



CreativeEscapes

ESSAOUIRA & MARRAKECH, MOROCCO



“This is a fascinating trip
and the lessons are first class”

The Sunday Telegraph

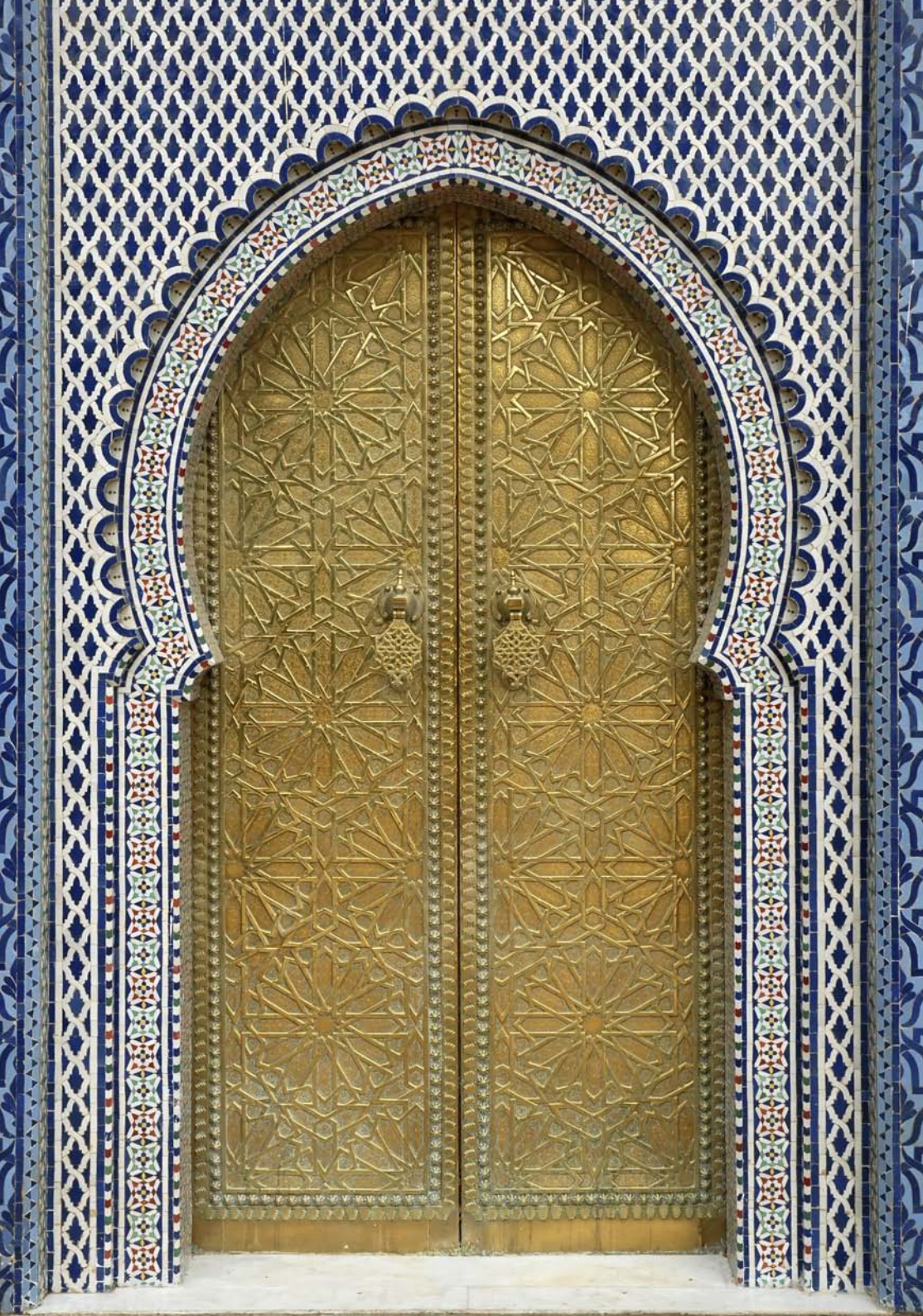


Our eight-day Retreat is taught across two magical North African destinations. We begin in Essaouira, a laconic fishing settlement whose citadel ramparts front the Atlantic, then depart for Marrakech, a bustling, chaotic world of souks, snake charmers and storytellers. Together, these two settings embody exotic Morocco - an ideal combination for unwinding, kicking back and being inspired.

Both our riads - traditional 18th-century palaces once owned by local elites - are situated right in the medina centres of these unforgettable destinations. You'll discover floor after floor of French-Moroccan designed salons, sumptuous Arabesque suites and sun-kissed roof terraces of zellij tile and wrought ironwork.

Participants reside in shared, lavishly-appointed rooms that have been called some of the most inspiring places to sleep in Morocco. Each room is unique, but all have private baths. Single rooms are available for an additional supplement.

We dine in a variety of locales - medina restaurants, seaside bistros, riad halls and hidden tea houses - ensuring you get to sample everything that Morocco's kitchens are world famous for. Our chefs prepare a range of local specialties such as pastilla fruit de mer, a delicious concoction of baked noodles and seafood, and tagine de poulet, a mouth-watering, oven-baked stew.



Ever wanted to really figure out how to use that digital camera you've purchased? Wishing you could find the time to finally learn how to take real photographs instead of just snaps?

It would be hard to imagine a better place than the medinas, riads, deserts and balmy ocean waters of exotic Morocco, to explore your inner artistic self and get to grips with how to shoot great photographs.

Come join us for our eight-day odyssey discovering the magic of Morocco - shooting in breathtaking locations, relaxing in boutique riads and dining in places only the locals know about.

Morocco. Much more than meets the eye.

Days 1-4

Getting the hang of it

Day One - Take yourself to another world

After arrival in Marrakech, we venture overland towards the seaside town of Essaouira, driving past desert oases and the Anti-Atlas mountain range. After settling into the plush rooms at our medina riad, we will dive right into the basics:

- What is an SLR camera and how does it work
- What do all the buttons do and why
- How can I get a perfect exposure every time

Come evening, we sample the culinary delights of our in-house chef to give you a taste of what's to come, then head out on a nighttime tour of Essaouira town.

Day Two - More camera basics

The morning session continues with how to handle your camera, including instruction on aperture, shutter speed and ISO. We will have specific focus on:

- The concept of exposure
- Light metering, highlights and shadows
- Bracketing and white balance

Throughout these sessions, we take full advantage of our surroundings to enable you to use what you've learned in class out in 'the field'. Come afternoon, it's free time: explore the local markets, go for a swim in the balmy sea or lounge back in the riad paging through some photo books, then writing a postcard home. After a hearty dinner at a traditional inn, we take a guided tour around the medina and explore some of its nooks and crannies.

Day Three - Create photos that tell stories

Up early to take advantage of the soft morning light, we then head off to Essaouira's atmospheric souk, where hundreds of locals gather every week to trade in carpets, tunics, textiles, shawls and a beguiling assortment of silver and stone jewelry. Here, a group of artisans will talk to us and show us how they produce their craft. Following this sensory stimulation, we'll understand how to bring narrative into your images, shooting a book cover based on a fictional piece on ancient Morocco. After a sumptuous French supper in an underground cavern, we'll take a look at our work and celebrate sipping cocktails at a rooftop bar.

Day Four - Learn some killer tips from the pros

Now that we have mastered perfect exposures every time, it is time to dip our feet into more advanced, professional camera techniques. We will discuss the various characteristics of lenses and attachments, investigate the rules of composition and the psychology of the eye and learn about how light can shape your images. Additionally, we will examine the history of photography through the ages, refining our understanding of genre and indicating your emerging style and tastes.

Among other topics, we will cover:

- Lens selection and their properties
- Basic lighting techniques
- Composition rules and examples
- The 10 steps to creating amazing photographs

Later in the day, we examine the history of photography through the ages, refining our understanding of genre and indicating everyone's emerging styles and tastes. After some afternoon free time, we depart for dinner at an atmospheric seafood restaurant right on the water.

Days 5-8
Putting it
into practice

Day Five/Six - A change of scene

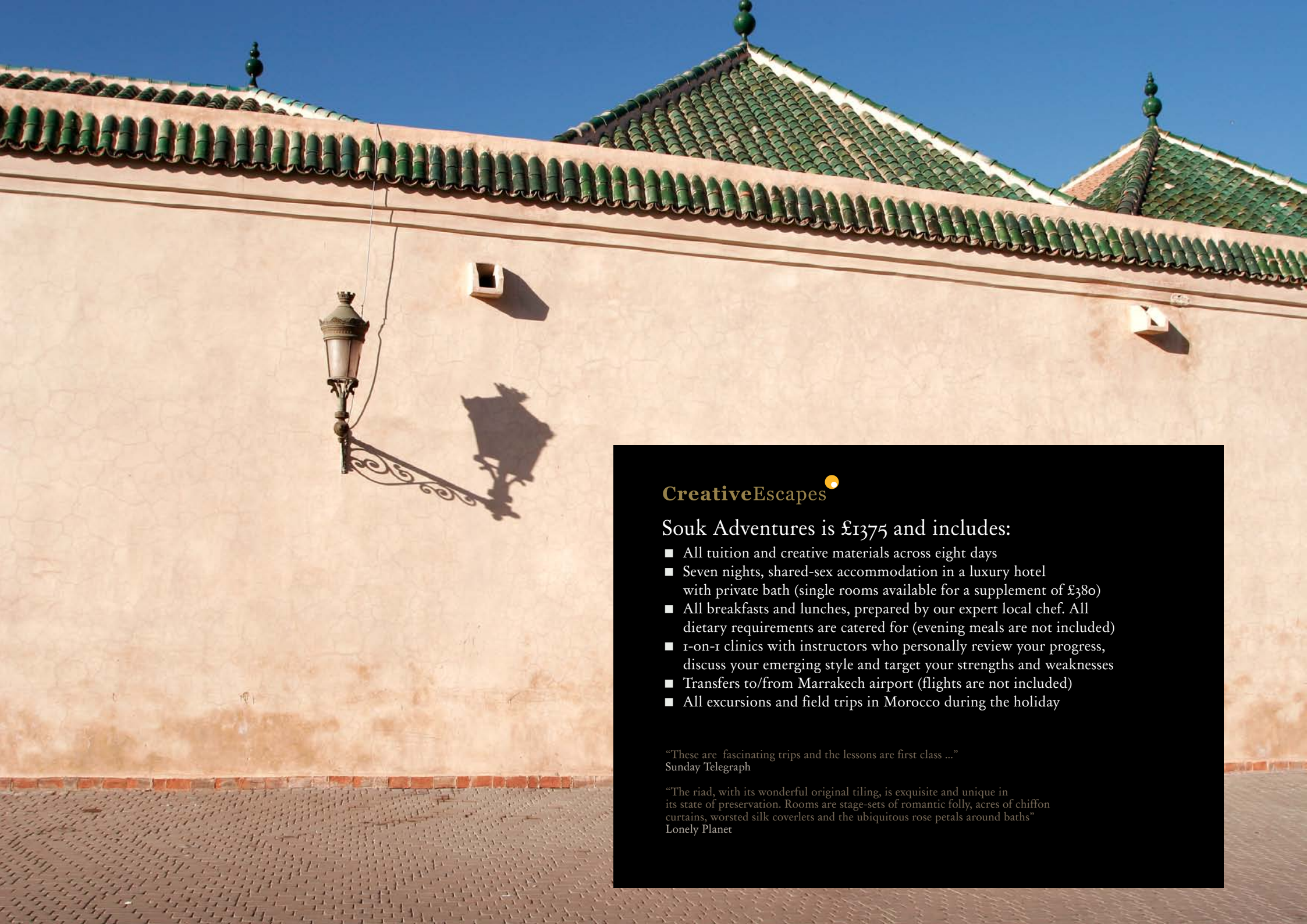
We awake at dawn to observe the city stir from its slumber and capture the sunrise - before kicking back and exploring the myriad alleyways for some well-deserved free time. Up early the next morning - after taking care of any final need-to-dos - we journey east as a group to Marrakech, arriving at the city walls in time for a traditional Moroccan lunch of Couscous aux legumes and Tagine aux pruneaux. Come afternoon, we'll take you on a guided tour to take in the stunning sights; the buzzing epicentre at Djema-el-Fna, Palais el Badi and the intriguing Saadian Tombs. We'll round off our tour with a delicious supper in Gueliz - the social centre for well-to-do Moroccans.

Day Seven - Find your niche

After a restful sleep, we'll have breakfast on the terrace overlooking the souk, and turn our attention to sampling the different genres of photography: landscape, still life, portraiture, documentary and even fashion. We look at some of the works of photography masters, consider what makes a great photo, then have a go at shooting some new styles ourselves. During this time, 1-on-1 sessions are scheduled with you to target any problem spots and pinpoint what you want to focus on, while out-and-about, our team are on hand to answer any questions and provide feedback.

Day Eight - Putting it all into practice

We complete our eight-day tour of Morocco with a final show of our incredible work. We will shoot, refine, hone and edit your ideas into a final project, then celebrate all of our hard work with a group 'show'. After bartering the last few deals in the souk, we'll sadly say our farewells with new-found friends, and board the plane for the trip back home.



CreativeEscapes

Souk Adventures is £1375 and includes:

- All tuition and creative materials across eight days
- Seven nights, shared-sex accommodation in a luxury hotel with private bath (single rooms available for a supplement of £380)
- All breakfasts and lunches, prepared by our expert local chef. All dietary requirements are catered for (evening meals are not included)
- 1-on-1 clinics with instructors who personally review your progress, discuss your emerging style and target your strengths and weaknesses
- Transfers to/from Marrakech airport (flights are not included)
- All excursions and field trips in Morocco during the holiday

"These are fascinating trips and the lessons are first class ..."
Sunday Telegraph

"The riad, with its wonderful original tiling, is exquisite and unique in its state of preservation. Rooms are stage-sets of romantic folly, acres of chiffon curtains, worsted silk coverlets and the ubiquitous rose petals around baths"
Lonely Planet