ARTISAN TRAVEL

Essaouira and Marrakech: Sand and Souk Explorers



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING:

BROCHURE CODE: 4026
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Experience the best of Moroccan activities and culture on this spectacular family summer holiday. Enjoy a day of adventure exploring the Atlas Mountains and savouring the breath-taking views. You'll also gain an insight into the Moroccan way of life when you visit the local souks with your knowledgeable guide.

Our Opinion

"Much like the jam-packed souks to be found in Essaouira and Marrakech, this holiday offers an incredible selection of things to enjoy. You'll feel like true desert adventurers when you're riding about on camels or quad bikes, and it's just as exciting to get trekking around the Atlas Mountains. This is a trip that just bursts with culture: from Berber villages to Marrakech markets, there are new experiences wherever you turn. It's a must for food-loving families – whether visiting stalls piled high with gorgeous delicacies or making your own in with a professional chef, you will be in gastronomy heaven!"





What's included?

- **Travel worry-free** - fully organised and run by a trusted, fully regulated UK operator. Read more about our bonding and the types of financial protection that we offer
  Transfers: all transfers included
- **Accommodation**: 3 nights at Oasis Lodges or similar, 1 night in a luxury tent in the Agafay Desert and 3 nights in a 2 bedroom riad at Rebali Riads
- **Meals**: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch
- **The following activities are included in the holiday**: Atlas Mountains day, Marrakech souk tour (order subject to change)*
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities with all equipment provided
- Tourism tax of 53MAD (£4.20) per adult per night

*Please note that we do not include activities at Rebalis Riads although there is an extensive range of options that can be booked locally. You can go through these after checking in at this wonderfully relaxing resort. That way, you can decide exactly how busy or how laid-back your time there will be. If you would like to indulge your sense of adventure you can try camel trekking, horse riding, surfing, quad biking, an Essaouira souk visit and cookery lessons.

Trip Overview

This outstanding seven-night family activity holiday will show you Morocco from all angles. Going everywhere from quiet Berber villages to buzzing city souks, you and the children will have the opportunity to try out stupendous activities on both sand and sea. As well as this, you'll sample the local culture and cuisine along the way!

This family holiday begins in lively Marrakech. During your 3 nights here, you and your family will stay just outside the busy city areas in the tranquility of Oasis Lodges. If you prefer to stay closer to the action, we can arrange alternative accommodation in the old town of Marrakech. This option will suit travellers keen to soak up as much Moroccan atmosphere as possible, particularly couples and families with older children.

You'll take a tour of the astonishing souks and experience an array of sights, scents and sounds as well

as an insight into the people here. Then, you'll take a trip to the awe-inspiring Atlas Mountains, a must-see when in Morocco.

The next part of your holiday transports you to the Agafay Desert which promises to be a truly magical experience. You'll stay at either the Inara camp offering nine tents with panoramic views, an ultimate level of comfort and are fitted with electricity outlets or an equally enchanting bivouac in Scarabeo Camp which are all adorned with uniquely sourced pieces, interesting artefacts and locally crafted artwork.

Following your stay in the desert, your holiday takes you close to the beautiful port city of Essaouira. You will stay in a luxurious villa at the Rebali Riads hotel, a marvellous place with a traditional Moroccan design.

Here you will have the opportunity to sit down, discuss and arrange your own itinerary with the attentive and helpful staff. You can set your own pace and add in your choice of activities (payable locally). You can choose from a range of cultural, gastronomic and adventurous options.

In your free time, you will definitely want to enjoy the hotel's on-site facilities. Unwind in a traditional hammam steam room, splash about in the pool, or challenge each other to a spot of tennis.

Image credits: Alan Keohane

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1 ARRIVAL AND WELCOME

Upon arrival in Marrakech, your transfer vehicle will take you to your accommodation at Oasis Lodges, approximately 10 minutes away. Once you have checked in, you and your family can relax in the idyllic surroundings of the Oasis Lodges - why not have dinner at their restaurant or you can ask them to recommend a local restaurant to try?

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 DAY IN THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS

Fill up at breakfast in preparation for a lovely excursion exploring the Atlas Mountains. A two-hour transfer will take you to your starting point, the village of Imlil, from where you will spend the day trekking in this scenic region with a mountain guide. Mount Toubkal, the highest peak in the Atlas Mountains, looms in the background as you take to the trail. You will walk through small hamlets and woods filled with walnut trees, weaving up to higher ground along the mountain track. The views are

incredible and this is a marvellous way to show off the natural side of Morocco, which is easily missed when just sticking to popular urban attractions. There will be the chance to visit at least one village in the area for a sense of life in these rural parts of the country, you will also enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. The trip can be tailored to the needs and abilities of the group and includes lunch. You will return to Oasis Lodges in the late afternoon.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3 THREE-HOUR SOUK TOUR

You will all be whisked away for a fabulous tour of Marrakech's impressive souks. Potters, olive-sellers, tanners, dancers, magicians...the list of people and stalls you will encounter here is endless. Cameras should always be at the ready, and given the wild mix of life, every photo opportunity is likely to be as remarkable as the next. After this bustling day, you can sit back and relax during your last evening at Oasis Lodges.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 A SLEEPOVER AMONG THE STARS

Tick off another bucket list activity tonight as you sleep under the stars in a luxury tent in the Agafay Desert. Subject to availability, you will either stay at Inara or Scarabeo Camp. Both sies are truly magical and offer bivoac style tents complete with with panoramic views, an ultimate level of comfort and are all fitted with electricity outlets. There is much to see and do in the desert. From camel treks to jet skiing at the nearby Lalla Takerkoust Lake, your family can design their perfect experience. Speak to our Travel Experts for more information.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAYS 5 TO 7 SET YOUR OWN ITINERARY

At Rebali Riads, you can sit down with your hosts and discuss the activities you would like to schedule during your stay. We do not include these so you have complete control over what you would like to do and how active you would like to be.

The Activities available are: Camel trekking, Quad biking, Berber lunch, Farm tour and argan oil, Surfing (also wind-surfing and kite-surfing), horse riding and cookery lessons. For more details on these and an indication of local prices, please speak to one of our Family Travel Experts.

Lunch is included when you book certain activities.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 DEPARTURE

Tuck into a last Moroccan breakfast before being transferred to Marrakech Airport for your journey home. Please note that the transfer time is around 3 hours.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Spend a night in The Enchanting Marrakech Medina

If you would like to extend your trip and spend a night or two in the ancient heart of this vibrant city, please speak to one of our Travel Experts about your requirements and we will come back with the perfect riad for you! Many riads also have rooftop terraces with stunning views of the city. These are great places to relax and enjoy the sunset or people-watch.

The medina itself is a maze of narrow streets and alleyways, and it is easy to get lost. However, this is part of the charm of the medina and that extends to your arrival. Your transfer will drop you and your luggage off at the gates of the medina. One of the knowledgeable porters will put your luggage on their trolley and will take you straight to your riad. It is useful to pay attention to the route as it will help you get your bearings but your hosts will also be able to provide you with maps and directions once you are checked in.

Included Accommodation

Oasis Lodges (Nights: 1-3)





Discover the allure of Oasis Lodges in Marrakech, where traditional Moroccan elegance meets contemporary luxury. The thoughtfully designed accommodations are adorned with vibrant hues and authentic embellishments. Delight in serenity amidst lush gardens, a glistening pool, and an indulgent spa offering revitalising hammam rituals and massages or make a splash in the nearby waterpark. There is a non-licensed restaurant on-site and plenty of other options within walking distance of the property. If you'd like to venture into the enchanting Medina or Jemaa el-Fnaa, there is a complimentary shuttle bus service available.

ROOM TYPE

2 Bedroom Lodge

Offering luxury and comfort, the lodges comprise of two double or twin rooms, separate shower and toilet. teh living room is adorned with a fireplace and terrace with a view of the private garden. Equipped with a Smart TV, mini bar, espresso coffee machine, tea service, safe and hammock, a comfortable stay is beckoning. These lodges benefit from the following services: breakfast, entrance to the OASIRIA Park, daily bottle of water and a basket of seasonal fruit on the day of your arrival.

Your room type will be confirmed at the time of booking. All room types are subject to availability.

Inara or Scarabeo Camp (Nights: 4)





Enjoy a night under a star-studded sky in the Agafay Desert. You will spend an evening at either the Inara or Scarabeo Camp. Both sites offer a luxurious and intimate camping experience set against the

breathtaking backdrop of the canyons of the majestic Marrakech desert of Agafay.

Please note that the camp you are booked into will depend on availability.

Inara Camp facilities

- Sixth luxury camp designed and created by **Vincent Jaquet**
- 21-hectare plot
- On-site restaurant offering a delicious breakfast, lunch, and dinner

- 8 private dining tents offering authentic Moroccan cuisine and include entertainment with duo gnaoua, fire eater and henna tattoo each night

- 18 glamping tents, each measuring from 25 to 36m²
- Bio-designed heated swimming pool
- 24 hour night guard

- All excursions and activities are organised in partnership with local companies that respect a strict and rigorous code of ethics
- Animals are monitored by veterinary (vaccines, treatments, insurance) and perfectly fed

Inara Camp Glamping Suites

Your private glamping suite consists of a metal structure fixed on a wooden terrace and three layers of fabric for ultimate comfort.

The Glamping suites have the following facilities:

- King-size bed
- Lounge area
- En-suite facilities
- 24-hour electricity
- Orange blossom 'Les Sens de Marrakech' welcome products and Argan oil soap
- Hairdryer
- Fire extinguisher

Some suites also include a private terrace with sun lounger, double or twin bed, extra bed and cot and a wood stove

Scarabeo Camp facilities

- 360° views of the Agafay's barren grandeur and beyond to the snow-capped Atlas mountains
- Meals are served around a candlelit communal table
- 10 private rooms/suites/tents
- Swimming pool
- All excursions and activities are organised in partnership with local companies that respect a strict and rigorous code of ethics
- Animals are monitored by veterinary (vaccines, treatments, insurance) and perfectly fed

Scarabeo Camp Glamping Suites

Your private glamping suite consists of a metal structure fixed on a wooden terrace and three layers of fabric for ultimate comfort.

The Glamping suites have the following facilities:

- Thick white cotton tent
- Authentic décor, furnishings and lanterns
- Double or twin beds
- Lounge area
- Writing desk and facilities
- En-suite facilities housing western toilets and Berber shower facilities with one hot and one cold bucket of water
- Traditional black soap
- Two shower/tents with a "real shower" are available at the camp for everyone

Rebali Riads (Nights: 5-7)





White walls and bright interiors meet gleaming swimming pools and scattered greenery in this hotel, which takes after a ‘riad’, or traditional Moroccan house. ‘Paradise’ might be a better word, because it’s a place of sun-soaked luxury. There are seven private villas, each with fully-furnished kitchens, dining courtyards, and personal gardens. Four of these are larger and come with their own pool, while the three smaller buildings share two inter-connected pools between them. All have inviting roof terraces with all-round views of sand, sea and countryside. The main hotel has hammam and spa facilities, a tennis court, and a service kitchen with a full-time chef.

Hotel facilities

- With a full-time chef available on-request, you can look forward to gorgeous Moroccan specialities and European favourites served fresh in the dining area or by the pool
- Challenge the kids on the tennis court or try out a game of boules in the large shared garden. There's also a table tennis set and plenty of board games to keep the family entertained
- Get fully refreshed in the Moroccan hammam steam-room or go for a continental spa treatment. There is also a small gift shop in the reception building
- Read up on your next activity or look for something to book with the free Wi-Fi, which is available in reception and at certain hotspots around the riads

Room type

Each of the seven riads is uniquely designed, based around a dining courtyard area which is covered with a remote-controlled sliding glass roof. Each also has a fully decked-out kitchen and a roof terrace with 360° views of the surroundings.

Dar Azreq: This riad has two bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, each containing two basins. The bathroom attached to the main bedroom has a marble-lined bath and twin showers. As well as a personal roof terrace, Dar Azreq has a garden with a gated entrance to the shared pool area.

Dar Etoile: This has one master bedroom and a snug room which can be converted into a bedroom. The bathroom comes with twin showers and basins and a bath topped with marble. There is also a downstairs toilet. It also has a kitchen, dining courtyard, and sitting room with a fireplace. In addition, Dar Etoile has a private roof terrace and garden with a gated entrance to the shared pool area.

Dar Jeseli: This two bedroom riad has two ensuite bathrooms with twin basins; the main bedroom bathroom has double showers and a marble-lined bath. There is a private roof terrace and a garden with a gated entrance to the shared pool area.

Dar Mevada: This riad has three bedrooms – one is a master suite with a four-poster bed and ensuite bathroom; the other two share one bathroom which contains a marble-lined bath and a shower. There is a kitchen and dining courtyard, bar area, and sitting room. Outside there is a private pool, as well as a private roof terrace.

Riad Sila: This riad has three suites, each having its own balcony and bathroom with a shower, marble-topped bath, and twin basins. In the master suite, there is a four-poster bed and open-plan bathroom. Downstairs is a grand, high-ceilinged sitting room; this sits next to a snug room which can be converted into a fourth bedroom. The snug room has an open fire and access to the downstairs shower room. Riad Sila has its own pool and a private roof terrace.

Riad Valmar: The largest of the riads, this is based around three courtyards: one with a sliding glass roof and dining area; another with orange trees, a water fountain, and open space; and the last meeting the three sides of the swimming pool. The courtyards link up with the sitting room and cinema room. Upstairs are four suites, each with private terraces and ensuite bathrooms – containing twin basins and walk-in showers. Two are master suites containing four-poster beds, marble-topped baths, and twin showers. The cinema room can be converted into a fifth bedroom and has access to the downstairs shower room.

Dar Jamila: This three-bedroom riad is a few steps away from the main hotel building, slightly closer to the sea. The riad has an open plan living room with kitchen, breakfast bar, fireplace, TV and dining table. Outside there is a large terrace and private pool, as well as a private roof terrace with views of the sea. The master bedroom has a four-poster bed with en-suite bathroom, walk-in shower and twin basins. The second bedroom has a king size bed and the third has two twin beds. Both rooms have en-suite bathrooms with walk-in showers and twin basins.

Please note that the images above show a variety of accommodation options.

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 4; maximum 36 (approximately)

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum Numbers Required For A Holiday To Operate

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Artisan holiday is typically 8 years old (there may be younger children in some destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions