



# Watercolor Morocco w/ Carol Carter

An Artistic Exploration of Local Life, Food & Culture

Wednesday, October 19th, – Thursday, November 3rd, 2016

## Day 1 TANGIERS

Marhaba! Welcome to Morocco! The former international city and artistic enclave of Tangiers is a crossroads of culture perched on the northern tip of Africa.! Settle into our boutique guest house overlooking the Strait of Gibraltar and christen your sketchbook on the rooftop terrace. We'll have a Welcome Meeting this evening around 6pm before heading out for dinner together in the heart of Tangiers.

## Day 2 CHEFCHAOUEN

Depart by private transfer to the bustling city of Tetouan. We'll visit a collaborative artists' space supporting artistic growth and development for young local artists and take a tour of the local artisan trades. Then continue onto the jewel-of-the-Rif Mountains, Chefchaouen for an evening stroll into the medina to experience the lights and life of this small blue-washed town.

## Day 3 CHEFCHAOUEN

Today is a free day to get in some sketching, shop for textiles, and take colorful photographs. This artsy town is a perfect place to pick up some vibrant colors for your watercolor workshop.

## Day 4 FES via VOLUBILIS

Today we continue south through the verdant Rif toward Fes, stopping along the way for a guided visit of the expansive Roman ruins of Volubilis and some fantastic photo opportunities of the sacred town and pilgrimage site, Moulay Idriss. Once in Fes, our traditionally restored riad overlooks the expansive

medina and hundreds of mosques. Drinks and tapas on the terrace will be the perfect ending to this full day.

### Day 5 FES

This ancient city's twisted medina is home to some of the oldest mosques, universities and Quranic schools in the world. Soak up the sights and sounds of the Fes medina with a locally guided photography tour, where you'll learn the art and intricacies of taking photos in a conservative country. Join in an optional late afternoon Arabic calligraphy workshop before heading out for dinner and live music at a hip local cafe.

### Day 6 MIDDLE ATLAS

A morning departure from Fes will take us along winding cypress-lined roads and over the second highest pass in Morocco. Stop in the Swiss-inspired towns of the Middle Atlas and possibly observe some wildlife along the way. Our simple roadside hotel offers sweeping views of the surrounding countryside and a hearty included dinner tonight.

### Day 7 SAHARA

Continuing south, we'll visit a local women's weaving co-op run by Franciscan nuns then journey deeper into the changing desert landscape, passing through massive palm oases and the arid, rocky desert known as the *hammada*. Tonight we store our luggage at a desert hotel before mounting camels to ride through red Sahara dunes to our campsite. A traditional Saharan tagine and maybe some drumming lull us to sleep under the spectacular starry sky.

### Day 8 AIT BEN HADDOU

Rise with the sun to head back over the dunes for breakfast, then bid farewell to your camel and desert guide as we head along the Route of the Kasbahs. We'll stop at the Todra Gorge for lunch and a view of the spectacular red rock landscape before continuing on to Ait Ben Haddou, an ancient kasbah used in numerous films such as *Gladiator*, *Kingdom of Heaven* and *Babel*. We'll stay in a simple family-owned adobe lodge with an awesome view. Explore the kasbah on foot and learn the basics of couscous preparation and mint tea prior to our home-cooked Berber dinner.

### Day 9 ATLAS ART RETREAT

Today we'll cross the High Atlas Mountains over the Tizi n' Tichka pass and down into the red and green flatlands around Marrakech. We'll stay at an artisanal boutique hotel in the middle of an olive grove--a sanctuary of art, peace and beauty that supports local communities through art and fitness. Sketching and painting are encouraged this afternoon. This evening we'll have a chance to critique our top photographs from the tour to begin curating our personal portfolios.

### Day 10 ATLAS ART RETREAT

This morning we begin our three-day watercolor workshop led by Carol. We'll spend our mornings and afternoons painting in our private outdoor tent, breaking for lunch, quiet time and perhaps a dip in the pool. All meals included during the retreat.

### Days 11 & 12 ATLAS ART RETREAT

Morning and afternoon watercolor sessions continue. Sunday's workshop may be joined by a group of nearby village girls, who learn art and sport through a local community initiative.

### Day 13 MARRAKECH

Leave the countryside behind for the bustling "Red City", where rose-colored buildings and rising glamour juxtapose in this ancient trading post of the south. Visit the lush Marjorelle Gardens, a peaceful haven of art and calm in the city. We'll stay in a centrally-located riad in order to venture into Djemma El Fna square in this evening for a sensory treat and tasting-style dinner in the night market.

### Day 14 ESSAOUIRA

Spend the morning in the medina as you like--visiting the Medersa and Museum, getting lost in the souks, or people-watching over a pastry on Rue des Princes. After lunch we'll head east to our final stop on the tour, the enchanting seaside town of Essaouira. Tonight we're steeped in an iconic local tradition--the music and history of the sacred Gnawa brotherhood.

### Day 15 ESSAOUIRA

Get oriented to the medina this morning while discovering the city's unique artists and artisans along the way followed by a typical grilled fish lunch. The afternoon is free to sip coffee on the plaza, walk along the beach or bargain for colorful artisan goods like thuya woodwork, leather and silver jewelry. For those wanting to experience a Moroccan hammam, you'll have the option to do so this afternoon. This evening, we'll celebrate the trip and our memories made at a goodbye dinner.

### Day 16 DEPARTURE DAY

Goodbye Morocco! You may depart Essaouira at any time today by local bus, private transfer or plane. If flying out of Marrakech or Casablanca, please allow enough time for transport to either city (2-3 hours to Marrakech; 5-7 hours to Casablanca). Or, consider staying on to relax, paint and reflect on our journey. We are more than happy to help with post-accommodation and recommendations!

**Physical Activity Rating: 2**

**Culture Shock Rating: 4**

**PRICE:** \$4300 per person based on double occupancy + 2000 Moroccan Dirhams local payment upon arrival (this is part of the overall cost and facilitates getting the currency necessary for various on-the-ground payments as ATM withdrawals and CC use are limited); Single travelers will be paired with other singles of the same sex in twin rooms. Group size is limited to 10 guests. Pay IN FULL by Jan 1, 2016 and receive \$300 OFF!

#### **Price Includes:**

10 nights traditional riad or local guesthouse; 4 nights luxury retreat; 1 night Sahara camp; 15 breakfasts; 9 lunches; 11 dinners; Local guides in Tetouan, Fes, Volubilis, the Sahara and Essaouira; Calligraphy Workshop; 3-day Watercolor Workshop w/ Carol Carter; Transportation and entrance fees for included activities; Small tipping kitty for included guides.

**Not Included:**

Optional activities/excursions; Other tips, meals, drinks or personal expenses; International flights; Travel insurance (required). (We do not visit Casablanca, so if you are interested in seeing the Hassan II Mosque, please make arrangements to do so before or after the tour. Casablanca is an easy 3-hour train ride from Marrakech. Rabat is a 1-hr train ride from Casablanca. We are happy to help with any recommendations for accommodation and activities in these cities as well as flight recommendations and additional night bookings at the start or end point hotels.)

**PLEASE NOTE:**

A \$500 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your space, payable by check, wire transfer or PayPal. \$3800 due by April 1, 2016 and 2000 Dh local payment due upon arrival. Pay in full by Jan 1, 2016 to receive a \$300 discount. To pay by credit card, please contact me to determine the fee, if any, to be charged. This itinerary is subject to change depending on weather, availability of activities, unforeseen circumstances, emergencies, etc. Cancellations prior to April 1, 2016 will be refunded at 50% of the paid amount minus the non-refundable deposit. Cancellations after April 1, 2016 will be charged in full.

Reflections Travel tours aim to Explore, Inspire, and Reflect. This tour is a curated experience of Morocco, its people, food and natural beauty, through an artist's lens. Your private escort, Summer Davis, along with artist-in-residence, Carol Carter, will encourage exploration, inspiration and reflection through local interaction, photography and watercolor. Accommodation is in locally-owned hotels, riads and auberges chosen for their proximity, charm, and support of local business. While we have private transportation, interaction with locals is encouraged, whether it be the taxi driver, receptionist or local carpet weaver! Free time will be given when possible to allow you to choose independent activities, in order to gain unique personal experiences and an element of adventure is always to be expected! Attendance at included activities is not mandatory but no reimbursement will be made for non-participation.

*For more information or to book a space, please contact:*

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