

Beginners and accomplished painters very welcome

MOROCCO: Near Merzouga Nomad Palace, March 2nd-12th, 2019

Excursions

All meals

Special dietary needs met

En-suite rooms

£1,450

No single room supplement

£50 discount for painting friends sharing twin room

£50 discount for non-painters and friends who want to come along

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



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 desert.

The Nomad Palace offers many fascinating painting subjects and an authentic experience of the Berber way of life. Family owned and run, the hotel may not be a palace in the Western sense, but it features a swimming pool, large courtyard and en-suite rooms, with natural walls and wood-beamed ceilings giving welcome shade on warmer afternoons. As the chillier desert nights draw in, the Salon is the venue for pre-dinner gatherings with a glass of wine, followed by delicious home cooking in the hotel restaurant.

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

Your holiday will also include a day in the astonishing Dades Gorge, to paint the stunning views across lime stone pinnacles, ruined kasbahs and almond trees in blossom at the valley below. Our first night and last painting day are spent in Ouarzazate, the film capital of North Africa, where scenes from *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Gladiator* were shot around the town and where you can marvel at the distant snow capped Atlas Mountains from the roof top of our hotel.



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. 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, optional 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, followed by lunch in Erfoud and a visit to a fascinating Fossil Museum. Alternatively you may choose to spend the day at the Nomad Palace, at your leisure. We also organize one evening with a short sunset camel ride to watch the sun disappear over the dunes.

DAY 9: Journey to stunning Dades Gorge and painting from terrace at Auberge with fabulous views. Overnight stay at the Auberge.

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

During our stay at Nomad Palace your accommodation will be in rooms with en-suite facilities. There is a big continental breakfast, including pancakes and cakes!

For lunch and dinner freshly prepared home cooking cuisine is served. Most meals are taken in the Nomad Palace Restaurant, although some meals will be taken in bistros, other venues en route or picnics on location.

Typically, a dinner may consist of a delicious vegetable soup for a starter (called harira, sometimes containing a traditional bread dumpling), and meat or vegetarian tagine for main course (meat, tomatoes, potatoes, seasonal vegetables, and mild spices cooked in a clay crock). Other main courses include couscous (vegetarian or with meat), grilled lamb or chicken on skewers (often served with pommes frites), Berber 'pizza' (double-crust bread filled with meat and sometimes hard-boiled eggs and almonds) or special Berber omelettes prepared with roasted vegetables and, depending on the cook, lemons, olives or almonds are added. For dessert, local seasonal fresh fruit is served, such as oranges and dates, followed by coffee or Moroccan mint tea.

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 painting friends could share a twin-bedded 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 watercolour 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 on locations, and figure painting in her London studio. Most recent shows include Hundred Years Gallery, London, Arch 402 Gallery, London, Galerie Claudine Hohl, Zurich, Switzerland, Santa Fe Contemporary Art Fair, USA, A&D Gallery, London and Camden Image Gallery, London.

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

Comments from Students

"I came back from holiday, enthusiastic and inspired."

"We both have gained competence and confidence. We also found your vibrant interpretation of the landscape invigorating."

"A bit of sparkle in the sun after a long, cold winter!"

"I was really pleased with my work and I'm getting the hang of the techniques at last."

"What a great course! I look forward to joining you next year."

"Wonderful week, both in terms of my learning and also the social side too."

"The painting demonstrations were ever so helpful and inspirational."

"... have bought myself a bright pink trilby hat. When I put it on, I magically see the world in Bettina's bold and brilliant colours."

"We did enjoy our painting break, the tuition, company, food, venue, and weather could not have been better."

"Superb tuition and excellent subjects to paint."

"I learnt from watching your handle the wet-in-wet technique how to keep my colours clear and fresh."

"It was an especially fabulous course."

"We all spurred each other on in a creative way that produced lots of positive energy and good results all round."

"I achieved so much and had a lovely introduction to painting."

"You are really an inspiration, everyone was happy with their work. I'm getting withdrawal symptoms already."

"The memory of sitting in the sunshine drawing is like a magical dream."

"Thanks so much, it was the 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 Moroccan Arabic and Berber.



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 £1,450 per person. Please make cheques payable to Bettina Schroeder or pay via a bank transfer. Please email Bettina for bank details. A discount of £50 is available for non-painters and for painting friends sharing a twin room.

A non refundable 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 non-refundable deposit cannot be transferred to another course and see the cancellation/insurance conditions below).

Price (exclusive of airfare) includes all local transportation (transfer from/to airport, excursions by Land Cruiser), hotel accommodation in Ouarzazate (2 nights) and Dades Gorge (1 night), accommodation at Nomad Palace (including linen and towels), breakfast, lunch, dinner and picnics, bottled water, local guides, camel hire for the optional sunset ride and 7 days tuition.

Travel Arrangements

You can book your own flight or check/book with Bettina's travel agent Rob Milverton or Sophie Garland at Real Holidays, Emails: rob@realholidays.co.uk or sophie@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 2nd March in the afternoon (price approximately £300 if you book early) arriving at Ouarzazate at around 23.00, when you will be picked up from the airport and transferred to your hotel.

Your return flight on 12th March leaves Ouarzazate at around 07.00, arriving at Heathrow about 15.00. Please give Bettina a call before you book, to make sure you arrive on the right flight for the pick-up from the airport.

Consumption of Alcohol

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 / travel nurse 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 8 weeks or less before the course starts, the full course price is payable. It is a condition of your booking that you take out your own personal holiday insurance, including cancellation insurance.

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/>

For Bettina Schroeder Painting Holiday's Privacy Policy & Terms and Conditions visit: www.art-holidays.com or contact Bettina.

***HCC Financial Failure Insurance:** Bettina Schroeder Painting Holidays is a company committed to customer satisfaction and consumer financial protection. We are therefore pleased to announce that, at no extra cost to you, and 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 monies paid as detailed in your booking confirmation form. The policy will also include repatriation if required, arising from the cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements due to the insolvency of Bettina Schroeder Painting Holidays. This insurance has been arranged by Towergate Chapman Stevens through HCCI International Insurance Company PLC.*

In the unlikely event of Insolvency you must Inform Claims Settlement Agencies immediately on +44 (0) 1702 427 239 or at submit-claim.co.uk/TDC15. You can also write to them by email info@csal.co.uk or by post at 308-314 London Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 2DD. Please ensure you retain the booking confirmation form as evidence of cover and value.

Policy exclusions: This policy will not cover any monies paid for Travel Insurance or any claim relating to Air Flights. Please ensure the Company you have booked with has the appropriate CAA / ATOL Bonds in place.

BOOKING FORM MOROCCO

Please print out and send to

Bettina Schroeder

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

**Please ensure cheques are made payable to Bettina Schroeder or pay
via a bank transfer. Please email Bettina for bank details.**

Please reserve _____ place(s) on the painting course at:
Nomad Palace, near Merzouga, Morocco, March 2nd - 12th, 2019

Student's name(s)*

Non-painting partner

Address

Telephone
Mobile
Tel. family/friend

E-mail

Special Dietary Needs
Age approx.

How did you learn about the courses?

Leisure Painter magazine attended previous course internet search other

I enclose a non-refundable (non-transferable) deposit of £ (£200 per person) towards the total cost of £1,450 per person (or £1,400 discounted price for non-painters or painting friends sharing a twin 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

BOOKING FORM MOROCCO (copy to keep for your records)

Bettina Schroeder
4 Cairns House, Holloway Road, London, N7 9SA, UK
Please ensure cheques are made payable to Bettina Schroeder or pay
via a bank transfer. Please email Bettina for bank details.

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