

GARDENS, ART AND PALACES OF - MARRAKECH -

27 APRIL – 01 MAY 2026

AJH – Associação Portuguesa dos Jardins Históricos



Menara Gardens with the Atlas Mountains behind.

«IN 1939, George Orwell wrote of Westerners flocking to **Marrakesh** in search of “camels, castles, palm-trees, Foreign Legionnaires, brass trays and bandits.” Ever since, the city has been ravishing visitors with its teeming souks, ornate palaces and sybaritic nightlife. In recent years, a succession of high-end openings such as the Yves Saint Laurent Museum or the MACAAL African Art Museum and restorations — most notably, the lavish reopening of the hotel La Mamounia and its astonishing garden — has transformed the city into an obligatory stop for art, fashion and garden lovers, jetsetters and so on. Yet despite Marrakesh’s new cachet, the true treasures of the enigmatic city still hide down dusty side streets and behind sagging storefronts.

1. MONDAY 27 APRIL: LISBON/ PORTO TO MARRAKECH

Suggested flight.

14h40 Departure. Lisbon – Marrakech direct flight with TAP

16h20 Arrival Marrakech Menara airport. Welcome by Sofia Barroso. Transfers by vans to the hotel.
(only one transfer per group, arriving on the same flight)

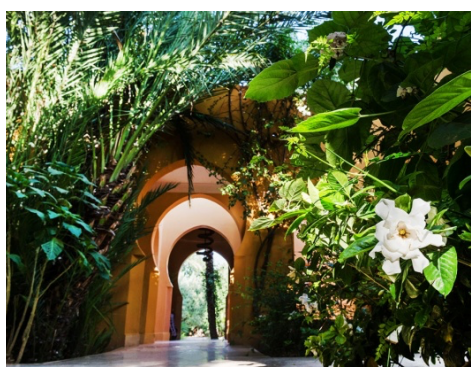
Check-in for 4 nights at Les Jardins de la Koutoubia 5* hotel, located very close to the famous Koutoubia Minaret and gardens and 5 minutes' walk from Jemaa el Fna square, the heart of the city of Marrakech. **Welcome by Fernando Guedes**, president of AJH and his wife, Ana.

Les Jardins de la Koutoubia

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www.lesjardinsdelakoutoubia.com

18h30. Depart by vans for a **visit and welcome dinner at Jnane Tamsna**, other part of the Palmerae, property to the **ethno-botanist Gary Martin and his wife Meryanne**, built in 2000.



Gary Martin and Meryanne from Jnane Tamsna

The garden is traditionally designed with a modern touch illustrated through its sustainable and ecological approach. The name Jnane refers to the combination between the palm trees and fruit trees that grow freely. The architecture of the garden finds its origins in the arsat model, a combination between heights with the palm, lemon, olive, figs pomegranate and mulberry trees; surrounded by jasmines, roses, lavender and other aromatics plants (as in the Persian model of garden such as the bustan). *[Douar Abiad, Palmeraie, Marrakech 40000]*
Return to the hotel by van.

2. TUESDAY 28 APRIL MARRAKECH.

9h30 Meet Sofia and Youssef at the hotel lobby. Depart by vans for a visit to **Majorelle Gardens**. This garden is the work of the artist Jacques Majorelle, who in the 1920s discovered inspiration in Morocco. In the country, he discovered the light and exotic colors he wanted to capture in his paintings of villages, tribes and landscapes in the Atlas. It is Governor Lyautey who offered Jacques Majorelle a large fruit orchard on the outskirts of the city of Marrakesh, which soon became a center receiving exotic plants from all over the world.

We will also visit the fascinating **Berber Museum**, with objects collected by Pierre Bergé and Yves St. Laurent. jardinmajorelle.com/ang



Jardin Majorelle and Villa Oasis interior

11h00 Visit the **Yves Saint Laurent Museum**. It was in Marrakech where Yves Saint Laurent had his refuge and found his source of inspiration. Ever since the 60s he would spend a few seasons in Marrakech and in 1980 he bought with Pierre Berge, his lover for two decades and business partner for half a century, the magnificent villa they named **Villa Oasis**. They cherished their villa and restored the garden, opening the Majorelle Garden to the public. The Yves Saint Laurent Museum is a chef d'oeuvre designed by Studio KO; it opened on October 16th, 2017. The museum holds more than 40 years of Yves Saint Laurent's work exposed in a space of 4000 m2 www.museeyslmarakech.com/en



Yves Saint Laurent Museum and YSL designs of the collection

12h30 Lunch at Café St. Laurent.

14h00 Departure by van. Visit **Le Jardin Secret**. The origins of the place date back to the Saadian dynasty, more than four hundred years ago. Rebuilt in the middle of the 19th century at the behest of an influential kaid from the Atlas Mountains, the Secret Garden has been home to some of the most important political figures in Morocco and Marrakech. Today we can fully appreciate its beauty thanks to the recent renovation. Windsor of the two courtyards were entrusted to **Tom Stuart-Smith**, responsible for the Windsor Palace gardens. The larger courtyard has been restored as an Islamic paradise garden, reflecting the pure geometry and Koranic symbolism of its progenitors. The smaller garden shows another view of paradise, as described in the Old Testament book of genesis, where "out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food." www.lejardinsecretmarrakech.com/en



Le Jardin Secret

16h00 Continue-on foot. Visit **Dar El Bacha**, grand residence built in 1910 and was once the home of Thami El Glaoui, who was appointed as the Pasha of Marrakech by Sultan Moulay Youssef in 1912. In 2017, the building was renovated by the NFM and transformed into a museum that serves as a prime example of traditional Moroccan architecture. This is evident from the fountains, the traditional salons, and the courtyard filled with orange trees.

17h30 Our last visit today will be the **Madrasa Ben Youssef**, an architectural treasure nestled in the heart of the old Medina of Marrakech, echoes the sounds of a glorious past and embodies an invaluable historical significance. It transports visitors to a fascinating era where art, knowledge, and culture flourished. It was constructed by Sultan Abdullah Al-Ghaleb Assadi between the years 1564 and 1565. It has been recently beautifully restored.

3. WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL. MARRAKECH

9h30 Depart by van with Sofia & Youssef. Drive past the Royal **Agdal gardens**.

Visit to **MACAAL**, the Museum of African Art, located in Al-Maaden residential complex with gardens designed by Spanish landscape architect: **Fernando Caruncho** <https://web.fernandocaruncho.com/en/>. The complex is owned by Alami & Othman Lazraq. Visit the gardens by Caruncho with great views of the Atlas Mountains.



Refreshment at the **golf club at Al Maaden**

11h30 Departure. Visit **Palm Orchids Nursery**, owned by specialist Sadek Tazi. It is considered the best nursery in Morocco.

13h30 Continue to **the Oberoi hotel** that has been designed by **Madisson Cox** where we will enjoy **lunch**. After lunch we will visit its impressive gardens.



17h00 Depart for a visit to the **gardens** and **tea** at **La Mamounia**. (*Avenue Bab Jdid*).

Its famous and legendary gardens, built by **Sultan Mohammed Ben Abdallah** in the eighteenth century on several hectares, to create four garden spaces to be divided between his four children. The idea of the **arsat**, garden-orchard, brings some privacy to the great foliage of its species, the exoticism of its palms and the orange blossom aroma, as well as the symmetry of its walls and walks, with ceramic decoration. Pavilions and decorative kiosks also alternate between olive trees, lemon trees and flowers. With the restoration of the hotel in 2009, the garden was renewed, "maintaining the soul and history" of the space. www.mamounia.com



La Mamounia hotel and gardens

Vans will take us back to the hotel. **Independent dinners.**

4. THURSDAY 30 APRIL. MARRAKECH.

9h30 Meet Sofia and Youssef at the hotel lobby. Depart by vans for a visit to **Cactus Tillman nursery**. Hans Thiemann, a German horticultural engineer and cactus specialist, left his greenhouse in Bremen in 1964 to settle in Marrakech, bringing with him years of research and his cactus collection. He found the perfect spot near the Jbilets, with a view of the Atlas Mountains, close to the city but in the countryside. For over 20 years he traveled the world in search of the finest seeds of cacti and succulents. After his death in 2001, his wife continues the family business, specializing in cactus propagation

11h00 Drive to **Anima Garden**, Universal artist André Heller's opulent, 3-hectare botanical staging is a magical place of sensuality, of wonder, of contemplation, of joy, of healing, and of inspiration.

13h00 Transfer by vans for our **farewell lunch at Beldi Country Club**, where you will find a charming blend of Moroccan tradition and French chic. Beldi is an Arabic expression meaning «traditional» or

«the one who is from here, and its style is based on the expertise of craftsmen and designers. Maintaining the harmony between the natural environment and human activity is an essential element of the Beldi experience. Beldi not only has a **beautiful garden rose** but also has its very own on-site souk, selling hand-crafted items including carpets, cushions, bags and bread that is homemade using Beldi olive oil. Another thing to look out for is the Beldi glass, which is blown on site by their own team of glassblowers – the plant here is the last one in Morocco that blows and produces its own glass. beldicountryclub.com



Beldi Country Club

16h00 We will head South to the nearby village of Tahanout where we will visit the **studio and beautiful garden designed by Moroccan artists Yamou**. The organic forms in their work (painting, sculpture...) are very related to nature and science. Tea and Moroccan pastries will be offered.



4. FRIDAY 1 MAY. MARRAKECH- PORTO/LISBON.

Check out of hotel. Leave luggage in hotel luggage room.

10h00 Departure by van. Visit the impeccable preserved ruins of 16th Century **Badi Palace**, where we will see a good example of a Muslim cross plan garden. Then we will continue to visit **Le MAP, Musée de la Parure, Jewelry Museum**, that exhibits the private collection of Marlène & Paolo Gallone.

13h30 Lunch will take place in the **charming roof garden** designed by a young Marrakech landscape architect Marius Boulesteix. <https://www.mapmarrakech.com/>

15h00 Return by van to the hotel to collect the luggage. Transfer to the airport.



****End of the trip.** This program has been tailor made by Around Art for the AJH – Associação Portuguesa dos Jardins Históricos. This program may undergo changes which will not alter the quality of the journey*

Pay directly. 30€ (each van takes 6 pax.)

Suggested flight:

Marrakech- LISBON direct flight with TAP
17h20 Departure Marrakech – Menara airport.
19h00 Arrival Lisbon.