



# SPLENDORS OF MOROCCO

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**ICAN EVENTS**  
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**September 27–October 11**

Join ICAN and a small group of ceramic artists as we journey through souks, kasbahs, tiled palaces, the High Atlas Mountains, and the wide open Sahara desert. Highlights include hands-on workshops with local ceramic artists, traditional glazing demos, and group wood firing in an old family kiln.

Contact Holly Goring, ICAN Manager, at [hgoring@ceramics.org](mailto:hgoring@ceramics.org) or 614-895-4213. Learn more at [ceramicartsnetwork.org/events](http://ceramicartsnetwork.org/events).

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**ICAN presents:**  
**Splendors of Morocco!**  
September 27–October 11, 2022

Travel Morocco and discover the world of pottery, ceramics, and zellige (traditional mosaic). This tour will traverse Morocco from the capital city of Rabat to the ancient Medina of Fes in the North, then to the imperial city of Marrakech before crossing the High Atlas Mountains to the Sahara in the South. Visiting museums, busy souks (markets), and traditional artisans working in clay, we will experience the wonderful world of Morocco. During this cultural tour with a focus on exploring Moroccan ceramics, 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 Tamegroute.

Highlights of the tour include hands-on workshops: experience intricate and decorative glazing designs in Fes and at the edge of the Sahara we work with a traditional artisan to handbuild pieces with local clay, which will be fired in a traditional wood kiln.

We will end each day in luxurious, traditional guesthouses, and even an overnight luxury, desert camp in the Sahara while we wait for our pots to dry! You will enjoy the extraordinary delights of Amazigh (Berber) food and hospitality, including a traditional music performance. 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 place that is stimulating, supportive, and safe.



### Trip Highlights:

- Hands-on ceramic glazing workshop in the world-renowned Fes Pottery district
- Hands-on handbuilding pottery and wood firing at Ouled Arabia pottery in Skoura Oasis
- Pottery demonstrations in Safi and Tamegroute
- Yves St Laurent Jardin Majorelle and the Musee Berbere
- Dar Si Said Historic House and National Textiles Museum
- Day trip to Safi National Ceramics Museum and pottery district
- UNESCO World heritage Ksar of Ait Ben Haddou
- Ouled Driss Kasbah Museum
- Traditional Amazigh (Berber) weaving workshops
- Guided tours of Fes and Marrakech Medinas
- The Roman ruins and mosaics of Volubilis
- Tours of Morocco's traditional artisan workshops: wood, leather, metal, ceramics, textiles, and more
- Spectacular landscape of the High Atlas Mountains and Sahara
- Skoura Oasis and the Draa Valley Oasis
- Erg Chigaga dunes 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 guide
- English-speaking Amazigh (Berber) guide
- Curated itinerary focused on ceramic arts and Moroccan culture
- Private air-conditioned vehicle with driver
- 14 nights' accommodations in luxury, traditional guesthouse accommodation
- Workshop materials
- Airport transfer on the first day from Casablanca airport to Rabat

- Airport transfer to the last day from Marrakech to the airport
- All tours and admissions covering group sightseeing events
- Meals: 15 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 9 group dinners (includes water and Moroccan mint tea)

### **Not Included in the Registration:**

- Air flights to and from Morocco (arrive in Casablanca, depart Marrakech)
- 12 lunches, 6 dinners
- 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: Rabat**

Fly in to Casablanca where our guides will meet you at the airport on arrival to arrange for your transfer to the hotel in Rabat (approx. 1.5 hours drive). Use the afternoon following your arrival to check in and freshen up after traveling. At 5pm we meet in the lounge area for introductions, orientation, and a briefing on the tour details. Then we will go out for a group dinner together at a nearby restaurant overlooking the BouRegreg river.

*Accommodation: Dar El Kebira & Dar El Kebira Salam*

*Meals: breakfast*

### **Day 2: Fes via Volubilis**

After breakfast we depart for Fes driving east through the Imperial City of Meknes and the ancient Roman ruins at Volubilis. We will take a guided tour of the archeological site learning about the history of the Romans in Morocco and the famous mosaics depicting Roman Gods and ancient life that inspired the Moroccan decorative arts, before continuing to Fes for three nights. We will have a group dinner together at a nearby historic house serving traditional food and music.

*Accommodation: Riad El Yacout*

*Meals: breakfast and dinner*

### **Day 3: Fes**

9:30am Our morning guided tour is in 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, artisan weaving workshops, and the wood and metal souks.

**Ceramic Workshop:** After lunch we visit a traditional Pottery where we will see the highly skilled artisans at work throwing a range of vessels as well 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 a workshop with a skilled artisan to explore traditional decorative designs and glazes.

**Non-potters:** During the workshop you will an opportunity for some free time to explore the Medina, do a cooking workshop, have a hammam or massage, visit the Batha Museum, and/or Andalusian garden.

Dinner tonight will be on your own. Venture into the Medina for some local fare or you can arrange to eat in if you place your order with the guesthouse in the morning.

*Accommodation: Riad El Yacout*

*Meals: breakfast*

#### **Day 4: Fes**

A free day to explore the old Medina of Fes, have a cooking class, do some shopping, visit the nearby Batha Museum and Andalusian garden or have a relaxing massage or traditional Hammam (Turkish-style bath). In the Medina you can do some shopping and seek out traditional Koranic schools and museums. Lunch and dinner on your own.

*Accommodation: Riad El Yacout*

*Meals: breakfast*

#### **Day 5: Marrakech**

Today we continue our travels and drive to the imperial city of Marrakech arriving to the hustle and bustle of this dynamic city. We take an evening walk in the Medina before dinner to stretch our travel legs and take in the atmosphere of this unique old Medina before we have dinner at our guesthouse.

*Accommodation: Riad Ksar Anika*

*Meals: breakfast and dinner*

#### **Day 6: Marrakech**

9:30am this morning we have a walking tour of the Medina with a city guide. We visit cultural sites including Dar Si Said, a historic house resplendent with the finest traditional mosaics and exquisite decorations, which also houses the National Textiles Collection, followed by the artisanal souks (market place) with a broad range of crafts including ceramics from all regions of Morocco. Our time in Marrakech will be a further immersion into culture and history. After lunch we go to Gueliz (the New Town) outside of the old Medina to visit the glorious Jardin Majorelle where we can enjoy the famous garden and see the private collection of Yves St Laurent at the Musée Berbère. Dinner tonight will be on your own.

*Accommodation: Riad Ksar Anika*

*Meals: breakfast*

#### **Day 7: Marrakech**

Optional day:

Free day in Marrakech

or

A day trip to Safi: 3 hours drive from Marrakech on the Atlantic coast. We visit another pottery region where artisans work with a very red colored local clay, making traditional cooking vessels and tableware with intricate painted decoration. Safi also has the National Pottery Museum with beautiful displays of ancient and contemporary pottery from all the regions of Morocco.

*Accommodation: Riad Ksar Anika*

*Meals: breakfast*

#### **Day 8: Skoura Oasis**

Today we have an early departure to transfer across the High Atlas Mountains over the highest mountain pass of Tizi-n-Tichka to our destination at Skoura Oasis. 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 before continuing to our destination at Skoura Oasis. We will stop for mint tea at a local carpet cooperative where we can see the women weaving traditional Amazigh (Berber) rugs and relish in the color and pattern of traditional weavings from many regions of Morocco. This is a good opportunity to find that special souvenir of Morocco from an ethical vendor and excellent shipping service if you wish.

*Accommodation: Auberge Chez Talout*

*Meals: breakfast and dinner*

### **Day 9: Skoura Oasis**

An exciting day, after breakfast we walk 5 minutes to the nearby pottery in the Oasis village of Ouled Arabia where a family continues to produce a variety of traditional wood-fired vessels, clay ovens, and decorative lanterns using the local clay. We drink tea with the family, watch a pottery demonstration, and then start working on our own creations! We will have a hands-on session handbuilding a form with the intention to fire the piece in a few days time. The simple kiln built by the grandfather many years ago continues to be used by the third generation of the family.

(Non-potters: This is an opportunity for some free time to relax by the pool or visit the nearby Amridil Museum)

*Accommodation: Auberge Chez Talout*

*Meals: breakfast, lunch, and dinner*

### **Day 10: Zagora**

Off to the the Sahara! In the morning we check on our pots as they dry before we drive south over the Anti-Atlas Mountains along the Draa Valley to reach the regional city of Zagora. Lunch will be at a restaurant located in Kasbah Tamnougalt, a traditional adobe village with spectacular views of the Draa Valley and Jebel Sahro Mountains. Accommodation will be at a unique African-themed resort with extensive gardens full of sculptures, ethnic objects, and a poolside bar.

*Accommodation: Riad Lamane*

*Meals: breakfast and dinner*

### **Day 11: Erg Chigaga Dunes**

On this day we head for our luxury camp in the dunes of the Sahara at Erg Chigaga. We visit the village of Tamegroute, famous for it's traditional pottery where we will have a guided tour of the workshops that produce a range of domestic tableware and special roof tiles. The ancient green glaze technique is believed to comprise of silica, manganese, and copper and when wood fired, produces a unique, rich green hue with great surface textures and variation. Next, we leave our bus and take 4WD vehicles to reach the desert camp for the night. Walk in the dunes and see the sunset over the Sahara. Dine under the stars with a traditional music serenade. Luxury accommodation is provided in comfortable tents with en suite bathroom facilities.

*Accommodation: Riad Lamane luxury camp*

*Meals: breakfast, lunch, and dinner*

### **Day 12: Zagora**

Emerging from the dunes we head back to Zagora stopping to visit a museum in the village of Ouled Driss. Housed in an ancient adobe kasbah, the museum is hidden away among the narrow covered alleys that protect pedestrians from the heat of the sun in this remote Saharan village. Next we visit another 17th-century kasbah and ancient workshop in the village of Amzrou where traditional artisans forge jewelery,

*Accommodation: Riad Lamane*

*Meals: breakfast, lunch, and dinner*

### **Day 13: Skoura Oasis**

We drive back along the Draa Valley returning to the pottery in Skoura Oasis to check on our drying pots and prepare for the firing, weather permitting (but as we are in the Sahara it is very unlikely that it will rain!) The family of potters will fire up the kiln in the afternoon, tend the fire for approximately 4 hours, then wait for it to cool over night.

*Accommodation: Auberge Chez Talout*

*Meals: breakfast and dinner*

### **Day 14: Marrakech**

We pick up our fired pots in the morning and then return to Marrakech via the Tizi'n'Tichka Pass, stopping for lunch at a local cafe and an Argan oil association where the women will demonstrate the complex process of pro-

ducing both culinary and cosmetic oils. The tour concludes with a celebration with a review of our ceramic work and discussion about ideas and inspiration gleaned from our journey.

*Accommodation: Riad Ksar Anika*

*Meals: breakfast and farewell dinner at the guesthouse.*

### **Day 15: Marrakech**

After breakfast, guests will be transferred to the Marrakech airport.

## **Important Travel Information**

- **IMPORTANT** This trip will include a **SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF WALKING** including climbing stairs, and is not recommended for those who have difficulty walking for long distances and at a swift pace including stairs and steep inclines. Each leg of the tour is time sensitive and will we need to keep moving.
- The tour starts in Rabat and ends in Marrakech. We recommend flying into Casablanca airport (which includes a shuttle transfer to Rabat) and departing from Marrakech. However, transfers to Casablanca airport (a 3.5 hour drive from Marrakech) on the final day can be arranged for you at an additional cost to you.
- Participants may contact the tour partner following registration to arrange 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. Should registered potters want to bring along a non-potter companion, our tour partner can help arrange optional extra activities during the ceramic workshops. These additional activities will be at the non-potter's expense.
- Passports must be valid for 6 months after you have completed your travel. This rule is strictly enforced by the Moroccan Customs Control.
- COVID-19 vaccinations are mandatory to participate in this tour and enter the Kingdom of Morocco.
- All participants must obtain international travel and medical insurance to participate in the tour. This is compulsory per our tour partner.
- All tour inquiries should be directed to the ICAN manager, Holly Goring, at [hgoring@ceramics.org](mailto:hgoring@ceramics.org) or 614-895-4213.
- The itinerary is sometimes subject to change.