

# In the Footsteps of Sultans



- explore imperial Fez with half-day tour included
- stay in luxurious riads ■ varied mountain walking with inspirational views

Our new holiday in Morocco starts with 2 nights and busy days in the medieval labyrinthine chaotic melting pot that is Fez, retiring each

evening to the opulence and elegance of a traditional riad. After such a pleasurable assault on the senses, you head for the hills where we have found four rewarding and fascinating guided walks through the cool cedar forests and spectacular rock formations of the Middle Atlas. The scenery and atmosphere here is reminiscent of the French Alps, with chalet-style houses, forested slopes and rugged peaks.

## SOUKS, SULTANS AND KINGS

In Fez, you stay in one of our carefully selected riads, each with its own intimate restaurant and roof-top terrace, a real oasis in the chaos of this bustling town. On your first morning, your city guide will collect you for a half-day tour (included) of the city's *souks* (markets) and medina. The next day you head for the mountains and are transferred to the rustic and comfortable Hotel Amros near Azrou for two nights. A perfect warm-up walk on your first afternoon, leads you along ancient mule tracks through one of the most beautiful parts of the Middle Atlas, incredibly green in spring, on your way to visit the spectacular cascading waterfalls of Oum-er-Rbia. The following morning, after another short transfer, you walk to the village of Zaouiat d'Ifrane, initially across a rugged limestone plateau and then through the lush forests of the Kissarite Royal Park. From these cool cedar and green oak forests, you emerge at the head of the Tisfoula valley above Zaouiat d'Ifrane, where the spectacular views open out over verdant valleys and mountains stretching far into the distance. Outside the dry season, glistening waterfalls cascade off the towering cliffs above the village.

## ANCIENT FORESTS AND CULTURES

The following day's walk begins with a transfer up into the forests above Azrou for the walking highlight of the week. This exhilarating walk takes you through silent stands of ancient cedar that offer exciting glimpses of the valley below. Although you will also see maple, oak, juniper and mistletoe, it is the mighty cedar for which this area is famous with some living to an astonishing 600 years old. Wildlife abounds, so look out for barbary apes - the most famous residents of the forest - as well as wild boar and foxes. The only other people you are likely to meet, are nomadic Berber shepherds and their flocks. As you climb above the trees, there are breathtaking views stretching as far as the High Atlas, before returning to Azrou down a secluded valley. After the walk, you transfer to your second base in the mountains, the very comfortable Grand Hotel in Ifrane. The following morning, your walk starts at the hotel, passing a lake before ascending a gently winding path through Berber villages, mixed forests of oak, blue cedar and pine, and over a limestone plateau to the head of the Vallée des Roches, from where you get spectacular views across the mountains. You descend via a royal palace back to your welcoming hotel in Ifrane, having spent a rewarding day in the hills. After a leisurely breakfast, you transfer back to Fez for your last day, where you can relax in the *hammam* (a Moroccan steam bath) or return to the souks, for those who want to have one last chance to haggle.



All prices per person based on 2 people in a double room

1 March-7 June & 13 September-31 October	Walk Price*	Single Room
1-14 Mar	825	246
15 Mar-30 Apr; 1-31 Oct	868	253
1 May-7 Jun; 13-30 Sep	845	246
3rd+ person saving	155	

\*Connecting travel: return taxi from Fez (out/home 0h15) £22pp

## GRADE 2-3 DISCOVERY (THREE-CENTRE HOLIDAY)



## EXTEND YOUR STAY

### (FULL DAY EXCURSION)

We highly recommend adding an extra day in Fez, in order to visit the imperial city of Meknes, famous for its palaces, gates and the tomb of Sultan Moulay Ismail, and the Roman town of Volubilis, where extensive remains include columns, monuments and many impressive mosaics (£65pp based on 2 people).

## HOLIDAY INFORMATION

### GRADE 2-3

**TERRAIN** Forest trails, high ridges, rocky mountain paths

**CLIMATE** Warm in city, cooler in mountains

**MEALS** 7 breakfasts, 4 dinners, 3 picnics

**NIGHTS:** 7

**1st NIGHT:** Fez (riad, B&B)

**DAY 1:** Explore Fez (riad, B&B)

**DAY 2:** Transfer to Azrou, walk from Azrou (country hotel)

**DAY 3:** Walk from Azrou (country hotel)

**DAY 4:** Walk from Azrou, transfer to Ifrane (country hotel)

**DAY 5:** Walk from Ifrane, (country hotel)

**DAY 6:** Transfer to Fez (riad, B&B)

**WALKS:** 9-15km

**START:** Any day

**Recommended destination airports:** Fez

**We can book your flights for you - please call us to discuss your travel requirements.**

FOR PRICING DETAILS SEE PAGES 232-243