

All Part of the Same Family



Textile Quest PROGRAM, November 2025

Day 1 - Thursday 6th Nov - Convene at Tantalizing Tangiers

2 p.m: onwards. Check In. We rendezvous at the north-western coastal tip of Morocco in the white-washed 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 leader will meet you at the Riad to gather for an orientation, Q and A and start getting to know other.

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

Day 2 - Friday 7th Nov - Dialogue on Women in Moroccan Society & Roam the Kasbah

a.m. The morning begins at 9 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.

p.m. We will return slowly to our riad, roaming back up through the medina stopping off at a Jewish synagogue now a small museum and multicultural church, both highlighting Tangiers' recently diverse cultural heritage.

Dr. Abdelaziz El Amrani, Associate Professor at Abdelmalek Essaadi University in Tetouan, will lead a fireside chat exploring the multicultural fabric of northern Morocco through the lenses of history, literature, and faith, drawing on his extensive scholarship in postcolonial and Maghreb studies.

Eve. Dinner as your choice. We can recommend a few spots.

Day 3 - Saturday 8th Nov - Peruse Tetouans Medina & Engage with Embroidery Artisans

a.m. We head out on a short but green-filled one-hour 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 our program collaborator, Green Olive Arts, that hosts and provides inspiration for artists and often connects artists with the local artisanship. 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, in the old city and market area.

p.m. We will pause for lunch, joined by some local embroidery artisans, after which a tea and stitching circle opens up the opportunity to talk about Embroidery culture of the region, the market and how the artisans navigate the vocation of being an embroidery artisan. Here we encourage Questers to bring your curiosity and any stitch work with you.

Finish the afternoon meandering back to our Riad with a local facilitator so to catch the food market and more of the old cities offerings.

Eve. Dinner is recommended at the Riad rooftop restaurant.



Day 4 - Sunday 9th Nov - Go Astray in the Rif

a.m. Departing at 9 a.m. we head south in our bus some 80-minutes', drive to Chefchaouen, the 15th-century 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, we dip into a medieval fortress. A juice stop and hours meander to soak up the vibes and we hop back onto the mountain road.

p.m. Lunch along the way is 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, there are plenty of choices close by.

Day 5 - Monday 10th Nov - Imperial Fez and its Artisanship

a.m. Starting at our riad with an overall introduction to Fez artisanship and its relationship to the medina we will meet our guides/facilitators before heading into the ancient labyrinth of markets, artisans and monuments. Fez is the largest car free metropolis and a feast for all the senses. We will spend the morning meeting artisans in their workshops and visiting a few of the heavily adorned monuments. Lunch is recommended at Cafe Clock.

p.m. Dye workshop at the Anou Cooperative - A hands-on natural dyeing session where visitors learn from local artisans how to transform wool using indigenous plants and traditional Moroccan methods, connecting colour to landscape and craft heritage.

Eve. Dinner is for you to choose from a variety of drinking spots and nearby eateries.

Day 6 - Tuesday 11th Nov - Dive into Lustrous Brocade and Amazigh Identity

a.m. We will spend an hour or so with a Master brocade weaver in the medina, learning about the craft, skill and culture of majestic brocade weaving. An intricate and highly prized Andalusian textile, once gifted as an offering along the caravan trading routes. We head out of Fez stopping at an artisan hub (TBC) along the way and light lunch in a cafe. Aiming to arrive at Dar Mandar with a few hours to soak up the comfort and inspirational environment.

p.m. 6 p.m. Professor Sadik Rddad of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University in Fès is a leading scholar in English and Cultural Studies whose work probes postcolonial narratives, Sufism and travel writing to rethink how Morocco is represented and understood. Professor Sadik will treat us to a presentation on Amazigh (Berber) culture as it will be predominantly Amazigh artisans that we will connect with as we head south into the mountains.

eve. Dine at Dar Mandar.

Day 7 - Wednesday 12th Nov - Sefrou and its Warm Hospitality

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 object 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 in the artisan quarter of the old city. **M**

p.m. In the afternoon we will partake in exploration around 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 Dar Mandar

Day 8 - Thursday 13th Nov - 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. A long afternoon's 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. Dine at the Hotel. **M**

Day 9 - Friday 14th Nov - Tarhuit Connections and the Sweet Aroma of Roses.

a.m. Meet a local women's textile cooperative over tea, visit the adjoining museum on the local heritage and we will engage in a workshop involving the practice of the embroidery of the local shawl of the region, (Tahrut) and examine the designs they adorn themselves with. Lunch is a feast in the home of one of the artisans.

p.m. We head on a short way to Kalaat Magouna, the Rose city, where tons of rose petals are distilled every spring - we will stop at a women's cooperative to peruse and savour some of their wares. Close by is our nights hotel and dinner awaits. **M**

Day 10 - Saturday 15th Nov - Head Deep into the High Atlas

a.m. We wake and head out through the spectacular scenery passing mountain 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 mountains. A region infrequently visited by tourists.

At a short pitstop to blow the mind, we will visit dinosaur footprints 185 million years old preserved in mudstone and later hardened by geological uplift.

p.m. A light fresh lunch is an option at the hotel. The remaining afternoon offers a few choices - informally visit a local carpet cooperative who we will engage with in a few days time, take a stroll through the nearby fields or enjoy the hotel's many sofa areas.

eve. Over dinner at the hotel we will meet our local guide and collaborator Yaccine who will share some insights about the geology and cultural heritage of the valley and its inhabitants. **M**



Day 11 - Sunday 16th Nov - Markets, Mallamas and a Mountain Sheppard

a.m. We'll become part of the ebb and flow of Tabant's weekly market, walking the short 30 minutes to the weekly souk; a living social fabric where encounters, exchanges, and gestures form the backbone of community life. Once there, we'll split into two groups and take part in our **Market Scavenger Hunt**, designed to help us uncover the market's social fingerprints and textile tales, the stories woven through every thread, ware, and interaction. Lunch in Tabant before returning to the hotel for an hour's pause.

p.m. In the afternoon we are lucky to be hosted in the home of 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. Fatiha, Mohammed's wife, is renowned in the valley for her fine hand spun wool, we will have the opportunity to visit her workshop where local woolen cloth is woven. We recommend the hours walk, winding back to your hotel as communities return home after working the land and the day comes to a close.

Dinner is offered at the Hotel. **M**

Day 12 - Monday 17th Nov - From Sheep to Carpet

a.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 Yaccine, there is the opportunity here to engage with the women about local life and the crafts culture over tea, carders and spindles. A Cous Cous lunch is offered at Khadija's house.

p.m. In the afternoon we invite the questers to share their design ideas with the women of the cooperative over tea and magazines.

A collective hammam at the hotel is an option (needs to be pre-arranged). Dine at the Hotel **M**

Day 13 - Tuesday 18th Nov - From (Wo)mans Ancient Marks to Mad Marrakesh

a.m. We leave and drive along the valley through green pastures and past traditional villages, first, we stop at the Tizi n Tirghist to discover a large slab of impressive rock engravings reminiscent of the paintings of Kandinsky though executed 3500 to 4000 years previously. Driving on we will stop along the way for a light lunch.

p.m. We will make our way to Marrakesh. Check into our traditional and stylish riad, a walking distance to the pulsating Djemma de Fna. Dinner is independent of the program, there are many options in the area.

Day 14 - Wednesday 19th Nov - Monuments and Magnificent Adornment

a.m. We're fortunate to be guided by Siham, one of Morocco's few female national guides. She'll lead us through Marrakech's Jewish cemetery, synagogue, and market quarter, ending with tea in Tin Smiths' Square before dropping us at the MAP Museum of Jewellery and Adornment, home to a remarkable global collection as well as Moroccan jewelry exploring identity and craftsmanship.

p.m. Lunch is highly recommended on the museums garden rooftop.

The afternoon is yours to peruse. We can recommend a spa / massage back at the hotel, there are plenty of shopping options within the neighbourhood of our hotel and beyond, visit a herbalist or sit in a cafe to watch the world go by. Check out our recommended Marrakesh hotspots guide.

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

M

Day 15 - Thursday 20th Nov - Sweet Farewells and Onward Travels

Breakfast and goodbyes as our group leaves to transfer to various airports and their return home.

NOTES

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 and quantity of content.



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