## relax, explore, discover . . . new friendships!



Castlemaine Head Office 30-32 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine VIC 3450 Armadale Branch 1238 High Street, Armadale VIC 3143

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small groups,

# a unique travel experience just for women

# **Return to Exotic Morocco**

23 days departing 24 March 2016



## **HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- City tour of Casablanca including Hassan II
   Mosque
- Tour of Imperial City of Meknes Casablanca City
   Tour
- Tour of Ancient Roman Ruins of Volubulis
- 3 nights stay in a beautiful Riad in Fez
- City tour of Fez including off-the-beaten-track
   artisanal workshops and Islamic gardens
- Scenic drive from Fez to Merzouga
- Overnight stay in the Sahara Desert
- Sunrise viewing over the dunes in the Sahara
   Desert
- Visit to Todra Gorge, Tinehir and Dades Gorge
- Visit to UNESCO listed Kasbah Taourirt in Ouarzazate
- Guided tour of Taroudant
- Spectacular scenic drive through High Atlas Mountains
- 2 nights stay in the High Atlas Mountains
- 4 nights stay in Magical Marrakech in a beautiful Riad
- Visit to famous Jma El Fna Square in Marrakech
- Traditional Hammam Spa Experience in Marrakech
- City tour of Marrakech including Marjorelle Gardens and Dar Si Said, Museum of Moroccan Arts
- Cooking class at Country Club La Maison Arabe in Marrakech
- Wine tasting and lunch at Domain Va Du Argan Winery
- 2 nights stay at 'Blue Doored' Seaport of Essaouira
- Guided walking tour of Essaouira
- · Farewell dinner at Rick's Café in Casablanca



## PRICE: \$10,859.00 per person twin share SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,660.00

## **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Personally escorted from Australia your tour hostess is on hand to assist with making your holiday a memorable one
- Return economy airfares ex Melbourne to Casablanca (via Dubai) with
   Emirates including taxes
- Coach travel in deluxe 16 seater Mercedes Sprinter
- Specialist driver / tour manager
- Uniquely chosen accommodation including Riads and Kasbahs
- Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary
- Breakfast daily and other meals as per itinerary
- Tipping for Specialist driver and tour manager only
- Room matching service
- Document distribution day prior to departure (subject to minimum numbers attending)
- Sisterhood documentation and travel wallet
- Small groups, personal service
- \*\* Not included (AUD80.00 additional tipping kitty for hop on guides to be handed to tour hostess upon departure)

## itinerary

## DAY 1 Thursday 24 March 2016 Melbourne – Casablanca

Join our Sisterhood Tour Hostess and fellow travellers at the Melbourne Airport at the designated time for our flight to Casablanca (via Dubai). Sit back, relax and enjoy the flight and prepare yourself for adventure.

#### DAY 2 Friday 25 March 2016 Casablanca ~ (D)

We arrive into Casablanca and will be transferred to our hotel. With the remainder of the day at leisure to settle in, we'll come together tonight for a dinner at our hotel. Welcome to Morocco!

## DAY 3 Saturday 26 March 2016 Casablanca ~ (B,D)

Today we'll enjoy a half day guided sightseeing tour of Casablanca including the Hassan II Mosque, Ville Nouveau and the Avenue Corniche. With a free afternoon we'll regroup again for dinner tonight at our hotel.

## DAY 4 Sunday 27 March 2016 Casablanca – Fez ~ (B,L)

Today we depart Casablanca for Fez. We'll enjoy a tour en route of the Imperial City of Meknes followed by lunch at the Scorpion House in Mourlay Idriss. We'll finish the day off with an interesting tour of the ancient Roman Ruins at Volubilis before reaching Fez. Our accommodation will be at the gorgeous Riad Le Jardin des Biehn with dinner at leisure tonight.

## DAY 5 Monday 28 March 2016 Fez ~ (B,D)

Today we start our day with a guided tour of the Fez Medina, including the main historical sites and off the beaten track artisanal workshops and Islamic gardens. After lunch (own cost) an afternoon at leisure to continue to explore. Our dinner tonight will be on the terrace of the Palais de Fes Dar Tazi.

## DAY 6 Tuesday 29 March 2016 Free Day in Fez ~ (B,L)

Today is a free day to soak up our surrounds or return to explore the Medina. There are plenty of opportunities to shop for souvenirs and handicrafts today or perhaps you might like to just relax at our beautiful Riad.

## DAY 7 Wednesday 30 March 2016 Fez – Merzouga ~ (B,D)

Quite a long day today on the road. We depart Fez for Merzouga to experience spectacular views of cedar forests, visit the Barbary Apes at Ifrane and tour through Midelt en route to the Sahara. Lunch (own cost) today as we travel through the Ziz Valley and view the Efous oasis which offers amazing photographic opportunities. We arrive late in the afternoon for our night in Merzouga, the threshold of the Sahara. Our accommodation is Kasbah Tomboktou situated on the fringe of the Sahara. How about a few pre dinner drinks watching the sun set over the desert with dinner tonight at our hotel?

## DAY 8 Thursday 31 March 2016 Sahara Desert Camel Stay ~ (B,L,D)

A free morning so take the opportunity to explore the surrounding desert areas. Alternatively why not relax around the hotel pool. This afternoon after a light lunch our guide will take us into the desert by 4WD where upon arrival at our desert camp we'll have the opportunity to enjoy a camel ride at sunset. (Departure time will be weather dependent, the hotter the day the later we will depart

for comfort). When we reach our bivouac we can relax, climb the dunes or just star gaze while our guide prepares our evening meal, traditional tagine cooked on the open fire at our campsite. This is simply a bucket list experience, stars and sand dunes – a wonderful night will be enjoyed. We'll only need our essentials in the desert so best to take a small backpack and the rest of our luggage will be left with our driver.

## DAY 9 Friday 1 April 2016 Tinehir, Todra & Dades Gorges ~ (B,L,D)

An early start this morning to see the amazing sunrise over the dunes, then head back to our hotel to refresh and enjoy breakfast before departing for Tinehir. Stopping en route to enjoy lunch. Upon arrival into Tinehir we'll enjoy a short tour to give us an overview of the ancient Berber culture and heritage that exists in this region. Dinner tonight at our accommodation Kasbah Xaluca Dades.

## DAY 10 Saturday 2 April 2016 Ouarzazate – Ait Benhaddou ~ (B,D)

This morning after breakfast and check-out we'll head towards the Valley of the Roses via the Todra and Dades Gorges where the crystal clear river, emerging from the deep ochre and pink rock formations, offers a dramatic landscape and great photographic opportunities. A lovely place to relax, enjoy and reflect on the surrounding beauty. Continuing onto Ouarzazate we will visit Kasbah Taourirt, once one of the largest Kasbahs of the area, and was home to members of the Glaoui Dynasty, who ruled the vicinity. Parts of this Kasbah have been restored by UNESCO and it is probably the main sightseeing venue of Ouarzazate. Lunch (own cost) en route. From Ouarzazate we have some time to relax before heading to Ait Benhaddou. Time permitting we'll enjoy a walk to the top of the ancient Kasbah to watch the sunset end enjoy beautiful panoramic views. Accommodation and dinner tonight at the gorgeous Kasbah Ighnda a real oasis.

## DAY 11 Sunday 3 April 2016 Taroudant ~ (B,D)

After breakfast this morning we travel west towards Taroudant, known as the 'Grandmother of Marrakech'. We'll enjoy a guided tour through the medina and souks and visit the argan co-operatives famous in this region (look out for goats resting in the argan trees) Our accommodation and dinner tonight will be the beautiful boutique Dar Zitoune.

## DAY 12 Monday 4 April 2016 Ouirgane ~ (B,D)

Today we'll travel into the High Atlas Mountains and spend time in the Ouirgane region. Here we'll discover traditional Berber life, the Tassa Ouirgane National Park, the Toubkal National park and some of the most spectacular scenery to be found in Morocco. Our next 2 days will be spent doing as little or as much as you like at our beautiful La Rosaraie Hotel positioned in the foothills of the High Atlas Mountains and amongst sixty acres of stunning parklands and peaceful environment.

## DAY 13 Tuesday 5 April 2016 Free Day – Ouirgane ~ (B,D)

Today is a free day to relax and soak up our wonderful surrounds, Enjoy the peace and tranquility of the countryside. A great day to reflect on the wonderful journey travelled so far. For those who like to be on the go, the hotel offers optional activities including horse riding and a visit to a neighbouring village. There is a spa to enjoy onsite as well as a beautiful pool to chill out by. Dinner tonight at our accommodation.

## itinerary

### DAY 14 Wednesday 6 April 2016 Ouirgane – Marrakech (via Asni & Imlil) ~ (B,L,D)

This morning we'll visit the working co-operatives, with demonstrations by the local Berber women. These co-operatives, set up through independent and government funding allow the women of the region to support themselves and be sustainably independent as well as providing the opportunity for literacy education. Today we'll enjoy a Moroccan BBQ lunch before setting off for magical Marrakech early afternoon. Our accommodation for the next four nights will be at one of the most authentic Riads in Marrakech, Les Jardins De La Medina. Transformed from a house of noble families to a charming, luxury hotel in a fabulous location. In the evening we'll be free to take a wander through the souks and enjoy the famous Djemaa el Fna Square being mesmerized by snake charmers, storytellers and other great spectacles that may cross our path. Dinner tonight at our gorgeous Riad.

## DAY 15 Thursday 7 April 2016 Marrakech ~ (B)

While Marrakech is alive with modern life and development, it is also home to a wealth of buildings, sites and artifacts of crucial importance to Moroccan history. Founded almost 1,000 years ago, Marrakech is a feast for the senses and has remained the heart of Moroccan life ever since. Acting as Sultanate capital on occasions, but undoubtedly the country's cultural centre. Our vehicle and driver are at our disposal today. Some sights visited in our tour include Koutoubia Minaret and gardens, Marjorelle Jardin, the Saadien Tombs, the El Badi and El Bahia Palaces and Dar Si Said, home to the Museum of Moroccan Arts. In the evening feel free to return to the Square for some more exploring.

## DAY 16 Friday 8 April 2016 Marrakech ~ (B)

Today we'll enjoy a hands on cooking class at the Country Club La Maison Arabe. Then an afternoon free to continue to discover the magic of Marrakech. Time to explore the vibrant and colorful city of Marrakech, the medina souks and chilling out around Djemaa El Fna. Dinner tonight own arrangements.

## DAY 17 Saturday 9 April 2016 Marrakech ~ (B)

Today a fabulous treat. We'll spend the morning indulging in a Moroccan Hammam (spa) experience including a luxurious massage and beauty treatments using traditional Moroccan products and oils at La Maison Arabe. An afternoon at leisure. Dinner tonight own arrangements.

## DAY 18 Sunday 10 April 2016 Essaouira ~ (B)

Today we'll have a leisurely morning before departing for Essaouira, an outstanding and well preserved example of a mid-18th century fortified seaport town, known for its stunning blue doored architecture. En route we'll enjoy a winery tour, tasting and lunch at Domain Val Du Argan Winery. Arriving into Essaouira early afternoon. Enjoy dinner at leisure tonight with plenty of options on offer in the main square. Our accommodation for 2 nights will be at the gorgeous L'eure Bleue perfectly located in the old medina.

## DAY 19 Monday 11 April 2016 Essaouria ~ (B)

This morning we'll enjoy a guided tour of the Portuguese fort and Medina of Essaouira then our afternoon is free to continue to explore the many arts and crafts areas of this gorgeous seaside town. Dinner own arrangements tonight with the option to enjoy the famous movie Casablanca at our hotel's small cinema. A fabulous tour highlight and a great way to prepare ourselves for dinner at 'the' Rick's Cafe tomorrow night in Casablanca.

## DAY 20 Tuesday 12 April 2016 Essaouria – Casablanca via El Jadida ~ (B,D)

Today we'll travel back to Casablanca taking rest stops and a lunch break along the way to arrive back into Casablanca with time to freshen up for our 'farewell Morocco' dinner being held at the legendary Rick's Cafe, from the movie Casablanca. A cool and very sophisticated restaurant which is rich in architecture and details reminiscent of the film, even with a resident pianist singing 'As Time Goes By' at intervals. A lovely way to end our fabulous visit to Morocco. Overnight in Casablanca.

#### DAY 21 Wednesday 13 April 2016 Casablanca - Dubai ~ (B)

With the morning free before we transfer to the airport for our flight home via Dubai. Sit back, relax and enjoy Emirates hospitality and inflight entertainment.

## DAY 22 Thursday 14 April 2016 Dubai – Melbourne ~ (Meals Inflight)

With a short transit in Dubai for some last minute shopping, we'll reboard and continue our flight home.

## DAY 23 Friday 15 April 2016 Welcome Home Melbourne

We'll arrive into Melbourne in the early hours of Tuesday morning (2.00am). If you would like airport overnight accommodation please arrange with Sisterhood Central. *We thank you for joining Sisterhood Womens Travel for your latest adventure and we look forward to welcoming you again.* 

## Fitness Level – This tour requires some level of fitness.

## ACCOMMODATION

Casablanca	Hotel Sofitel Casablanca Tour Blanche
Fes	Riad Le Jardin Des Biehn
Merzouga	Kasbah Tomboctou
Sahara Desert	La Belle Etoile Bivouac Camp
Dades Gorges	Kasbah Xaluca Dades
Ait Benhaddou	ı Riad Ksar Ighnda
Taroudant	Riad Dar Zitoune
Ouirgane	La Roseraie
Marrakech	Les Jardins de La Medina
Essaouira	L'Heure Blue
Casablanca	Hotel Sofitel Casablanca Tour Blanche
** Please note our accommodation will be a combination of Riads, Kasbahs	
& Palaces. The Riads will have varying room types so every room may not	
be the same. All accommodation is subject to change but will be of similar	
standard where	possible **

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Please read through our full terms and conditions for this tour which are found on page 4 of this document. It is a condition that upon booking this tour you have read and fully understood this important information. Minimum numbers are required to operate this tour. Travel Insurance is mandatory.

## terms and conditions

## **Booking Conditions**

#### CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL

When booking a Sisterhood Womens Travel tour it is imperative that you are aware of all of our terms and conditions as these form part of your agreement with Sisterhood Womens Travel. It is recommended that all travellers adopt a sense of adventure, an easy going outlook and the ability to 'expect the unexpected'. It is the expectation that all travellers will respect fellow passengers and understand the key to an enjoyable tour is you.

#### **ABILITY TO TRAVEL**

A minimum level of fitness is required to be able to participate on a Sisterhood tour. As a minimum you will need to be able to walk 2km on uneven ground, carry your own luggage and walk up a few flights of stairs. We rely on the information you provide on our 'Fit to Travel' form completed as part of your booking application. You acknowledge that there are no other medical issues (both physical/mental) that SWT needs to be aware of when making your travel arrangements. SWT will not be liable for any damage, injury, death or loss of any kind arising from your failure to disclose relevant medical information. Women with disabilities are welcome on all SWT tours provided you are accompanied by an able bodied companion and do not require special assistance from SWT personnel. SWT reserves the right to refuse to carry anyone if it is felt the individual cannot cope with the requirements of the tour and who may require services and facilities that SWT cannot guarantee will be available

#### **EXCLUSION FROM TOUR**

You may be excluded from any tour at our discretion if you fail to comply with our reasonable instructions whilst on tour or if you interfere with other client's enjoyment of the tour and you will be responsible for all costs associated with your tour expeltion.

#### VARIATION TO TOUR COMPONENT

No deduction in our tour costing will be made for leaving a tour early as this will cause a reduction in our travelling numbers and create additional costs.

#### ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

SWT is happy to assist with additional arrangements before and after each tour subject to an additional handling fee of \$150.

#### **DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENTS**

Payments required are: International 25% deposit within 7 days 35% deposit within 120 days Final Payment 90 days prior to departure Domestic 25% deposit within 7 days Final Payment 75 days prior to departure

On occasion and outside of SWT's control a higher deposit or earlier payment date may be required.

#### LAST MINUTE BOOKINGS

Bookings made after final payment date will be subject to availability and will require full payment upon confirmation. A late fee of \$100 per person will apply.

#### ACCEPTED FORMS OF PAYMENT

We accept direct deposit, money order, bank cheque or Visa/Mastercard payment. For credit card payments an additional 1.5% surcharge is payable (non- refundable)

#### MINIMUM NUMBERS

All tours are subject to minimum numbers. If a tour falls below the minimum number required for a fully escorted tour, SWT reserves the right to offer the tour escorted by a local guide upon arrival to your destination. If SWT cancels a tour due to lack of numbers a full refund is offered or transfer to another tour. Should a tour be cancelled, SWT cannot assume any responsibility for any additional costs relating to travel arrangements made outside of SWT or travel insurance not taken out through SWT.

#### CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

All cancellations must be made in writing to Sisterhood Womens Travel and will be subject to cancellation charges from the date the written cancellation is received.

#### CANCELLATION

Prior to Final Payment: Loss of Deposit After Final Payment: 100% of tour cost. Regrettably cancellation charges cannot be waived. After Departure: No refund Final Payment dates are determined by SWT suppliers

and may vary from tour to tour.

#### AMENDMENTS

Once your tour is confirmed and a deposit is paid, a \$100 amendment fee will be incurred for any changes to your tour arrangements.

#### **TOUR PRICING & ITINERARY CHANGES**

SWT operates on the basis of fluid pricing. This is the practice within the Travel Industry where pricing changes due to various factors including, but not limited to changing airfares, currency fluctuations, and availability of product. We reserve the right to change our prices without notice. This can mean that different passengers on the same tour may have been charged different prices. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our tours SWT takes no responsibility for any itinerary changes that may occur prior to or during travel and any such changes will be at the discretion of the airlines and our ground operators. Changes in flights and land arrangements are beyond the control of SWT. Every effort will be made to minimise any inconvenience to SWT passengers. SWT advises making full payment for tours as early as possible to avoid any potential price increases.

#### TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that travellers are adequately insured for the full duration of their tour arrangements in respect of illness, injury, death, loss of baggage and personal items, cancellation and curtailment. SWT offers comprehensive travel insurance at a competitive price and will not be responsible outside their offered policy for inadequate travel insurance in the event of any insurance claims.

#### SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

When travelling alone a great way to keep your costs down and make new friends is to be prepared to share a room with another traveller. We are unable to guarantee that your room mate will be of similar age group but it is an enjoyable way to travel and could mean the start of a great friendship. Of course if you prefer a room to yourself the single supplement will apply. If we are successful in matching you with a fellow traveller we give you the opportunity prior to departure to make contact. SWT takes no responsibility for any mismatch of passengers and will not be liable for any additional charges incurred for changing room configuration whilst on tour.

#### **HEALTH & IMMIGRATION**

The traveller is responsible for all visa, passport, immigration, quarantine, customs, health and other requirements of the countries visited or transited. If travelling on an Australian passport you will need at least 6 months validity on your passport taken from the date of re-entry into Australia. If you are travelling under any other passport please advise at the time of booking. Sisterhood Womens Travel will not be held responsible for any incorrect re-entry visas for non- australian passport holders. SWT is happy to offer assistance with visas (additional charges may apply). Please note that passport and visa requirements are the responsibility of you the traveller and SWT takes no responsibility for failure to comply with the provided advice.

#### NAMES AS PER PASSPORTS

When booking on any tour, it is imperative that you provide SWT with your full correct name as per your passport and a copy of your passport (for international tours) SWT will not be held liable for any or expense incurred for incorrect names.

#### **CONSULAR ADVICE**

Official travel advice issued by Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is available by contacting 1300 444135 or visiting their website www.dfat.gov.au. We recommend that you review this information both prior to making your booking and prior to departure.

#### **GENERAL CONDITIONS**

These conditions represent the entire agreement between the client and Sisterhood Womens Travel. SWT will be responsible to the client for supplying the services and accommodation as described in their itineraries, except where such service cannot be supplied or the itinerary used is changed due to delays or other cause of whatever kind or nature beyond the control of SWT. In such circumstances we will do our best to supply comparable services, accommodations and itineraries, and there shall be no refund in this situation. SWT acts only as agent for the client and upon the express condition that SWT will not be held liable or responsible for any direct, indirect, consequential or incidental damage, injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity of any kind, which may be occasioned by reason or any act or omission of any third party (including without limitation, any act, inaction or breach of contract of any third party, which is to or does supply any goods or services for SWT tours). Without limiting the foregoing, SWT does not own or operate any third party suppliers of services such as hotels, restaurants, transportation companies, sightseeing companies or local tour operators and is not responsible for any injury, death or expense due to overbooking accommodation, default of any third parties, sickness, weather, strikes, acts of God, Government, acts of terrorism, criminal activity, war, quarantine, force majeure events or any other cause beyond its control. All such risk, loss and expense must be borne by the client. Any personal expenses incurred by a client as a result of any delay, alteration or curtailment of any tour, whether caused by mechanical defect, strikes or any other cause are the responsibility of the client (travel insurance is mandatory on all SWT tours). SWT is unable to guarantee exact arrival and departure times, and is not liable for any failure to make connections with any other services, or guarantee the operation of any particular service. In the case of breakdown or other unforeseen circumstances, the operator reserves the right to substitute vehicles other than specified to ensure the operation of a tour. SWT reserves the right to cancel any ticket or booking, or to refuse to carry client where payment has not been received by SWT.

#### Updated 1 June 2015

Registered Office: 30-32 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine Victoria 3450 1300 885 255

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Please read through our full terms and conditions. It is a condition that upon booking this tour you have read and fully understood this important information. Minimum numbers are required to operate this tour. This tour requires a certain level of fitness as it may include walking for extended periods of time, on uneven ground and climbing of steps. Please take this into consideration when booking. Travel Insurance is mandatory.







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