

SPLENDOURS OF MARRAKECH

23 - 27 MARCH 2026

FROM
£3,385
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Tania Illingworth

Le Jardin Secret


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY



Join Tania Illingworth in the Red City of Marrakech and you will stay at the 5-star Les Jardins de la Koutoubia Hotel, located in the heart of the ancient medina. You will see the ornate Bahia Palace and exquisite Majorelle gardens, visit a local saffron farm, and explore the famous Jemaa El Fna square where throngs of people weave between tightly packed stalls displaying pyramids of brightly coloured spices, richly woven rugs and a thousand other exotic goods.

Highlights include a private lunch at the Olinto Retreat, owned by Prince Fabrizio Ruspoli di Poggio Suasa, in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains and a visit to El Jardin Secret, designed with the help of British landscape designer Tom Stuart-Smith.



Spices and Tea Herbs



Atlas Mountains



Les Jardins de La Koutoubia

5-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 23 MARCH 2026

23 March London / Marrakech

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 2812 departing London Gatwick at 15.30 hrs arriving Marrakech Airport at 19.10 hrs. On arrival, meet your local guide and group transfer to the Les Jardins de la Koutoubia Hotel, located in the heart of the Medina, where four nights are spent. Located in the heart of the ancient medina and only a short walk from the Jemaa el Fna Square and the walls of the 13th-century Riad Ouarzazi, this elegant palace has three swimming pools, a rooftop terrace, spa and garden. Dinner at the hotel.

24 March Marrakech

Morning walk through some of the oldest districts of Marrakech. Visit the 16th century Ben Youssef theological school and sumptuous palace. Visit the UNESCO world heritage site, Jemaa El Fna square, to explore the souk and hear some local folklore such as the Berber musicians, Gnaoua drummers, story tellers and snake charmers.

Lunch at the historic Villa Aaron. The former home of Baba Aaron and his family until the 1960s, it required a year of renovation work to bring it back to life. Afternoon visit

to Le Jardin Secret, a hidden oasis nestling within the bustling streets of the medina. Designed with the help of British landscape designer Tom Stuart-Smith and dating back 400 years to the Saadian dynasty, this re-imagined garden is part of the great Arab-Andalusian palace tradition, intended as a reflection of Paradise. Return to the hotel for dinner under own arrangements.

25 March Atlas Mountains

Depart Marrakech for the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. Visit Anima, the multimedia garden of Austrian artist André Heller. Extending over seven acres, this vibrant botanical creation unites innovative planting with contemporary sculpture. Continue to the Paradis du Safran, an organic saffron farm to see beautiful saffron fields, medicinal herbs and exotic fruit trees growing on lush farm land.

Drive to the Olinto Retreat in the verdant Ouirgane Valley where Prince Fabrizio Ruspoli di Poggio has designed, styled and landscaped a timeless botanical paradise. Lunch at the retreat and guided tour of the gardens with the owners (subject to confirmation). Return to the hotel for dinner under own arrangements.



Jemaa el Fna market square



El Badi Palace

26 March Marrakech

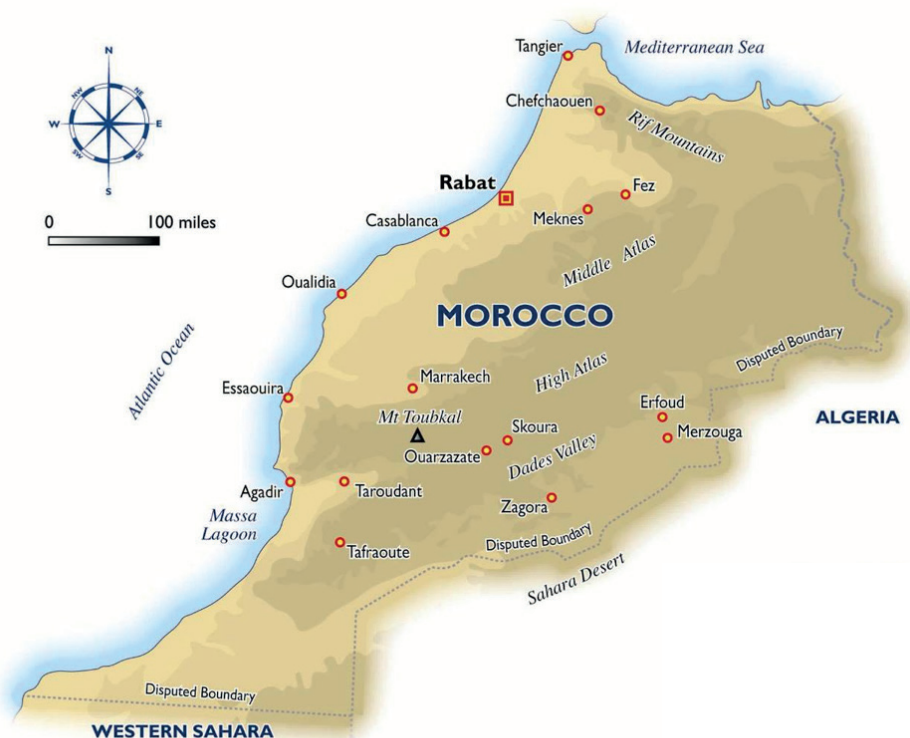
This morning, visit the celebrated Jardin Majorelle, famously rescued from dereliction by Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé in 1980. Now revived, it is again a splendid combination of exotic planting, water features and bold colours. Jacques Majorelle's former studio now exhibits Berber arts and crafts. Continue to visit the Yves St Laurent Museum, designed by Studio KO, which showcases the highlights of the designer's couture collection.

Lunch in the garden at the famous La Mamounia Hotel. Visit the remains of El Badi Palace explore the evocative ruins of the El Badi Palace, built in 1578-94 by Ahmad al-Mansur but dismantled in 1696 by Moulay Ismail, who used the marble to embellish his new capital in Meknes. Continue to the vast 19th-century Bahia Palace one of the best preserved and most splendid palaces in Morocco. The Bahia Palace was built for the Grand Viziers and used as a royal residence until King Hassan II transferred the palace to the State following Morocco's independence from France in 1956. The palace is famous for the radiant shades of blue and yellow mosaic tiles, its many floral courtyards with fountains and

the oases of citrus tree gardens. Farewell dinner on the rooftop at El Fenn Hotel with spectacular views of the iconic 12th-century Koutoubia Mosque.

27 March Marrakech / London

Group transfer to Marrakech Airport. Suggested flight (not included) British Airways BA 2811 departing Marrakech at 11.10 hrs arriving London Gatwick at 14.45 hrs.



TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£3,385
Single Supplement	£695

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; 3 lunches; 2 dinners
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions and transportation as per the itinerary
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals; gratuities to guides/s; gratuities to driver/s; portage
- Local English-speaking guide throughout
- The services of your tour leader throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 20/05/25



Ben Youssef Theological School



YOUR TOUR LEADER

Tania Illingworth (nee Tolstoy) is one of our most long standing, experienced and popular tour leaders. From 1990-2020 she led hugely successful annual tours to the Russian Federation. She has travelled widely throughout Western, Central and Eastern Europe. Her passions are the arts, history and architecture.

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