

MOROCCO GARDENS TOUR

22 March – 4 April 2026

*“Cultivating a garden is
believing in tomorrow”*

– Umberto Pasti

retreat|recreate is delighted to offer this fabulous, 13 night/14 day socially responsible, small group gardens and culture tour of Morocco.

Discover the fascinating fusion of Africa, Andalusia, Arab & Amazigh that is Morocco, through the lens of the country’s gardens and culture.

Visit beautiful private and public gardens in Rabat, Tangier, Fes, Taroudant and Marrakech, explore multiple UNESCO World Heritage listed sites, wander the famous blue city of Chefchaouen, and travel through stunning scenery including the Rif Mountains, the ancient High Atlas Mountains and the Souss region. Gardens will include typical Islamic Andalusian (Moorish) styles, modern dry gardens, exotic gardens, cactus gardens, and sculpture gardens.

W: www.retreatrecreate.com
E: retreatrecreate@gmail.com

ITINERARY

as at FEBRUARY 2026



Day 1

Sunday 22 March

RABAT

Dar Al Miraaj

Salaam aleikum! Welcome to Morocco!

You will be collected from Casablanca airport (CMN) and transferred to our lovely riad Dar Al Miraaj in Rabat, approximately an hour away.

Our tour begins with a **briefing meeting at 6pm TBC (we’ll confirm the time on WhatsApp) at Dar Al Miraaj** where you’ll meet our local Moroccan guide, your fellow travellers and your retreat|recreate host.

This will be followed by a **welcome dinner** where we’ll introduce you to traditional Moroccan cuisine and we can start to get to know each other.

Meals: Dinner



Day 2

Monday 23 March

RABAT

Dar Al Miraaj

Today we’ll dive straight into our itinerary by exploring the highlights of Rabat, Morocco’s capital.

Firstly we’ll visit the newly opened **UNESCO World Heritage site of the Chellah** with its landscaped gardens on the site of an ancient Roman citadel and Muslim necropolis.

Next, within the walls of the beautiful **Kasbah of the Oudayas** we’ll find a stunning example of a typical **formal Andalusian garden**. We’ll enjoy a walk around the garden before heading into the newly opened and very impressive **Museum of Adornment**, featuring the royal collection of jewellery and textiles. It’s a great introduction to the decorative arts of Morocco, both rural and urban.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 3

Tuesday 24 March

TANGIER

TBC

This morning we will visit the **Exotic Garden of Bouknadel**, a peaceful garden filled with exotic plants and trees from around the globe.

Leaving Rabat, we take the road north to Tangier, stopping for lunch on the way.

Next, we have a very exciting visit to the world famous **Garden of Rohuna**, the most famous garden in Morocco! Created by Italian writer and horticulturalist Umberto Pasti, the garden has stunning vistas, ‘The Wild Garden’, a hillside devoted to the wild flowering bulbs of northern Morocco, and the ‘Garden of Consolation’. The garden’s mission is to save endangered native species, and it boasts the largest collection of Moroccan plants in the world. This is sure to be a highlight of the tour.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 4 *Wednesday 25 March*

TANGIER

After WW1 **Tangier** became a destination for many European artists, diplomats, spies and writers including Paul Bowles, William S. Burroughs, Tennessee Williams and Jean Genet. The city continues to attract a large artistic expat population these days. We'll take a guided walk through Tangier's medina this morning to explore a little.

This afternoon we'll spend some time at the **Donabo Botanic Gardens** created by the king's sister Princess Malika El Alaoui to honour her late father King Hassan II. Designed by English artist Paul Belvoir, the property features ten gardens, including a Mediterranean garden, a Chinese garden, a Moroccan garden and a mint maze in honour of Morocco's famous mint tea.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 5 *Thursday 26 March*

FES

We farewell Tangier this morning and depart for Fes, via the pretty little town of **Chefchaouen**, known as The Blue Pearl due to its blue-hued, narrow-laned medina. We'll enjoy a stroll around the picturesque streets and take some time out for lunch here.

After lunch we continue our journey, arriving in the ancient imperial city of **Fes**, the largest car-free urban area in the world. The medina of Fes is extraordinary – over 9,000 labyrinthine lanes filled with souks, medersas, mosques, homes, artisan workshops, and people going about their daily lives much as they have done so since the 9th century. You'll feel as though you've landed in medieval times.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 6 *Friday 27 March*

FES

First up today is a **guided walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Fes medina**.

We'll make sure to include the **Dar Batha Museum of Islamic Arts** with its extraordinary collection of Moroccan traditional arts and crafts, set in a magnificent former palace with a large central formal garden.

We'll stop for lunch at **Jardin des Biehn**, a luxury riad created within the summer palace of the former Pacha El Mokri, famous for its stunning Andalusian garden.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 7 *Saturday 28 March*

BIN EL OUIDANE

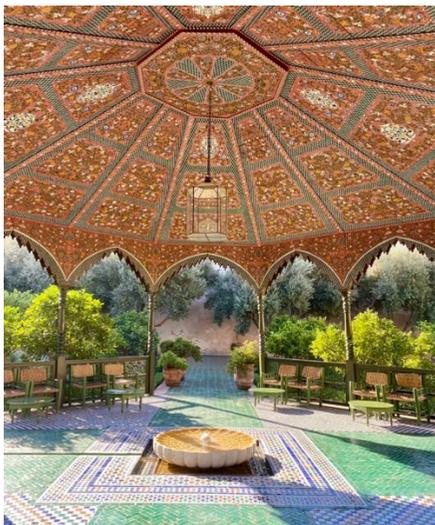
Dar L'eau Vive

Leaving Fes behind we begin our journey to the south of the country.

We'll travel through varying landscapes as we move from the lush green north, through the High Atlas Mountains to the arid south of the country.

Our destination for the night is **Bin el Ouidane**, a lakeside town in the heart of the High Atlas. Our accommodation here is in a delightful garden setting with beautiful lake views.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 8 Sunday 29 March



Day 9 Monday 30 March



Day 10 Tuesday 31 March



Day 11 Wednesday 1 April

MARRAKECH Riad Shanima

Continuing our journey south, we will stop at **Cascade Ouzoud**, Morocco's most famous waterfalls and one of the most beautiful natural sights in Morocco.

We'll explore the stunning falls and break for some lunch in this picturesque spot.

Finally, we'll arrive in **Marrakech**, our destination for the next two nights. The Red City, as Marrakech is known, is another imperial city, and yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site. The souks here are jam packed with every manner of souvenir you can imagine, from pottery to carpets, to leather and intricate metalwork.

We'll settle into our beautiful riad located in the heart of the medina, and depending on energy levels, we may venture into the vibrant main square this evening for a little exploration.

Meals: Breakfast

MARRAKECH Riad Shanima

Today, explore two of Marrakech's best gardens. First, the world famous **Jardin Marjorelle**, originally designed by artist Jacques Marjorelle then later purchased and restored by Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge. The dry garden features cacti, succulents, palms and bougainvillea, together with ponds, formal structures and raked gravel, plus of course the famous and vibrant Marjorelle Blue.

Then, in the heart of the medina, discover **The Secret Garden**; a garden of two parts. Firstly, a restored 19thC Islamic garden, with a formal four-part layout and central fountain. Secondly, an exotic garden featuring plants from all over the world.

In the afternoon, visit the beautiful **Perfume Museum** – an homage to Morocco's rich history of botanical fragrance and the art of perfumery, housed in a very pretty 19th century riad.

Meals: Breakfast

Ouirgane La Roseaie

Nectarome is Morocco's first aromatic and medicinal garden. Featuring a hectare of around fifty different aromatic plants, the garden represents an important ecological nature reserve for the Ourika valley region.

Leaving Nectarome we head for **Anima**, an opulent 3 hectare botanical delight filled with exuberant plants, ponds, pavilions and sculptures by the likes of Keith Haring, Rodin and Picasso, all framed by spectacular views of the snow-capped Atlas Mountain peaks. We'll allow plenty of time to wander the garden and grab a delicious lunch at the garden's Paul Bowles Café.

After lunch we'll head to **Ouirgane**, a small village nestled in the High Atlas Mountains where we'll settle into our lovely accommodation.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

TAROUDANT Dar Al Hossoun

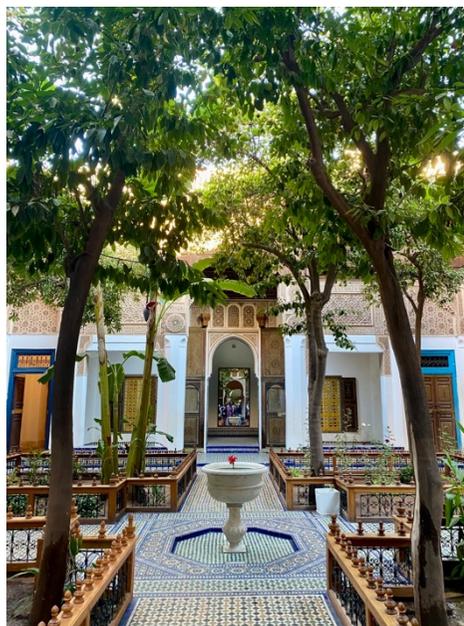
Heading into the deep south of Morocco, today we travel to the small market town of **Taroudant**.

Our lovely accommodation here is located a few minutes from the historical medina, in the middle of olive groves. **Dar al Hossoun** is a 'garden lodge' famous for its extensive contemporary desert flora gardens designed by landscape architects Eric Ossart and Arnaud Maurieres. The gardens feature agaves, kalanchoes, aloes, cacti, opuntias and euphorbias. The gardens also play a role in the preservation of a number of threatened plants. The buildings have been crafted by local artisans according to traditional techniques, with natural materials including wood and baked earth and the entire estate is managed in an eco-responsible manner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 12 **Thursday 2 April**



Day 13 **Friday 3 April**



Day 14 **Saturday 4 April**

TAROUDANT Dar Al Hossoun

Today we have the privilege of a private guided tour around some of the famous private gardens of Taroudant.

One of these gardens is the former home (palace) of the late Chilean hyperrealist artist Claudio Bravo. This extraordinary home, now a hotel, features expansive lawns and orchards, pools, courtyards and a lake with mountain views; each element flowing seamlessly into the next.

Meals: Breakfast

MARRAKECH Kenzi Rose Garden

Today we farewell lovely Taroudant and return to Marrakech. We'll stay at a hotel in the new town this time, to give you a flavour of the other, equally vibrant, modern side of Marrakech. The new town offers easy access to the airport for your flights home tomorrow; it's also the perfect location to stay on for a couple of extra days of rest, relaxation, and independent exploration. We can assist with additional accommodation requests if you wish (*subject to availability*).

Tonight we gather for our farewell dinner – a chance to convene for the last time and reflect on our wonderful two weeks of botanical exploration together.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

MARRAKECH

Sadly, our tour comes to an end today after breakfast. We'll pack up our memories and souvenirs, say our fond farewells and head our separate ways.

We can assist you to book a transfer to Marrakech or Casablanca airport if you wish, at additional cost. We'll arrange these in the last day or two of the tour.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions:

- 13 nights/14 days accommodation
- Arrival airport transfer
- Daily breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners (excl. drinks)
- Transport: private air conditioned vehicle
- Entrance fees to gardens and cultural sites
- Services of a local English-speaking certified guide, retreat|recreate host, and driver
- Tipping of hotel staff, waiters, porters etc
- Water in the bus (please bring a refillable bottle)

Exclusions:

- International airfares
- Travel insurance
- Departure transfer
- Meals and drinks not specified in the itinerary
- Tips for guide & driver at conclusion of tour

Notes:

- This trip is for active adventurous garden enthusiasts who have a curiosity to delve into Moroccan culture and are keen to explore the country through the lens of its garden traditions. You don't need to be an accomplished or experienced gardener or horticulturalist. The host and guide are not horticultural experts – this tour is focussed on enjoying the aesthetics of Moroccan gardens within the context of the broader culture, rather than ticking off a list of Latin-named botanical specimens.
- Please read the Trip Notes thoroughly to understand the health & mobility requirements for this tour.
- The itinerary is full to ensure value for money. You may wish to add a couple of days before and/or after the tour for independent exploration and leisure time.