



**EXPLORING MOROCCAN CRAFTS  
INSIDER'S TRIP TO MOROCCO FOR JRACRAFT  
OCTOBER 4-14, 2026**

**INCLUDING:  
TANGIERS, RABAT, FEZ, MEKNES, VOLUBILIS, CASABLANCA & MARRAKECH  
CRAFT, ART, CULTURE & GARDENS**



*Located in North Africa, Morocco embraces the Atlantic and Mediterranean coast and is distinguished by its Berber, Arab and European influences. The Moroccan medinas, so mysterious and preserved, invite you to discover treasures hidden behind high ocher walls. It is an authentic Morocco, so fascinating and unique in the world that never ceases to amaze. The cities of Rabat, Fez and Marrakech as well as numerous sites in Morocco are on the UNESCO World Heritage List. We will also visit Tangiers home of top European interior decorators & authors, that boasts some of the best gardens of Morocco. Travelling with Moroccan expert Sofia Barroso, we will have an insider's view of the country and access to lovely private homes.*

## • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3: USA – MADRID-TANGIERS.

### Travel day.

Suggested flight: Iberia/American Airlines.

IB4000 Departure JFK 8:00 PM

*Please note that Around Art is not a travel agency; we provide suggestions for flights, but you should contact your local travel agent to find the best alternative in terms of price and schedules. Iberia and American Airlines operate in code share*

## 1. SUNDAY OCTOBER 4: TANGIERS.

AM.

You will land at Madrid–Barajas Airport at 8:15 a.m., where you will meet **Zora Elhajji**, your lecturer and tour leader. The suggested Iberia flight departs Madrid at 11:25 a.m., arriving in Tangier at 12:55 p.m. Upon arrival, transfer by bus to **Riad Mokhtar**, located in the Medina of Tangier. Enjoy finger food on arrival while checking into your rooms for a three-night stay.

### RIAD MOKHTAR

(3 nights)

Palace Aharrar

31 rue de la

Kasbah

Tangiers.

Tel. + 212 5393 36666



2

**Around  
ART**

*Tangier has long been a magnet for diplomats, painters, traders, writers, dreamers, stoners, smugglers, and spies. In the last century, the city has been a full- and part-time home to an eccentric assortment of creative residents and travelers including Eugène Delacroix, Henri Matisse, Edith Wharton, Tennessee Williams, Paul Bowles, Barbara Hutton, Cecil Beaton, William S. Burroughs, Patricia Highsmith, and Yves Saint Laurent. All of them basked in the warm — sometimes decadent — romantic allure of Morocco’s most northern outpost. The*

city's complicated, contentious history matches its diverse vistas and uneven topography. It has been an ancient Berber settlement, a Roman and Phoenician outpost, and a trophy port for a half dozen occupying foreign powers before it gained independence in 1956.

#### PM.

5pm. Meet at the lobby. Departure for a panoramic drive around **Tangiers**, while listening to the fascinating history of the city with our **guide and historian Harrack**.

6pm. **Welcome buffet dinner at Dar Quetzane, private home and garden of antique British antique dealer and collector Gordon Watson**. He has a charming home near where Malcolm Forbes used to have his home, with a lovely garden that has been designed by his silversmith friend, Paul Beauvoir.

8pm. Return to our Riad.



## 2. MONDAY OCTOBER 5: TANGIERS.

#### AM

10h00 Departure on foot to Kasbah. Our wonderful guide and lecturer this morning will be Mohamed Harrak. Visit the charming **Kasbah Museum** and its **Andalusian Garden** followed by a walk in La Medina. Visit **Fondouk Chejra**, otherwise known as 'weaving Souk.' It's a must visit, with looms clunking away under mad electrical wires snaking their way up whitewashed, ancient walls. Bicycle wheels are spun by hand as bobbins load and fly up ladders to the looms. Arabic love songs crackle on ancient radios, and the smiles from the faces who weave and weave and weave, honoring an age-old artisan tradition.

12h30 Departure for **lunch at Villa Teborek Allah**, the Tangiers's home and garden of **Umberto Pasti**. Welcome by Umberto, an eloquent and fascinating personality, he is a self-taught gardener, interior decorator, and a successful author. He has a great collection of Moroccan and Spanish tiles. We shall meet **Nadia Erzini**, specialist on Islamic ceramics.

We suggest the reading of Umberto's books: "Eden revisited" and the "The House of a Lifetime". We will have a selection on show of the crafts produced by his village neighbors in the country and trees by his chef and sculpture: Soufiane Lazar.



## PM

4pm. Visit **Gazebo**, the beautiful home and garden of interior designer **Veere Greeney**, designed by landscape architect **John Mason**. Welcome by Veere and **Mouhcine Hadar**, Veere's personal assistant and garden director. Drinks will be hosted.

5:30pm. Return to our Riad.

We suggest a visit to **Las Chicas** and **Kasbah Collective**, emblematic concept stores of Tangiers, next to the hotel

**Independent dinners.** Our Riad has a pleasant restaurant. If not walking distance, we have "Les Terraces de la Medina" with great views.



## 3. TUESDAY OCTOBER 6: TANGIERS.

### AM

10:00am. Departure by coach. Visit **Tangier's American Legation**, the only American National Historical Landmark outside of the United States, for a guided visit with its curator, Mohamed Jadidi. Established in 1821, the Legation is the longest tenured American-owned property on foreign soil. It represents the enduring friendship between the United States and Morocco, the first to recognize U.S. statehood (June 1786). Welcome by director: **Jennifer Rasamimanana**.

12 noon. Departure for drinks and lunch at **Villa Mabrouka** which was the Tangiers home of Yves St Laurent and Pierre Bergé. It was sold by their heir Madison Cox to Kasper Conran and it's now a small deluxe boutique hotel. Meet **Zora El Hajji**, expert in fashion and crafts who will join us for lunch and show us Villa Mabrouka, directed by her husband Lucca Ravera.

### PM

3:30pm. Drive, with Zora, to the showroom of **Kenza Benani**, creator of **New Tangiers**, showroom for crafts and fashion. <https://newtangier.com/our-story/>

Then we will visit designer **Pin Affleck**, creator of **Made in Tangiers**.

<https://www.instagram.com/pinningmywords/?hl=eshttps://store.metmuseum.org/blog/meet-designer-pin-affleck-of-morocco-based-brand-made-in-tangier?>



Kenza Benani

We will finish the afternoon visiting the boutique of **Laure Welfing**, designer of exquisite caftans and **Velasco**, a Tangiers classic.

7:30 pm. Departure on foot. Enjoy **drinks and tapas at the private home of interior decorator Frank DiBiasi**, walking distance from the hotel.

<https://www.worldofinteriors.com/story/gene-meyer-tangine>

<https://thisisglamorous.com/2020/03/at-home-with-designers-frank-de-biasi-and-gene-meyer-tangier.html/>

9:00 pm. Return on foot.

**4. WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7: TANGIERS- RABAT- FEZ. 7:00 am.** Luggage from rooms will be collected and taken directly to our hotel in Fez. **7:15 am.** Transfer by coach to Tanger Ville train station, for departure at **8:00 am. 9:40 am.** Arrival in **Rabat**, the elegant city. Refined and discreet, the capital of the Kingdom is also a prestigious stopover where calm and elegance blend harmoniously with the art of living. Morning coffee at *Le Dhow*, a floating restaurant on the Salé River, next to the **Kasbah des Oudaias** (or the medieval Kasbah of the Udayas), one of the most beautiful areas of the city. The kasbah consists of walls enclosing a small neighborhood of narrow, well-kept alleys lined with blue-painted houses. It is accessed through a sandstone gate dating from the Almohad period. Inside lies the **Andalusian Garden**, created in the Arab-Andalusian style.

We will also visit the Hassan Tower, one of the three great minarets built by the Almohads (its sister minarets are the Koutoubia of Marrakech and the Giralda of Seville). Right next to it stands another great monument: the Mohammed V Mausoleum, where the Alaouite monarchs Mohammed V and Hassan II are buried. The mausoleum is one of the most important examples of modern Moroccan art.

Finally, we will visit the Great Mosque of Rabat, built in the 14th century, featuring a square minaret and adorned with horseshoe-shaped arches.



2:00 pm. **Lunch will take place at Ciconia Restaurant at the necropolis of Chellah**, with great view over the ruins and the new tower of Mohammed VI by architect Rafael de la Hoz.

#### **PM**

4:00 pm. **Visit the Joana de Vasconcelos exhibition at the Museum Mohammed V.**

5:00 pm. Departure by coach to Fez.

6

*It's a city that immerses the visitor in a bubble of space and time. For travelers who are passionate about the art of living and open to an unforgettable experience, Fez opens its doors to you. This city is the jewel of Morocco, a city with a historical and cultural richness that makes it unique in the world. Its cobbled streets, its centuries-old walls and its impressive architecture make it a real wonder. It is the center of Morocco's crafts.*

7:30 pm. Arrival Fez. Check in for 3 nights at **Palais Faraj Hotel & Spa \*\*\*\*\***.  
Independent dinners.

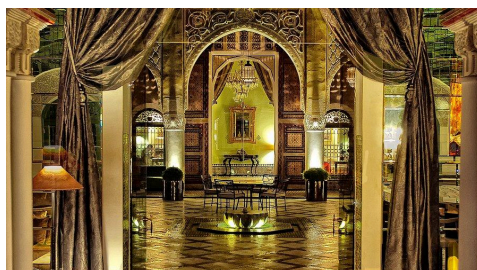
#### **Palais Faraj Hotel & Spa**

**(3 nights)**

**Arsat El Hammoumi**

**Fes.**

**Tel. +212 5356-35356**



## **5. THURSDAY OCTOBER 8: FEZ.**

#### **AM**

9:30 pm. Today we will have Fez expert Mr. Bouftila. Day dedicated to the visit of the city of Fez: the **golden gates** of the Royal Palace, the old Medina with its **Medersa Bou Anania**, the **Nejjarine fountain**, one of the most beautiful **fonduks** or inn's in the Medina, where we will have a lecture on this ancient technique.

We will also see **Karaouyin Mosque** which houses one of the main cultural centers of Islam and is the seat of the University of Fez, and the **Mausoleum of Moulay Idris**.

1:00 pm. **Lunch at Riad Palais Amani.**



**PM**

2:30pm. Visit to “**Les Mysteres de Fez**” antiques owned by Chakib Lahkim Bennani. Located in two beautiful restored historic riads in la Medina, one has antiques and crafts and the other an **outstanding collection of carpets**. We will finish the day in the unique and famous **tanners’ quarter** seeing the **leather crafts** and layers of **mosaic furniture**.

5pm Return to the hotel by coach.

8:00 pm. Departure for **dinner and guitar concert at Kassr Annoujoum**, seat of the Ducci Foundation, palace and home of a retired Italian Ambassador in Morocco who fell in love with Fez and bought this lovely dwelling. Inaugurated on October 22, 2010, under the High Patronage of HM King Mohammed VI, and house of the International Centre for Intercultural Dialogue, the Kassr Annoujoum (Palais des rencontres des Cultures/ Palace of meeting of cultures) is a unique reality of its kind and one of the most refined and elegant Riad in the city.

## **6. FRIDAY OCTOBER 9: FEZ- VOLUBILIS-MEKNES-FEZ.**

**AM**

8:30 am. Departure by coach with Mr. Bouftila. Visit the school of carpentry of Fez where they do beautiful wooden ceilings and “**mashrabiya**” (or lattice for windows).

10:00 am. Drive to **Volubilis**, a Roman archaeological site. Columns, mosaics, arches, and other remains will remind us of the importance of this city at the time of the Roman Empire, living moments of splendor in the times of Marcus Aurelius and Caracalla, among others. And precisely for this reason it was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

11:30 am. Morning coffee on arrival at **Volubilis Café**.



1:00 pm. Departure to **Meknes**. This is one of the four imperial cities of Morocco. Strategically located in the center-north of the country.

1:30 pm **Lunch at Dar Barraka.**



### PM

In the afternoon we will enjoy a walk around the highlights of Meknes. We will see the gates of Bab El Mansur, Bab Berdain and Bab El-Jemis are true architectural gems and represent the grandeur of the city. The fabulous Sultan Gardens, a green oasis that will surprise you with its lush plants, fountains, and decorative pavilions.

5:00pm. Return to Fez.

**Independent dinners.**

## 7. SATURDAY OCTOBER 10: FEZ- CASABLANCA-MARRAKECH

### AM

7:00am. Luggage will be collected.

8:00 am. Departure, by bus to **Casablanca**, Morocco biggest port town.

11:30 am. Arrival Casablanca. Panoramic tour of its maritime coast of "corniche". Visit the **Hassan II Mosque**. It is the second largest functioning mosque in Africa and is the 14th largest in the world. Its minaret is the world's second tallest minaret at 210 meters (689 ft).

Completed in 1993, it was designed by Michel Pinseau under the guidance of King Hassan II and built by Moroccan artisans from all over the kingdom. The minaret is 60 stories high topped by a laser, the light from which is directed towards Mecca. The mosque stands on a promontory looking out to the Atlantic Ocean; worshippers can pray over the sea but there is no glass floor looking into the sea. The walls are of hand-crafted marble, and the roof is retractable. A maximum of 105,000 worshippers can gather for prayer: 25,000 inside the mosque hall and another 80,000 on the mosques outside ground.

1:30 pm. **Lunch at Rick's café.**

### PM

3:00pm. Continue to Marrakech. Lecture on the way on Marrakech.

6:00pm. Check into the **les Jardins de la Koutoubiya \*\*\*\*\***, (5 nights), Marrakech classic located next to the walls of La Medina.

**Independent dinners.**

Les Jardins de la  
Koutoubiya  
26, rue Koutoubiya  
40000 Marrakech.  
Tel. +212 5243 88800



*In 1939, George Orwell wrote of Westerners flocking to **Marrakech** in search of “camels, castles, palm-trees, Foreign Legionnaires, brass trays, and bandits.” Ever since, the city has been ravishing visitors with its teeming souks, ornate palaces, and sybaritic nightlife. In recent years, a succession of high-end openings such as the Yves Saint Laurent Museum and the MACAAL African Art Museum, with gardens by Spanish landscaper architect Fernando Caruncho. Also new hotels such as Riad EL Fenn by Vanessa Branson or the Royal Hotel Almansour with gardens by top Spanish landscape architect Luis Vallejo and reopening of the hotel La Mamounia and its astonishing garden — has transformed the city into an obligatory stop for art, fashion and garden lovers, jetsetters and so on. Yet despite Marrakesh’s new cachet, the true treasures of the enigmatic city still hide down dusty side streets and behind sagging storefronts.*

## 8. SUNDAY OCTOBER 11: MARRAKECH.

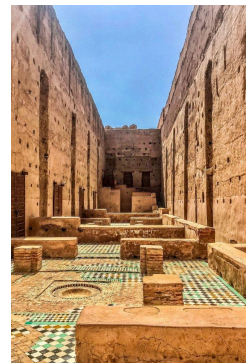
### AM

9:30 am. Meet our Marrakech guide **Youssef**. Departure by foot to Kasbah, where we will visit the **Saadian Tombs**. They date to the time of the Saadian dynasty and in particular to the reign of Ahmad al-Mansur (1578–1603), though members of Morocco's monarchy continued to be buried here for a time afterwards. The complex is regarded by many art historians as the high point of Moroccan architecture in the Saadian period due to its luxurious decoration and careful interior design.

11.30am. Visit **Le MAP, Musée de la Parure, Jewelry Museum**, that exhibits the private collection of Marlène & Paolo Gallone of non-western jewelry and textiles, collected over 30 years. Welcome by Mr. & Mrs. Gallone and their curators Pierre Collet and Sagid Alaa. 12:30 pm. **Lunch at Shams Restaurant**, at the charming roof garden designed by a young Marrakech landscape architect Marius Boulesteix. <https://www.mapmarrakech.com/>

### PM

2pm. After lunch we will visit the impeccable preserved ruins of 16<sup>th</sup> Century **Badi Palace**, where we will see a good example of a Muslim cross plan garden.



We shall continue to the **Jemaa el Fna square**, the heart of the medina since the city was founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century. It vibrates with activity. We will then visit **Le Jardin Secret**, dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when the Saadian Sultan began the urbanization of what is now the Mouassine district. Rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by an influential kaid from the Atlas Mountains, the Secret Garden has been home to some of the most important political figures in Morocco. The garden of this amazing palace has been recently restored by Tom Stuart-Smith; a British landscape architect responsible for the Windsor Palace gardens.

Time to do some shopping around Le Jardin Secret that has great shops.

5pm. Return to the hotel by foot.

**Independent dinners.** (restaurant suggestions in your information folder).

## 9. MONDAY OCTOBER 12: MARRAKECH.

AM

9:00am. Meet our Marrakech guide **Youssef**. Depart by vans to **Les Jardins de Majorelle, Villa Oasis and St Laurent Museum**. A private visit to the spectacular **Villa Oasis**, the private home and garden of Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge, with time after to visit the **Berber Museum** in the former studio of Jacques Majorelle. (Due to internal organization, the group will be split into 4 groups). While the first group, guided visit of Villa Oasis while the 2nd one visits Jardin Majorelle and Musée Pierre Bergé des arts Berbères with our guide and the 3<sup>rd</sup> group, the St Laurent Museum. It was in Marrakech that Yves Saint Laurent found his source of inspiration and refuge. In the 1960s, he and his partner Pierre Berge bought the Majorelle Garden and the magnificent home they named Villa Oasis. After restoring the Majorelle Garden, they opened it to the public, keeping their adjacent villa as a private retreat. The **Yves Saint Laurent Museum**, designed by Studio KO, opened in 2017. It holds more than forty years of Yves Saint Laurent's work and hosts special exhibits and programs. After the visit we will visit the amazing **Majorelle Garden**, designed in the 1920s by the French artist and plant collector Jacques Majorelle. He captured the light and exotic colors of Morocco in his paintings and created a private paradise in his home, studio, and garden. The original garden was meticulously restored by Yves Saint Laurent and garden designer Madison Cox, now president of the Majorelle Garden and the Yves Saint Laurent Museum.



Majorelle gardens Villa Oasis.

1:30 pm. Lunch at the **St Laurent café**.

## PM

3:00 pm. Departure by van to the Medina. Visit the recently restored **Medersa Ben Youssef**. Besides being the most important, it is also the largest *medersa* (Islamic college) in Morocco. Built in the reign of **Sultan Abdallah al-Ghalib**, Morocco's second Saadian king, it was completed in 1565 and could accommodate up to 900 students. At the end of the afternoon, we visit the newly opened and restored **Dar el Basha, Musée de Confluences**. Built in 1910, the Dar el Bacha, which means "house of the pasha", was the residence of Thami El Glaoui, who was given the title of pasha (roughly "governor" or other high official) of Marrakech by the Sultan Moulay Youssef in 1912. For years he was the most powerful political figure of the Moroccan south under French rule. He built his private palace on a lavish scale to impress guests. Some illustrious guests who visited Dar el Bacha include Colette, Maurice Ravel, Charlie Chaplin, Josephine Baker, Winston Churchill among others. The palace was renovated by the Fondation Nationale des Musées (FNM) of Morocco and converted into a museum known as the *Dar El Bacha – Musée des Confluences*. It was inaugurated by Mohammed VI of Morocco on 9 July 2017



We will finish our day visiting **Mustafa Blaoui**, one of the top establishments in town. Located in two houses, you can find wonderful crafts and antiques.

5:30 pm approx. Return to hotel La Mamounia by van.

### Independent dinners.

(We will provide a list of the top Marrakech restaurants that will be in your information folder)

## 10. TUESDAY OCTOBER 13: MARRAKECH.

### AM

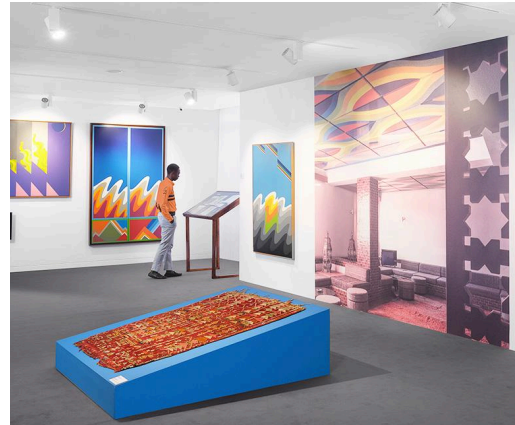
10:00 am. Depart by van. Visit the **Trésors des Nomades**, specializing in antiques and crafts.

11:30 am. Afterwards we will visit **Beldi Country Club** that has a beautiful garden and a rose plantation. It has its own **zouk with crafts** where they blow their own **glass**, have beautiful **carpets, ceramics, linens, ladies and children's wear**. (They ship and you can pay with a credit card).

1:00pm. Lunch at Beldi.

**PM**

3:00pm. Depart by vans for to **MACAAL**, the **Museum of African Art**, located in **Al-Maaden** residential complex with gardens designed by Spanish landscape architect: **Fernando Caruncho**.



5:30pm. Return to the hotel. **Independent dinners.**

## **11. WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14: MARRAKECH.**

**AM**

10:00 am. Departure with Youssef and assistant to see all the **different crafts of la Medina** and meet craftsmen and kaftan tailors.

**1:00pm. Lunch at famous Riad El Fenn rooftop**, created by vanessa Branson.

**PM**

**Free time for shopping.**

6:30 pm. This evening, we will drive by vans to **La Palmeraie** residential area outside Marrakech for dinner at Janane Tamsa, Boutique Hotel, private home & Organic Gardens., owned by lawyer and interior designer Meryanne Loum-Martin and her husband the ethnobotanist Dr. Gary Martin. Jnane Tamsna blends Meryanne Loum-Martin's splendid interior design and Gary Martin's serene nine-acre garden. Integrating 5 houses, 5 pools and a tennis court. **Drinks and talk by Meryanne Loum-Martin** on Moroccan lifestyle and presentation of her book: "Inside Marrakech". **Farewell dinner at Jnane Tamsa**. Return by private van.

## **12. THURSDAY OCTOBER 15: MARRAKECH-USA.**

Individual transfers can be organized to the airport (30m drive max.). 30€