



## Clay and Community: Ancestral Pottery in the Rif

A 3-night / 3+ day artisan immersion into prehistoric pottery, rural rhythms, and ancestral knowledge.

**Spring Edition - May 20th- 23rd ( Wednesday to Saturday )**

A 3-night/day ancestral pottery immersion aligned with the full blooming days of spring, a time to slow down, shape with intention, and honour the rhythms of land and lineage. Join a small group ( 10 max) for one of these special editions as the days stretch over the valley, and firelight meets twilight on the hillside terrace.

**Price:** \*€385 per person (*Room share*) Incl. Accommodation, private transport (Fez return), hosting, homestay, all meals, market accompaniment, workshops, and ethical financial contributions to all involved.

3+ Days | Valley Setting | Ancient Craft by Hand

A short, soulful immersion where ancient clay practices meet deep hospitality and a slower way of life.

Step into a world where craft, land, and lineage are inseparable. Nestled in a valley at the base of the Rif Mountains, this 3+ day journey offers a profound encounter with one of Morocco's oldest living pottery traditions, passed through generations of women for over a thousand years.

Stay in a hillside homestay run by a family rooted in the land. Join Zhour, a traditional potter who forms, fires, and decorates her vessels entirely by hand using only the materials around her. This is not a demonstration; it's an invitation to experience the ritual and rhythm of rural craft, its deep links to environment, community, and continuity.

### Itinerary Overview

**Day 1 – Arrival and Valley Welcome** Transfer from Fez in the afternoon, to the Rif foothills (2 hours). Settle into *your homestay* and meet your host Hicham. Take in the olive groves, cereal terraces, and forest edge. A warm dinner awaits, made with seasonal produce and local ingredients.

**Day 2** - A lively weekly gathering where communities trade tools, produce, clothing, and essentials. It's more than commerce, with travelling ironsmiths, cobblers, and neighbours exchanging news, the market reveals how land, livelihood, and local relationships stay closely connected.

We will visit a pottery collection before heading to our Zhours house for lunch. The afternoon involves the beginnings of our pottery immersion, beginning to build our pottery whilst taking in the land and viewpoint over the lake.

### **Day 3 – Clay, Fire, and Ancestral Practice**

Spend the entire next day with Zhour, a potter from a long matrilineal line, learning her hand-built techniques. Using local materials, decorate your piece/s with ochres and oxides from the region. In the late afternoon, we will build the pit-fire for your pieces, guided by Zhour in her quiet, powerful way.

### **Day 4 – Market Encounters & Departure**

First things first, we revisit Zhours plot and ceremoniously open up the fire and its wares, taking away our creations. Heading out, we will visit the artisan complex to experience woven baskets and wild grasses artisans. Return to Fez, via a lunch spot and arrive by late afternoon.

**Price:** \*€385 per person. **What's Included**

Return transport from Fez

3 nights at homestay (shared room / shared bathroom)

All meals (fresh, seasonal, locally sourced) 1.5 day pottery workshop with Zhour

Local pigment decoration & outdoor firing Markets & visit pottery collection

Cultural facilitator throughout

Artisan Quest co-host for groups of 6+

**Price:** \*€385 per person.

Secure your place with a deposit of €100. Full balance due 30 days before departure. Cancellation terms available on request.



### **Accommodation & Meals**

**Homestay:** Roomshare ( 3 or max 4 to a room) A welcoming homestay overlooking olive groves and cereal fields. 4 spacious rooms with 2 shared clean bathrooms. Hot showers and warm hospitality.

**Meals:** Delicious, fresh, and mostly locally sourced produce. \* Deity restrictions are welcomed with advance notice.

## Who Is This For?

Perfect for:

- Travelers interested in sustainability and slow craft
- Makers or designers ( not a requirement )
- Families or friends seeking a meaningful rural retreat
- Those wanting to step into an authentic life beyond the city

*A moderate level of fitness is recommended, as the experience includes a short hike and time spent on foot exploring the extensive rural weekly market.*

Email your interest to [info@culturevultures.ma](mailto:info@culturevultures.ma)



## Fez Artisan Day Add-On

**Continue your journey — from mountain to medina.**

After your immersion in rural pottery and ancestral land-based practices, spend a full day ( the Tuesday) exploring Fez's artisan heritage — guided through winding alleys, hidden workshops, and spectacular historic sites where craft and architecture meet.

**Cost:** \*€75 per person

**Includes:** Cultural facilitator, all entry fees, artisan honorariums, and guiding

**Excludes:** Meals and accommodation — guests book their own lodgings in Fez.

*\*Available only to Ancestral Pottery participants. If you'd like to extend your stay in Fez or create a custom program, get in touch.*