

Beginners and accomplished painters very welcome

MOROCCO: Near Merzouga Nomad Palace, March 5th-15th, 2011

Excursions

Picnics

Meals with wine

Special dietary needs met



This holiday, which is for the more adventurous painter, is packed with thrilling images of the kaleidoscopic Moroccan landscape. You'll see rich, jade-green valleys, dry lunar expanses, and the seemingly limitless sands of the Erg Chebbi dunes – the backdrop to our base at the Nomad Palace on the very edge of the Sahara Desert.

**£985
No single room supplement**

£50 discount for painting friends sharing twin room

£50 discount for non-painter partners

Price includes: full - board, accommodation meals en-route, all local transport, painting tuition, excursions, local guides, camel hire, bottled water

The Nomad Palace offers fascinating painting subjects and an authentic experience of the Berber way of life. It is not a palace in any Western sense, but it is a palace to the weary desert traveller. Complete with swimming pool, its natural adobe walls and exposed, wood-beamed ceilings give welcome shelter on warmer afternoons. As the chillier desert nights draw in, the Salon is the venue for after-dinner gatherings with traditional Saharan drumming.

Here, right at the foot of huge, drifting Saharan dunes, simple Berber settlements dot the land with sun-dried, square, adobe dwellings. Largest of these is the nearby village of Merzouga, with its shady palmerie and tribesmen bedecked in colourful robes, tending their camels or tilling fields. Quite close by - as if by miracle - the Dayet Srijji salt lake appears every spring, attracting pink flamingos and other fowl, only to vanish in the summer sun.

Do your eyes deceive you? Is it a mirage? Are the sands changing colour in the dusk-sweetened eve? Or are you falling under the enchantment of the desert moon and stars? Your holiday will also include at least a day and a night in the astonishing Dades Gorge, to paint perhaps the Tamnalt (the 'hills of human bodies'), the almond trees in blossom, a ruined kasbah or a shady nook.

Non-painting partners are welcome at a discount and will also be invited to have a go with the brush.



Itinerary and Excursions



DAY 1: Arrival, pick-up and introduction to our guide. Overnight stay in hotel in Ouarzazate.

DAY 2: Onward journey south-east through extraordinary terrain to Nomad Palace near Algerian border (the journey of 350 km will include lunch and several comfort breaks). Arrival at Nomad

Palace in the late afternoon, in time for tea and a dip in the pool.

DAYS 3 - 8: Stay at Nomad Palace includes, in addition to other activities, excursion to Merzouga, excursion to Dayet Srijj salt lake, camel ride into Erg Chebbi dunes, painting excursion to desert villages and palmerie, painting session with camels, portrait session with Berber tribesmen in traditional gowns.

During your stay there will be one day without formal tuition, when an optional excursion to an old Kasbah Museum near the ancient caravan town of Rissani is arranged. Alternatively you may choose to spend the day at the Nomad Palace, at your leisure.

DAY 9: Journey to stunning Dades Gorge and painting in the Gorge. Overnight stay at Hotel la Kasbah de la Vallee.

DAY 10: Journey to Ouarzazate and painting in Ouarzazate. Overnight stay in hotel in Ouarzazate.

DAY 11: Transfer from hotel to Ouarzazate airport for early morning flight to London Heathrow.



Please note that all arrangements depend on weather, environmental conditions and local availability and that plans might vary a little depending on the needs for the day.

Accommodation and Meals



You will be provided with breakfast, lunch and dinner and accommodated in simple rooms, each with their own warm shower and toilet facilities.

Freshly prepared Moroccan cuisine is served. Most meals will be cooked over an open fire and served in the Salon, although some meals will be taken in bistros and hotels.

Typically, a dinner may consist of harira for starter (a delicious, thick vegetable soup sometimes containing a bread dumpling), and tagine for main course (meat, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, seasonal vegetables, and spices cooked in a clay crock). Other main courses include couscous (vegetarian or with meat), grilled lamb on skewers (often served with pommes frite), and Berber 'pizza' (double- crusted bread filled with meat, onions, spices, and sometimes hard-boiled eggs and almonds). For dessert, local seasonal fresh fruit is served, such as oranges and dates, followed by Moroccan coffee or tea a'la menthe.

Vegetarians and food intolerances arising from medical conditions can usually be catered for.

No supplement is charged for a single room, as this would discriminate against people on their own. It would therefore be appreciated if friends could share a room if possible.

The Painting Course

Bettina's painting courses are suitable for all, from absolute beginners to accomplished painters. They are designed to help you to make the most of your abilities and to find a personal approach. The emphasis is on how to capture the initial excitement on first spotting a subject, without getting too bogged down in technicalities. Tuition will be in water-colour mainly but also in other media as required.



Daily demonstrations (in- or outdoors) are tailored to the particular needs of the students and to help you to get started. The tuition will also deal with general painting problems such as basic perspective, choice of colour, composition, shadows and many other tricks of the trade. Above all, Bettina's courses aim to enhance the pleasure of painting whilst improving your skills.

Particular attention is given to wet-in-wet technique as well as some of the ground rules for beginners. Groups are kept small so you can visibly advance within the course duration irrespective of your ability.

For complete beginners Bettina teaches a simple, easy to follow 'step by step' approach. Tuition is normally arranged in day sessions lasting from 10am until 4pm, so there is time for you to relax before dinner and explore the locality. If you are keen to continue painting, you are welcome to make use of the shady courtyards, garden and the Salon.

Students should bring their own painting materials and easels if wanted. You can also contact Bettina for further advice on what to bring.

Your Tutor, Bettina Schroeder

Bettina Schroeder is a professional artist who lives and works in London. She exhibits regularly in the UK, throughout mainland Europe and America. She has also been teaching for many years.

Bettina works in watercolours, oils and other media. She divides her time between landscape painting in the summer, and figure painting in her London studio during the winter. Her most recent shows include the A&D Gallery, London; Galerie Claudine Hohl, Zurich, Switzerland; and Santa Fe Contemporary Art Fair, New Mexico, USA.

"Bettina is an exemplary teacher", said Nicholas Shakespeare in The Telegraph Magazine.

Comments from Students

"I shall look back on the week as if it was, a week long magical dream."

"I had such a fantastic time, the perfect balance of inspiration and relaxation."

"Your teaching was most helpful and supportive, and your great sense of humour really helped make the holiday a most enjoyable experience, which I certainly want to repeat in the future."

"Thanks for your help and advice and as always your gift as a hostess as well as a tutor."

"Thank you for yet another inspiring painting holiday."

"The whole experience is one I'll remember for a long time."

"It was everything I had hoped for and much more."

"I loved every moment and want to thank you so much."

"Good company, excellent subjects to paint and as always a superb host and teacher to show us the way, thank you."

"This painting week was inspirational in every way."

"How wonderful to make a difference to so many peoples lives. Thank you so much."

"Your Tuition was superb and most of all I have benefited from your demonstrations of washes."

"Thank you so much for refreshing my painting."

"It was a joy to meet you and enjoy the enthusiasm you generate."

"Wonderful week, both in terms of my learning and also the social side too. It was such fun and I have enjoyed it all. I can't believe how quickly the week went!"

"Just to say in writing it was a holiday of a lifetime."

Our Guide, Ali Mouni

We are honoured to have secured the services of Ali Mouni, who has been guiding visitors to the desert since he was a boy. His good reputation is such that he was among those chosen to guide US First Lady Hillary Clinton on her visit to the Sahara in 1999. He speaks English, Spanish, German and French, in addition to his own languages of Berber and Moroccan Arabic.



Ali will provide all our local transportation and accompanies us on our excursions, ensuring our comfort and safety. Ali offers a rare insight into the way of life of Berbers in Morocco - particularly the nomadic Berbers who live in the mountains in tents and caves - among whom he has extensive contacts.

Cost Summary and Payment

The course price is £985 per person. Please make cheques payable to Bettina Schroeder. A discount of £50 is available for non-painting partners and for friends sharing a twin room.

A deposit of £200 per person should be sent with the attached booking form. The balance (non-returnable) is payable 2 calendar months before the course starts. (Please note the cancellation conditions and insurance on next page).

The price (exclusive of airfare) includes all local transportation (transfer from and to airport, excursions by Land Rover and camel rides), hotel accommodation in Ouarzazate (2 nights) and Dades Gorge (at least 1 night), accommodation at Nomad Palace (including linen), breakfast, lunch and dinner, local guides, 7 days tuition and camel hire for the optional sunset ride. All drinking water is bottled and also included in the price.

Travel Arrangements

You can book your own flight or check/book with Bettina's travel agent Kate Donaldson at Real Holidays, Email: kate@realholidays.co.uk
Tel: +44 - (0)20 -7359 3938.

Flights need to be booked well in advance. The only suitable flight to Ouarzazate leaves London Heathrow on the 5th March in the afternoon (price approximately £265-350) arriving at Ouarzazate at 23.55hrs, when you will be picked up from the airport and transferred to your hotel.

Your return flight on 15th leaves Ouarzazate at 06.00hrs arriving at Heathrow about 15.00hrs. Please give Bettina a call before you book, to make sure you arrive on the right flight for the pick-up at the airport.

Consumption of Alcohol

Strict laws governing the sale of alcohol in Morocco mean that the Nomad Palace and most other establishments do not serve beers, wines or spirits. However, we will be able to purchase our own private supplies, which can be consumed with the permission of our hosts. Soft drinks are available but are not included in the course price.

Vaccination

Your General Practitioner will be able to advise you about vaccination for travel to Morocco. Information and advice is also available on the internet from the Department of Health at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/>

Cancellation Conditions and Insurances

If you have to cancel 12 to 8 weeks before departure, a charge of 80% of the total price is payable. Cancellations at 8 weeks or less are charged at the full course price. It is a condition of your booking that you take out your own personal holiday insurance including cancellation insurance. In addition you will receive Bettina Schroeder's certificate of insurance (*see below).

For Further Information

Please contact Bettina at: Bettina Schroeder 4 Cairns House, Holloway Road, London, N7 9SA, UK +44-(0)20 7609 0843 bettina.schroeder@virgin.net
www.art-holidays.com

Advice and info also available from the Foreign Office: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/>

** In accordance with "The Package Travel, Package Tours Regulations 1992" all passengers booking with Bettina Schroeder Painting Holidays are fully Insured for the initial deposit and subsequently the balance of all monies paid to us, including repatriation if required, arising from the cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements due to the insolvency of Bettina Schroeder Painting Holidays. A certificate detailing this cover will be given to each and every passenger as evidence of cover. Please ensure that you have been given the appropriate certificate(s) at the time of booking. This insurance has been arranged by Towergate Chapman Stevens through igi Insurance Company Limited.*

Version 1 20th Feb 2006

BOOKING FORM MOROCCO

Please print out and send to
Bettina Schroeder
4 Cairns House, Holloway Road, London, N7 9SA, UK
Please insure cheques are made payable to Bettina Schroeder.

Please reserve _____ place(s) on the painting course at:
Nomad Palace, near Merzouga, Morocco, March 5th - 15th , 2011

Student's name(s)

Non-painting partner

Address

Telephone

E-mail

Special Dietary Needs

How did you learn about
the courses?

I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £ (€200 per person) towards the total cost of £985 per person (or €935 discounted price for non-painters or painting friends sharing a room).

I accept the cancellation and insurance conditions and understand that the balance (non-returnable) is payable 2 calendar months before the course starts.

Signed

Date

Bettina Schroeder
4 Cairns House, Holloway Road, London, N7 9SA, UK
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