

SOCIAL PROGRAM - PLANNED FOR 1/2 DAY TRIP

Friday, April 17, 2015 (40 EUROS)

Package 1: A smooth tour of Marrakech – A tour in the carriage

In Marrakech, time seems to be regulated by the many carriages furrowing the ochre city quietly to open sky. Today, we will live an escape together in a carriage, a travelling memory of Marrakech.

We start with the discovery of the **Gardens of Menara**. It was the place of pleasure of the sultans of Marrakech. It counts an immense tank supplied with the water of snows of the Atlas and created in the 12th century at the time of Almohades, equipped with a pretty house builds in 1870 by Saadiens and a huge garden of olive-trees.



Then towards **the ramparts of Marrakech**: The turn of the ramparts of Marrakech associated with a stop at the bottom of more impressive doors with the city makes it possible to better understand the architectural styles of the various dynasties but also to have a fast outline of wealth of the historic sites of the town of Marrakech.



Continuation by the esplanade and **the minaret of Koutoubia** :

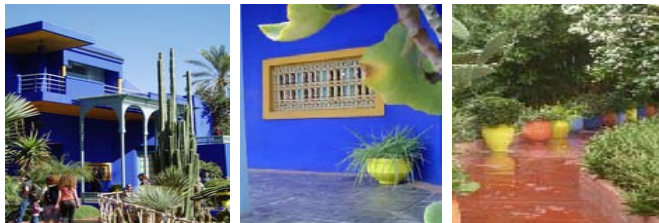


Built at the 12th century by Yacoub El Mansour the sovereign from which the kingdom extended until borders of Spain. The external decoration is of a great beauty and different from each face. It combine painting on coating with ornaments floral and epigraphic and the network of interlacing in relief where paintings intermingle, earthenware stringcourses with white net and blind arcades often intermingled... the mosque as for it, is regarded as one of the most beautiful florets of Arab Moorish art.

Continuation in the carriage for the discovery of **the Museum of Art Islamic of Yves Saint Laurent & the Majorelle Gardens**, designed by the French painter Jacques Majorelle then restored by the famous French dressmaker **Yves Saint Laurent**. It contains very varied species and you will be surprised by the color of the house, the alleys, the fountains...: in indigo Blue!



The Majorelle Gardens of Marrakech were rested by Jacques Majorelle, French painter born in 1886 and installed in 1919 in Morocco, where it acquired a ground with Marrakech. that ground, Jacques Majorelle will make it a small Eden and will open it as a public place in 1947. He will return to France after an automobile accident and will die in 1962. Later, Yves Saint-Laurent and his companion Pierre Bergé discover the place during their many stays in Marrakech. They repurchase the residence in 1980 and restore the whole. True place of meditation, the garden of Majorelle is a true play of color and scents. The Majorelle blue, which we find throughout the visit of the gardens, strongly contributes to the relaxing atmosphere of the place. It is one of the visits impossible to circumvent of Marrakech.



Pauses mint tea accompanied by the horns of gazelles (Moroccan cookies) in the patio of the garden - **Art Café**

The visit ends in the famous place **Jemàa el Fna** in the hubbub of the drums of Gnawas, where are gathered: acrobats, the snake charmers, the monkey trainers, fortuneteller, storytellers of history of the thousand and 1 nights etc.



Free time on the famous place.

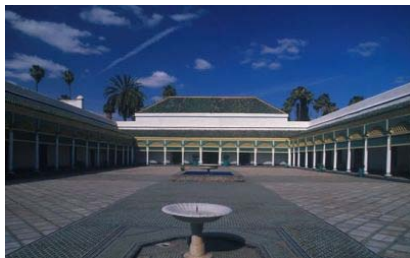
A mint tea is offered on the panoramic terrace of the **Coffee Glacier**.



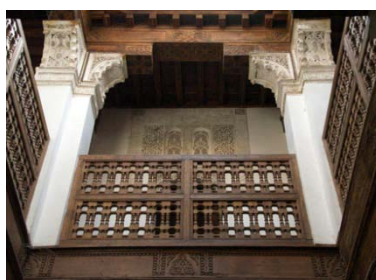
Return to the hotel by barouche.

Package 2 Marrakech crossroad of Arts, of palaces, of museums of trade.

We start with a Visit to **the Bahia Palace**: Superb princely residence of Andalusian tradition carried out at the end of the 19th century – It was built by order of Si Moussa, a top minister of sultan Sidi Mohamed - the architect Ben Makki carried out the apartments of the Palace and put 7 years to complete its work with the assistance of the best craftsmen. The palace is composed of one succession of apartments surrounded by a patio and splendidly decorated courses – The court in marble is surrounded by galleries to the grooved and painted columns. Three basins with fountain equip immense space which used as square with the room of marble honor paved of Méknès and papered earthenware of Tétouan – it shelters a sumptuous ceiling in cedar of the Atlas paints and illuminated..



Then, **Médersa Ben Youssef** – Masterpiece Islamic art: It is vastest of The Maghreb, around 1750, the sovereign Sàadien Moulay Abdallah made build buildings of inspiration Mérinide. After having passed the door with heavy beating of bronze, one penetrates in a corridor decorated with mosaics and carved beams. The court forms a vast rectangle paved occupied by a basin, which formerly was useful for ablutions – Aplank of Zelliges multicoloured decorates it base of the Walls which recover of the stuccos delicately engraved – The roof finishes by a hood of carved cedar.



We connect for the visit of the **Palace Me Nebhi** - museum of Marrakech: Arabic-Andalusian palaces built at the 19th century for a Minister of the sultan and superbly decorated under the aegis of the private foundation with the patron Omar Ben Jelloun – Composed of 2 sections: one devoted to the contemporary art, where individual or collective temporary exhibitions of painting are organized. The second section installed in the large patio, superbly decorated and capped with an awning is devoted to the traditional heritage: penmanship, manuscripts, currencies and old jewelry...

Then visit of **the souks** and discovering the various corporations of the craftsmen - Dyers, cabinetmakers, boilermakers, ironworkers, shoe-makers (babouchiers), spice salesmen...



The visit ends in the famous place **Jemaa el Fna** in the hubbub of the drums of Gnawas, where are gathered: Acrobats, Snake charmers, Monkey trainers, Fortuneteller, storytellers of history of the thousand and 1 nights etc.

A mint tea or a soda is offered on the panoramic terrace of the **Café Glacier**.



End of the visit & return to the hotel.