

Morocco Art Adventure



Casablanca-Rabat-Essaouira-Marrakech-Sahara Desert Apr.2-15, 2019

Morocco Art Adventure

with artist Karin Richter

April 2 - 15, 2019 \$ 5600 (no taxes)

with Montreal-Casablanca flight

Based on min.12 participants in double occupancy



Non-refundable deposit of \$500 is due on or before Oct. 2, 2018

Final balance is due on Feb. 2, 2019

Not included in this tour: Domestic flight to Montreal, meals not mentioned in itinerary; travel insurance; personal expenses.

Sketching sessions with Karin Richter

www.karinrichter.com



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WHAT IS INCLUDED?

LODGING Half Board 3 -4 star hotels/riads

- 2 nights in Casablanca
- 2 nights in Essaouira
- 4 nights in Marrakech
- 1 night in Ouarzazate
- 2 nights in Zagora
- 1 night in Desert Bivouac

** Lunch in Rick's Café - Casablanca**

TRANSPORT

- Ground transport in minibus
- Caleche ride in Marrakech
- Desert excursion in 4x4
- Dromedary in the desert
- Flight Montreal to Casablanca return from Zagora to Montreal.

SIGHT-SEEING

- Medinas- Rabat, Marrakech, Essaouira
- Ancient site of Chellalah
- Mausoleum Mohammed V
- La Skala Port- Essouira
- Day excursion to Ourika
- Majorelle Gardens- Marrakech
- Bahia Palace - Marrakech
- 14C Koranic University - Madersa
- Hassan II Mosque - Casablanca
- Ait Ben Haddou Kashbah Ouarzazate
- Argan Women's Cooperative
- Koran Library & Pottery Cooperative

*Water & Portage tips included
French/ Moroccan Guide - Zac*

h **Tour Itinerary • Art Adventure in Morocco**

Tuesday, April 2- In Flight Meeting of all participants at Montreal's Trudeau Airport at (the latest) 7pm to catch transatlantic flight to Casablanca, Morocco overnight. This direct flight is operated by Royal Air Maroc to Casablanca departing at 10pm.

Wednesday, April 3– Casablanca (L) Arrival at 9:30am at the Mohammed V Airport in Casablanca. Here you will be met by your French/Moroccan Guide, Zac. Morning visit to the Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca with a 200 m minaret and a roof that opens. This mosque is thought to be the 8th wonder of the modern world! Seafood lunch at Rick's Café. Time to sketch the Pacific Ocean. Check into the Hotel Club Val d'Anfa and take a stroll on the beach and a dip in the pool. Evening snack at the restaurant hotel before calling it an early night.

Thursday, April 4 - Casablanca (B,L) A 1 hour bus ride will take you through the Moroccan countryside to the Imperial City of Rabat on the Atlantic Coast. Morning visit to the ancient site of Chellalah for a SKETCH of ancient Roman ruins and stork towers. Visit the Mausoleum of Mohammed V and the Hassan II tower before enjoying a delightful lunch in a rose garden restaurant. Just across the street is the labyrinth of the Oudayas kasbah with its blue and white medina. Watch for the almond pastry delights, mint tea and henna artists. Time for individual sketching or reference photography. Return to Casablanca.

Friday, April 5 – Essaouira (B,D) Early morning departure for Essaouira, an 800-year-old port showing traces of Iberian influence in its forts and towers. Travel southbound on the autoroute to this seaside resort. Stop along the way for a light lunch at a seaside resort. Continue along the coast towards Safi for pottery before arriving at Essaouira. Enjoy an introductory walking tour of the Medina before dinner and overnight in the Riad Mimouna in Essaouira.

Saturday, April 6- Essaouira (B,D) From the Riad take a walking tour of the old medina including the market and a small colourful boutique where you will learn about the vibrant pigments of Morocco. Transfer to the old port and the Chalet de la Place where you can enjoy a fresh seafood lunch. Visit the old Portuguese port to SKETCH the blue, blue boats against the ancient ramparts. The local bluish purple shells once dyed the Pope's robes. Watch the sunset from the terrace of the Riad before dinner.

Sunday, April 7 Essaouira – Marrakech (B,D) Morning free to explore the medina of Essaouira to do some shopping or sketching. Departure at 13:30. On route to Marrakech we will stop at a women's cooperative for Argan Oil products. Keep an eye out for the goats on the Argan trees! Arrive in Marrakech, the "Pearl of the South" in the late afternoon. Check into the quaint Riad Catalina inside the Medina walls and savour the mint tea offered upon your arrival. Riads are former two-storey houses of the Moroccan upper and middle class with a centre courtyard and fountain. After checking in, enjoy the comfort of the Riad and a group meal with Moroccan salads and tagines within the cool walls of the garden – watch out for turtles! Within walking distance is the world-famous Djemaa Elfna. This is an open square spectacle with storytellers, soothsayers, fire-eaters, snake charmers and palm-readers all offering something to locals and tourists alike. Overnight at the Riad Catalina.

Monday, April 8 – Marrakech (B,D) Today is a full day to discover the Souks! Stop in at the Berber pharmacy to shop for spices and Moroccan remedies. Continue deeper into the souk to the Madersa, a 14th century Koran university. Lunch in the square. Make your way through the artisanal workshop alleys before entering the shopping district of this famous souk as you are introduced into the art of bargaining. Keep your eye out for leather, sweets, jewelry and lanterns. Dinner at the Riad Catalina.

Tuesday, April 9 – Marrakech (B,D) Visit the Bahia Palace where the Visar was housed with his 4 wives and 22 concubines. Transfer to the Majorelle Gardens, now managed by the Yves St. Laurent Foundation to be inspired by the exotic plants and to capture the beauty of the gardens with your camera or your on-site individual sketches. Take the calèche carriage ride back to the Kouboubia Mosque for SKETCH in the Rose Gardens. Dinner at the Riad.

Wednesday, April 10 – Marrakech (B,D) Today we will spend the day in the Berber countryside in the Ourika Valley heading towards the Cascades. One hour outside bustling Marrakech you will have an opportunity to SKETCH typical Berber architecture. This site is also a Berber artisan shop! Further on up the valley you will have a unique experience as you lunch in the middle of the river with your feet in the cool stream. Return to Marrakech for dinner. Optional Hammam, the Moroccan spa. Dinner and overnight in the Riad. Pack your bags for departure.

Thursday, April 11- Ouarzazate (B,D) Morning departure for the desert town of Ouarzazate. Enjoy spectacular scenery as you climb over the Atlas Mountains. Stop at the Ait Ben Haddou Kasbah for lunch. This is the scene for many Hollywood movies like Lawrence of Arabia and The Gladiator. Visit the 18C Kasbah in Ouarzazate. Check into the Riad Salam for a swim and buffet.

Friday, April 12– Zagora (B,D) Morning departure on a 3 hour drive through the stunning Atlas mountains of volcanic ash to Zagora, gateway to the Sahara Desert. Arrival at the Riad Lamane to relax and enjoy painting the Berber structures and palm trees of this Riad. Dinner and overnight in this luxurious Riad.

Saturday, April 13– Bivouac (desert tents) (B,D) Departure to the desert! Walk through the palm trees to the center of Zagora to a market to buy the Berber scarves. By 4x4 you will make a stop at the Koran Library and a pottery co-op before continuing the 40 min. drive into Midmid to the Hotel Azlay. Purchase a light lunch before taking a dip in the exotic pool! Learn to tie your turban before transferring to the sand dunes to take the dromedary for the trek into the desert to see the sunset. After this 1.5 hour trek you will arrive at the Bivouac or desert camp. Dinner in the common tent followed by a music performance by the Berber drummers. Enjoy your stay in the desert tent looking up at the stars.

Sunday, April 14– Zagora (B,D) After breakfast and more photography the 4x4 will transport you back to Zagora and for lunch at Riad Lamane. Relax this afternoon by the pool and SKETCH the beautiful surroundings. Option to visit a berber market to buy that Moroccan rug or other berber artifacts. Return to the Riad to have a farewell dinner on the roof top restaurant.

Monday, April 15 -Zagora - Casablanca/Flight (B) Morning flight from Zagora to Casablanca to await the flight back to Canada. Royal Air Maroc international flight back to Canada departs in the late afternoon - same day arrival.