Consulate for 140 years, the longest period any building abroad has been occupied as a United States diplomatic post.

Today it is the Tangier American Institute for Moroccan Studies, a museum and cultural centre for the study of Morocco and Morocco-United States relations. The museum holds an impressive display of paintings that give a view of the Tangerine past through the eyes of its artists, most notably Scotsman James McBey, whose hypnotic painting of his servant girl, Zohra, has been called the Moroccan Mona Lisa. There is also a wing dedicated to the expatriate writer and composer Paul Bowles.

Then we visit the Dar Al Makhzan Museum of Moroccan Arts located in the 'Alawi governor's residence and its Andalusian garden.

Villa Mabrouka owned by British designer Jasper Conran OBE has a fascinating and illustrious past; it was once home to Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé. Built in the 1940's, incorporating both modernist and traditional Moroccan architecture, it is a haven of privacy set in a lush expansive landscape within close walking distance of the ancient bustling kasbah. The renowned landscape designer, Madison Cox, laid out the garden with towering palms, citrus trees, vines, hydrangea and bougainvillea. Terraces are deftly positioned to give breath-taking views across the straits of Gibraltar. Within the grounds is a magnificent pool carved out of the mountain rock and filled by a cascading waterfall.

American expatriate Elena Prentice is kindly opening her house and garden overlooking the Strait of Gibraltar. Elena Prentice is a painter and has exhibited extensively in museums and important collections worldwide, and has taught at The National Academy of Design in New York. She also ran the American Legation Museum, in Tangier, which we visit today. (Overnight Tangier) BL

### Day 18: Sunday 12 April, Tangier

- Cape Spartel Lighthouse
- Private residence and garden of Umberto Pasti
- Donabo Botanical Gardens
- Late afternoon at leisure

We spend another day with François Gilles and begin with a drive to Cape Spartel which lies 14 kilometres west of Tangier. This is the northwestern extremity of Africa's Atlantic Coast. Our dramatic journey

continues over the pine-covered headland to La Montagne.

In the Nouvelle Montagne we visit the stunning residence and garden of Umberto Pasti, a well-known Italian novelist and horticulturalist. Pasti's garden is a magical labyrinth of narrow paths, alleyways and walled enclosures. Plants of eucalyptus, palms and bitter orange trees provide peaceful shade from the burning rays of the Moroccan sun. Lush vegetation, fountains and frog song are the only sign of life in this world of tranquility.

Then we visit the recently opened Donabo Botanical Gardens, which offers sweeping views across the sea to Spain. It is the very first Botanical Gardens in Tangier. Its name *Donabo* comes from the Latin verb *donare* which means "to give". Conceived by Malika El Alaoui, granddaughter of Tangier Princess Lalla Fatima Zahra, and designed together with British artist Paul Belvoir, Donabo takes the visitors through the tradition of the art of the garden in a journey through ten successive gardens – each with its own distinctive personality, purpose and scent – housed within the broader garden. We are gradually introduced to the plants, from the Moroccan garden that celebrates the tradition of tea to the labyrinth of mints where multiple varieties blend their fragrances along the alleys, from the delicate rose garden thriving in the cool shade to the Chinese garden revealing its ancestral symbols, from the pollinator garden whose flowers attract bees to the garden of peppers to the vegetable garden.

The remain of the afternoon is at leisure. (Overnight Tangier) BL

## Rabat - 1 night

### Day 19: Monday 13 April, Tangier – Rabat

- Oudayah Kasbah, Rabat
- Hassan Tower
- Marinid Necropolis of Chellah
- Farewell dinner at Riad Dar Chrifa

This morning we drive to the imperial city of Rabat, capital of Morocco today. Rabat is situated on the southern bank of the Bu Regreg River, across from the town of Salé. A Roman town existed in the vicinity but modern Rabat is a Muslim foundation. The name 'Rabat' comes from the Arabic word *ribat*, which means a fort on the Islamic frontier, usually manned by Muslims as a religious duty. Such a fort existed on the site of modern Rabat by the 10th century. Rabat's earliest monuments built after the Romans, however, date from the Almohad period (1147-1248). The Almohads expanded the settlement by building a *qasba* (kasbah), or fortress, during the reign of 'Abd al-Mu'min, the second leader of the Almohad movement. 'Abd al-Mu'min's grandson, Ya'qub al-Mansur, transformed Rabat into his capital by constructing a six-kilometre defensive wall around the town, and initiating the construction of the huge Hassan Mosque.

We enjoy lunch at the seafood restaurant of the Royal Nautical Club in Salé overlooking the newly built Grand Théâtre de Rabat designed by the late British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid (1950-2016) with its fluid sculptural form inspired by the Bu Regreg River.

After lunch we visit the Oudaya Kasbah with its beautiful Andalusian garden and the Hassan Mosque. All that remains of the Hassan Mosque is a series of huge columns from its hypostyle prayer hall and the huge Hassan Tower, originally the mosque's minaret. The vast size of the Hassan Mosque gives a measure

of the ambition of its founder, the Almohad Caliph Abu Yusuf Yaqub al-Mansur; when he died, the mosque, which would have been the largest in the world, was never completed. The minaret (1195-1196), stands to the north of the mosque's forecourt on an axis with its mihrab in order to emphasise the mosque's orientation. It was meant to be one of the highest minarets in the world, although its upper section was never built. The Hassan Tower, with the beautiful decorative screen-work on its upper façade, provided the model for the Giralda of Seville and the minaret of the Kutubiyya Mosque in Marrakesh. The mausoleum of Muhammad V, an example of modern Moroccan architecture, is located at the south end of the Hassan Mosque site.

We then visit the Chellah, a medieval fortified necropolis built on the ruins of the Roman town. Inside are beautifully landscaped gardens with hundreds of flowers that come into bloom during springtime. The result is an amazing variety of scents. We also view Roman ruins and the remains of a small mosque and madrasa.

Tonight we enjoy our farewell dinner at the Riad Dar Chrifa. (Overnight Rabat) BLD

### Day 20: Tuesday 14 April, Rabat – Casablanca, Tour Ends.

- Transfer from Rabat to Casablanca Airport

After breakfast we transfer to Casablanca airport where our tour officially ends at approximately 11.30am. B

# Accommodation

All hotels are rated 3-5 star locally and are comfortable and conveniently situated. All rooms have en suite bathroom. Several hotels have swimming pools. Further information on hotels will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure.

- Agadir (1 night): 4-star Riad Villa Blanche – located 400m from Agadir Beach, this charming riad is surrounded by beautiful gardens designed by Eric Ossart and Arnaud Maurières.
- Taroudant (1 night): 4-star Dar Zitoune – an environmentally conscious *riad* located in the heart of the Souss region, a few kilometres outside of Taroudant. Accommodation is provided in air-conditioned Berber bungalows.
- Val d'Ouirgane (2 nights): 4-star Domaine de La Roseraie – located among the tranquil foothills of the High Atlas Mountains, and a short walk from Toubkal National Park. This charming *domaine* features Moroccan architecture, an outdoor swimming pool and a lush garden.
- Marrakesh (4 nights): 5-star La Maison Arabe Hotel – located near Jema' al-Fana', this traditional *riad* has been transformed into a luxury hotel.
- Ouarzazate (1 night): 5-star Berbère Palace Hotel – a Berber-style hotel located in the centre of Ouarzazate.
- Tineghir (1 night): 3-star Hotel Tomboctou – located in the town centre, this charming hotel is housed in an old *qasba*.
- Merzouga (1 night): 3-star Hotel Yasmina Merzouga – situated at the foot of the Merzouga dunes.
- Fes (3 nights): 4-star La Maison Bleue – located in the medina, a traditional residence built in 1915 by Sidi Mohammed El Abbadi, a prolific judge and astrologer of his time.
- Chefchaouen (1 night): 3-star Riad Casa Hassan-Dar Baibou – a traditional guest house located in the old medina of Chefchaouen.
- Tangier (3 nights): 5-star El Minzah Hotel – located in the city centre, with views of the Straits of Gibraltar.
- Rabat (1 night): 5-star La Tour Hassan Palace – located in Rabat city centre, this prestigious hotel is built in a typical Moorish-Andalusian style combining traditional materials with modern comforts.

Note: *Hotels are subject to change. In this instance a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

## Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double room for single occupancy throughout the tour. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

## Tour Map

Faro
Cádiz
Málaga
Marbella
Fuengirola
Alboran Sea
Meknes
Casablanca
الدار البيضاء
Safi
Essaouira
Tiznit

# Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD $15,980.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 March 2025

AUD $16,380.00 Land Content Only – Book before 30 June 2025

AUD $16,880.00 Land Content Only

AUD $4490.00 Single Supplement

### Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with en suite bathroom in 3-5 star hotels.
- All meals indicated in the tour itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals include mineral water & tea/coffee
- 2 x 500ml bottle mineral water per person per day for excursions
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Hotel-Casablanca Airport transfer according to the times outlined in the tour itinerary
- Porterage at hotels
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Entrance fees to museums and monuments
- Local guide in Morocco
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals.

### Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Agadir, Casablanca-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Costs for taking photographs (a supplement at some sites may be required in Morocco)
- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)

# Fitness Criteria & Practical Information

Fitness Level

**Level 3 - Challenging**

Among our most physically demanding

You must be able to:

- manage at least five to seven hours of physical activity per day with ease.
- walk at a regular to moderate pace, some days for at least 5km, on flat or undulating terrain; some stretches may include steeper slopes or several flights of stairs.
- cope with a demanding tour schedule including some long travel days, regular early morning starts & multiple single overnight stays.
- withstand varying climatic conditions such as humidity and heat. The majority of sites are large and unsheltered.
- contend with extensive coach travel that includes winding roads over the High Atlas and Middle Atlas Mountains; road conditions are variable.
- contend with a shower over a bath; walk-in showers may not be available at all hotels.
- manage your own luggage at some hotels.

Fitness Levels
Please also view the fitness criteria required for our tours, graded from Level 1 to Level 3, at www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/

All ASA tours are active programs suitable for people with a good level of mental and physical fitness and good mobility. They are not suitable for people who lack stamina, have difficulty walking at the group's pace or who have mobility issues. An unavoidable aspect of every tour is the need to manage walking, stair-climbing and standing for long periods of time.

It is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. Before enrolling on an ASA tour please read the fitness requirements carefully.

### Clothing

It is important that women dress modestly, for example long skirts or dresses (below the knee) with long sleeves. Tight-fitting clothes must be avoided and although this is not strictly followed by Westerners, it is far better to adopt this practice and avoid causing offence. Shorts should never be worn in public and beachwear is prohibited for anywhere except the beach and hotel facilities (note: please do remember to bring your swimsuit as there will be a number of occasions where you will have the opportunity to swim). During visits to mosques women will also be required to wear a headscarf.

### Visa Requirements

A visa is not required for travel into Morocco if you hold an Australian or New Zealand passport and it has a least 6 months validity from the date you depart Morocco. If you plan to travel on another passport please contact your ASA Travel Consultant for advice as to your visa requirements.

### Visiting Mosques

Morocco is one of the most politically stable countries in the Arabo-Islamic world. Nonetheless, it is a very devout country that wishes to protect its religious places from the ravages of tourism in order to preserve the quality of its religious life. We shall, therefore, have little access to the mosques of Morocco which are living religious spaces. However, we will visit a few mosques which have been opened to the non-Muslim public, in addition to a rich array of other monuments, including madrasas (theological colleges), palaces, *qasbas* (fortresses), *qsars* (fortified villages), and the traditional souqs, or markets, of Morocco's imperial cities.

## Booking Conditions

### ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD $1000.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

# Reservation Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

## Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ Other _____

FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____

MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____

TEL. (AH) (  ) _____ TEL. (BH) (  ) _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

Date of birth __/__/____ GENDER Male ☐ Female ☐

## Passport

Number _____ Expiry date __/__/____ Nationality _____

☐ Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed ☐ I'm renewing my passport ☐ ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

## Covid Certificate

☐ A copy of my current international certificate enclosed

## Travel Plans

☐ I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date __/__/____

☐ I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

## Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: ☐ a twin-bedded room ☐ a double-bedded room ☐ a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling: ☐ on my own ☐ with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

## Meals

☐ I do not have any specific dietary requests

**Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information**

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

☐ fish ☐ poultry ☐ red meat ☐ dairy products

☐ eggs ☐ pork ☐ nuts

☐ Other _____

## Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence ☐ Postal Mail ☐ Email Address _____

## Emergency Contact Details

**Note: this person MUST be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA**

Name _____ Relationship to Traveller _____

Address _____

TEL. (AH) (  ) _____ TEL. (BH) (  ) _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

# Medical Information

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at **www.asatours.com.au**
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel:1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

## Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. **You must also be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.** If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

| | YES | NO |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions? | ◯ | ◯ |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces? | ◯ | ◯ |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted? | ◯ | ◯ |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted? | ◯ | ◯ |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage? | ◯ | ◯ |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places? | ◯ | ◯ |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication? | ◯ | ◯ |
| 8. You do NOT have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | ◯ | ◯ |

## Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

| | YES | NO |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program? | ◯ | ◯ |

If yes, please specify

_____

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

_____

## Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

| | YES | NO |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? | ◯ | ◯ |

If yes, please specify

_____

_____

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything? | ◯ | ◯ |

If yes, please specify

_____

_____

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Do you carry an epipen? | ◯ | ◯ |
| 3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs? | ◯ | ◯ |

If yes, please specify

_____

_____

## Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

| | YES | NO |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? | ◯ | ◯ |

If yes, please specify

_____

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

_____

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine? | ◯ | ◯ |

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

**Diabetics:** You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3. Are you diabetic? | ◯ | ◯ |
| Are you insulin dependent? | ◯ | ◯ |
| 4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour. | ◯ | ◯ |

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

# Declaration, Liability and Booking Conditions

## Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour;
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
   a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
   b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
   c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally; and
   d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

## Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (e.g. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, border closures, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any tour service provider or authority however caused (contingencies). You must take out such travel insurance as is available against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of $500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

## Booking Conditions

### DEPOSITS

A non-refundable deposit of $1000.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

### CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: your initial deposit of $1000.00 is non-refundable.**

75-31 days prior 50% of total amount due

30-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

**$500.00 of this amount (ie 50% of your deposit) may be credited to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

***We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.***

### UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions or services of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

### WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

### FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

**PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW**

☐ I accept the conditions on this booking form

☐ I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

# Payment Form

## Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 _____

Name of Traveller 2 _____

I have enclosed a payment to the value of $ _____ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- ☐ Intention to Travel
- ☐ Tour Deposit
- ☐ Balance of Payment
- ☐ Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit
- ☐ Travel Insurance
- ☐ Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) _____

## International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- *via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate*
- *via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg.Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.*

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

## By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

## Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

### Australians Studying Abroad bank details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Bank** | ANZ |
| **Branch** | 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic |
| **Swift Code** | ANZBAU3M |
| **BSB** | 013-423 |
| **Account No** | 3472-32759 |

Bank confirmation No. _____

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

_____

Date Money Transferred _____

## Credit Card Payment

**Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%**

Please debit my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

**I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above**

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____ Security Code (CVC) _____

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ)

_____

Cardholders Name _____

Cardholders Billing Address _____

_____

Postcode _____

State _____ Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cardholders Signature

_____

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