

Morocco – Where Africa meets the Mediterranean

The southern most of the four imperial cities of Morocco, Marrakech, the "Red City" will awaken all of your senses. Sited at an important crossroads; merchants and traders from the plains, the High Atlas Mountains and the Sahara still follow in the footsteps of their ancestors to sell their wares in the souks.

The ville nouvelle sits to the west of the old city. Gueliz forms the modern commercial centre of the city, with restaurants and shops clustered near the Ave Mohammed.

The real heart of the city is the rich medieval world of the Djemaa el-fna, the vast energy filled square in the Medina where night and day storytellers, acrobats, traders and snake charmers vie for your attention. The mouth-watering aromas from the food stalls will tempt you to watch the spectacle of your meal being cooked on smoking stoves. As the sun sets, the square quickens its pace, putting on a breathtaking show. To the southwest of the Djemaa el-Fna is the Koutoubia Mosque, built in the late 12th-century with its eye-catching 70m minaret, it is Marrakech's most famous landmark. Transport yourself back in time and wander through the narrow winding streets of the souks and haggle for beautiful leather slippers or vibrant textiles, or simply marvel at the skill of the artisans as they work. A visit early in the morning or in the late afternoon is the most exciting, when the traders auction off their merchandise to the public in the labyrinthine alleys.

A visit to the Museum of Marrakech in a beautifully restored 19th-century raid will give you an insight into Moroccan culture and also daily life with an original "hammam" (traditional bathhouse). Loose yourself in Marrakech's royal past and discover the now ruined Palais el-Badi, wander in the orange groves and bring a torch to explore the underground tunnels, staterooms and dungeons. Escape for an hour from the bustle to the beautiful gardens, which are laid out around the city, with many picnic spots, tranquil pools and peaceful surroundings.

For a longer trip out of the city, try a visit to the Cascades d'Ouzoud & Azilal, Morocco's finest waterfalls or explore the Majorelle gardens, owned by Yves St Laurent, in the Ourika Valley and then head south into the foothills of the High Atlas mountains passing thorough Berber villages. For the more adventurous; guided treks in North Africa's highest mountain range, the High Atlas Mountains, are available. For a true trip to an oasis, visit or stay in the iconic Palmeraie area of Marrakech. Legend has it that after eating stones brought back from the Sahara, the solders of the 11th century sultan Youssef ben Tachfine spat out the stones around their encampment. The stones are supposed to have germinated and led to the creation of the thousands of palms that now form the La Palmeraie oasis.

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.

Getting There

Fly direct from the UK to Marrakech with Easyjet, Ryanair, Royal Air Maroc, Atlas Blue, Thompsonfly.

Combine With

Ideal for combining a few days in Marrakech's frenetic Medina with some down time at an out of city oasis in the Palmeraie.

For more images & hotel details see www.c-boutiquehotels.com

To book call **08717 500070**



On holidays to Morocco you'll find the magic of Arabian cities, with labyrinthine souks and towering minarets and the breathtaking beauty of the Sahara and High Atlas mountains. Explore the rich culture of this North African country on holidays to Marrakech, with its frenetic souks in the colourful Medina. Evocative aromas of delicately spiced food wafting from a steaming tagine will delight you. The year round warm daytime temperatures make holidays to Morocco great for early or late season sun. Morocco is great for fast paced weekend city breaks or for relaxing holidays simply sipping mint tea at a pool in Marrakech's Palmeraie oasis. For those looking for adventure holidays in Morocco try a day trekking in the Atlas Mountains or exploring the Sahara on a camel.

Our Recommended Hotels in Morocco
Palm Gardens
Berber Retreat
Marrakech Riad Collection