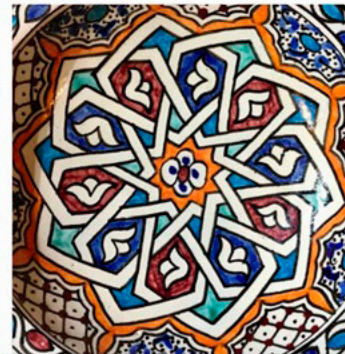


MOROCCO!



iCAN International
CERAMIC
ARTISTS
NETWORK

**ICAN presents:
Splendors of Morocco!
October 17–30, 2026**

Travel Morocco and discover its rich traditions of pottery, ceramics, and zellige (traditional mosaic). This tour will traverse Morocco from the imperial city of Marrakech, to Safi on the coast, then crossing the High Atlas Mountains to the Sahara in the South, to the ancient Medina of Fes in the North, then back to Marrakech. Visiting museums, busy souks (markets), and traditional artists working in clay, we will experience the wonderful world of Morocco. During this cultural tour with a focus on exploring Moroccan ceramics and crafts, you will gather ideas and inspiration for your work, visiting renowned regions known for their unique traditional styles such as Fes, Safi, Skoura Oasis, and the Rif Mountains.

Highlights of the tour include hands-on workshops:

- Design intricate and decorative zellige patterns in Fes.
- Handbuild pieces from locally sourced clay at the edge of the Sahara with a traditional third-generation potter, which will then be fired in his family's traditional wood kiln.
- Learn surface decoration and traditional decorating tools from the women potters of the Rif Mountains

We will end each day in luxurious, traditional guesthouses, and an overnight stay in a luxury, desert camp in the Sahara! You will enjoy the extraordinary delights of Amazigh (Berber) food and hospitality and traditional music performances. The warmth and good humor of the Moroccan people is immense, and the insights into the Islamic world, Amazigh spirituality, and contemporary life is fascinating. Traveling with a group of like-minded people and an experienced team of co-hosts, you'll be joining a program that offers an innovative and creative way to explore a new location that is stimulating, supportive, and safe.



Trip Highlights:

- Hands-on workshops in the Fes Pottery district
- Hands-on handbuilding pottery at Ouled Arabia pottery in Skoura Oasis
- Pottery demonstrations in Safi and the Rif Mountains
- Dar El Bacha Historic House and National Museum of Confluences
- Day trip to Safi National Ceramics Museum and pottery districts
- UNESCO World heritage Ksar of Ait Ben Haddou
- Traditional Amazigh (Berber) weaving workshops
- Guided tours of Fes Medina and Marrakech Medina
- Tours of Morocco's traditional artisan workshops: wood, leather, metal, ceramics, textiles, and more
- Spectacular landscape of the High Atlas, Middle Atlas, and Rif Mountains
- Skoura Oasis retreat and palmerie tour
- Erg Chebbi dunes (Sahara) and luxury camp
- Traditional architecture; Amazigh (Berber) Adobe Ksars and Kasbahs; Islamic traditional Riads and palaces

Included in the Registration:

- A small, friendly group of up to 24 guests
- English-speaking tour leader
- Experienced local guides who speak Arabic, Berber, French, and English
- Curated itinerary focused on ceramic arts and Moroccan culture
- Private air-conditioned vehicle with driver
- Accommodations in luxury, traditional guesthouse accommodation
- Workshop materials
- Airport transfers on the first day and last day to and from the Marrakech guesthouse
- All tours and admissions covering group sightseeing events

- Meals: 14 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 6 group dinners (includes water and Moroccan mint tea). Some lunches will be in a group setting, but not covered by the tour price.

Not Included in the Registration:

- Air flights to and from Morocco (arrive and depart in Marrakech)
- Lunches and dinners not noted in the itinerary (some lunches may be in a group setting but payment is the responsibility of the participant.)
- **Travel and health insurance (compulsory for this tour in Morocco)**
- Alcohol, mineral water, and soft drinks
- Personal expenses and personal purchases
- Shipping expenses (for any purchased items or ceramics you make)
- **Pre and post-tour accommodation**
- **Pre and post-tour airport transfers**

Daily Itinerary

Day 1 Saturday, October 17

Marrakech

Fly into Marrakech, where our guides will meet you at the airport on arrival and transfer you to the hotel to check in and freshen up after your journey.

5:00pm Meet in the hotel lounge area for introductions, orientation, and a briefing on tour details.

6:30pm Welcome dinner in a nearby restaurant with a 2-course dinner of traditional Moroccan fare.

Accommodation: Riad Dar Sara

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Sunday, October 18

Marrakech

Breakfast in the guesthouse

This morning we have a walking tour of the Medina with a City Guide. We visit cultural sites including the Marrakech Museum, a historic house resplendent with the finest traditional decorations. Originally built as a palace, the building incorporates Islamic, Andalusian, and Moorish architectural styles with intricate wood carvings, mosaics, and ornate stucco created by the best Moroccan artisans. The building now houses a range of exhibits that showcase the artistic traditions and cultural heritage of Morocco, including ceramics, textiles, weapons, and contemporary artworks. We also explore the artisanal souks (marketplace) with a broad range of hand crafts and we learn about traditional life in the old Medina. Our time in Marrakech will be an immersion into the culture and history of this amazing country.

Lunch will be free range near the Jemaa El Fna square where we can make suggestions for local cafes or restaurants. Walk back to the guesthouse after lunch with the tour leaders or continue exploring and find your own way.

Free afternoon to explore the Medina.

Dinner tonight will be on your own.

Accommodation: Riad Dar Sara

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 Monday, October 19

Marrakech, Safi Day Trip

Breakfast in the guesthouse

Depart for day trip to Safi (3 hours drive from Marrakech) on the Atlantic coast, we visit a major pottery region where artisans work with a very red-colored, local clay, making traditional cooking vessels and tableware with intricate, painted decoration. Safi is also home to the National Pottery Museum with beautiful displays of ancient and contemporary pottery from all regions of Morocco. We will visit the museum, the ancient traditional pottery district in the old Medina of Safi, the pottery souk (market), followed by a contemporary government-run pottery production facility. Lunch will be provided. Return to Marrakech late afternoon.

Dinner tonight will be on your own.

Accommodation: Riad Dar Sara

Meals: Breakfast, lunch

Day 4 Tuesday, October 20

Marrakech, Skoura Oasis

Breakfast in the guesthouse

Depart early to transfer across the High Atlas Mountains over the highest mountain pass of Tizi-n-Tichka to our destination at Skoura Oasis (approx. 6-hour drive). We will break the drive for lunch and to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou, an ancient walled adobe village and the location for many famous movies such as Gladiator, Game of Thrones, and more. We have a guided tour of this unique historic site followed by a visit to a local carpet cooperative where we can see the women weaving traditional Amazigh (Berber) rugs and relish in the color and pattern of traditional carpets from many regions of Morocco. The women will prepare a traditional couscous dish for lunch in their home. This is a good opportunity to find that special souvenir of Morocco from an ethical vendor and an excellent shipping service, before continuing to our destination at Skoura Oasis.

Accommodation: Auberge Chez Talout

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 5 Wednesday, October 21

Skoura Oasis

Breakfast in the guesthouse

An exciting day, after breakfast we walk 5 minutes to the nearby pottery in the Oasis village of Ouled Arabia where a multi-generational family dynasty continues to produce a variety of traditional wood fired vessels, clay ovens, and decorative lanterns using local clay. We drink tea with Mohamed and see a demonstration of his craftsmanship and in-ground kiln, visit a local women's textile association, then return to our guesthouse for lunch.

Workshop: After lunch, we start working on our own creations! We will have a hands-on session with Mohamed, handbuilding a form using the local clay. This is an opportunity to feel the consistency of the local clay and create a piece inspired by your new experiences of the culture and history of Morocco. These pieces will later be fired by Mohamed in his simple wood-fired kiln built by his grandfather many years ago, which continues to be used by the third generation of the family. We will be reunited with our pots at the end of the tour.

Accommodation: Auberge Chez Talout

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 6 Thursday, October 22

Skoura Oasis

Breakfast in the guesthouse

A free day to rest and relax after a busy few days. After breakfast we will go for a walk with a local guide through the Oasis gardens (approx. 2 miles) where we learn about local life, subsistence farming, and how the local village communities work cooperatively to maintain a very traditional lifestyle. Return to the guesthouse for lunch and spend the afternoon relaxing by the pool enjoying the beautiful garden with terraces and views to both the High Atlas and Low Atlas Mountains. In the afternoon a local guide will be available for people who would like another walk to visit the nearby Amridil Museum housed in a 17th-century kasbah (approx. 2 miles each way).

Accommodation: Auberge Chez Talout

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Day 7 Friday, October 23

Skoura Oasis, Erg Chebbi dunes luxury camp

Breakfast in the guesthouse

Off to the Sahara! (approx. 6 hour drive.) In the morning, we can check on our pots as they dry before we drive to Merzouga and the Erg Chebbi dunes. We will drive through the Rose Valley and Dades Valley, otherwise known as the Valley of 1,000 Kasbahs. We will make several stops along the way to break the drive including visiting a unique local museum that has a focus on traditional rural life in Morocco, then on to a fossil display where we learn more about the geology of the Sahara that was once the ocean floor!

In the village of Merzouga we leave behind our bus and take a short drive in 4WD vehicles to our luxury camp for the night. (Note: you will need a small overnight bag with essentials only for this night. Our luggage will be secure with the bus and security staff.)

Accommodation: Riad Serai luxury camp

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Day 8 Saturday, October 24

Erg Chebbi, Merzouga

Breakfast in camp

Rise early to watch the sun rise over the dunes of the Sahara. We depart our camp after breakfast and take a scenic drive around the dunes and see some nomad encampments. With luck we can stop and meet a local nomad family and learn something about their traditional lifestyle. We then drive to the village of Khamlia where we will visit a Gnawa music troupe for a short performance. Lunch will be at a local cafe where we will enjoy a special traditional dish of Medfouna (Amazigh calzone). After lunch we make our way (15-minute drive) to our exquisite guesthouse on the dune line where we can relax for the afternoon beside the pool or walk in the dunes.

Accommodation: Riad Serai

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Day 9 Sunday, October 25

Merzouga, Fes

Breakfast in the guesthouse

We depart early to drive north to Fez (approx. 7–8 hours). A long but spectacular drive through the incredible landscape of the Ziz Valley, the High Atlas Mountains, and the Middle Atlas Mountains, home of the Barbary apes. The sublime landscape offers plenty of scope for your imagination and design elements for ceramics.

Free range for dinner - you can eat in at the Riad or venture out to various restaurants in the old Medina.

Accommodation: in the old Medina of Fes

Meals: breakfast

Day 10 Monday, October 26

Fes

Breakfast in the guesthouse

We commence on a morning guided tour of the oldest Medina in the Islamic world, operating for 1000 years. We visit the Jewish Mellah, the spectacular gates of the Imperial Palace, and wander the streets to see the cultural highlights, historic buildings, the famous leather tannery, artisanal weaving workshops, along with the wood and metal souks.

Lunch at a restaurant in the Medina.

Workshops: After lunch we visit Art Naji, a traditional Pottery where we will see the highly skilled artisans at work throwing a range of vessels and hand-painting glazes in elaborate, highly decorative patterns. The workshop also produces exquisite zellige (mosaics) including furniture, fountains, and a range of diverse objects. After a tour of the facility, we will participate in 2 workshops with skilled artisans.

Workshop 1: Observe local master artisans as they demonstrate how they mark out and apply complex geometric designs for traditional decorative glazing, and then try your hand at decorating a small vessel or form (duration: 45 minutes).

Workshop 2: Work with local artisans as they demonstrate how they create complex traditional mosaics for architectural decoration, tables, and fountains before trying your hand at assembling your own small souvenir mosaic panel (duration 45 minutes).

While we wait for our mosaic panels to set, you will have time to explore the fabulous range of pottery and mosaics created by the artisans of Art Naji. This is where it is possible to have purchases shipped home with a reliable packaging and shipping service.

Return to the guesthouse. Free range for dinner - you can eat in at the Riad or venture out to various restaurants in the old Medina.

Accommodation: in the old Medina of Fes

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11 Tuesday, October 27

Fes, Rif Mountains Day Trip

Breakfast in the guesthouse

We depart for a 2.5 hour drive north through the Rif Mountains where local women continue an age old tradition creating simple domestic pottery that is hand built and fired on the ground using animal dung as fuel. We

will visit a local family who live on a small farm for a demonstration of their craft. Their simple clay forms are decorated with traditional motifs. The techniques used have not changed for millennia and are seeing a revival in recent times as interest in the handmade returns. The women will also prepare a simple home-cooked lunch of couscous with chicken and vegetables.

Free range for dinner - you can eat in at the Riad or venture out to various restaurants in the old Medina.

Accommodation: in the old Medina of Fes

Meals: Breakfast and lunch

Day 12 Wednesday, October 28

Fes , Marrakech

Breakfast in the guesthouse

We depart Fes to return to Marrakech (approx. 6–7 hours) where, with luck, we will be reunited with our Skoura pots!

Free range for dinner.

Accommodation: Riad Dar Sara

Meals: Breakfast

Day 13 Thursday, October 29

Marrakech

Breakfast in the guesthouse

A free day to explore Marrakech or take up one of the optional extras on offer, or relax at the guesthouse.

Optional extra activities include:

- Relaxing traditional hammam (Turkish-style bath) spa experience; massage; facial; manicure
- Traditional cooking class in Marrakech can be arranged on free days (price includes meal; price subject to number of participants)
- Hire a personal city guide to help you find your way around to cultural sites or shopping in the Medina (price subject to number of participants)
- Visit other nearby cultural highlights and contemporary art galleries
- Venture into the 'new town' of Gueliz to see Jardin Majorelle (The glorious Jardin Majorelle where you can discover the famous garden and see the private collection of Yves St Laurent at the Musée Berbère. The YSL museum dedicated to the fashion design of Yves St Laurent and changing exhibitions is next door. Tickets for this activity can be purchased online and the two museums are a short taxi ride from our guesthouse.
- Hot air ballooning
- Calligraphy

Each activity is available for an extra fee and will need to be arranged and paid for prior to the start of the tour. The activities, along with pre- or post-tour airport transfers and accommodations, can be arranged through ICAN's tour partner following registration.

Tonight we will share a farewell dinner together at a nearby restaurant.

Accommodation: Riad Dar Sara

Meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Day 14 Friday, October 30

Marrakech

Breakfast in the guesthouse

Tour ends after breakfast. Marrakech airport transfers are included on this day.

Meals: Breakfast

Important Travel Information

- **IMPORTANT** This tour will include a **SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF WALKING** including climbing stairs, and navigating uneven ground, and is not recommended for those who have difficulty walking for long distances, over moderately difficult terrain, in warmer climates, and at a swift pace. Each leg of the tour is time sensitive and will we need to keep moving.
- This tour contains a lot of bus
-
- Following registration, participants will be given information to contact the tour partner to arrange additional pre- or post-tour airport transfers and pre- or post-tour accommodations, if you wish to stay at the same guesthouses.
- This tour does not include a separate non-potter tour. Registered potters may bring along a non-potter companion, and they can choose to participate or watch the hands-on workshops, or take freetime to relax and explore on their own.
- All participants must obtain international travel and medical insurance to participate in the tour. This is compulsory per our tour partner.
- All passports must be valid for six following the final day of the tour.
- All tour inquiries should be directed to the ICAN manager, Holly Goring, at hgoring@ceramics.org or 614-895-4213.
- Itinerary is subject to change.