

## **Morocco: A Treasure Trove of Experiences Awaits You**

Morocco was our first trip to Africa. Before we left, I asked my children, "Do you like it here?" They excitedly replied, "We love it!" I then asked, "What do you like about it?" Without hesitation, one of the children said, "I like the people here."

This pure and unfiltered answer from a four-year-old amazed me. It wasn't about unlimited refills of beverages, all-you-can-eat buffets from morning till night, or the lively children's disco with flashing lights. The answer was about the people.

Stripping away culture, language, and geographical boundaries, we are all vibrant individuals. Even if our faces differ, our languages don't match, and we're separated by miles, when you smile, I can sense the loving heart beating within you.

After exploring Morocco, this city is full of warmth, I strongly recommend it as a place to visit in your lifetime.

## **The Intersection of Reality and Fantasy**

Morocco seems like a holiday destination for people living in Europe. There are resorts, hotels, and guesthouses everywhere, offering various choices for tourists. As soon as you land at the airport, you'll see signs from major hotels welcoming guests.

On your way, you might see some unfinished, dilapidated structures standing abruptly in vast open spaces, as if abandoned construction projects. You'll also pass by some simple homes, with several small vendors selling various items along the roads, amidst the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

These are interspersed with luxurious and well-designed resorts, each with its own water slides and ornate sculptures or fountains at the entrances. It's a visually striking place where prosperity and decay intermingle.

## **The Bustling Atmosphere of Marrakech's Market**

Marrakech is a city cloaked in red, surrounded by various red buildings. If you want to experience liveliness, visit Djemaa el-Fna Square, also known as the "Square that Never Sleeps."

Stepping into the market, you'll be hit by the vibrant atmosphere of life. Alley after alley is filled with a variety of small stalls. Crowds of people, both locals and tourists, carefully select Moroccan souvenirs, clothing, and art pieces.

The proprietors at each stall can speak multiple languages. Have you ever tried bargaining with vendors? In this market, learning to haggle can be an interesting experience. The initial prices for goods are usually higher, so you can start bargaining from around 30% of the asking price.

If you don't succeed, it's okay; you'll find many shops selling similar items, so try different prices until you figure out a reasonable one. Personally, I saw this as a fun experience and even tried bargaining with my children.

But if you're a more reserved person, don't hesitate to explore the market. Observe the hawkers and listen to their lively calls, forget about yourself – after all, nobody knows you here – and immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere. In this ancient city, you can encounter various sounds that bring life to the place.

Of course, you should also be cautious of pickpockets and scam artists. Diverse characters will unfold before your eyes.



## **Berber Culture**

If your travels are about experiencing the local culture and customs, then Morocco is a place with a deep and rich culture.

You can book day trips to visit the homes of native Berber residents. This is a great way to learn about their traditional way of living, including their food, clothes, and language.

You can also visit local flour mills powered by water. Olives are a local specialty, so be sure to try some of the fresh olive oil.



### **Riding Camels Through the Desert**

When you come to Morocco, you must experience the desert. You can take a camel trek through the Sahara Desert, or if you're short on time, there are desert experiences available in the city centre.

If you're new to camel riding, don't worry. The local guides will help you get on and off the camel safely.



### **Love the People Here, as the Children Said**

We stayed in a resort where various activities took place from morning to night. All the staff also played multiple roles. They were waiters in the restaurant, staff in the children's club, fitness instructors at the daytime pool, and bartenders and DJs at night, and each one of

them was multi-talented. However, what makes the people here unforgettable isn't just their skills but the sincerity in their eyes.

Due to my work, I have travelled to many countries and stayed in many hotels, experiencing various types. Some hotels, despite their grandeur, leave you with a sense of arrogance from their staff. In Morocco, I felt at home away from home for the first time. Although I know that the staff here perform the same work day after day, listening to the same songs, dancing to the same tunes, and doing the same acts, their faces reveal that each one of them is fully present, without any sense of boredom, only enjoyment. The smiles on their faces are so genuine, not forced. As a result, visitors here gradually open up their closed and guarded hearts, revealing the beauty of their humanity.

Every morning when we go to eat, familiar faces warmly greet my children in French: "Good morning, my friends.(Bonjour, mes amies!)" The staff, dressed in local attire, perform tea ceremonies and take friendly photos with the children. Passing staff members kneel down to chat with my kids, treating them as equals to adults. They make eye contact, high fives, or invite the children to dance. It's ironic that my two children, who were labelled as introverted and impolite in French culture for not greeting people, have become kids who eagerly run up to staff members in Morocco, hug them, compete to order food, and even help their dad order cocktails at the bar every night.

All of us, to varying degrees, are born somewhat shy. It's not that we're naturally cold, but we've learned to protect ourselves in high-pressure and indifferent environments. If you also want to get closer to your true self, come to Morocco. Look into innocent eyes, see genuine smiles. When we sincerely embrace life, it will naturally blossom. I will always remember that 8-day, 7-night trip with my family. It makes me forever proud that I've never labelled my children; I just nurture life itself and am just curious to see the true nature of each of them. If it's an orange tree, it will inevitably bloom into a bunch of oranges. You don't need to become a lemon, let alone envy the pears. Morocco is the place where the beauty of oranges is seen. I also look forward to your own story happening in Morocco.

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