



Marrakech: Gardens, Art and Cuisine

April 5 - 14, 2018

In support of the University of California Botanical Garden

Escorted by Katherine Greenberg

Come with us to the exotic city of Marrakech and explore its fascinating medina, palm groves, and Berber villages in the High Atlas Mountains. Once the capitol of Morocco, the Imperial City of Marrakech is an exotic oasis with a fascinating culture. We have special invitations to visit private homes and gardens as well as palaces and monuments dating from the 12th century.



The traditional arts of Morocco include weaving and ceramics, wood working, metal work, and jewelry. We will visit artisan workshops and see outstanding examples of traditional and contemporary Moroccan art and design in private homes, museums, and galleries. The allure of Marrakech has long attracted artists, designers, writers, and collectors.

Moroccan cuisine is also a feature of this special tour. Meals at Jnane Tamsna are a fusion of Moroccan and European, using organic fruits and vegetables sourced from the estate's gardens and orchards. We will also enjoy some of Morocco's award-winning wines.

Gary Martin, ethno-botanist and Director of the Global Diversity Foundation, and his wife Meryanne Loum-Martin, a talented designer, will be our hosts. Jnane Tamsna, the private estate created by Gary and Meryanne in the palm groves of Marrakech, will be our home for this tour. The property features elegant architecture, extensive gardens, and gracious hospitality in a tranquil setting. Jnane Tamsna is featured in [Gardens of Marrakech](#) by Angelica Gray.

Thursday, April 5: USA to Marrakech, Morocco

Friday, April 6: Arrival in Marrakech (D)

Independent arrivals and transfers to Jnane Tamsna.

Enjoy a refreshing swim or a stroll in the garden. This evening we are invited to join Meryanne Loum-Martin and Gary Martin for cocktails, canapés, and dinner in their home.



Jnane Tamsna



Saturday, April 7: Jnane Tamsna and Marrakech (BLD)

After breakfast, we will walk through the oasis gardens created by Gary at Jnane Tamsna and explore with him the *khettara* water harvesting tradition whose vestiges are still evident in the *Palmariaie*, the centuries-old palm groves of Marrakech. Meryanne will show us the art and architectural elements of Jnane Tamsna. As Angelica Gray wrote in [Gardens of Marrakech](#), "The couple share a passion for Marrakech and have combined their interests in architecture, design, anthropology, and botany to make something new, based on the rich cultural history of the region."

After lunch, we will spend the afternoon getting to know Marrakech with a knowledgeable local guide. The historic *medina* of Marrakech, the old walled city dating from the 12th century, is a World Cultural Heritage Site. Among other historical places, we will visit the 16th century *Badi* Palace and see the 12th century *minbar* of the *Koutoubia* Mosque, the city's most dominant landmark and a reference of world Islamic art; the 19th century *Bahia* Palace, which features a remarkable *ryad* garden and Moorish-Andalusian architecture; and *Place Jemaa El Fna*, the city's lively main square.

After a visit to the souks in the *medina*, we return to Jnane Tamsna for drinks and dinner.

Sunday, April 8: Marrakech and La Mamounia (BLD)

After breakfast, we will visit *Casa Botanica*, the best local plant nursery and perhaps meet its owner Sadek Tazi, before having lunch at the Kasbah of *La Maison Arabe* and then visit the private garden of its owner Fabrizio Ruspoli.

Later we will visit the legendary *La Mamounia* Hotel and see its lovely gardens, followed by drinks at the terrace café. There is the option to stay for dinner in one of the hotel's restaurants (at own expense) or return to Jnane Tamsna for an early evening rest and dinner.

Monday, April 9: Marrakech and Majorelle Garden (BD)

After breakfast, we have a leisurely morning at Jnane Tamsna, with options (at own expense) for a camel ride, swim, or massage, before we leave for lunch and a guided tour of the Majorelle Garden and the Berber Museum. The Majorelle Garden was the former home and garden of the French painter Jacques Majorelle who came to Marrakech in the 1920s and was enchanted by its people and culture. He imported plants from all over the world to create a private paradise. The garden was restored to its original beauty and color by the late Yves St. Laurent and his partner Pierre Berge. The painter's studio within the garden is now the Berber Museum, which has an amazing collection of decorative arts and artifacts. Lunch (at own expense) will be in the Café Bousafsaf of the Majorelle Garden.

After lunch we will visit the new Yves Saint Laurent Museum before a jaunt to the Jardin Secret in the medina. We return to Jnane Tamsna for a late afternoon rest, followed by cocktails and dinner.



Tuesday, April 10: High Atlas Mountains (BLD)

After breakfast, we will head toward the High Atlas Mountains. Our day-long tour of the Ourika Valley will begin with a visit to a beautiful private garden, before going on to the Andre Heller Anima garden. Then we will stop for lunch at the *Dar Taliba* girls' boarding school, where the Global Diversity Foundation is supporting a permaculture garden and community seed bank. We end the excursion with a tour of an aromatic plant garden, where we can indulge in herbal footbaths.

In the evening, Gary will give a talk about Morocco, and we will have dinner at Jnane Tamsna.

Wednesday, April 11: Cooking Class and Souks of Marrakech (BLD)

After breakfast, there will be free time, followed by an introduction to the diversity of culinary and medicinal plants available in Marrakech. Then we will have a cooking class at Jnane Tamsna using the garden's herbs and vegetables, and lunch to measure the success of our efforts.

Late afternoon, we will embark on a deeper tour of the *Mellah* and *souks* of the Marrakech *medina*, with a focus on herb and spice sellers. We will gain an appreciation of the mixture of spices and herbs used in many Moroccan dishes. After an evening visit to the *Place Jemaa El Fna*, we will enjoy drinks and dinner on the upper terrace of KosyBar, where a Moroccan and Mediterranean fixed menu will be on offer.

Thursday, April 12: Moorish Garden and Artisan Workshops (BLD)

After breakfast, we have time for an optional visit of horticultural interest, including the *Musee de la Palmeraie*, the Thiemann Cactus Nursery, and perhaps another private garden. We return to Jnane Tamsna for lunch and then spend an afternoon with Meryanne exploring Moroccan arts and crafts in the *medina*. This evening, drinks and dinner will be served at Jnane Tamsna (or Royal Mansour at own expense).

Friday, April 13: Museums and Galleries in Marrakech (BD)

After breakfast, we can explore additional monuments, such as the *Saadien* tombs, visit a photography museum or art gallery, and stop for lunch at Café Nomad, a trendy restaurant serving innovative Mediterranean cuisine on a rooftop terrace overlooking the *medina*.

Some people may wish to lounge around the pool in the morning and enjoy a lunch in the gardens of Jnane Tamsna. Lunch will be at own expense, wherever chosen.

After a free afternoon with various options, including time for a siesta or shopping, we will have a gala farewell dinner this evening at Jnane Tamsna.

Saturday, April 14: Marrakech to USA (B)



After breakfast, private transfers to Marrakech airport for return flights. There are a number of possibilities for those who wish to extend their stay.

Jnane Tamsna and Post-tour Options: The estate features nine acres of gardens, several guest houses, swimming pools, and a gallery devoted to Moroccan arts and crafts. Optional activities include yoga, cooking classes, and specialized shopping. Further explorations can be arranged for those who wish to see more of Morocco after the tour.

Physical Endurance Level: The tour includes a moderate amount of walking, and some of the places that we'll be visiting can only be seen on foot. Walking surfaces may be uneven, and comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Shopping: There will be limited time for shopping during the tour. There is a tradition of bargaining in the *medina*. A purchase may involve negotiations over several cups of mint tea.

Cuisine: Moroccan cuisine is a unique blend of Berber, Arabic, Spanish, and French culinary traditions. Spices are an essential part of Moroccan cooking, used to enhance the flavors of meats and vegetables. We will see the amazing displays of Moroccan spices, olives, and herbs in the *medina*. According to the season, meals feature a selection of salads, soups, couscous or *tagine*, fragrant *bstilla*, and delicate pastries served with mint tea.

Tour Escort: Katherine Greenberg is a garden designer and author from California. Katherine first traveled to Morocco over 30 years ago when her father was working there as an agricultural consultant. She has returned many times, and this will be her 6th tour to Morocco. Katherine is on the Advisory Board of the UC Botanical Garden and a past president of the Mediterranean Garden Society, the Pacific Horticulture Society, and the Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. She is the co-author of *Growing California Native Plants*, 2nd edition, published by University of California Press, as well as several cook books.

Global Diversity Foundation: Gary Martin, Director of the Global Diversity Foundation (GDF), has been involved in conservation and ethno-botanical work for over 30 years. After receiving his PhD from UC Berkeley, he founded the GDF to help local communities maintain their agricultural, biological, and cultural heritage through projects in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Gary will take us to see several of his projects in the High Atlas Mountains and share his knowledge of Moroccan culture and traditions. His garden in the palm groves of Marrakech reflects his interest in Mediterranean and Moroccan plants and their uses.

TOUR LAND COST PER GUEST BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:

Based on a minimum of 12 guests: \$4995 per person for members of the University of California Botanic Garden. Non-members pay a \$50.00 supplement. We suggest non-members join before registering for the tour.

Single supplement \$1098.



COSTS INCLUDE:

- 8 night's accommodation, all rooms with private bathrooms
- All hotel taxes and service charges
- Breakfast daily/ lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Deluxe private transportation and top drivers
- Airport transfers
- Special English speaking local guides
- All sightseeing and entrances as per the itinerary
- Deluxe portfolio of documents
- Escorted by Katherine Greenberg
- Donation of \$500 to the University of California Botanic Garden

COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Airfare
- Travel insurance
- Passports

To make a reservation, please complete and submit a printed booking form or contact:

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Terms & Conditions

This information is important. Please read it carefully. Submission of an online or printed Booking Form along with payment of required trip deposit indicates you have read and expressly agree to these Terms and Conditions. If there is something that you do not understand please ask us about it!

Reservations and Payments – A non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person is required at time of booking. Written confirmation will be provided upon receipt of deposit. Balance of payment will be due 60 days before departure. Tour price is based on exchange rates in effect as of April 2017 and are subject to adjustment on final invoice.

Number of Guests: A maximum of 16 guests can be accommodated. A minimum of 12 guests are required to operate the tour at the quoted price. Purchase of non-refundable services outside of the tour itinerary (such as airline tickets) before minimum number of guests have registered is at the sole risk and expense of the guest.

Cancellations – All cancellations must be made in writing. As noted, final payment is due 60 days prior to departure and is non-refundable. Accordingly we strongly recommended that you purchase appropriate cancellation insurance.

Hotels – Hotels are shown on your itinerary. Sterling Tours reserves the right to change any hotel through any circumstance---the substitute will be of equal or higher quality.

Scheduled Activities – Every effort will be made to provide such services as listed, but where unavoidable circumstances necessitate changes, the best substitute alternatives will be made at the discretion of Sterling Tours, the local escort, or the ground operator without financial compensation to tour members.

Service Fees, Tips & Taxes – Today there are frequently service charges and taxes imposed by hotels, suppliers, and governments. These fees and taxes are included to the extent possible, but where pre-payment is not allowed the amounts concerned must be paid locally by tour members. Tips to your guides and drivers are not included and are left to your discretion.

Baggage – Sterling is not responsible for loss, theft or damage to your baggage---travel insurance is strongly recommended to protect against loss. Guests are responsible for airline and government-imposed baggage regulations and fees.

Exclusions – Your arrangements exclude passports, visas, excess baggage charges, items of a personal nature such as laundry, communication expenses, room service, meals not specified in your itinerary, gratuities to guides and drivers, optional sightseeing and other excursions, and any items not listed in your documents.

Travel and Trip Cancellation Insurance – We strongly recommend that you purchase Travel Insurance.

Travel Documents—A passport valid for at least 6 months after last date of this tour is required for this trip.

Physical Capabilities - The tour includes a moderate amount of walking and occasional use of stairs or steeply sloped pathways. Walking surfaces may be uneven or unpaved. Some of the places that we will be visiting can only be seen on foot with no other access possible.

Responsibility Clause – *SterlingTours* – the “Operator”, Katherine Greenberg, UCBG, and/or their agents or representatives, act only as agents for the various companies involved in providing services. They assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any means of conveyance which may be used either whole or in part in the performance of its duty to the passenger. Likewise they will not be responsible for any act, error or omission or for any personal injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, irregularity or inconvenience which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any vehicles, or through any act, neglect or default, or any company or person engaged in carrying out the purpose for which tickets or coupons are issued, whether negligent or not, including, but not limited to, any act of God, terrorism or war. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the Operator. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, also to decline to accept or retain passengers as members of the tour. Legal proceedings against the Operator may be instituted only in a State or Federal Court within the County of San Diego, State of California, and any claim involved in such proceedings shall be decided in the County of San Diego, State of California. Any legal proceedings against the Operator must be commenced within one year following the date of tour completion. Neither the Operator nor Katherine Greenberg nor UCBG shall in any case be liable for compensatory damages and you hereby waive any right to punitive damages.

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***Katherine Greenberg, University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley, and Sterling
Tours invite you to join Marrakech: Gardens, Art & Cuisine * April 5-14,, 2018***

IMPORTANT: *Submitting this form and paying tour deposit confirms you have read and accept the Terms and Conditions for this tour. Please review and be sure you understand the terms and conditions before registering for this tour.*

RESERVATION FORM ----PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER PERSON TRAVELING

Full Name as on your passport: _____

First name you prefer to be called: _____ Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Passport # _____ Issue Date: _____

Expires: _____ Country: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip, Country _____

Emergency Contact Name and Phone # _____

Special Food or Physical Requirements: _____

Celebrating an event during the tour? _____

Need help booking flights? _____ Planning to arrive early or stay after tour? _____

HOTEL ROOM *Please check appropriate room type*

Double Room, One Large Bed: _____ Double Room, Two Beds: _____

Sharing room with : _____
Single Room, I am willing to share _____ Single Room, not sharing _____

(We will attempt to find a roommate, but if unsuccessful the single supplement will apply)

INSURANCE information to be provided after receipt of deposit.

LAND-ONLY TOUR PRICE AND DEPOSIT INFORMATION

Tour Price for members is \$4995 per person land only based on double occupancy and a minimum of 12 guests. Non-member price is \$5045.

Single occupancy of a room requires additional payment of \$1098.

A nonrefundable deposit of \$600 per person is required to register for this tour.

Please make your check payable to Sterling Tours, Ltd and mail with this form to the address below.

Payment by credit card is subject to 3% surcharge, please call Sterling Tours with credit card information.