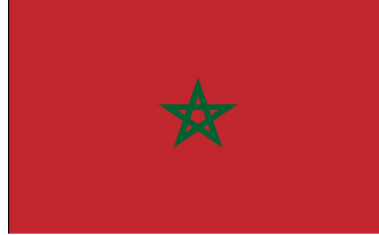


MARRAKECH 9. – 12. NOVEMBER

We had signed up for a trip to [Marrakesh](#) in [Morocco](#) by [Norsk Tur](#). We drove to [Gardermoen](#) and parked the car at [Dalen Parkering](#). The flight went from [Oslo Airport, Gardermoen](#) with [Norwegian](#) to [Marrakesh Menara Airport](#). Flight times: Gardermoen 10.25 – Marrakech 14.15.



Morocco on the map



Flagget



Riksvåpenet

Short about [Morocco](#):

Morocco was probably inhabited from 8000 BC. It gained early influence from Phoenicians and it became part of the Roman Empire. When the Roman Empire fell apart around the year 500, Morocco was an era dominated by Vandals and Western Goths, until the year 670 when it was conquered by the Umayyad caliphate in Damascus.

They broke pretty soon the connection to Damascus and formed a local dynasty. Several dynasties followed each other until the land at the end of the 1800's was in the interest of the great powers in Europe. Morocco became a French protectorate in 1912, but there was a strong resistance movement and Morocco became politically independent in 1956. It is currently a monarchy with [King Mohammed VI](#), belonging to the Alaoite dynasty, which has ruled since 1660, except from 1912 to 1956

The three main sources of income for the country is mining industry (phosphates), Moroccans living abroad and sending money home and tourism.

The official written language is Arabic and spoken a Moroccan Arabic dialect. 40% speak Berber. Everyone learns French and it is the unofficial second language which is used widely in commerce and economics.

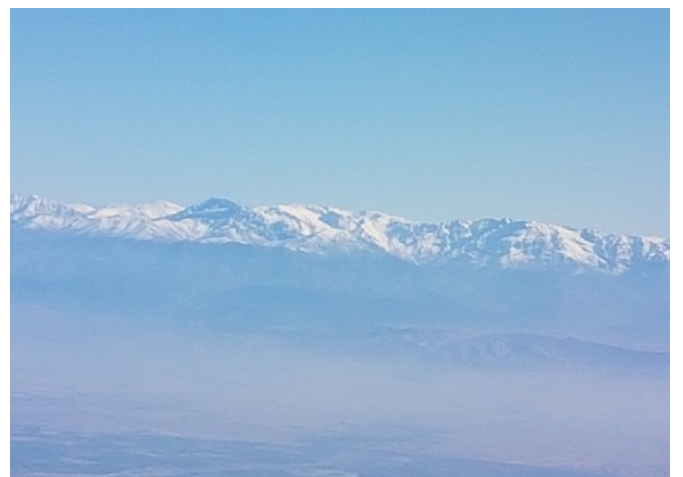
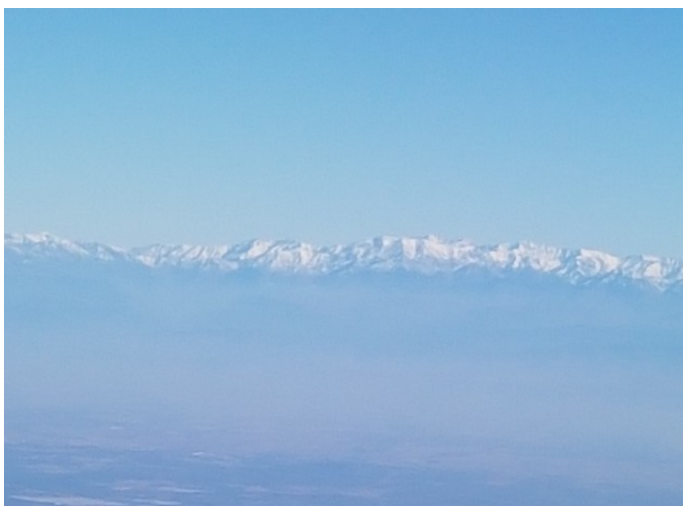
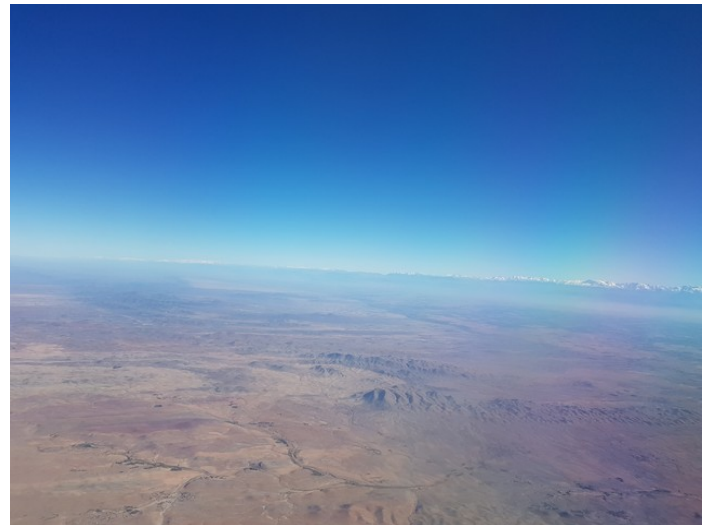
The religion is Muslim.

Short about [Marrakesh](#):

Marrakech is the fourth largest city in Morocco. The town was founded in 1070-1072, and it has served as capital for long periods. In 1985 the Medina in Marrakesh was listed on [UNESCO's World Heritage List](#).



Some pictures from the plane as we are approaching Marrakesh.



View to the [Atlas mountains](#).



There was a lot of sand to see.



As we approached Marrakech it became more green.



We stayed at [Riad dar Justo](#).



Views from the floor where we stayed.

A riad is a traditional Moroccan house or palace with an interior garden or courtyard. The word riad comes from the Arabian term for garden, "ryad". An important reason for the design was Islamic beliefs, concerns about privacy for women.

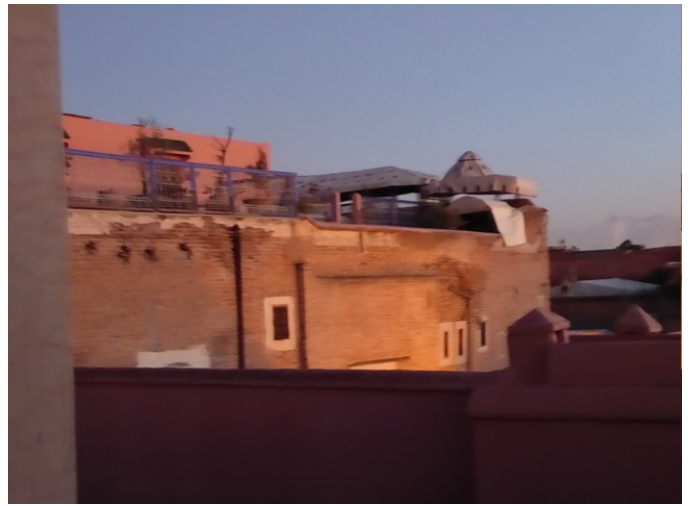
Recently there has been an increase in interest in this form of house after a new fashion of renewal in cities like Marrakech and Essaouira, where many of these often are crumbling. The buildings have been restored to their former glory. Many Ryads are now used as hotels or restaurants.



We did not go with the group on the walk to dinner late at night. We ate on the roof terrace of the restaurant where we stayed,



View from the roof terrace at night.



This is the [Koutoupia Mosque](#) in daylight.



The photo was taken with the mobile phone in the evening.



Lamps in the stairwell.



Photos in our room.





In the reseption.



Then we were ready for sightseeing the next day.



Donkey and cart is the only workable in the [souk](#). A souk is a commercial district in Arab cities.



Here we are inside a [caravanserai](#) which is converted into a workshop.



The local guide is telling about it.





A mosque.



Here we visited a baker.



A bread shop a bit further.



Washing and drying of hides.



Many varieties.



This are going to be shoe soles.



An archaeological excavation.



This is the only building remaining in Marrakesh from the [Almoravid dynasty](#). It is called [Koubba](#).



Next to this is [Marrakesh Museum](#).



Spices Sales and pharmacies.



It is called [Herboriste du Paradis](#).



Large selection of spices.





Inside the visiting room in the pharmacy.



Apothecary rattles off the most common medicines.



Two aides.



One in our group stood at their disposal.

Here he is massaged with a massage cream.



One of the group was painted with henna color.



She had birthday that day, so he put a lot of effort in the paint.



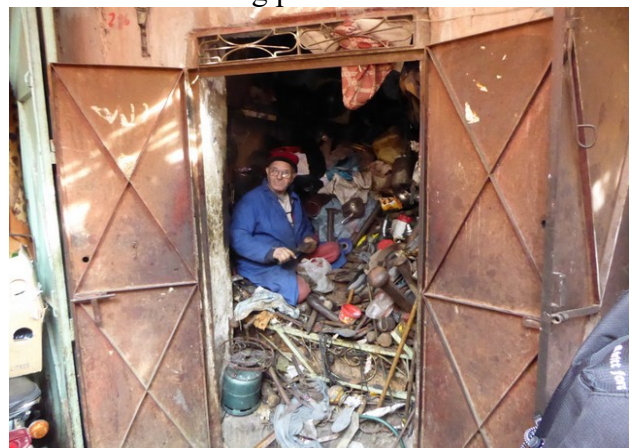
Leather Production.



Shoemaking.



Bag production.



Recycling.



Pillows.



Brass / copper plates.



Locks.



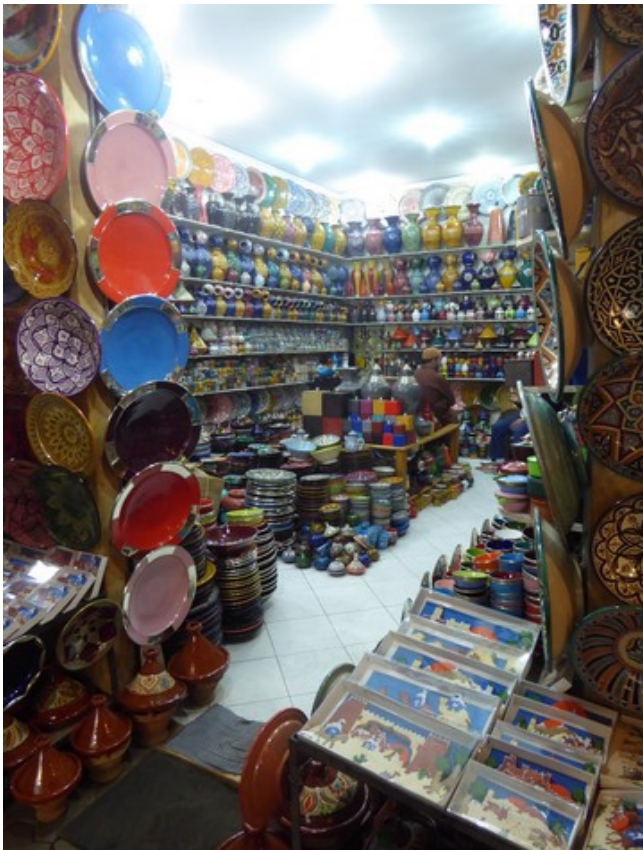
Lamps in many variations.



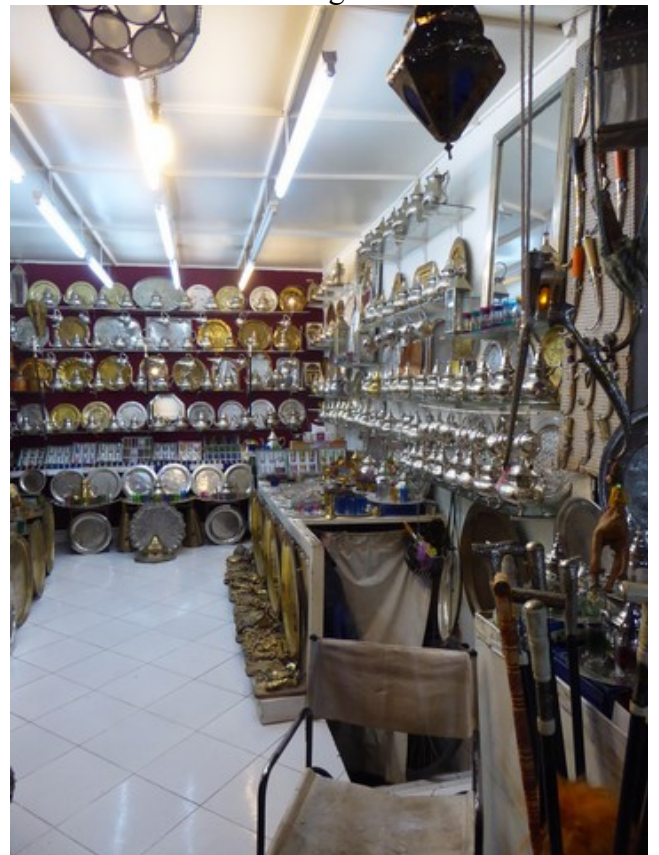
Figures.



Bags.



A lot of plates.



«Mystery boxes». Boxes with hidden locks and drawers.
Very precise work.



Nice wood work.



Yarn dye.



Demonstration of colours.



Sales pressure.



There are many who try.





Right at the wrap-outlet was also painting sales.



Jewelry.



Then tea and cookies.



The place is called [Café des épices](#).



The cakes was sweet and good.



The cafe lies at Plaza de las Epices.



Looking back to the cafe where we had been sitting.



A cage with a lot of small turtles.



At the square all kind of goods are at sale.



Next item on the program was a carpet manufacturer.



Behind loom sits a lady linking a carpet.



Here she is.



We were not a part of the entire view, but waited outside.





Then lunch at [Restaurant al Baraka](#).



Here we are sitting at the tables waiting for the food.



One of the waiters.



Then comes the food. Lots of small dishes.



We had a local wine with the food.





The restaurant where we ate, is located right next to the main square [Djema al-Fna](#). It is the largest in Marrakech.



Many stalls all over the place.



We walked across the vast square and back to our hotel.



We ate at the hotel that evening also. We did not go with the rest of the group that walked to eat at a restaurant outside the city.