

Photography tour in South Morocco

Objectives of the trip

Audience

Any photographer, beginner or not, wishing to learn or improve himself in photography and interested to discover South Morocco.

Prerequisite and equipment needed

No specific knowledge is needed to attend this training. If you master the basics of photography it is a plus but not a necessity.

As for the material: all you need is a digital camera allowing you to exit the fully automatic mode (this is the case for the vast majority of cameras).

Needless to say, if you have specialized equipment (wide-angle lenses, telephoto, tripod, filters, macro lens), you are invited to take it with you!

Accommodation

During this trip, you will spend a night near the site of Ait-ben-Haddou (listed on UNESCO World Heritage), a night in a tent in the Sahara Desert and the rest of the time, you will be staying in an idyllic setting, at the "Bassatine-Skoura" gîte, in the heart of a large palm grove, located 38 km from the town of Ouarzazate.

Photo theme of the tour

The theme of this course is "heritage, flora and fauna of southern Morocco": we will mainly approach landscape photography (mountains, gorges, green valleys, palm grove, desert, oasis ...) and architecture (kasbahs, ksars ...) but we will also have the opportunity to try close-up photos (plants, flowers, insects...) and, hopefully, some pictures of animals (birds, mammals...). This will be an opportunity to talk about camera equipment, to review certain technical basics of photo, composition and also to learn how to best develop your photos on photo software such as Photoshop Lightroom ...

During this trip, I want to make a balance between theory (group lesson and guidance) and practical exercises. I will explain the particularities and difficulties specific to each photographic practice. The idea is not to give you standard rules to apply by heart, but to learn how to adapt to the each situation so you will have great pictures as a result!

In addition to making a great photo trip and spending convivial moments with the group having a common passion, you will come back with an improved knowledge of photography!

My goal is that you'll be satisfied about this trip and you'll come back happy. I therefore welcome any proposal from which the whole group could benefit. Please don't hesitate to let me know when you enroll if you have a subject that you would like to have covered during this course.

[Detailed program of the stay](#)

Day 1 - Arrival in Marrakech at Marrakech-Menara International Airport (or possibly at Ouarzazate Airport). Reception and meeting then departure (around 3.30pm) towards Ouarzazate (about 200 km from Marrakech) by road crossing the High Atlas. We will pass by the tizi n'Tichka pass at an altitude of more than 2200 m which links the valley of the Tensift wadi in the north, to the Asif Ounila Valley, a semi-arid region in the southeast. We will stop for the night in Aït-ben-Haddou, located in the Ounila valley, the traditional crossing point for caravans connecting Marrakech to the south of the Sahara.

Day 2 - Visit and photos of the site of Ait Ben Haddou, ksar (fortified city) listed as World Heritage

of UNESCO and nicknamed, during the French protectorate, "Mont-Saint-Michel des chleuhs" (Berber people of southern Morocco). This exceptional site has been the location of many films such as : Lawrence of Arabia (1962), Killing is not playing (a James Bond), Gladiator (Ridley film Scott with Russell Crowe), Alexandre (Oliver Stone film with Colin Farrell, Angelina Jolie), Babel (with Brad Pitt), Prince of Persia, or, more recently, the Game of Thrones series...

In the early afternoon, we will take the road again to Skoura (about 70 km from Ait Ben Haddou) to settle in the gîte named Bassatine Skoura (the gîte is located in the heart of a large 25 km² palm grove about 40 km from Ouarzazate). Assessment of the first photo days, checking of images.

Day 3 - Visit of the Skoura palm grove and the old Kasbahs, ksours and Jewish Mallahs. During this walk, we will take the time to observe, appreciate, and also understand the structure and functioning of rural life (pottery and oasis agriculture). Photo course.

Day 4 - Departure towards Merzouga (about 320 km in all), at the gates of the desert, passing through the Toudra gorges. At the end of the afternoon in Merzouga, departure with your caravane for a 1 hour trip through the dunes on the back of dromedaries to watch the sunset. You will spend the night under the Tuareg tents in the middle of the dunes under a sky radiating stars ...

Day 5 - In the early morning you will admire the sun rising over this magical landscape. After breakfast, departure from Merzouga to take the direction of our lodging of Skoura, via Tafilalet and Rissani the region of the Jewish and Muslim Saints. During this journey, we will stop to admire and photograph the Dades gorges. The Dadès is a river of almost 200 km which, flowing through a mountainous region, has formed over the centuries gorges through ocre and reddish colored rocks.

Day 6 - Thursday April 9: In the morning, we will explore the almond valley on the Toundoute side (around 30 km from Skoura). In the afternoon, visit the Amerhidil Kasbah (a magnificent and famous kasbah that appears on the old 50 Dirham banknotes). Photo classes and image reading.

Day 7 - Friday April 10: Visit the green valley of roses (towards Bou Tharar about 80 km from Skoura). Review of the photographic week.

Day 8 - Saturday April 11: Skoura - Marrakech journey (mid-afternoon arrival) for the return.

Practical information and prices

- **The prices include:** accommodation with full board (7 nights in a double room and one night in a bivouac, evening meal, picnics for lunch...), travel by private car or minibus with driver, accompaniment by the local guide throughout the circuit.
- **Prices do not include:** return flight by plane to Marrakech-Menara airport and other services not mentioned such as personal expenses, drinks, and any supplement for sleep in a single room (250 €).
- **Prices :**
 - o Photographer trainee rate: 4000 €(includes educational support: coaching and photo lessons).
 - o Support price: €3500 (people not interested in support and photo lessons).