

Travellers' Notes Weaving

We hope that the information contained in these Travellers Notes will answer any questions which you might have. We aim to travel responsibly and help you to do the same. If there is anything not covered here, please feel free to contact Ingrid Wagner directly and we will be pleased to answer any further queries. Full contact details are given at the end of the Notes.

What if I have no experience of weaving?

The desire to learn and explore an artform which may be different to your own discipline, or simply different altogether to your experience, is all that is required. The women at the workshop are delighted to be asked to demonstrate their skills, and have proved to be very capable and patient teachers. Pack a sense of humour – it will help!

How will we travel?

Inward and outward flights will be either from London Heathrow or Gatwick (group departure point) or from the airport nearest to you. Please let us know at the time of booking which is more convenient for you so that we can arrange airport pick ups in Marrakech with our Moroccan team. Your travel times and meeting point arrangements (London) will be sent out to you either by email or hard copy if you do not have access to email, approximately 4 weeks prior to departure. **Alternatively**, you can fly halfway to Malaga and make the rest of the journey by bus, ferry & train, or make the journey completely by rail, travelling through France and Spain to reach Morocco. Check out www.seat61.com for more information and let us know if you would prefer to travel in an alternative way.

Where will we stay?

All the accommodation on the weaving trip is based on two people sharing in ensuite rooms. In Essaouira we will be staying in a family owned riad style guest house located in the heart of the medina (old town). In Marrakech (first night and last day on 14 day trip, and the first night on the 8 day trip), we will stay in a centrally located hotel with ensuite rooms. At Riad Omar Nour (14 day trip) about 20 minutes from Marrakech, we will also be in ensuite rooms. Here, our hosts will be Kay & Mohamed Nour, who form a lead part of our Moroccan team. The Riad is set in its own gardens of fruit trees and herbs and employs local people as groundsman. It also has a recycling unit and uses solar panels to generate its hot water and a small supply of electric power. Purified water for drinking is provided in your comfortable & colourful rooms which are set around a central courtyard featuring a fountain and its own waving ferns, banana trees and 2 or 3 cats. The Riad has a stunning 360 degree view of the evening sunsets and night skies from its terrace.

If you would prefer to have a single room, it may be possible to arrange this, though do be aware that there may be a supplement to pay. We will do our best as far as possible to accommodate your preferences.

What will we eat?

Expect to be eating many varieties of delicious vegetables, fish and spices. The national dish is tajine, a tasty stew made of meat, poultry or fish with braised vegetables, lemon and olives.

