



MAGICAL MARRAKECH



ABTA No.J1763

2010/11

MOROCCO



WEEKEND

Package Cost

The cost of the weekend varies according to the Riad you choose, the season and the particular room that you book. The prices shown here are approximate. We will provide an exact price at the time of booking.

These per-person prices are exclusive of flights and based on 2 persons sharing

Riad Villa Harmonie Price from: £220

Riad Petit Prince Price from: £245

Riad Slitine Price from: £285

(See last page for full pricing details)

Reductions apply for groups of 4 persons or more

Enjoy a very different long weekend break in Morocco's fabulous 'Red City'

~ **Spend 3 comfortable nights at a Riad of your choice**

~ **Take a guided tour of Marrakech's maze-like souk**

~ **Visit the market at Asni, a traditional village below the Atlas Mountains**



Tel. 017687 80888

Email. info@ketravel.co.uk

Introduction

If you're bored with all your weekends being the same and you need a change of direction, why not book a short break in the evocative city of Marrakech. Take the opportunity to immerse yourself in the colour, flavour and sheer ambience of North Africa. Available year-round, this is a long weekend that you will be talking about for the rest of the year! Just over 3 hours flying time from the UK, the 1000-year-old city of Marrakech is the perfect destination for a long weekend break - at any time of year. Exciting and vibrant, this former imperial city promises a pure sensory overload, complete with year-round sunshine and excellent opportunities for shopping in the maze of streets that make up the traditional market or 'souk'. The old fortified part of the city, known as the 'medina', is built around the central square of the Djema el-Fna. This is one of the world's great natural theatres and each evening presents a veritable circus of Berber snake charmers, sorcerers, story-tellers, water-sellers and acrobats. Then, as night falls, food stalls appear as if by magic and the square becomes a huge open-air restaurant. Marrakech's location is hard to beat, with its stunning backdrop of snow-capped Atlas Mountains that rise to over 4000 metres and include North Africa's highest summit, Mount Toubkal.

3 nights in a Riad

To make the most of your stay in Marrakech, we have chosen to accommodate you in one of a number of beautifully refurbished Riads. These are traditional Moroccan houses, built around a central courtyard area, often with elaborate gardens, in a style that provides shade and shelter from the heat of the North African sun. The word Riad comes from the Arabic word for garden. Converted into chic and intimate little guesthouses, any one of our chosen Riads will provide you with an authentic taste of Marrakech.

Choose from.....

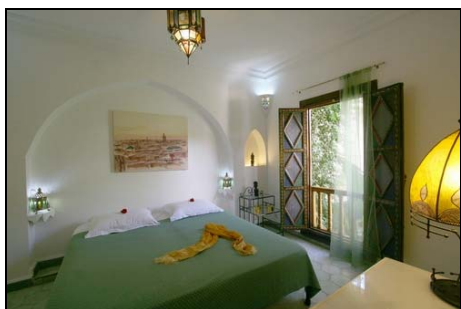
Riad Villa Harmonie



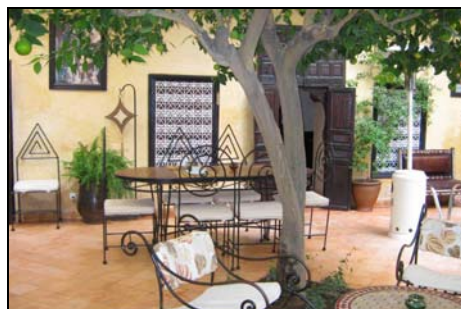
Located in the beautiful Kasbah district, in the heart of the historic medina and just a short walk from the Djema El Fna and the Bahia and El Badi palaces, Riad Villa Harmonie is a beautifully restored traditional Moroccan riad. Built around 2 patios, with palm trees, orange trees, banana plants and a roof-top terrace, this is the ideal place to relax with a refreshing drink. A haven away from the hustle and bustle of the city, but close enough to explore the souks and medina on foot.



Opening onto the two elegant patios, the seven guestrooms are spread over two floors and are decorated in a traditional Moroccan style, all following a colour code. Each room boasts all the modern comforts and its own bathroom. There are 3 different grades of room with the pricing reflective of the room location, size and facilities. The patios are where breakfast is served on hotter days or meals can be served on the terrace located on the third floor of the riad. Beauty and relaxation treatments are also available.



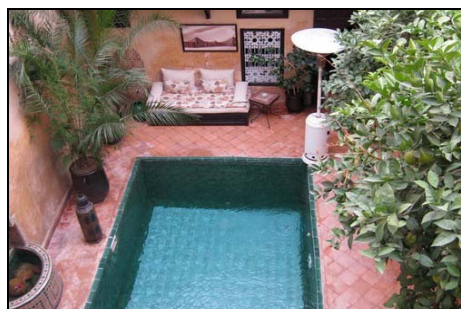
Riad du Petit Prince



Situated in the heart of Marrakech in the northern medina, between the Djema el-Fna square and the new town of Gueliz, the Riad du Petit Prince welcomes you in a typical Moroccan house. This friendly family-run Riad offers a serene and cosy atmosphere in the middle of bustling Marrakech and is full of charm with its leafy terraced seating and sunbathing areas on the rooftop. Down in the shade of the courtyard is a refreshing plunge pool. The restaurant serves both Moroccan and European meals. There are 3 different grades of room with pricing reflective of the room size and facilities.



One of the advantages of staying in this Riad is that you are just as close walking distance to the shops, restaurants and clubs of the modern French quarters of Marrakech in the Gueliz district, as you are to the central Djema el Fna Square. The walk to the square takes around 15 minutes through the alleyways of the souk and passes the stylish boutique-shopping district dotted around the area south of the Mouassine Mosque.



Riad Slitine



The most luxurious of our chosen Riads is the Riad Slitine, located right in the heart of the medina, close to the Bahia and Badi Palaces and the Tombs of the Saadian Kings. The building dates back to the 17th century and has been recently refurbished in style. The house is built around four flower-filled patios, with a central swimming pool - ideal for cooling off in the heat of the Moroccan summer. Complete with hammam and jacuzzi, the Riad Slitine is truly luxurious.



The Riad Slitine has 16 rooms and suites of luxury with personalized decor, air conditioning, mini bar, hair dryer, safe and Wifi connection. There are 3 different grades of room, with the prices increasing quite significantly from one grade to the next. Each room is named after a Moroccan town and the price reflects the room size, location and facilities. The lower priced rooms have en-suite bathrooms with showers, whilst the mid range rooms have a bath. The more expensive rooms have both a shower and bath facilities.



Tel. 017687 80888

Email. info@ketravel.co.uk

Weekend Itinerary

Day 1. Arrive in Marrakech

(Friday) Arrive at Marrakech Airport in the evening, meet your KE Travel guide and transfer to your Riad. The evening meal will be provided. Meals included: Dinner (D).



Day 2. Visit to the market at Asni and lunch at the Oliverai de Marigha

(Saturday) After breakfast, you will take a scenic 1-hour drive to the village of Asni with your KE guide. Situated in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains, this is a great place to gain an insight into the life of the Berber people. Saturday is market day and you will be amazed by the colourful street vendors and their wares. Try the open-air dentist if you need a tooth pulled! You will be able to try a cup of traditional mint tea at a cafe on the edge of the market, before moving on to the similarly delightful village of Ourgane for lunch (included) at the renowned restaurant, l'Oliveraie de Marigha. Set in an age-old olive grove, with a huge swimming pool (don't forget to pack your swimsuit) and mountain views, this is a great place to spend a couple of hours before heading back to Marrakech. The evening is free and the KE guide can help you make arrangements for an evening of your choice. For dining and for your recreation, there is a wide range of bars and restaurants to suit every taste. (B,L)



Day 3. Explore the souk and Djema el-Fna

(Sunday) This morning, your KE guide will accompany you on a tour of the labyrinthine marvel of the souk, the biggest such market in Morocco. Here, amongst veiled women, laden donkeys, vibrant colour and pungent aromas you can browse and barter with the stallholders. Each type of goods has its own quarter, with alleys and squares devoted to copper beating, tanneries, slipper makers, spices, hand-woven rugs and many more. The guide will recommend somewhere for you to buy your lunch, perhaps a rooftop restaurant overlooking the main square. The afternoon is free for souvenir buying and a further opportunity to practice those haggling skills. Or, maybe soaking up some sun on the roof terrace of your Riad will appeal more, with views that extend across the rooftops of the city. Another option is to visit a 'hammam' or steam bath, which is one of the most genuine of Moroccan cultural experiences. Descended from the Roman bath, hammams are segregated and provide a chance to mingle with the locals and to be pampered. You will get a scrub down you'll never forget! The evening is free. (B)

Day 4. Free time and evening depart

(Monday) Either explore the city independently, or we can arrange an optional morning tour for you. A relaxed way to get around is to take a 'caleche' or horse-drawn carriage. The city's stunning gardens, such as the Agdal, Majorelle (Yves St.Laurent) Gardens and the Menara Gardens, are a great place for some relaxation. Afternoon free. You may want to find a café, sit back and soak up the last hours or maybe revisit the souks for some frantic last minute shopping. A transfer from your Riad to the airport will be timed to meet your early evening homeward flight. (B)

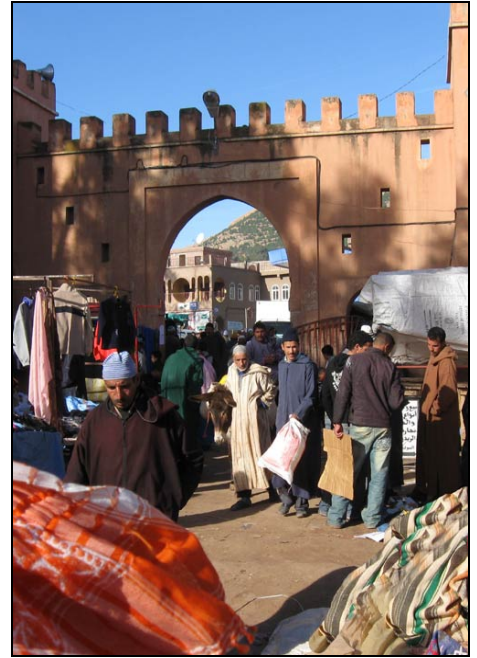


What else do you get ?

A few added extras make all the difference! As well as the 3 nights accommodation in a Marrakech Riad of your choice, this weekend break includes a guided excursion to the Saturday morning market at Asni, a village at the foot of the Atlas Mountains. Then, on Sunday morning, your KE Travel guide will accompany you on a tour of the Marrakech souk and adjacent Djema el-Fna. Otherwise, you free to do your own thing - but remember, throughout your holiday, your guide will be happy to provide suggestions and to make other arrangements for you.

Flights

The weekend package is based around the Friday afternoon flight from Manchester to Marrakech with Thomson, returning on Monday evening. These flights cost from as little as £200 return, depending on the season. There are other flight options. Please call the KE Travel office to find out if there are alternative flights that work better for you.



Marrakech Airport transfers

You will be met at Marrakech Airport by your KE guide, who will accompany you to your Riad accommodation. At the end of your trip you will be transferred back to Marrakech Airport to meet your homeward flight.

Services included

3 nights in the Riad of your choice on a bed and breakfast basis. The evening meal on Friday and lunch on Saturday are also included. There will be a guided tour to the market at Asni on Saturday morning and a guide tour of the Marrakech souk on Sunday morning.

Service not included

International flights, Travel insurance, meals other than those listed in 'Services included' (above), any optional activities, such as a visit to a hammam or a ride in a caleche, tips, miscellaneous personal expenses, drinks, souvenirs, etc.



Useful Information

Retail therapy

The souks of Marrakech are over-flowing with fantastic things to buy. From carpets and lamps to slippers, pottery, jewellery and great value leather goods. You will be expected to haggle, so never pay the first price asked - make a low offer and take it from there! There are fixed price tourist shops outside the souks if you prefer.



Guidance on tipping

Tipping is the accepted way to say thank you to your KE guide and to anyone else who has provided a good service during your time in Marrakech. You might possibly have different guides on the 2 included excursions and it would be reasonable for each person to tip up to 50 dirhams (£4) to the guide for each of the excursions. For taxi drivers you can round up the fare by up to 5 dirhams (40 pence) and also expect to give similar small tips to hotel and restaurant staff who go out of their way to help you.

Camera etiquette

When taking photos in the main square of the Djema el-Fna, watch where you point the camera! If you take a picture of the snake charmers or street entertainers, be prepared to pay for it! A demand for money will promptly follow. Pay no more than 5 dirhams.



Food

Moroccan cuisine is amongst the best in the world and Marrakech has numerous fine restaurants to choose from. Most meals begin with a simple selection of mezze, which might include a bowl of olives or a selection of cooked vegetable salads dressed with olive oil, sprinkled with cumin and served with a dip and flat bread. The tagine or roast meat (or vegetable) dish comes next, served with couscous and often a salad. A simple plate of prepared fresh fruit or dessert marks the end of the meal, before mint tea is served.

Language

Moroccan Arabic is the official language. French is also widely spoken, thanks to the period between 1911 and 1956 when the country was under the protection of France. There are also a number of Berber dialects spoken by the people of the Atlas. English is not widely spoken, but is well understood by those involved with tourists. We recommend you take an Arabic or French phrase book and learn some basic greetings.

Must see

The highlight of the city is the colourful central 'square' of the Djema el-Fna. Adjacent to the souk, not far from the imposing Koutoubia Mosque and overlooked by numerous rooftop restaurants, the Djema el-Fna is lively by day and chaotic each evening, as troupes of street entertainers use it as a stage for their performances. Finally, as night falls, it is taken over by dozens of street stalls, selling mouth-watering local delicacies.



Hit the streets

Starting out from the Djema el-Fna, one of the chief delights of the city is to wander through the ancient souks, where shopkeepers ply you with mint tea, while you haggle at leisure over a kaftan or a carpet. Here, you can watch artisans at work - dyeing, tanning, carving or hammering their various wares. The Café des Epices on Place Rahba Lakdima is an excellent place for a tea or a juice with a rooftop vista over the busy marketplace below. Pick up a map there, to direct you to its hard-to-find sister establishment the Terrasse des Epices in souk Cherifia. It's a funky rooftop restaurant with great views up to the Atlas Mountains.

Worked up an appetite?

The place for a classic Moroccan meal is Al Fassia at 55 Boulevard Zerktouni, as well as succulent lamb tajines, don't miss out on the pastilla, a sweet pigeon pie with cinnamon. In the evenings, you can eat at food stalls in the Djema el-Fna or, better still, dine at a restaurant with a terrace overlooking the action in the square. One of the most popular is Le Marrakchi, which serves up a tasty chicken tajine, or couscous if you prefer, at very modest prices - and even includes belly dancers!



Big night out

Nightlife in Marrakech is surprisingly sophisticated. There's even a branch of the famous Ibiza club Pacha south of town in Aguedal. In town, the Diamant Noir, inside the Hotel le Marrakech on Rue Oum er Bia, is an unpretentious locale that combines western disco sounds with Algerian Rai music.

Visa requirements

No visa is required for travel to Morocco by the holders of United Kingdom passports. Please note that your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of entry to Morocco and that this entitles you to stay in the country for up to three months. Other nationalities should contact the Kingdom of Morocco visa information service to see if a visa is required.

Why Morocco with KE Travel?

KE Travel's sister company *KE Adventure* has over 26 years of experience in the travel industry and is one of the UK's leading adventure tour operators. Over the last 10 years *KE Adventure* has taken 1000's of clients to Morocco, mainly for trekking, touring and cycling holidays. Tapping in to their knowledge of the country and excellent local contacts, we have devised a long weekend break that will provide our clients with a taste of the real Marrakech. We want to share their passion for the real Marrakech.

Call or visit our office to speak to one of our staff, who have first-hand experience of this Marrakech weekend. They will be happy to help you.



Reference Books

Lonely Planet Guide – Morocco.
The Rough Guide to Morocco.

Booking your weekend break

We hope we have included all the information about this fantastic weekend that you will need. However, if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with us either by calling into the office, by telephoning 017687 80888 or by emailing info@ketravel.co.uk We look forward to making a booking for you on this great weekend break!

PRICING AND FLIGHT INFORMATION

Pricing

The cost of the weekend break varies according to the Riad you choose. It also varies with the season and with the particular room that you book. The prices shown below are correct at time of publishing. An exact quote will be provided and confirmed at time of booking.

These per-person prices are exclusive of flights and based on 2, 4 or 6 persons booking on a twin-room basis.

(prices shown are up to October 2010 – please contact us for prices after this date).

Riad Villa Harmonie	5 Jan – 5 Feb & 16 Jun – 15 Sep			6 Feb – 15 Jun & 16 Sep – 31 Oct		
	2 pax	4 pax	6 pax	2 pax	4 pax	6 pax
Room - Majorelle & Argana	£ 220.00	£ 175.00	£ 155.00	£ 240.00	£ 195.00	£ 175.00
Room - Menara, Bougainvillier & Koutoubia	£ 235.00	£ 190.00	£ 170.00	£ 255.00	£ 210.00	£ 190.00
Room - Bahia & Badia	£ 250.00	£ 200.00	£ 185.00	£ 270.00	£ 220.00	£ 200.00

Riad Petit Prince	1 Nov 09 – 31 Oct 10		
	2 pax	4 pax	6 pax
Room - Standard	£ 245.00	£ 200.00	£ 185.00
Room - Superior	£ 260.00	£ 210.00	£ 195.00
Room - Suite Petit Prince	£ 280.00	£ 235.00	£ 215.00

Riad Slitine	5 Jan – 5 Feb & 16 Jun – 15 Sep			6 Feb – 15 Jun & 16 Sep – 31 Oct		
	2 pax	4 pax	6 pax	2 pax	4 pax	6 pax
Room – Meknes, Fes, Oudja & Tanger	£ 285.00	£ 235.00	£ 220.00	£ 295.00	£ 245.00	£ 230.00
Room – Mogodor, Agadir, Oasis, Grenade & Volubilis	£ 335.00	£ 290.00	£ 275.00	£ 365.00	£ 315.00	£ 295.00
Room – Ouarzazate, Marrakech, Rabat, Casa, Arfoud Marzouga & Zagoura	£ 390.00	£ 340.00	£ 325.00	£ 415.00	£ 370.00	£ 350.00

Flight Options from the UK

The price of the weekend break does not include international air travel.

There are a growing number of airlines offering low-cost, no-frills flights to Marrakech and we have listed the most important of these below. One or more of these airlines will have flights which are convenient for you. Up to date flight timings, as well as accurate air ticket costs, will be found on the websites of the various airlines.

Easy Jet	London Gatwick , Manchester
Ryan Air	Bristol, Luton, East Midlands, Edinburgh
Thomson Fly	London Gatwick, Manchester
Royal Air Maroc	London Heathrow, London Gatwick

You will need to book flights which arrive in Marrakech on Day 1 (Friday) of the trip itinerary. Flights should be booked to depart from Marrakech, ideally late afternoon or evening of the final day of the itinerary (Monday). This will allow you to maximize your time in Marrakech.

MAKE SURE YOUR CHOSEN ACCOMMODATION IS AVAILABLE BEFORE PURCHASING FLIGHT TICKETS.

If you are purchasing your own air ticket, you should be aware that most of the cheaper airline tickets available for sale on the internet or from low cost carriers are non-refundable in the case of cancellation. For this reason we strongly advise you check the rules of the ticket when you make a flight booking, and check the limitations of any cancellation insurance policy you have. We cannot be held liable, in the unlikely eventuality that we should be forced to cancel your trip, for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made yourself. Please forward your full flight schedule including the airline, flight numbers, departure and arrival times as soon as your flights are confirmed.



We hope we have included all the information about this fantastic weekend that you need.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Either call in at the office, telephone **017687 80888** or email **info@ketravel.co.uk**