

The Real Morocco

Based from our own Guest House and other properties in Taroudant, this renowned small group programme offers a wide selection of activities and outings which introduce you to the authentic Morocco in and around Taroudant and the nearby High and Anti-Atlas Mountains. Our full 5 - 7 day programme has been nominated on 3 occasions for the UK Responsible Travel Awards and been awarded the 3* "exceptional" rating in the Frommers 2008.



The programme is managed by our outstanding local staff who are charming, helpful, generous, kind, humorous and welcoming, and enjoy sharing their heritage, their knowledge and their time with you.

Our recommendations

Season: all year round.

Length: 5 - 7 nights. Shorter stays possible - this limits the choice of activities.

Flights: Agadir (50 minute transfer), Marrakech possible (3.5 hour transfer).

Prices from £260 per person (7 nights) excluding flights*

Day	Nights' Stay	
1	7	Fly to Agadir & taxi transfer to accommodation Taroudant. Option of flying to Marrakech with transfer via Tiz n'Test pass or motorway through the mountains.
2		Visit the two local Taroudant souks, the Arab craft market and the Berber market, among the best in Morocco, climb the ramparts, take a horse drawn carriage (caleche) around the city walls and ramparts or hire some bikes to explore the town.**
3		Day trip to Tioute Oasis and Anti-Atlas Mountains. This excursion takes you through savannah-like and irrigated landscapes on the edge of the Souss Valley to an oasis on the northern edge of the Anti-Atlas mountains. During the trip you will see the strange sight of goats grazing in the native argan trees and visit a women's cooperative where there is a chance to purchase high quality organic products including argan oil which is unique to this region. Evening cookery lesson.**
4		Day trip to Berber villages of the High Atlas. The excursion takes in 3 villages each of which depends for its livelihood on 3 different products: honey, pottery and olive oil. It includes opportunities to visit local people's homes to see bread making, their livestock, their lifestyle and to eat a delicious vegetarian tagine, scooped up by freshly baked bread.**
5		Optional day's trekking Anti Atlas Paradise or visit to local hammam and/ or massage with local argan oil.
6		Optional excursion to coast eg National Park - either to the Massa Estuary for bird watching or to the Souss Estuary for a choice of activities including camel rides and visit to a craft village.**
7		Free time in Taroudant, choice of craft workshops, e.g. sandal and jewellery making, or henna tattoos. Evening: Feast for the Senses or Berber band.
8		Visit the Sunday (weekly) market outside of town, if feasible before taxi transfer to Agadir airport.

Pricing: * Based on 2 persons sharing (B&B), including return transfers to Agadir airport, 2 excursions and 3 cultural experiences (chosen from several), excl. flights, staying at Naturally Morocco Guest House (Taroudant) -budget accommodation offering flexible rooming arrangements; additional activities may be chosen. Price varies by room, season and exchange rate.

Transport options: Transport included for Real Morocco; Taxi or car (self-drive or with driver) for other journeys. All travel times are approximate.

Extension options: 2-4 days Marrakech, Essaouira, High Atlas or Anti Atlas Mountains.

Activity options: ** The timings of these excursions and activities may vary. A range of additional day excursions and experiences from Taroudant are also available through our Real Morocco Programme. Trekking on foot, horse, camel or mountain bike is available in the High Atlas as well as day excursions from Marrakech.

Accommodation in Taroudant

We are able to offer three accommodation options in Taroudant as part of the Real Morocco Programme:

Property	Price Band
'Naturally Morocco' Guest House: a friendly secure base. Superb food & staff	£20 - 30 per person per night
Palais Salam Hotel: an old palace with pools, patios & mature gardens	£30 - 50 per person per night
Dar Zitoune: 3 km from town in lovely grounds	£50 - 95 per person per night

THE REAL MOROCCO PROGRAMME

Our unique programme is designed to get you behind the scenes and upfront with the real Morocco. Our 10 year old programme led by our excellent Moroccan guides brings you close to the people, culture, traditions, geography and wildlife often missing from traditional packages to the country.

Based In Taroudant in south west Morocco, close to Agadir and three hours from Marrakech, the town embodies everything associated with traditional Morocco away from the major tourist centres.

The programme is flexible with the number of excursions ([see Map](#)) and activities dependant on your length of stay.

- 2 or 3 days (3 or 4 nights) = 1 excursion, 1 activity

- 4 days (5 nights) or more = 2 excursions, 2 activities

The longer the stay, the greater the choice of excursions open to you, especially non-standard ones. Activities are based from the Naturally Morocco Guest House; with a range of accommodation options available close to and within the town

Activities and Outings on Offer

STANDARD ACTIVITIES	OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES
<p>Excursion - Berber Villages Of The High Atlas Mountains Gain an insight into Berber households and cottage industry in the High Atlas mountains in an area not normally visited by foreigners. Opportunities to support community projects</p>	<p>Excursion: Anti Atlas "Paradise Valley" A scenic drive then a hike up a beautiful palm filled gorge, a haven for wildlife, in a remote part of the Anti Atlas Mountains accessed by newly metalled dead end roads, with a chance to visit religious sites</p>
<p>Excursion/ Trek Afensou and the Mentaga Valley. Trek in this little visited and verdant part of the High Atlas. The walk is flexible; the normal route offers panoramic views of the peaks, a walk through oasis gardens and into a gorge.</p>	<p>Excursion Massa Lagoon: Visit one of the most renowned sites for birdlife in Morocco, with Said, our experienced and very knowledgeable bird watching guide. This trip is usually centred around the Massa lagoon and the remote beach at its end, but is flexible according to your interests</p>
<p>Hamam and Massage: The local "Turkish" baths, using rhassoul mud, henna and soft soap to improve your skin and hair then a massage, an excellent follow up to the hamam using the local, highly therapeutic argan oil or, if desired, any of the essential oils you may have purchased when exploring the souk</p>	<p>Excursion: Atlantic Coast near Agadir and the Souss Estuary This flexible itinerary explores the areas between the Souss Estuary, about 7 kms south of Agadir. and includes visits to the beaches, dunes, estuary and port in the Agadir region, including options to ride camels or Arab horses, visit a craft village, children's amusements and to the kasbah viewpoint</p>
<p>Caleche Trip: A guided ride in a horse drawn carriage to see the town, walls and tanneries</p> <p>Mint tea and Berber meal: A tasty traditional tagine taken in a Berber house in the High Atlas Mts</p>	<p>Excursion: Tamri and the Atlantic Coast North of Agadir Visit the beaches, cliffs and dunes of the Atlantic coast N of Agadir, including opportunities to see the endangered bald ibis at Tamri or near the lighthouse of Cap Rhir</p>
<p>Cookery: Moroccan cookery lessons, with a cook book for sale to support community projects</p> <p>Language: Arabic or Berber language lessons and a chance to practice your French</p> <p>Henna Tattoos: An artist creates non-permanent tattoos using natural ingredients that are beneficial to the skin</p> <p>Craft Activities: Learn local crafts, e.g. leather work such as sandals, jewellery, carved stone, henna tattoos .</p> <p>Shopping in the Souk: Guidance on where to buy, how to bargain and how to spot the best quality local produce</p>	<p>Excursion: Day Trip to Talaouine to Celebrate Saffron From mid October until mid November each year, our "Real Morocco" programme celebrates the harvest of saffron (<i>Crocus Sativus</i>) in the beautiful Jbel Sirwa in the Anti Atlas Mountains around Talaouine, the saffron capital of Morocco</p> <p>Excursion/ Trek Tiz n'Test Pass(dependent on suitable weather) Travel to 2011 metres altitude at the top of this spectacular mountain pass, widely held to be the finest in Morocco, then enjoy a half day trek into the valley below - here wild lavender and thyme honey are amongst the local products.</p> <p>Excursion: Tiout Oasis, Souss Plain and Anti-Atlas Mountains This excursion provides an insight into subsistence farming and wildlife in the arid landscapes of valleys, oases and the mountains bordering the Sahara as well as visiting an old kasbah and a women's cooperative</p> <p>Feast for the Senses: a wonderful celebration of your experiences in Morocco (minimum group size 8). Best that we keep the details a secret, so as not to spoil your enjoyment!</p> <p>Music: Live Moroccan music - a nationally acclaimed Berber women's band from the town. Likely to induce dancing, certainly amongst the staff! Not available during the month of Ramadan</p> <p>Storytelling in the Main Square: learn about the history and importance of stories, experience how storytellers lure the crowd and learn about UNESCO's efforts to conserve oral heritage.</p>