

Art and Culture Andalucía
Andalucía and Tangiers Trip
20th to 24th September, 2023



Dar-el-Makhzen, Kasbah, Tangiers.

Because of its strategically important location, Tangiers has a fascinating and varied history, beginning with its origins as a Phoenician trading post, through Carthaginian, Roman and Byzantine colonisation; native Berber involvement in the Islamic kingdom of Al-Andalus and its role as the eventual refuge for many of the Moors who were driven out of Spain following the Christian 'reconquest'.

Portuguese, English and French colonisation followed later, the latter in particular bringing many famous painters to the city; and in the early twentieth century its status as an 'international zone' full of spies and writers further added to its exotic and romantic attraction.

A large part of the focus of our visit will be the varied architecture, fascinating galleries and museums and the exotic 'medina' – the medieval old town that still survives.

Join us for an uplifting long weekend in autumn, an ideal time to visit Tangiers.

"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls."

Pablo Picasso.

Wednesday 20th September

We will meet you at Gibraltar Airport at 15.30pm and take you by private coach to the beautiful pueblo blanco (white village) of Gaucin, where you will spend your first two days in luxury villa accommodation. This spectacular mountain village, with its views all the way to distant Gibraltar, and the Rif mountains in Morocco, is home to over twenty artists' studios.



Gaucin, Serrania de Ronda

After time to settle in, there will be a short introductory lecture about the historic relationship between Andalucia and Morocco. Then around 7pm we will meet for drinks on the terrace of Villa Los Buhos, followed by an evening meal at the villa.

Thursday 21st September

The day will begin with optional yoga at 8am, followed by a sumptuous breakfast at 9am.

There will then be two lectures covering both the history and architecture of Tangiers and its attractions as a magnet for some of the greatest European painters of the 19th century.

After lunch at the villa there will be free time available to visit a couple of local artists' studios, or join a guided walk in the local countryside, or just relax at the villa. In the evening we will take a short stroll into the centre of the village for supper at one of our favourite local restaurants.

Friday 22nd September

After breakfast the coach will take us to Tarifa. From there we will catch the ferry across the straights of Gibraltar to Tangiers, where we will stay at El Minzah Hotel near the old medina. This beautiful building with its Arabesque woodwork, oriental carpets, arched doorways and large Andalusian patio in the heart of the hotel, was built by the 4th Marquis of Bute in the early 20th Century, in a pure Hispano-Moorish style that is true to the architectural heritage of Morocco, whilst embodying all the comfort of an English gentleman's club.



Mosaics in the Medina, Tangiers

After lunch at the hotel we will visit the nearby St. Andrews church, an Anglican church consecrated in 1905. The interior architecture is a fusion of styles, particularly Moorish. The belltower, shaped like a minaret,

overlooks the adjacent cemetery, and the graves of a number of fascinating and colourful characters. Henri Matisse's painting of 1912, *Window in Tangiers*, depicts the church.



Matisse. Window in Tangiers. 1912.

We will then make the short walk to the Grand Mosque of Tangiers in the old medina. This site has been occupied by a succession of religious buildings since antiquity, the earliest being a Roman temple dedicated to Hercules. Although we will not be able to enter the mosque, the exterior is well worth a visit.

In the evening we will enjoy a restaurant supper.

Saturday 23rd September

The day will start with a visit to the American Legation Museum in the medina, the only US National Historic Landmark located in a foreign country. Now a cultural centre, museum, and a research library, concentrating on Arabic language studies, it houses many paintings by Marguerite McBey and other artists, as well as three rooms devoted to the expatriate writer and composer Paul Bowles.

From there we will go on a guided visit to the Kasbah, the old citadel of Tangiers, built after the city was evacuated by the English in 1684. This fortified district has its own walls and gates, within which is the *Dar al-Makhzen*, a governor's residence, and sometimes Sultan's palace, next to the Grand Mosque. The palace now houses the spectacular Museum of the Kasbah, which we will visit at leisure after lunch.

Later in the afternoon, after we return to the hotel, you will have some free time. We recommend visiting the Aladdin's cave of a shop that is just across the street from the hotel entrance. You might just find a hidden treasure to take home. We have brought back one or two ourselves!

In the evening we will meet up again for a meal in the hotel's restaurant.

Sunday 24th September

After breakfast we will take taxis to the ferry for our return to Tarifa. The coach will meet us there to take you back to Gibraltar airport for your return flights.

(Itinerary details subject to change)



Street art in the Kasbah

Tutors

Dr. Jacqueline Cockburn is Managing Director of Art & Culture Travel. She was formerly Head of the Department of Art History at Westminster School, Chief Examiner in Art History at Cambridge International Examinations, and an Associate Lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London. Ian Cockburn is a director of Art & Culture Travel and has an MA from the Courtauld Institute in medieval Spanish art history. Both are lecturers accredited by The Arts Society.

Fees (minimum 12 people/maximum 20 people): £1,600 per person, shared accommodation.

The fee covers two nights' accommodation in a luxury villa in Gaucin, plus two nights' accommodation at the 5-star [El Minzah Hotel](#) in Tangiers, including all breakfasts, lunches and suppers; all teaching and guiding by two specialist tutors over four days, plus all local guides fees; all private coach transport in Andalucía, return ferry journey from Tarifa to Tangiers and all taxi journeys around Tangiers; all museum and other entry fees.

Not included in the fees: Flights, travel and medical insurance. Single room supplement: £280.

Fitness: Please note a suitable level of fitness and mobility is required for walking and for visiting galleries.

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