

The Berber Retreat – Boutique Hotel: Near Marrakech, Morocco

Summary

Overlooking the green plains and palms, with Marrakech and the Atlas Mountains beyond, this luxury boutique hotel is a romantic retreat in the Moroccan countryside. Artfully renovated, with a myriad of cool courtyards, comfy outdoor lounges and cosy fireplaces, the historic building was once a collection of Berber dwellings. The luxury hotel now offers the most tranquil of escapes from the bustle of Marrakech, with a gorgeous central pool, gardens, excellent spa and restaurant. With the exuberance of Marrakech only a short drive away, this luxury boutique hotel is a perfect haven for pampering, romantic holidays and honeymoons in Morocco, and with average daytime temperatures rarely dropping below 20 degrees, the hotel is a great choice for early or late Summer sun.

Details

Just 20 minutes' drive outside Marrakech, the "Red City", The Berber Retreat was once a welcome resting spot for dromediers and their camels, and the verdant plains and palms over which the hotel now presides are a vestige of the once great river which flowed here. The architect-owner has cleverly combined several historic Berber houses to great effect. Every turn reveals a tiny courtyard, fountain, an unexpected glimpse of mountain views or deep violet skies, and huge terracotta pots with swaying olive trees occupy every nook.

The guest rooms are spacious and decorated in ethnic style with local craft market finds, wooden artefacts and splashes of colour. Velvets and tapestries are used in abundance, and pretty Arabic fretwork arches at every doorway cast beautiful patterned shadows across flagged floors in the morning sunlight. Most rooms have their own private terrace or garden and some have their own heated pools, for the ultimate in luxury.

The hotel is designed for pure relaxation and pampering. Laze around the large heated pool, listening to nothing other than the birdsong and tinkling water of the fountain, or curl up with a mint tea in one of the many garden seating areas with the resident family of tortoises for company. Treat yourself to some therapies in the renowned spa and hammam before enjoying a sumptuous lunch or dinner in the hotel's restaurant, to the sound of lilting Moroccan music and the crackle of a real fire.

Of course, Marrakech itself is a draw for days out, with its many ancient quarters, Mosques and Palaces to explore. A visit to the world-famous Djemaa el-Fna Square at night, with its evocative m el e of snake charmers, fire-eaters and hawkers, is not to be missed. And of course the souks with local crafts and textiles offer ample opportunity for bargain hunting and haggling... just be prepared for the hard sell tactics of the shop-keepers. The hotel concierge can organise city and souk guides, as well as trips by car or on foot into the Altas Mountains.

For more images see www.c-boutiquehotels.com
To book this hotel call **08717 500070**



Facts & Figures

17 Guest Rooms & Suites:

- Deluxe Doubles – large rooms, most with private terrace
- Suites – Larger Doubles with open plan lounge areas with larger private terrace
- Superior Suites – Large rooms with lounge (some separate), and a large private terrace. Some with working fireplace
- Majorelle Suites – Spacious bedroom with 2 separate lounge areas, courtyard and private heated pool. Fireplaces.
- Master Suites – Largest room type with bedroom, 2 separate lounge areas, private courtyard and heated pool. Fireplaces.

All rooms have: Ensuite bathroom (bathtubs in all but one) – Sat TV in most rooms – Air-Con/heating – Minibar – Safe – Telephone – Hairdryers

Hotel facilities: Heated Pools (1 outdoor and 1 indoor at the spa (heated), Gardens & Terraces – Drinks Service – Bar – Gourmet Restaurant – Billiards Room – Boutique – Spa – Free Shuttle into Marrakech 3 times a day – Free Airport Transfers

Also available nearby (extra cost): Horse-riding, Golf, Baby-Sitting, Tennis, 4x4 Tours, City and Souk Guided Tours, Guided Treks

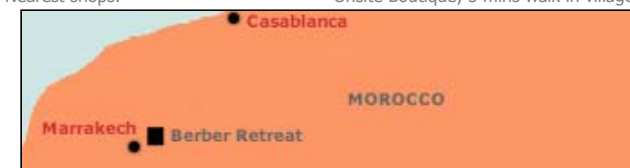
Please note that entry to the hotel is via a traditional Berber Village, which is currently undergoing restoration. Consequently village buildings are unfinished and roads unmade. However, there are no views of the village from the hotel and there is no noise disturbance to guests. As with all Muslim countries, calls to prayer can be heard during the day and early morning and please remember that Morocco is a Developing Country where you are likely to see extremes of poverty.

Regional Highlights

- Long, lazy days around picturesque grounds and pool
- Pampering spa treatments and hammam
- Days out to Marrakech's cultural sights, parks and excellent souks and crafts markets
- Jazz and music festivals
- Activities such as horse-riding, 4x4 tours, trekking in the spectacular Altas Mountains and golf
- Marrakech festival of film in November/December

Location

Nearest airports:	Marrakech (20mins) Casablanca (2.5hrs)
Nearest direct flight from London:	Marrakech
Nearest train station:	Marrakech
Nearest restaurants:	5 mins drive
Nearest shops:	Onsite Boutique; 5 mins walk in village



We encourage compassion for animals. If you go for a carriage, horse or camel ride, or are using mules for a trek, please opt for those with healthy animals who aren't overburdened. Look out for carriages with SPANA plaques and whilst in Morocco if you see ANY animal in distress, please call SPANA on +21224303110 / +442078313999. SPANA is a charity dedicated to caring for animals and educating their owners, so that both can lead happier lives.