

Ancestral Pottery in the Rif Frequently Asked Questions

Before Booking

1. **How do I secure my place?** A non-refundable deposit of 100 euros secures your place on this sustainable and meaningful experience. Email us to see if we still have places available.
2. **What is not included in the price?** Travel insurance (compulsory), travel to and from the meet-up point, and souvenirs. Lunch on the return trip to Fez.
3. **Do I need prior pottery experience?** Not at all. There's space for both those wishing to deepen their pottery practice and those trying it for the very first time. It is as much a cultural insight and ethical connection as it is a pottery workshop.
4. **Are there other activities included in the weekend?** We will peruse the fascinating and fundamental weekly local market on Saturday, hike and forage for pottery materials that we will use in the workshop, and visit the basket makers' markets on our return to Fez.
5. **How physically demanding is the experience?** A morning perusing a local market and a hike to collect materials and experience the surrounding landscape require participants to have a moderate level of endurance.
6. **How many fellow participants will there be?** The maximum number in the group is 12.
7. **What time does the group depart from and return to Fez?** We will meet at 3 p.m. on Friday afternoon in a cafe for a short introduction and then head out to our weekend's destination at the base of the Rif mountains, arriving before sunset. Our return journey will arrive in Fez around 4 p.m. on Monday.
8. **What is the accommodation like?** Guests stay in a hillside homestay run by a local family. It has four bedrooms, two shared bathrooms with hot showers, and overlooks orchards and agricultural terraces. All participants will share rooms (divided by gender) of 4 people or fewer.
9. **For the Fez Artisan Day (optional add-on activity), what type of artisans will we meet?** This activity is very organic, and yet we have run Fez artisan visits for over 15 years. Based on good relations and the artisans available to engage with us, we would likely meet coppersmiths, tool makers, wood painters and carvers, bone comb makers, weavers, and others. This activity starts at 10 am and finishes at 5 p.m. and is able to run given a commitment of 3 clients.



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1. **Where and when will we meet in Fez on the first day?** Clear instructions will be shared by email about the meeting point and time in Fez. The transfer to the Rif foothills (1hr 45 mins away) is arranged for early afternoon on Day 1.
2. **What time will we return to Fez on the last day?** We plan to arrive back in Fez by mid/late afternoon (around 4–5 p.m.) on Day 4. This allows time for onward travel or settling into accommodation in the city.
3. **Can you recommend riads or guesthouses in Fez?** Fez has an abundance of excellent accommodation options. Here are a few recommendations, listed roughly in order of price. *Riad Jardin des Biehn, Dar Seffarine, Riad Al Bartal, Cine House (Guesthouse) and Medina Social Club.*
4. **Are there additional activities in Fez you recommend?** Beyond our optional Artisan Day (the Tuesday after Ancestral Pottery), we recommend a weaving or wool dying workshop at The Anou, a cooking class at Riad Anata and/or a hammam at Mernissi & Spa (no need to book ahead for the latter).
5. **Can you help arrange short trips beyond Fez?** We are not a general travel company but have the contact of a few private drivers. Please reach out via email for those. We recommend the following towns for day trips or stayovers: Moulay Idriss and Volubilis, Sefrou and Bhalil, Azrou (include a hike), which you would arrange yourselves.
6. **How much support do you offer with travel arrangements?** We can recommend private drivers to get to/from Fez and Fez airport, but other than that, flights and national travel are up to your initiative.
7. **What should I pack for the weekend?** Essentials include comfortable walking shoes, layered clothing for autumn temperatures, and clothes suitable for pottery work.

Note -

- Should you wish to bring a small gift for the people we'll meet, here are a few thoughtful ideas: a small souvenir that represents your culture, craft tools/kits, coloring books/pencils, (adult or children's). We ask to avoid sugary snacks or books that influence 'Western' values. Gifts are never expected, but always warmly appreciated.
- Book your Fez accommodation and additional activities as much ahead of time as possible. October is high season.
- We will be sending out notes, suggestions, and the finer details a month before travel.

We are proud and excited to be running this inspirational and ethical travel experience and collaborating with the local people you will meet.

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