

## **Watercolor Workshop in Morocco (Essaouira)**

<https://morocco-ecoway.com/workshops-detail.php?nom=Painting-workshop-in-Essaouira-With-Micheal-Solovyev&i=42>

**WHAT?** An 8-Day Watercolor Painting workshop in Morocco with Michael Solovyev (WatercolorOnline.com) Contact Michael: [artist@michaelsolovyev.com](mailto:artist@michaelsolovyev.com) (art-related questions)

**WHEN?** November 24 – December 1, 2022

### **HOW MUCH?**

1350€ for Workshop Participants (painting and feedback from Michael)

1125€ for Accompanying Persons (no feedback from Michael, but beautiful views)

DEPOSITS ARE REQUIRED IN ADVANCE:

350€ for Workshop Participants

125€ for Accompanying Persons

### **HOW TO PAY?**

1. Fill in the registration form (available on the page of the event, under “BOOK THIS RETREAT” button.
2. Deposits are paid in advance via PayPal or Bank Transfer, within 48 hours from the reservation.  
PAYPAL: [tedrartyacinos@gmail.com](mailto:tedrartyacinos@gmail.com)  
BANK TRANSFER:  
Code SWIFT of the Banque Populaire: BCPOMAMC  
Code IBAN: MA 101 553 21111 665 7072 000 4 36
3. The rest of the money can be paid once you are in Morocco.  
Once deposit is paid, it is considered as a confirmation of your participation.

**REFUNDS** can happen:

1. Initiated by the participant, only if there are more than 90 days left before the workshop.
2. Initiated by the organizers, if the event is postponed and the participants choose not to attend on the new dates.
3. Initiated by the organizers if the event is canceled completely.

### **ANY QUESTIONS ON RESERVATIONS, PAYMENTS, OR ITINERARY?**

Contact DAHMAN (Guide):

WhatsApp: (+212) 6 60 19 43 24

Email: [contact@morocco-ecoway.com](mailto:contact@morocco-ecoway.com)

### **INCLUDED:**

#### **FOR PARTICIPANTS - Workshop Trip 8 days / 7 nights:**

- More than 40 hours of lessons spread over 8 days for a maximum group of 12 people
- Airport / Hotel transfers
- Air-conditioned 17-seater vehicle with a driver

- Officially licensed tourist guides
- Full-board accommodation, double rooms for couples (all rooms have a private bathroom)
- Tourist taxes to be paid on the site

**FOR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS - Trip 8 days / 7 nights:**

- Full-board accommodation, double rooms for couples (all rooms have a private bathroom)
- Airport / Hotel transfers
- Air-conditioned 17-seater vehicle with a driver
- Officially licensed tourist guides
- Tourist taxes to be paid on the site

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- Round-trip flights to Marrakesh
  - Painting equipment
  - Entrance fees to monuments
  - On-site purchases.
- IF someone (in a couple) wants a single room, he should pay another 150 Euros

**WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION BY MICHAEL SOLOVYEV:**

I have a unique opportunity to invite you to travel with me to Morocco. We can spend eight days together in an extraordinary place. We don't have to worry about anything but watercolor - everything will be organized, and we will be able to immerse ourselves in painting completely. The program is very rich and includes daily plein air work. In Essaouira, you will get incredible views, sun, and wonderful weather. In addition, we will have a chance to get to know Morocco, as there will be tourist excursions with a lot of interesting facts to learn. We will fill in our sketchbooks using various techniques and methods, as well as paint plein air artworks in long-duration sessions. These eight days will be full of watercolors, new techniques, and, of course, the sun.

We will get to know this magical land through the prism of watercolor!

**ITINERARY:**

**NOV 24 - Day 1: Marrakesh “Marhaba! (Hello!)”:** Arrival to Marrakesh, welcome of participants by our guide DAHMAN and the driver. Departure to Essaouira by bus (17 places).

Overnight stay in Essaouira.

**NOV 25 - Day 2: “Closer to the Sun”:** After breakfast we will take a little walk outside the old medina (old walled city) to reach our place where we will have a beautiful view of the reflection of the walls and the big boats on the sea, and the lunch break. In the afternoon, we will go back inside the walls going to a panoramic terrace where we will have the opportunity to paint multiple views like roofs and terraces of the city, the sea and the famous Skala (castle/harbor).

Overnight stay in Essaouira.

**NOV 26 - Day 3: “The Harbor”:** After breakfast we will go to the port where we will spend the whole day, painting different views, from the Skala (harbor) of the port that has a panoramic view where we can see the medina, the port, the bay, the Island of Mogador, and the dance of the seagulls in the air as they are letting themselves be carried by the winds. We will also witness the return of the fishermen and go to the rudimentary shipyard where carpenters build boats and paint them in blue.

Overnight stay in Essaouira.

**NOV 27 - Day 4: “The Souk and Sidi Kaouki (name of the town)”:** After breakfast we will head to a traditional Souk (traditional marketplace) where we will also paint a beautiful mountain view. Then we will drive to a beautiful beach with a stunning view to paint while we enjoy the sun with the camels and horses around us (those who wish may ride a camel). Visiting the argan (oil trees) cooperative to see how to produce the argan oil. Lunch near the beach.

Overnight stay in Essaouira.

**NOV 28 - Day 5: “The Skala Day”:** Today is the time to visit the main Skala (castle) with her beautiful view and her stunning old cannons facing the sea. Lunch break in a terrace near the Skala. In the afternoon, we will have a tourist visit in the medina (old walled city).

Overnight stay in Essaouira.

**NOV 29 - Day 6: “Silent Retreat”:** Early departure to Marrakesh after breakfast. We will be enjoying the landscape and watching the goats over the argan trees. Lunch will be on the road. In the afternoon, we will be visiting and painting the famous Garden of Marrakesh (Majorelle is its alternative name)

Overnight stay in Marrakesh.

**NOV 30 - Day 7: “The Red City”:** After breakfast you will enjoy the Bahia Palace where you can sketch the splendid Moroccan architecture. After lunch break, you are free to continue to the world-famous Jemaa el-Fnaa Square, which houses an array of food, snake charmers, local musicians, and fortune tellers. There’s nowhere on Earth like the Jemaa el-Fnaa, the square at the heart of old Marrakesh. You can also walk through the souks and view hundreds of handicrafts.

Overnight stay (with breakfast) at the Riad (traditional Moroccan house), Marrakesh.

**DEC 1 - Day 8: “Harvest Day”:** You will spend the morning in the Riad in order to finish the travel log, diverse collages, layout of the pages with advice of the teacher. Then, you will depart to the airport.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

#### **ARRIVING TO MOROCCO:**

Make sure you verify all the information yourself on your respective government website!

Travelers from the Canada and US only are required to have a valid US Passport – but it must NOT be due to expire within 6 months of your return flight.

Your flight destination will be Marrakesh Menara International Airport (RAK) / Casablanca Mohammed V International Airport. Royal Air Maroc is the only airline that has direct flights from the US to Morocco, from both JFK and Washington Dulles.

You can also book flights traveling through major European airports, as there are many connecting flights to Marrakesh through economy airlines such as Ryan Air, EasyJet, Iberia, etc. We’ve found that it is easier to find good connecting flights on the way to Marrakesh than on the return, but you can take the opportunity to end your trip with a day or two stops in Spain, France, Portugal, England....

Immunizations are not required or necessary.

#### **WHAT TO WEAR:**

Weather is predictably unpredictable so be sure to check on the estimated conditions the week before you travel. Even though Marrakesh can be quite warm by day, it is usually quite cooler at night so pack light clothes that you can layer. We recommend cotton pants, long skirts, wraps or large scarves over tank tops and tee shirts, and a sweater or light jacket for chilly nights.

Your most important fashion asset: comfortable shoes for traversing the Medina on sightseeing and shopping adventures!

Morocco is a Muslim country and women generally dress more modestly than in the US or Europe. Like elsewhere, dress codes are gradually becoming laxer and there is a lot of tolerance for tourists, but wearing more conservative clothing shows cultural respect, good taste, and common sense.

#### **MONEY EXCHANGE:**

The currency here is the Moroccan Dirham, and the exchange rate usually hovers these days around 10 dirhams/1 dollar. You CANNOT exchange for dirhams outside of Morocco, but there are several currency exchange booths in the airport when you exit Passport Control and there are some located all around the Medina. Larger stores and restaurants may take Euros, but it’s best to have dirhams.

If you bring large bills (\$100) to exchange, be sure that they are newer bills with holograms. Otherwise, the bills will probably get rejected.

Another good option for getting dirhams is to use the ATM machines which are located around the medina. The exchange rate is a little better, especially if your bank or credit card doesn’t add foreign transaction fees (for you to verify). Be sure to notify your bank of your foreign travel destination so they don’t flag you for fraud. I also recommend that

you bring 2 or 3 cards – just in case you still get flagged and face a difficult situation (happens!)

**GUEST HOUSE HAS:**

- Free Wi-Fi access in all rooms and common areas
- Bedside Mineral Water
- Hair Dryers
- One-time complimentary laundry service for retreat weeks

**YOU WILL NEED TO GET BEFORE THE TRIP:**

- European plug adapters
- Electricity converters for hair appliances (cellphones and computers generally have built-in converters).