



# The Mystique of Morocco

*Explore the Captivating Cultural Mosaic of Color, Texture and History*

**October 18 – 31, 2025**

**With an Optional Pre-Trip Extension to Casablanca  
and a Post-Trip Hands-On Indigenous Fiber Experience**



**From the Sea to the Atlas Mountains to the Sahara Desert**  
Let the vibrant hues and exotic culture of Morocco ignite your spirit.



**“Uncommon Textile Journeys that Change Lives.”**



# Discover Morocco's Spellbinding Medinas, Riads and Desert Camps

## What is a Medina?

Stepping into an ancient medina in Morocco is like entering the portal to another world where one can lose themselves in colorful history. Simply put, a medina is the old part of a town or city that is encompassed by tall walls and entered through ancient city gates. In Morocco, these areas typically date back to the Middle Ages where their purpose was to shield the people from invading armies. Seven of Morocco's medinas are on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. Each of Morocco's four Imperial Cities has a unique medina. Their streets are narrow and filled with tiny alleyways, mosques, fountains and palaces. We will visit two of the most significant:

### The Medina of Marrakech

Founded in 1070 – 1072, this 700-hectare medina is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its labyrinthine *souks* (bustling marketplaces) and traditional trader's markets. It is a wonderland filled with the exotic aromas of rich spices, artisan shops and ubiquitous handcrafted leather. Here one can find many treasures including finely embroidered slippers, Moroccan jewelry, rare perfumes, copper and stained-glass lanterns, silver teapots, and so much more. We are especially sure to delight in visiting *Souk des Teinturiers* (the Dyer's Souk) where colorful bolts of freshly dyed wool and fabric guild the stalls in every shade imaginable.

### The Medina of Fes (Fez)

Fes, one of Morocco's Imperial Cities, is home to one of the oldest and largest medieval medinas in the world and is also an UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, this 1200-year-old walled medina is arguably the best preserved not only in the country, but in the Arab-Muslim world. It features 9,454 cobbled alleyways and 300 mosques.



## What is a Riad?

Loom Dancer Odysseys prides itself on finding unique places to stay during our journeys. Morocco offers us the opportunity to stay in riads which offer us a genuine Moroccan experience. A riad allows us to step into another world where a traditional Moroccan house has been converted into a one-of-a-kind guesthouse. Often located within the walls of a medina, they are built around a central garden or courtyard and provide a sanctuary of tranquil beauty. Renowned for their intricate Moroccan architecture, décor, tile and traditional craftsmanship, these houses or palaces were originally built for the wealthier citizens. Much more like a boutique hotel or bed &

breakfast, the memorable hospitality and service are more personal than that of a hotel.

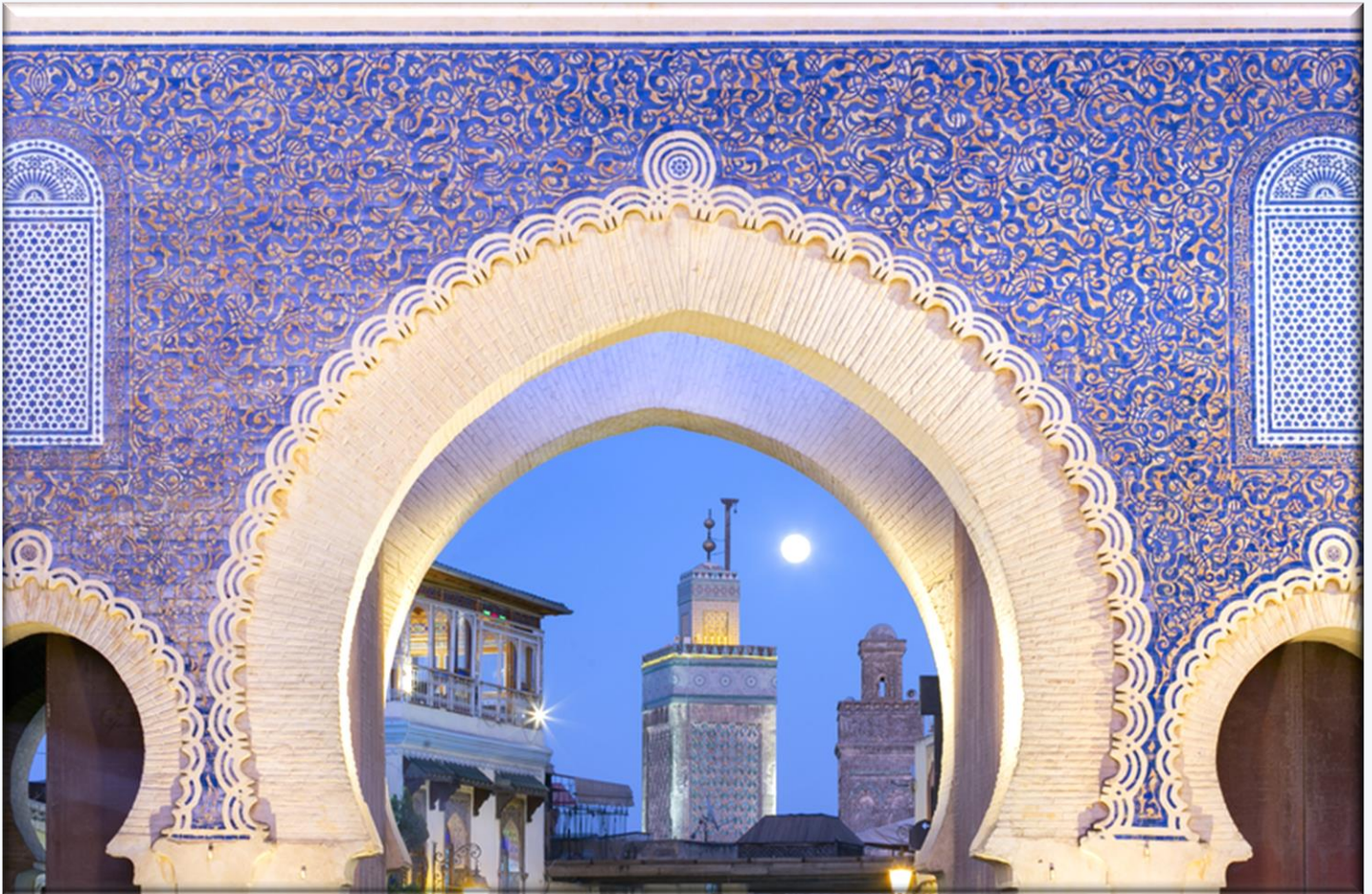
## What is it like to stay at a Saharan Desert Camp?

The Sahara Desert is synonymous with mystique and intrigue. Most likely, thinking about the Sahara Desert conjures up images of exotic sand dunes, camels and nomads; not to mention adventure. We will have the opportunity to experience this otherworldly realm at a desert camp sleeping under a dome of twinkling stars. But this is not the rustic experience one might imagine. Picture glamping a magical and cozy oasis in the middle of the desert in your own beautifully decorated tent filled with candles and a private bathroom highlighted by delicious meals prepared by the chef.



Saturday, October 18

## Our Adventure Begins in Fes (Fez), Morocco



Our Moroccan adventure begins in the maze-like city of Fes (or Fez; you will often see it written with two spellings), Morocco's spiritual, cultural and intellectual center and the oldest city in Morocco. (Please see Page 17 for the optional Pre-Trip Casablanca extension.) It has earned the nickname of the "Athens of Africa." When we pass through the impressive blue gate of Bab Boujeloud, we are immersed in one of the largest UNESCO World Heritage sites in the world. Once inside the medina founded in 789 AD, there are no cars, only donkeys, horses and pedestrians.



There are two original

ancient quarters comprised of 9<sup>th</sup> century Fes el Bali (Old Fes) and its adjoining neighbor, Fes el Djedid (New Fes) which collectively make up the Medina of Fes. Both have a distinctive atmosphere. After checking into our charming accommodation in the ancient medina, you will have time to rest and explore. We'll end the day with a rooftop sunset view over the city and a delicious dinner prepared by our welcoming hosts. Overnight in a 4\* riad. (B,L,D)



**Important Note:** For those who book the Casablanca pre-trip extension, you will arrive in Fes in the early afternoon via our private vehicle. For guests starting their trip in Fes, we advise you to book a flight that arrives before 3pm. A driver will pick you up and transfer you to our riad. If flying into Casablanca, you can join the extension group for the drive to Fes.



## Sunday, October 19      Exploring Fes and a Weaving Workshop

After breakfast, we'll dive into the ancient heart of the Fes medina, a UNESCO World Heritage site that is the largest ancient walled city in the world. Starting at the main gate, our half-day walking tour will focus on textiles and time-honored crafts, including a visit to the renowned leather tanneries where we'll observe the age-old techniques for producing premium leather goods. These tanneries have operated for nearly a thousand years (pictured above)! We'll continue to visit local garment makers and traditional weavers to see the skill and intricacy in fabric creation. As we explore, we'll also visit a stunning mosque and wander through markets filled with spices, artwork, housewares, soaps, and footwear. After lunch, we'll partake in a hands-on weaving workshop, where you will learn the traditional methods of weaving, working with looms to create your own fabric pieces under the guidance of expert weavers. You'll then have some free time to wander the markets on your own.

Overnight at a 4\* riad. (B,L)



## Monday, October 20 Empowering Women: Sefrou and Cherry Button Women's Cooperative

Traveling out of Fes, we'll embark on a 45-minute drive into the mountainous countryside to visit the Sefrou region that is known throughout the country for making some of the finest *djellaba* buttons. We will enjoy a special visit to Cherry Buttons Women's Cooperative, the longest-running woman-organized cooperative in Morocco. Here the women create beautiful buttons which are used to decorate the *djellaba*, a traditional Moroccan long-sleeved robe (kaftan) worn by all genders. Typically, they are sewn on in a tight row down the front of the garment below the collar.



Not only are these buttons intricate and gorgeous, but they have changed the lives of the women who make them. As explained on Cherry Button's website, *"The craft was introduced by Sefrou's Jewish residents to the women of the Sefrou region. The button making became very popular because it required minimal supplies and allowed the women to work from home. It also became a social activity as many women visited one another and taught each other different button-making techniques while they managed household duties. The buttons brought an additional source of income that was then used to help the family with everyday purchases, school supplies, and clothing."*

**Read more about these amazing and resourceful women at:**

<https://cherrybuttonscoop.wordpress.com/about>

<https://ifamstories.org/artists/cherry-buttons-cooperative/>



Amina Yabis, Cooperative President

Sephardic Jewish residents originally introduced the town to Djellaba buttons by teaching the craft to their Muslim neighbors when many of the Jewish population immigrated to Israel. More than 20 years later, Cherry Button Women's Cooperative continues to pass down this art through generations. The buttons are still sewn in the shape of the Star of David on the top as a tribute to their origins.

The creative women of Cherry Button Women's Cooperative have expanded to the craft to make these buttons into bracelets, earrings and necklaces.

During our time here, we'll not only tour the workshop, but will participate in a memorable hands-on lesson to learn how to create these unique woven buttons. This experience will also allow for plenty of interactions with the local craftswomen, offering insights into their techniques and stories. We'll enjoy lunch at the cooperative and have time to browse their shop to support this great initiative as well. Overnight in a 4\* riad. (B,L)



Tuesday, October 21

## The Middle Atlas Mountains to Midelt: Apes and “Little Switzerland” All in a Day



After a relaxed morning with free time to wander the markets of Fes one last time, our journey continues with a scenic drive across the Middle Atlas Mountains to the town of Midelt (pictured above). This trip will take approximately 5 hours. We will stop along the way in the town of Ifrane, a Moroccan alpine village known by the locals as the “Little Switzerland of Morocco.” The city has a European feel with buildings that were designed in the style of French Alpine villages with imported plants and trees.



Believe it or not, there is a cedar forest along the way that is home to Barbary macaques, also called Barbary apes, the only macaque living on the African continent in the wild. We hope to be lucky enough to see some of these enigmatic creatures.

In the afternoon we reach our simple 3\* hotel in this remote town not often visited by tourists. We'll go for a walk through Midelt to stretch our legs, try some famous Midelt apples and walnuts and enjoy the scenery of this half-way point between Fes and the Sahara Desert. We'll then head out for dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in a local hotel. (B,D)

Wednesday, October 22

## Our Journey Continues to the Sahara Desert

Today we hop back into our vehicle and continue the drive to the Sahara Desert. This part of the drive will take 4 hours of driving time, but we'll make a couple of wonderful stops along the way. The first stop will be at the stunning Ziz Valley, one

of the largest palm oases in the world producing world-renowned dates.

We will reach our destination of Merzouga, situated snugly at the edge of

one of the largest sand formations in Morocco. Here we will stay in a fantastic riad and watch the sun set over the desert. Dinner will be a special treat prepared by the riad's excellent chefs. Overnight in a 4\* riad. (B,D)



Thursday, October 23

## Carpets, Drums, Berber Scarves and the Sahara Desert



We'll begin our day by visiting a local cooperative, where we delve into the art of crafting traditional Moroccan carpets. After observing the experts at work and learning the intricacies involved, we'll shift our focus to creating Berber scarves. With guidance on the techniques, everyone will craft their own scarf, a perfect accessory for our upcoming Sahara Desert adventure. After a traditional Berber lunch, our journey continues to a Gnoua village, a sub-Saharan ethnic group that now lives in the desert regions of Morocco. At the village, we'll engage in crafting Djembe drums, learning from local masters and absorbing their rich cultural heritage and rhythmic traditions. Following this workshop, we'll drive back to



Photo is an example of one of the desert camps in the area.

the small town of Merzouga to prepare for our desert experience. You have the option to choose between a 1.5-hour camel trek or a 30-minute jeep safari across the mesmerizing Erg Chebbi sand dunes, leading us to our peaceful Sahara Desert Camp. Here we'll settle into well-appointed desert tents, watch the breathtaking sunset, and spend the evening enjoying traditional music around the campfire, savoring delicious food, and stargazing under the clear desert sky. Overnight at 4\* desert camp. (B,L,D)



## Friday, October 24      The Sahara Desert to the Dades Valley

After breakfast and witnessing the sunrise over the dunes, we depart the desert by jeep and make our way back to Merzouga, from where we'll drive towards the stunning Dades Gorge. En route, we'll stop at several small villages, providing a glimpse into local life. One of our highlights will be an excellent fossil workshop in Erfoud, showcasing fossils that date back to when the desert was an ocean. As we continue our journey, we cross the striking Jebel Sahro Mountains and eventually arrive at our beautiful riad in the Dades Valley. Here we will be warmly welcomed by the local staff, who have turned this riad into a tranquil and inviting haven set among the spectacular natural surroundings of this valley. Overnight at 4\* riad. (B,D)

## Saturday, October 25 The Dades Valley and A Natural Dyeing Workshop

Today we'll have the unique opportunity to spend time with a local woman who specializes in making natural dyes from scratch. She'll guide us through the process of creating our own dyes, teaching us how to extract vibrant colors from plants and minerals. We'll learn essential techniques such as preparing the materials and mixing elements to achieve specific hues. You'll then use these handmade dyes to create your own painting, experiencing firsthand the transformation these natural dyes can bring to your artwork. We'll also join her for a homemade lunch, where we'll have the opportunity to discuss the traditional uses and cultural significance of natural dyeing in the region. In the afternoon, you will have some free time with optional activities that include visiting local villages, enjoying a relaxing *hammam* experience (a relaxing and cleansing Moroccan ritual that is centuries old) or taking a walk through the Monkey Fingers gorge. Overnight at 4\* riad. (B,L,D)







## **Sunday, October 26**      **Exploring the “Valley of a Thousand Kasbahs”**

Leaving after breakfast, we'll embark on a spectacular day trip through the plains, high deserts, valleys, and mountains of the Dades region. This is a region of stark and dramatic beauty. Its crumbling mud-brick castles give it the nickname of “The Valley of a Thousand Kasbahs” (fortified homes shared by several families). From encountering nomadic Berbers who live in caves to exploring the remote town of Bou Tharar and witnessing some of the most dramatic landscapes we'll see anywhere, this journey will be truly unforgettable. We'll also visit the Valley of the Roses, where we'll have a brief stop at a rosewater cooperative to learn about the delicate process of distilling rose petals into rosewater. After a day filled with rich cultural exchanges, we will return to our accommodation in the late afternoon, just in time for another excellent dinner. Overnight at a 4\* riad. (B,D)

## **Monday, October 27**

### **Dades Valley: Bird’s Nest Carpets, Sandals and Traditional Cooking**

Today's activities all take place in the Dades Valley, a community that is as welcoming as it is remote. We'll begin at the home of a local woman who crafts unique carpets using bird nests, a technique distinct to this region of Morocco. After learning about her intricate craft, we'll visit a family-owned workshop that has been handcrafting sandals for generations, offering a glimpse into their age-old techniques. Next, we visit a local friend's home to spend time with several generations of women who live there. They'll teach us how to cook regional cuisine, share stories about their lives and they'll do some henna tattoos on your hands and feet if you wish! Following this fulfilling cultural experience, we return to the riad for a relaxing late afternoon among the ancient kasbahs and awesome natural formations. Overnight at a 4\* riad. (B,L,D)



Tuesday, October 28

## A Mountain Journey to Marrakech



**Today is a long drive.** It's time to leave the valley and take the 8-hour journey to Marrakech, considered Morocco's most captivating city. Our route will take us across the majestic High Atlas Mountains, where we'll enjoy stunning landscapes and visit notable sites along the way. Our first stop is in Ouarzazate, known as the "Hollywood of Morocco" due to its famous film studios where many movies have been filmed.

Next, we'll visit the charming village of Tisselei for a home-cooked lunch, offering a glimpse into traditional life in this remote region. Along the way, we'll also pause at various scenic viewpoints that provide breathtaking panoramic views of the mountain ranges and valleys below. Upon arrival in Marrakech, one of Morocco's Four Imperial Cities, we will check into our accommodations, take a brief orientation walk around the city and gather for dinner at a nearby restaurant. Overnight in a 4\* hotel or riad. (B,D)

## Wednesday, October 29 Exploring Marrakech and a Quilting Workshop

There is no other medina quite like the one in Marrakech. It is full of bustling markets, incredible architecture, centuries-old crafts, intense colors and aromas, constant celebrations, and a positive vibe that is truly contagious. Our guided walking tour of the city will

take us to the impressive Bahia Palace as well as local markets focusing on textiles, crafts, clothing, leather shoes, ceramics, metal work, and much more. We'll also visit the inspiring Al-Nour Cooperative, where disabled women from nearby villages create beautiful clothing and embroidered textiles.

Afterwards, we'll proceed to a hands-on quilting workshop, where you'll learn the traditional art of piecing together quilt blocks to form intricate patterns. During this workshop, you'll have the opportunity to create a small, quilted piece to take home. Overnight in a 4\* hotel or riad. (B,L)





## Thursday, October 30 Visiting the Weavers of the Amazigh (Berber) Tribe

We've saved the best for last! Today, we have the real treat of immersing ourselves one more time in the weaving traditions of Morocco on our final day! Located in the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains, about 45 minutes from Marrakech, there is a wonderful women-led cooperative comprised of over 50 weavers. They have honed their craft passing down the traditions through generations sustaining Morocco's rich heritage of rug weaving. By



participating in the cooperative, the women are empowered by receiving fair

compensation for their work with flexible working conditions creating a self-sustaining community of rural women-weavers. Atelier Talasin offers us the chance to interact with these skilled women.



We will travel from the studio high in the mountains to a remote valley with spectacular scenery and join a community of mountain village women from the Amazigh (Berber) tribe. Here we enjoy behind-the-scenes access to where and how the Siroua wool they use to weave rugs is hand washed in the river and spun using ancestral techniques. This is a chance to go where no tourists go!

Talasin's many years of working with this tribal community opens the door to an intimate and unique insight into their local culture and way of life, normally inaccessible to outsiders.



We'll have the chance to visit several of the women's homes to watch them spin, card and weave and learn about the unique and rare breed of sheep known for their soft and silky fiber that is the source of their premium wool. Nomads shepherd these flocks along ancient routes, from the lower plains close to the Sahara in the winter to the upper verdant plateaus of Siroua during the hot summer months. This breed is in danger of extinction due to the prevalence of industrial cheap wool, so its conservation and preservation is hugely important. Read more about this breed of sheep at: [www.memori.studio/exploration/the-valorisation-of-local-wool-in-the-siroua-massif](http://www.memori.studio/exploration/the-valorisation-of-local-wool-in-the-siroua-massif).

You also can choose the option of enjoying a day at your leisure in Marrakech to relax at our riad or enjoy a hamman experience. In the evening, we will gather for our farewell group dinner at one of the city's finest restaurants. Overnight in a 4\* hotel or riad. (B,D)

## Friday, October 31      Travel Homeward

You'll be picked up at the hotel for your airport transfer to the Marrakech airport according to your departure flight time. (If you choose to depart from Casablanca, we can arrange a private transfer from Marrakech to the Casablanca airport at an extra cost. The travel time is approximately 2.5 hours by vehicle.)(B)

© Photo [www.memori.studio/exploration/the-valorisation-of-local-wool-in-the-siroua-massif](http://www.memori.studio/exploration/the-valorisation-of-local-wool-in-the-siroua-massif) massif



### Please Note: This is an adventurous trip!

Many people traveling to Morocco rarely stray from the "tourist circuit" to see and experience the heart and soul of this exotic country. We have crafted an itinerary that allows us to visit remote weavers, authentic villages and even the Sahara Desert. To see the untouristed and "off the beaten path" regions of Morocco as planned in this tour, a significant amount of van travel is necessary with some quite long days. We sometimes hear that driving is not some people's favorite part of any trip. **Therefore, please read the itinerary carefully and be sure that you are comfortable with the amount of van travel.**



## Land Costs Include:

- 13 Nights, double occupancy (all in individually atmospheric accommodation - no large impersonal chain hotels!). Single accommodations available at additional cost (see below)
- Airport Transfers (Casablanca arrival / Marrakech departure)
- Private tours and visits
- Workshops including all materials (all workshops are optional – you need not participate in all of them)
- Private coach and local expert guide
- Private visits and demonstrations with talented artisans
- Meals as described:  
All breakfasts, 8 Lunches and 10 Dinners

## Land Costs Exclude:

- Any air transportation
- Any item not specifically included in your program including snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, etc. other than during designated meals, alcoholic beverages
- Tips for your guide, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional insurance of any kind

**Cost:** \$5,925 USD Per Person Based on Double Occupancy

If you prefer a single room, there is a Single Room Upgrade of \$1,125\*\*

\*\*Single accommodations limited to 7 travelers. Shared accommodations (unless by a couple) limited to 6 travelers.



### Loom Dancer Odysseys

does not believe in large group, bargain, or “ordinary” tours. Instead, we strive to immerse the creative and adventurous traveler into the wondrous world of global fiber arts with quality cultural encounters. Our group is limited to 12 guests for this tour to allow for a more hands-on, intimate travel experience.

Be a creative traveler, not a tourist.

As with all true adventures, this itinerary is subject to change without notice based on a variety of factors. Although Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys will do our best to adhere to the scheduled itinerary, we are all at the mercy of Mother Nature and varying weather conditions. As is the case with all true adventures, your itinerary should be considered an approximation of activities only. The itinerary or accommodations may be changed subject to unexpected and worthwhile opportunities, weather, group desires, and circumstances beyond our control, etc. Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys and its guides reserve the right to alter the itinerary without prior notice. Also please be aware that any voluntary changes on your part to your itinerary while on the tour will be made at your own expense.

# An Optional Post-Trip Fiber Arts Immersion with Atelier Talasin October 31 – November 2



We are proud to team up with Atelier Talasin and offer the rare opportunity to work and interact further with local weavers and dyers in an immersive and authentic fiber arts experience. For two days/three nights, staying in a rural country home outside of Marrakech, you can participate in two unique hands-on workshops natural dyeing with henna and weaving using the traditional Berber knot.

## Thursday, October 30

## Begin Extension in Ait Ourir

At the end of the day spent in the mountains with the local weavers and spinners, rather than driving all the way back to Marrakech, you will be dropped en route in the town of Ait Ourir at a lovely guesthouse which is home for the next two nights. This rural, charming country home is the perfect setting to immerse yourself in local fiber traditions for two days. Built in traditional earthen style, the home is nestled in a large, wooded park and features olive trees, orchards, a swimming pool and a vegetable garden from which most of the ingredients are used to prepare our meals. There are six bedrooms situated around four patios. Overnight in a rural guest house. (B,L,D)





**Friday, October 31**

## Natural Dyeing with Henna

Today we learn how to dye local wool using Henna, a natural dye derived from the *Lawsonia Inermis* plant. Its use and tradition dates back over 5000 years with a symbolic place in the cultural and religious history of Morocco. From a small farm set in an oasis close to the Sahara Desert, we source our high-grade Henna. You will use it to dye locally raised and hand spun Siroua wool that we learned about yesterday, unique to the region and highly valued for its lustrous, silky quality.

This hands-on workshop takes place in Atelier Talasin's custom-built dye kitchen on the rooftop of their studio in Ait Ourir, with plenty of shade and far-reaching views of the Atlas Mountains. Their in-house dye master will teach you how to prepare the wool for dyeing and how to create a collection of beautiful earth tones using Henna and various other natural ingredients. You will be able to take your samples home with you or use them to create your own weaving tomorrow. Overnight at our rural guest house. (B,L,D)





**Saturday, November 1**

## **Weaving the Almost-Lost Berber Knot**

Unlike many rugs found throughout Morocco that are woven with a different technique, all the handwoven rugs at Atelier Talasin are crafted in their own atelier using the recovered and almost long-lost technique of the Berber knot. Found nowhere else in the world but in the Atlas Mountains, the Berber knot adds a deeply unique texture and denomination of origin to the craft. In this half day workshop, you will learn how to thread up and weave on a simple wooden frame loom using their Henna dyed wool or the wool you dyed yesterday.



You will also learn about traditional Amazigh (Berber) symbols as used by the weavers in their carpet designs and how to incorporate one of these into your design using flatweave techniques and the unique Berber knot.

At the end of the workshop, you will cut the work off the loom to take with you. You also have the option to purchase the frame loom for a small additional cost and take it away with you to continue weaving at your leisure.

Late in the afternoon, you will be driven back to Marrakech where a hotel room is reserved for you. Overnight in a Marrakech hotel or riad. (B,L)





**Sunday, November 2**

**Travel Homeward**

You'll be picked up at the hotel for your airport transfer to the Marrakech airport according to your departure flight time. (If you choose to depart from Casablanca, we can arrange a private transfer from Marrakech to the Casablanca airport at an extra cost. The travel time is approximately 2.5 hours by vehicle. (B)



**3 Nights/2 Days**

**Land Costs Include:**

- 3 Night's accommodation (2 in a rural guesthouse; 1 at a riad in Marrakech), double occupancy. Single accommodations available at additional cost (see below)
- Transfers
- Private Workshops including all materials
- Meals as described:

**Land Costs Exclude:**

- Any air transportation
- Meals not designated on the itinerary
- Any item not specifically included in your program including snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, etc. other than during designated meals, alcoholic beverages
- Tips for your guide, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional insurance of any kind

**Cost:** \$665 USD Per Person Based on Double Occupancy

If you prefer a single room, there is a single supplement of \$295\*\*

\*\*There are only six rooms at our country house. Therefore, single accommodations are very limited.

**Save Your Spot!**

**Please call our office for details or questions!**

**800.369.3033 (from US Only) ~ 970.728.6743**



**PO Box 2154, Telluride, CO 81435 ~ loomdance@aol.com ~ www.loomdancerodysseys.com  
800.369.3033 (US only) ~ 970.728.6743 ~ 970.708.1181 (cell)**

## Optional Pre-Trip Extension to Casablanca



### Thursday, October 16 Arrive Casablanca, Morocco

For those who cannot resist the irresistible allure of Casablanca (think *"Play it again, Sam"*), our pre-trip adventure begins here in Morocco's largest city. The most convenient air connections from the US and Canada are to this vibrant city. Upon arrival, a private driver will pick you up from the airport and transfer you to our hotel in the city center. The remainder of the day will be yours to recover from jet lag and/or explore.

While this is undoubtedly a frenetic metropolis, here is where one can experience contemporary Moroccan life in its purest form. As Conde Nast explains, "... the markets are meant for locals buying groceries, rather than tourists buying prized Berber rugs. This is Morocco in real life — providing cultural context that is essential for understanding and appreciating the rest of the country." In the evening, you will meet your fellow travelers followed by a group dinner at the famous Rick's Cafe. Overnight in a 4 \*city hotel. (D)

### Friday, October 17 Exploring Casablanca

Today we'll enjoy a full day tour of bustling Casablanca. The city is home to unique architecture that is a blend of Moorish and French Art Deco styles. We'll begin with a guided visit to the magnificent Hassan II Mosque, one of the largest in Africa and boasting incredible craftsmanship in the design. It's 210-foot minaret is one of Morocco's iconic sites (pictured right).

We then enter the old city where we'll wind through the market streets, meet local vendors, and soak up the atmosphere created by Moorish and European architecture. Lunch will be at one of the city's most popular eateries before the walking tour continues through the Mohammed V Square, a French colonial plaza, and lively



United Nations Square. In the late afternoon, we will return to our hotel and have the rest of the evening free. Overnight in a 4 \*city hotel. (B,L)

## October 18<sup>th</sup> Casablanca to Fes (Fez)

We'll depart Casablanca at approximately 9:30am and drive to the ancient city of Fes. This 4-hour drive will include stops along the way. You'll arrive at your beautiful riad in the heart of Fes in the early afternoon. After checking into your room, you'll have some time to rest before meeting the rest of the group for an orientation meeting and official welcome dinner.



### Land Costs Include:

- 2 Nights' Accommodation, double occupancy in 4\* Hotel
- Airport Transfers from Casablanca Airport
- Local English-speaking guide and tour leader
- Meals and activities as described
- Transportation from Casablanca to Fes

### Land Costs Exclude:

- Any air transportation
- Meals not designated on the itinerary
- Any item not specifically included in your program including snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, etc. other than during designated meals, alcoholic beverages
- Tips for your guide, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional insurance of any kind



**Cost:** \$795 USD Per Person Based on Double Occupancy  
If you prefer a single room, there is a single supplement of \$150