Gardens of Marrakech and the Atlas Mountains



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Worldwide holidays	Morocco	1	1299kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Like lush green oases appearing out of nowhere against North Africa's stark desert landscape, Moroccan gardens are magical. Guided by an expert horticulturalist, this tour reveals the age-old skills and gardening alchemy that have helped locals thrive in one of the world's most unforgiving climates. From peaceful garden sanctuaries hidden in the middle of bustling Marrakech to art-inspired havens beneath the snow-capped Atlas Mountains, every stop will inspire lovers of the exotic. Highlights include Jardin Majorelle's bold colours and Cubist designs, the jasmine-scented grounds of Bahia Palace, and André Heller's otherworldly Anima Garden. We'll also visit a saffron farm and enjoy a Berber cooking class using freshly picked ingredients.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Exploring the iconic Jardin Majorelle gardens once home to the famous fashion designer Yves Saint-Laurent
- A tour of Le Jardin Secret created by award-winning garden designer Tom Stuart-Smith
- Visiting artist André Heller's opulent, 3-hectare botanical garden with views of the Atlas Mountains

- A traditional Berber cooking class inside a secret garden including lunch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Fully escorted travel and excursions with a Horticultural Specialist Tour Manager
- 7 nights' bed and breakfast at the 5-star Kenzi Rose Garden Hotel
- 7 dinners including 5 at the hotel and 2 in local restaurants
- A soft drink, plus water, tea and coffee included with dinner
- All transport to and from sites of interest
- All entrance fees and guided visits as per the itinerary including Jardin Majorelle, André Heller's Anima Garden, and a traditional cooking class including lunch
- Return Flights from London including baggage and transfers

ITINERARY - ITINERARY

Day 1 **Arrival in Marrakech**

Fly from London to Marrakech. On arrival, we transfer to our hotel, with time to settle in before getting to know your fellow travellers over dinner.

Day 2 **Jardin Majorelle, YSL Museum and Marrakech Palaces**

After breakfast, we begin our day at the iconic Jardin Majorelle, where bold blue architecture, exotic planting, and shaded pathways create one of Marrakech's most memorable garden settings. We then continue to the Yves Saint Laurent Museum, which celebrates the creativity, influence, and legacy of one of fashion's great visionaries.

In the afternoon, we step into Marrakech's regal past with a visit to Bahia Palace. This masterpiece of Moroccan craftsmanship combines grand courtyards adorned with decorative tilework and peaceful garden spaces planted with fragrant orange and cypress trees.

We'll also visit El Badi Palace. Once among the most magnificent palaces in the world, its ruins provide a hauntingly beautiful reminder of Morrocco's golden age.

Day 3 **Anima Garden, Saffron Plantation and Nectarome**

This morning we visit André Heller's Anima Garden, a wonderfully imaginative space where art, nature, and design combine beneath the dramatic backdrop of the snow-capped Atlas Mountains.

We then continue to a local saffron plantation, where we'll learn about the cultivation, colour, fragrance, and heritage of one of the world's most precious spices.

Later, we spend time at Nectarome, a sensory garden dedicated to aromatic plants, traditional Moroccan wellness therapies, and natural beauty treatments. Returning to the hotel, there's time to relax before dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4 Free Day in Marrakech

Today is free to explore Marrakech at your own pace.

You may like to wander through the bustling medina, where souks overflow with colour, craft, and the scent of spices. Pause for mint tea in a shaded courtyard, visit one of the city's museums or historic sites, or seek out a peaceful garden tucked behind ancient walls. However you choose to spend the day, it's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy Marrakech your way.

Day 5 Herb Garden and Berber Cooking Class

Step into a hidden garden where we'll learn about the healing plants, aromatic herbs, and long-standing traditions that have shaped life here for generations. Guided by local experts, we'll gather fresh ingredients before taking part in a hands-on Berber cooking class.

Together, we'll prepare classic dishes filled with fragrant spices and flavours, before sitting down to enjoy our meal in peaceful garden surroundings.

Day 6 Menara Gardens, Jnane Harti and Le Jardin Secret

After breakfast, we explore three of Marrakech's most captivating green spaces, beginning with the historic Menara Gardens. Here, olive groves stretch towards the Atlas Mountains, and a tranquil reflecting pool captures the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

We then continue to Jnane Harti, a peaceful city garden with shaded walkways and a slower pace that offers sanctuary from the bustle of Marrakech.

Our day ends at Le Jardin Secret, a restored oasis in the heart of the medina. The traditional Islamic design, flowing water, and carefully considered planting, of this elegant garden offers a quiet space for harmony and reflection. Returning to the hotel, there will be free time to freshen up before dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 7 Cactus Thiemann and Jnane Tamsna

Today we discover two very different examples of Marrakech's garden artistry.

At Cactus Thiemann, we explore a striking landscape filled with one of the world's most impressive collections of cacti and succulents. Bold, sculptural, and highly distinctive, it's a fascinating contrast to the city's more traditional gardens.

We then visit Jnane Tamsna, where Moroccan design meets contemporary style. With lush planting, shaded courtyards, and thoughtful details throughout, it's a sophisticated oasis of colour and calm and a fitting end to our Moroccan garden odyssey.

Day 8 Departure

After breakfast, we transfer to Marrakech airport for our return flight to London.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Gentle walking grade 1

Short, easy walks on level paths with no stiles. Ideal for relaxed walking and active sightseeing. Typically, 2-3 miles (3-5km) or less, with little if any ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

Kenzi Rose Garden Hotel

Set within beautifully landscaped gardens in Marrakech's Hivernage district, Kenzi Rose Garden Hotel offers a luxurious oasis close to the city's top attractions. This stylish five-star hotel combines contemporary comfort with traditional Moroccan hospitality. Spacious, well-appointed bedrooms are arranged amongst palm-filled grounds and are equipped with air conditioning, safe, minibar, hairdryer and TV. A range of Moroccan and international cuisine is served in the hotel's three restaurants. After a day of exploring unwind beside one of the hotel's swimming pools, indulge in the spa and hammam, or simply relax amongst the fragrant gardens.

VACCINATIONS & HEALTH

Vaccinations & health information

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see whether any health precautions are needed for your trip. Health advice and requirements can change, so we recommend doing this in good time before travel.

As a general rule, travellers should ensure they are up to date with routine UK vaccinations and boosters, including, for example, MMR and diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Some countries may require you to have specific vaccinations such as Malaria, Rabies and Yellow Fever. Please check with your GP if you are unsure.

Please note that the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is restricted or banned in certain countries. If you will be carrying medication, you should check with the relevant embassy or consulate before travelling. As an extra precaution, we recommend keeping medication in its original packaging, carrying a copy of your prescription, and, where possible, asking your pharmacist to provide the medication name in the language of the country you are visiting.

For further country-specific health advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk. If you are travelling from outside the UK, please consult your own doctor and check local entry requirements.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

Passport & Visa information

This information is for those travelling with a full 'British Citizen' passport; for all other nationalities or passport holders, please check with your local consulate for advice.

Passport Requirements

This information applies to travellers holding a full British Citizen passport. Entry requirements vary by destination and can change at short notice. For most EU and worldwide destinations, passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay. Some countries also require a minimum period of validity remaining on your passport (often up to 6 months beyond your return date), even if you are not staying that long.
We strongly recommend ensuring your passport has at least six months' validity remaining at the time of travel to avoid any issues.

If you hold a different type of British passport or a passport issued by another country, you must check the requirements with the relevant embassy, consulate, or official government website.

Visa Requirements

Visa rules depend on your nationality, destination, length of stay, and purpose of travel, and they can change frequently. It is your responsibility to check whether you require a visa before travelling.
British passport holders should check the latest entry, passport validity and visa requirements for their destination on the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website:
https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Swimcap (compulsory in Itialian resorts)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags

- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device (excluding Bhutan, Georgia and India)

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS (WITH FLIGHTS)

With flights

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from selected UK airports* to your destination. For latest flight times and prices please call us on 0203-974-8865 or email reservations@hfholidays.co.uk

If you choose to book your flights with us, we automatically include return transfers between the destination airport and hotel.

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS (WITHOUT FLIGHTS)

Without flights

If you are booking on a land-only basis, you can join the group transfer at an additional cost. To do so, your arrival and departure times must be in line with the scheduled group flight timings. Guests travelling at different times will need to arrange their own transfers. Please contact us before booking to discuss the available options and costs.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so before you travel.

For more information about healthcare and its costs, please visit: https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/

Drinking Water

Drinking Water

Standards for drinking water vary widely around the world. In many destinations, tap water may not be safe to drink, brush your teeth with, or use for making ice. Where advised, you should drink only bottled or treated water and ensure that bottle seals are intact before use. If bottled water is unavailable, water should be boiled or filtered.

Staying well hydrated is particularly important in hot climates and during active holidays. Carry water with you and drink regularly.

If you are unsure about local water safety, check official country-specific health advice before travel, or ask your accommodation or local guides for guidance once you arrive.

What to Wear In Morocco

Morocco is a Muslim country. Whilst many places we visit are generally accepting of Western attire (you will see Moroccans wearing all styles!), traditional views are still held in smaller villages and in the medinas of the cities.

On your trip we advise you to dress modestly and respectfully. Both men and women should aim to cover their shoulders and knees, especially if visiting religious sites or rural areas. Opt for loose-fitting and conservative clothing to show respect for local customs and traditions.

Ticks information

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease/

TRIPNOTE VALIDITY

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred. In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary. The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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