



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DES JOURNALISTES ET
ÉCRIVAINS DU TOURISME



ASSOCIATION MAROCAINE
DES JOURNALISTES ET
ÉCRIVAINS DU TOURISME

The Great South Program





MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018

9 am : Departure from Marrakesh

12.30 am: Arrival to Ait ben Haddou, visit of the Kasbah (Unesco universal heritage since 1987), visit and shots.



A It ben Haddou is a striking example of the traditional Moroccan architecture of southern Morocco. On the side of a hill at the top of which there used to be a collective attic (an agadir), the village looks like a set of mud houses surrounded with walls, the ksar, the kind of pre-Saharan traditional housing environment. The houses are organized together inside these defensive walls strengthened by corner towers. Some of these

houses seem to be small castles with their high towers decorated with mud-brick motives. The oldest constructions would date back from the XXIIth century. The site would moreover have been one of the numerous counters of the commercial road which connected sub-Saharan Africa to Marrakesh - we can find still a fondouk (caravanserai). Around this douar a set of villages are pooled together. Down the hill, runs Oued Maleh, which means " salt river ". The water is unsafe for drinking because charged in salt.

1.30 pm : Lunch on the spot.

3.30 pm : Continuation towards Ouarzazate



Ouarzazate is a city in the South of the mountains of the Moroccan High Atlas, known as being the door of the desert of Sahara. Its enormous Kasbah of Taourirt, shelters a palace of the XIXth century and offers a view on the surrounding rocky landscapes, which appear in several movies. In the northwest, there is the red earth fortified city of Ait ben Haddou, whereas the Todra rocky gorges extend in the northeast. A road winds towards

the southeast, through the luxuriant palm groves of the Drâa valley, in direction of the desert.

3.30 pm : Atlas visit Studios



The «Atlas Studio» Corporation, created in 1983, is 3 km at the entrance to the city. Surrounded with Pharaohs, the studio offers a grandiose and majestic show. Studios Atlas can be visited when there is no shooting: its decorations are really worth seeing. The visit takes you to the decorations of Gladiator, to Asterix and Obelix, Mission Cleopatra in particular. We also find at the entrance, the symbol objects of great movies shot on location.

5 pm : continuation towards Ouarzazate.

5.30 pm : Welcome cocktail and meeting with the local officials.

6.30 pm : Installation and dinner at the hotel.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018

08 am: Breakfast

09 am : Visit of the Kasbah of Taourirt

10 am : Departure towards the big Tafilalet via Skoura then Kelaat Mgouna, the capital of the Roses where the festival of Roses takes place every year at the beginning of May. Then the city of Boumalne-Dadès 1,600 m above sea level : ideal point for mountain and trekking amateurs.



12.30 am : Lunch at the hotel Xaluca Dades, a classified charming hotel 4*.

1.30 pm : Continuation towards Erfoud via Tinejdad, Touroug and Jorf.



4.30 pm: Arrival at Erfoud

Change of the minibus/bus by 4x4 vehicules and continuation towards the Erg Chebbi. Dromedary back ride up the top of dunes.

6.30 pm: Sunset observation, then return with dromedaries to the bivouac of la Belle Etoile (one of the camps of Xaluca Group).



8 pm: Special on spot dinner with folk animation.

Accommodation in the bivouac, under the stars in nomad tents based on dromedary wool. A unique experience not to be missed.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018

It is recommended to get up early and go up to the dunes to see the sunrise, an impressive moment when the color of light effects on the sand change color according to the sun position.

07.30 am : Breakfast at the bivouac

08 am : Departure to bypass the Erg Chebbi by one of the tracks of Paris-Dakar Rally.



Visit of the village of Khamlia which inhabitants are native of black Africa and which music is world renowned: the music Gnawi.

Then continuation towards the historic city of Rissani where you can visit one of the ksours, the souk, the palm grove, a part of the Tafilalet oasis, one of bigger in Africa and where people still live in old "Ksours" and continue to cultivate their lands in a traditional way.

Continuation towards Erfoud

12.30 am : Lunch at the hotel Kasbah Xaluca Maadid - Erfoud

1.30 pm : Continuation by bus / minibus in direction of the west up to the High Atlas.

After Jorf palm grove , a stop is imperative to see the "Khattarat", a former system of irrigation known for thousands of years in ancient Persia.



Then towards Tinghir: small prosperous town from which we shall follow the valley of Todra on about 15 km. The contrasts strength is surprising between the modern houses, the ochre color of the old constructions and the mountains with the valley and its green palm grove until the spectacular Todra Gorges where we can walk along the river and admire the vertical walls 300 m high. A real delight for climbing amateurs.

5.30 pm : Continuation towards Ouarzazate

7 pm : Installation and dinner at the hotel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018

08 am : Breakfast

09 am : Departure towards the Airport of Marrakesh

1 pm : Arrival at Marrakesh