



MOROCCO TEXTILE TOUR



Join Gabriella Verstraeten, textile designer and teacher,
on an exciting tour of Morocco. Visit exotic Casablanca, Rabat, Fes, Marrakech and villages in the Atlas and Rif mountains. Experience busy, vibrant medinas filled with spices, carpets, fabrics and leather goods. Encounter artisans who continue to practice age old traditions in weaving, carpet making, leather work and embroidery. Travel north to the unique blue city of Chefchaouen. Spend a day in a Berber village. Meet and learn from women working in self-run cooperatives making beautiful handcrafts.

The tour features comfortable hotels and riads, air conditioned vehicles, English speaking guides and plenty of shopping time!

Departing 18 September, 2015

MOROCCO

Textile Tour

Tour highlights:

- Meeting local artisans and learning traditional crafts
- The blue city of Chefchaouen
- Moroccan cooking class
- Vibrant gardens and streetscapes

Fri 18 Sep - Depart Australia

Depart Australia flying Emirates Airlines on an overnight flight.

Sat 19 Sep - Arrive Casablanca (D)

Upon arrival in Casablanca, the economic capital of Morocco, you will be met and transferred by coach to your Casablanca hotel, where you will check in and after some time to refresh take a short walking tour. Dinner will be served at the hotel.

Sun 20 Sep - Casablanca - Rabat - Chefchaouen (B,D)

After breakfast, visit the Hassan II mosque before leaving by coach towards Chefchaouen, the blue city in the Rif Mountains, established to protect religious refugees. On route, stop at Rabat, the capital city and residence of the King, for lunch and some time to enjoy the beautiful coastal city. After lunch travel on to Chefchaouen, for an overnight stay at **Dar Echchaouen**.



Mon 21 Sep - Chefchaouen - Fes (B,D)

This morning we will explore the many small streets of the medina. The town is home to Berber tribe people, Muslims, Jews and Moors and this is reflected in a rich cultural heritage. In the late afternoon we will leave Chefchaouen for Fes visiting the Roman city of Volubilis on the way. Check in at the **Riad Salam** for a stay of five nights.

Tue 22 Sep - Fes - Azrou - Fes (B,D)

After breakfast travel into the Middle Atlas Mountains to the village of Azrou for the weekly market. Meet with women who are still weaving carpets by hand. Discover age-old techniques and

perhaps try your skills. Return to Fes in the evening for dinner.

Wed 23 Sep - Fes (B,D)

After breakfast begin a guided tour of the medina, one of the world's largest walled in cities. Explore the narrow streets lined with fresh fruit, mounds of spices, intricately woven Berber carpets and many other art objects of Morocco. While deep in the ancient medina, you will visit a family cooperative that is weaving local cloths. See the bright colours of Morocco, as well as patterns used for traditional religious materials. Spend time at the dyers market and tanneries.



Thu 24 Sep - Fes (B,D)

During the morning visit the Artisanal Ensemble training centre. Meet the students and teachers and see the different crafts being taught. Later in the day visit embroiders and a cactus silk weaving workshop. The Jardin des Biehn hotel and cafe is our next stop to view the private collection of textiles and artifacts belonging to the owner Michel Biehn.

Fri 25 Sep - Sefrou excursion (B,L,D)

Leave this morning on a day trip Sefrou, a village of many textile related activities and women's cooperatives for handicrafts. Visit the Cherry Button Cooperative where you can learn to make needle weaving buttons. Lunch is with the women at the cooperative. See more of Sefrou before returning to Fes in the evening.

Sat 26 Sep - Fes - Marrakech (full day drive) (B,D)

After an early breakfast you will depart for Marrakech on a beautiful drive up into the Middle Atlas Mountains and along the base of the High Atlas Mountains. Once in Marrakech, check in to the **Opera Plaza Hotel** for a six night stay and then make your way to the famous Djemaa el Fna, the centre square of the medina and one of the main attractions of Marrakech. Coming alive at night with local storytellers, entertainers and mouth-watering barbeque pits, the square is well worth a visit. A quiet cup of tea on the terrace of an adjacent café provides a spectacular aerial view of the bustling square.

Sun 27 Sep - Marrakech (B,L,D)

A Moroccan cooking class is included this morning. In the afternoon take a guided tour of Marrakech, the southern pearl of Morocco. You will discover the Palace of the Bahia, the Saadian Tombs, Medersa Ben Youssef and many other treasures. Dinner will be in Djemaa el Fna.



Mon 28 Sep - Tameslouht (B,L,D)

Travel a short distance from Marrakech to the village of Tameslouht to meet with the ladies of the village cooperative. There will be classes in embroidery and jelleba bead jewellery making, along with lunch. Return to Marrakech with free time before dinner.

Tue 29 Sep - Berber experience (B,L,D)

Join in a *Day in the Life of the Berber* cultural experience. Learn about rural Moroccan Berber life including preparing a Berber Tagine and baking bread over a traditional oven. Visit a Wool Co-operative where you will see how Berber Tents are made, noting the differences in various types of work and quality. In the late afternoon, return to Marrakech.

Wed 30 Sep - Marrakech (B,D)

Morocco has the most amazing needlepoint work and in the

morning you will see a demonstration of the technique and have the opportunity to try it for yourself. In the afternoon explore the various souks selling many items. Time to try out your bargaining skills! You may also decide to take an optional visit to the local hammam and spa.

Thu 01 Oct - Marrakech (B,L,D)

In the morning visit Les Jardins Majorelle, a striking cobalt blue oasis once owned by Yves St Laurent. See his collection of North African textiles at the Musee Berbere. Later explore the Tiskiwin Museum, the Musee Boucharouite and see the dyer souks in the medina.



Fri 02 Oct - Marrakech - Essaouira (B,D)

After breakfast, set off to the coastal city of Essaouira, a picturesque fishing town lying on the southwest coast of Morocco. With an exquisite beach to the south, Essaouira has become one of Morocco's most popular coastal towns. Many of the country's wood carvers and artists make Essaouira their home. Stay overnight at *Riad Mimouna*.

Sat 03 Oct - Depart Casablanca (B,D)

During the morning leave Essaouira for Casablanca with a stop in Safi, famous for its ceramics and textiles. Drive along the coastline to El Jadida and tour the Portuguese citadel and see the underground cistern. Continue your journey to the airport in Casablanca for your evening departure for Australia.

Sun 04 Oct - Arrive Australia



Who is Gabriella Verstraeten?

Gabriella is a Melbourne based textiles artist and has escorted many textile study tours with InterAsia to varied destinations including the old silk trading routes, southern regions of China, India, Vietnam, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Guatemala. Gabriella works closely with InterAsia to help formulate these very specialised tours.



Gabriella completed a B.ED studies at Melbourne State College in 1982, (majors in textile & metal) followed by studies in textile design at RMIT University and has established a career as a textile designer and fibre artist. She has worked as an artist in school programmes and written for national and international magazines.

For many years, Gabriella's professional studio practice was based at Melbourne's 'Meat Market & Craft Centre' until it closed in 1999. She held her first solo exhibition - 'Wrapture' - in 2001. Gabriella continues to exhibit her current work bi-annually with the contemporary textile fibre based group 'Hurrah!' Gabriella is currently teaching at St Francis Xavier College in Beaconsfield. Her design work was included in the renowned publication 'Fibre Arts Design Book 7(2005), highlighting her excellence and innovation in the contemporary fibre arts world. Gabriella was also one of 40 international fibre artists invited to exhibit work in 'Art Embroidery - a wide focus on New Territories' which toured several textile museums in Europe during 2005.

To see her work and photos of previous tours please visit:
www.gabriellaverstraeten.com

TOUR PRICE

Tour Price: (to be advised) per person, twin share, ex Melbourne, Sydney, or Brisbane. Plus airport and airline taxes and levies (\$720, variable)

Land Only: (to be advised) per person, twin share, from Casablanca to Casablanca.

Single Room Supplement: (to be advised)

Includes:

- International air travel, economy class, with Emirate Airlines ex Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth. (Adelaide on request)
- Comfortable hotels and riads.
- Meals as shown in the itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- All transfers, transportation within Morocco
- Experienced escort from Australia, and local guides throughout the tour
- Sightseeing and evening entertainment as listed including all entrance fees
- Portorage of one suitcase at hotels
- Hotel service charges and taxes

Excludes:

- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Tipping
- International air taxes and charges



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ATAS Accreditation No. A10633

BOOKING CONDITIONS

General Price Conditions

Tour prices and inclusions are based on a minimum of 10 passengers. All prices quoted are subject to change before final payment is made and are subject to confirmation of availability when booking. Air taxes and fuel surcharges will be invoiced at current rate at time of booking and revised at time of ticket issuance, and as such, revised invoices may be applied. Prices are based on cash or cheque payment only. Payment by credit card will incur a fee.

Making a Booking

To secure a booking a non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person and a completed InterAsia Booking Form is due within 7 days of registration.

Final Payment

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. If bookings are made inside 60 days, full payment is due immediately arrangements are confirmed.

Cancellations and Amendments

Amendments to confirmed bookings will be subject to a fee of \$50 per change. Within 60 days of departure and once documentation has been issued, amendments may also be subject to cancellation fees. Should you need to cancel a booking, notification in writing must be made to InterAsia

The following cancellation fees will apply, in addition to any fees charged by hotels and transport providers:

More than 60 days before departure – Deposit.

60 to 35 days before departure – 30% of land cost plus standard airline cancellation fees (if applicable)

34 to 14 days before departure – 100% of land cost plus airline cancellation fee (if applicable)

Less than 14 days before departure – 100% of all monies paid.

No refund will be given for unused or cancelled services once travel has commenced.

Refer to the InterAsia Booking Form for a full list of booking conditions.

