



Textile Quest Morocco
April 23rd - May 6th, 2024

**Exploring Morocco, its' people and culture
through the traditional textile artisanship.**
*Final Itinerary

Tuesday, 23rd April
Convene at Tantalizing Tangiers

1 p.m. onwards: We rendezvous at the north-western coastal tip of Morocco in the whitewashed 10th-century city of Tangier with an incredibly rich history influenced by so many cultures and its elegant mix of Islamic, Moorish, and French architecture and its ancient maze of alleyways in the kasbah and medina overlooking the Straits of Gibraltar.

5 p.m. Your Textile Quest leaders will meet you at Riad Zhor to gather for an orientation, Q and A and start getting to know each other.

eve. Join us to share a welcome meal where we can relax, discuss the itinerary and get to know your leaders and fellow adventurers. **M**

Wednesday, 24th April
Dialogue on Women in Moroccan Society and Roam Titillating Tangiers

a.m. The morning begins at 9.0 a.m. with a short walk through Tangier's ancient kasbah and medina market as we head to DARNA an association and center that provides opportunities to develop employment skills for unschooled Moroccan women. Here we will meet three young Moroccan contemporaries and we gather for a discussion about women and their role in Moroccan society today and yesterday.

Lunch at DARNA is recommended.

2.30 p.m. Our afternoon involves roaming back up through the medina stopping off at a Jewish synagog now a small museum, having walked the labyrinth-like kasbah we will take a look across the straits where Spain feels like it can almost be touched, a mere 14 miles away on the horizon. Arriving back at the Riad Zhor we will have an hours downtime or you may roam the local area independently.

eve. At 6 p.m. we will have a short fireside chat with local female guide Abir, who will share with us the thrills of Tangiers historical background and the city's unique qualities.

We will let you know some of our restaurant suggestions the evening before.

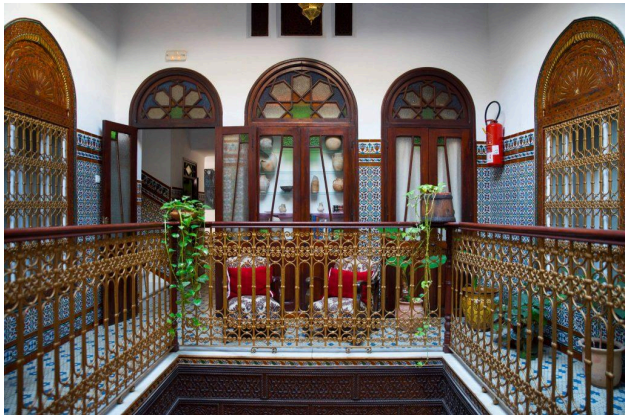
Thursday 25th of April
Peruse Tetouan and Engage with the Artisans

a.m. We head out on a short spring drive along the mountain road past farms, villages and roadside stalls. Arriving in Tetouan we will check into our stylish Riad and freshen up to explore this predominantly Andalusian/Spanish old city with 2000-year-old origins where Moroccan, Islamic, and European architecture and culture merge. With a friendly facilitator, we meet some of the local artisans as we meander the old medina souks, absorbing some of the sounds and sights of everyday life in this intriguing maze of crafts workshops, market stalls and vendors wares.

We have booked a table for lunch or simply partake a juice in a medina cafe/restaurant for those who wish to join.

p.m. In the early afternoon, we connect with a Tetouan artist residency Green Olive Arts(GOA) that hosts and provides inspiration for artists and often connects artists with local artisanship. We will meet some of the local textile-focused craftspeople and discuss an artisans' practice, how they connect with their market, the challenges and graces. Here with our invited artisan community and we will have a presentation by the Anou, an important artian-led organization that facilitates direct artisan-to-consumer connections.

eve. After a full days program, the evening is free. The rooftop restaurant of our Riad is a fine choice to dine for the evening.



Friday 26th April Go Astray in the Rif

a.m. Departing at 9 a.m. we head south in our bus some 80-minutes', drive to Chefchaoen, the 15th-century magical blue city built in a narrow valley as a fortified kasbah to protect from invaders then home to fleeing Muslims and Jews expelled from Spain. Its maze of pedestrian-only cobbled medina streets and houses jumbled together painted cornflower blue and surrounded by mountains. A juice stop and hours meander to soak up the vibes and we hop back onto the mountain road.

p.m. Lunch is suggested along the way, under the shade of a tree.

eve. We arrive in the early evening at the imperial city of Fez, one of the main crafts capitals of Morocco and home to a UNESCO heritage ancient labyrinth of the old medina.

Dinner is independent of the program, though the Riad can provide a meal and there is a fabulous rooftop bar just around the corner.

Saturday 27th
The Future of Moroccan Crafts & Insights into the Amazigh Culture

a.m. We start the day at the Crafts Training Center for Moroccan Youth with over 25 different workshops where young Moroccans (aged 16–30) are apprenticed in one of the many traditional crafts of Fez. An important stop to know where the traditional artisanship is heading as many Moroccans look to modern living and mass-produced wares. Following on, we will visit The Anou's headquarters to explore more of their project, a fair-trade, artisan-run organization dedicated to developing the artisans livelihoods as well as creating an environmentally conscious wool mill which we visit further down the road..

Lunch is recommended at Cafe Clock. At 2.30 p.m. at the same abode, we are treated to a presentation by Professor Rddad Sadik on Amazigh (Berber) culture as it will be predominantly Amazigh artisans that we will connect with for the rest of the trip.

p.m. In the evening, we reconvene to make our way to the Sufi Culture concert of Whirling Dervishes.

Sunday 28th
Delve into the Crafts Culture of the Fascinating Imperial City of Fez

a.m. This deep dive into Fez' medina and the artisanship will blow your mind and every one of your senses. On this inspiring morning, join us for an official tour of the textile artisans' workspaces in the ancient city and artisan quarter of Imperial Fez. Weavers, tanners, saddle makers, and dyers are just some of the artisan workshops we will encounter. Wander some of the 9000 winding alleyways, see donkeys carrying wares around the medina, see djellaba-wearing residents, thousands of stalls, riots of colour, thronging crowds, delicious and confronting smells and sights and experience the famous Moroccan bartering and deal-making. A delicious lunch is recommended in the artisan quarter.

p.m. A short continuation to dip into a few of the magnificent monuments in the old city until mid-afternoon when we meet our transport and head out to our tasteful country abode. With a magnificent view out across the plains, swimming pool, nomad tent and rooms decorated with handwoven rugs, on the outskirts of Sefrou, its a great time for air and perspective.

Dinner at our country abode is highly recommended.



Monday 29th
Make Deep Connections with the Local Sefrouian Crafts Community.

Sefrou is older than Fez, surrounded by castle-like, honey-coloured walls and is a hard-working market town one of Morocco's caravan trading routes and is where we engage even deeper with an artisan community.

a.m. Orientation in Sefrou at Culture Vultures home and hub, a shared space with SAMA Association and a micro museum project. Here we have an orientation on the town and association projects and then meet a few local women who live by the local cottage industry of textile button making. A significant tiny ethnographic that has a huge impact on Sefrou socially, economically and some might say, spiritually. For those who wish, you may try your hand at the art of Sefrouian textile button making.

Lunch is on us, in the hub of Sefrous artisan square, in a clean street restaurant.

p.m. In the afternoon we will explore the heart of the old city to visit the artisans in their workshops including (but not solely) tailors, weavers, embroiderers, tassel and belt makers, and more.

eve. Dinner is available at our lodgings overlooking the planes towards Fez.



Tuesday 30th
Traverse the Middle Atlas Mountains with a Few Sweet Pitstops.

a.m. Our biggest day of travel: Heading out in the morning we will make our way through the Middle Atlas Mountains stopping first at our friends at a local women's cooperative who weave both flat and tuft carpets. Tea, local produced 'snacks', insights and inspirations will be laid out.

Moving after an hour on to lunch at a recommended spot under a fig tree.

p.m. An afternoons drive to make our way South to Tinjedad, across planes and through an oasis into another landscape and subculture altogether.

We will arrive in the early evening at the desert town of Tinjedad where the clay-coloured kasbah and surrounding hills blend into one. Settle into our ecotourist hotel Ksar El Khorbat, inside the ancient mud brick walls of the fortified village amongst local Amazigh families.

eve. Dine at the hotel. **M**

Wednesday, 1st May
Taharuit Creations & Sweet Scent of Roses

a.m. We start the day visiting the ecolodges Museum on the local heritage before meeting several members of a local women's textile cooperative over tea, to engage in a workshop involving the practice of the embroidery of the Tahruit, a shawl like back cloth specific to this region of Morocco.

p.m. After a traditional lunch made by the cooperative members, we will head west towards the Magouna mountain range, stopping at Klaat Magouna where the roads are lined in rose bushes smothered in pink blooms and where between April and mid May 4000 tonnes of the precious petals are picked for the perfume industry in France and locally.

eve. An hour later check into our lodgings around sunset and rest for the night. We arrive at our abode, a humble mountain lodge on the mountain road.

Thursday, May 2nd
A Unique Valley of Crafts Culture and Geology

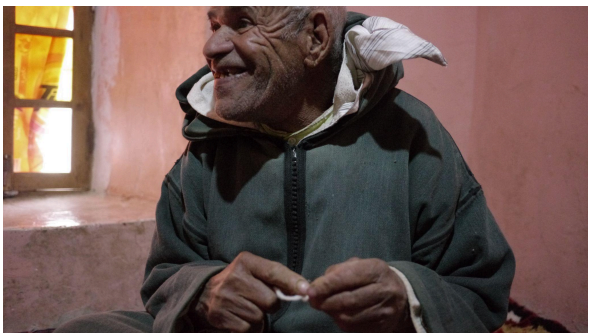
a.m. We wake in the High Atlas Mountains and head out through the spectacular spring scenery passing traditionally built villages and photo opportunities at every turn. After a few hours' drive we arrive at Ait Bouguemez valley - arguably one of the most striking valleys with its life-giving river lined with walnut trees, gardens and traditional Moroccan rural houses surrounded by multi-coloured ochre mountains. A region rarely visited by tourists.

Lunch is an option at the hotel.

p.m. In the afternoon we will visit the women at one of the many local cooperatives in the valley who card, spin, weave and knot wool for carpets and djelaba cloth. We will spend some time here, practicing some of the skills with the woman. Accompanied by our local friend and facilitator Omar, there is the opportunity here to engage with the women about local life and the crafts culture over tea, carders and spindles.

eve. In the early evening we will sit with Omar for an hour, in the style of a fireside chat we will learn of the geology, sociology and culture of a valley that has only had road access in the last 20 years.

Dinner at the Hotel **M**



Friday, May 3rd
The Magic of a Vision and a Knitting Shepherd.

a.m. In the morning we will meet a member of the Atlas Wool Supply Company (AWSco) and The Anou, two sister organizations founded in Ait Bouguemez with a profound sustainable vision for the future of textile crafts. The newly founded Atlas Wool Supply Company building has been designed and built with local materials from the soil and landscape and is awe-inspiring. We take a short walk through the landscape to the new mill and are introduced to their inspirational mission and vision.

Lunch is offered at the Mill.

p.m. In the afternoon we will meet a local knitter, Mohammed, once a Sheppard who typically, in the months of deep snow, would knit his long johns to keep warm. These ethnographic garments provide cultural and environmental context.

There is a tentative arrangement to visit an Ait Boughuemes resident European who is gathering and presenting a collection of textile objects from the region and sharing their stories. We are hoping Sfia will open her space and share her insights with us. T.B.C.

eve. Dinner at the Hotel M



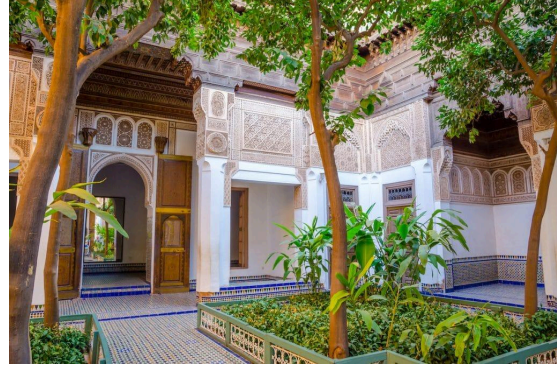
Saturday, May 4th
Remarkable Rock Art & the madness of Marrakesh

a.m. We leave our hotel and drive along the valley through green pastures and past traditional villages, first, we stop at the *Tizi n Tirghist* to awe at a large slab of impressive rock engravings reminiscent of the paintings of Kandinsky though executed 3500 - 4000 years previously.

Driving on we stop along the way for a light lunch.

p.m. In the early afternoon, we will make our way to Marrakesh. Check into our traditional and stylish riad, a walking distance to the pulsating Djemma de Fna – the famous thousand-year-old square filled at night with food stalls, monkeys, snakes, fortune tellers, henna painters, herbalists, dancers, musicians, orange juice sellers and tourists in awe.

eve. In the evening we will stroll around the main square and taste some of the local culinary delights of Marrakesh, in between meandering around the buskers and performers of the of the ancient hub.



Saturday 5th Marrakesh Museums and Hand Carved Palaces

a.m. We begin the day with a visit to Dar Si Said, the Museum of Weaving and Carpets, to conclude our textile-focused exploration. This comprehensive collection further enriches our understanding of the diverse knotted and woven crafts we've encountered on our journey. A short walk along we visit the Bahia Palace, a stunning example of Moroccan architecture and design. Built in the late 19th century, it is a sprawling complex of gardens, courtyards, and rooms that are filled with intricate details and vibrant color.

We stop in the tinsmiths square for some refreshments.

p.m. More inspiration is to be had at MAP, Museum of Adornment - an extensive collection of traditional jewelry and intricately crafted clothing from around the world, full of stories and cultural markings.

There is a lifetime of discovery in Marrakech from palaces to gardens, museums to herbalists or just sit in a cafe and watch the world go by. The days' program ends here - you are free to meander back to the hotel with us, book in for a spa, or spend an hour roaming the souks and boutiques before we gather for our celebratory dinner.

eve: A final farewell dinner after a wonderful Moroccan adventure, experiences shared and friends made. **M**

Sunday 6th May Farewells

Breakfast and good byes as our group disperses some stay one, other head to various airports to return home.

Additional information

Meals Breakfast is included. Midday and evening meals are not included in the price. We have found that many people like to make their own arrangements, to explore culinary offerings or dietary requirements. We often recommend restaurants that we can escort guests to. Food is ample in Morocco and Moroccan hospitality never lets a stomach rest. Textile Quest assures a feast for all the senses, not only the taste buds. There are occasional lunches and evening meals included in the itinerary, indicated by a **M**

Accommodation – Textile Quest accommodates you in various comfortable lodgings including carefully selected hotels, ecolodges, and traditional Moroccan riads. Rates are based on twin shares, respecting gender or previously bonded friendships. We travel as a group and leave with a camaraderie.

Note -* The itinerary is subject to modification should the opportunity arise or the universe decide otherwise; however we do guarantee the delivery of equal quality and quantity of content.

2024/25 **Price** 3290 euros/€. *Twin Sharing + 400 euros/€ Single Supplement

The Price Includes:

- A rich program of engagement
- Transportation.
- Breakfast everyday. Occasional main meals when indicated
- Nights in mentioned hotels or equal.
- Entrance to museums
- Accompaniment by professional tour-leader

Excluded in the price:

- All other meals
- Flights
- Personal insurance.

Additional Documents include; CoVid'19 Guidelines, Traveling within Morocco, Basic Greetings in Dariija and Tamazight, and Media List.



Textile Quest, Morocco, 2024/25

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