

# STOCKENBRIDGE

BREAKS



## Kasbah Bab Ourika, near Marrakech

25th February - 4th March; 4th March - 11th March 2023

Two luxury Bridge weeks with the Stockens in a magnificent Moroccan Kasbah in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains

*from* £1647pp\* including: \* with 10% Loyalty Discount

- 7 nights' stay in this stunning Moroccan Kasbah (*including tourist tax*)
- Full board every day including:
  - three-course dinner with unlimited selected wines
  - two-course lunch and afternoon tea
  - aperitif on the first evening
- Refreshments available during bridge play
- Transfers from Marrakech Airport (*for selected flights*)
- All bridge tuition, course notes and prizes

*Very special bridge holidays*

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## Kasbah Bab Ourika

Kasbah Bab Ourika stands in an exceptionally beautiful landscape in the Atlas Mountains, just 50 minutes from Marrakech. From its hilltop, in the fertile Ourika valley, it looks down on one side to the river, green fields and groves of olives, oranges and lemons, and on the other side to a picturesque ridge of red rock, known locally as 'Arizona' with dazzling snowy mountain peaks in the distance.



The Kasbah is one of the most eco-friendly buildings in Morocco. Constructed principally from pisé (*rammed earth*), the traditional Berber building technique, it blends easily with rock and earth around it. Thick walls provide natural insulation in the heat and along with solar panels ensure a balanced temperature. All water at the Kasbah is recycled and used in the garden and an innovative biodigester system is used to produce electricity and also compost for the fully organic garden.



## Inside the Kasbah

Inside the Kasbah, the floors are of natural coloured bejmat (*exposed brickwork*) and furnishings of Berber fabrics in muted shades of cream, brown and beige. The result is a series of living spaces which feel deeply restful and spoilingly comfortable. Spacious and airy by day, but once the sun sets, lanterns glow in the courtyard, fires are lit and the interior is transformed.



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## Bridge with Zeb, Simon & Claudia

Zeb Stocken has many years experience of teaching and hosting bridge events, and whether you come as a group, in a pair or on your own, you can be certain of an instructive and enjoyable game adapted to your level.



Simon Stocken has been teaching players around the world since 1995. His calm manner and expert tuition make learning bridge easy and pleasurable, enabling players of all abilities to sharpen their skills and learn new techniques.



**The bridge teacher will be either Zeb or Simon.**



Claudia, their sister, will be on hand to ensure the smooth running of your holiday and will be joined by their mother, Dinah, to supervise bridge. The bridge programme will be a mixture of teaching, supervised play and some duplicate or teams – all played in a fun and friendly environment.

The tuition sessions will use CompassCards (set deals) and a fun topic tailored to the group. There will be a bridge session every day from 10am - 12.30pm and 5.15pm - 7.30pm (*except on Thursday morning: supervised play only*), and then after dinner supervised bridge. All bridge sessions are optional and open to all standards of play, although we can only accept complete beginners if booked as a group of four. Bridge will be outside on the terrace with fabulous views, or inside in a beautiful covered courtyard.

It is important to stress that our holidays are not aimed at the type of player who likes a serious 24-board duplicate every night. Our ethos is that bridge should be a friendly and social game where you can meet like-minded people, and our holidays reflect that. No partner is needed on a StockenBridge holiday.



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## Gardens

The lavender-scented gardens are simply beautiful with glorious views from every aspect, bathed in warm sunlight throughout the day. The mature, terraced gardens are a delight to explore, with peaceful terraces, a secluded heated swimming pool, arbors hung with vines and roses and a luscious green lawn to be proud of.



## Food

Locally sourced produce, much from the Kasbah's own gardens (*right*), is a cornerstone of all dishes with high-quality ingredients producing wonderful food that is a combination of traditional Berber recipes with a European touch.



Breakfasts are also a treat, with fruits from the Ourika valley, freshly squeezed orange juice, yoghurts, jams, honey and muesli as well as freshly baked bread and pancakes hot from the Kasbah's oven. Eggs can be ordered any way you like them including scrambled with fresh tomato and onion 'Berber style'.



There will be an extensive buffet lunch with plenty of salads with a choice of hot dishes and wonderful desserts; homemade biscuits for tea and a fabulous three-course dinner - you certainly will not go hungry at the Kasbah!

Any special diets can be catered for and Moroccan cuisine includes many delicious vegetarian dishes. Our guests absolutely loved the food on previous visits and we are sure you will not be disappointed.

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## **MENU at KASBAH BAB OURIKA**

### **Starters**

*Mille Feuille of Moroccan salads, berber stone bread*

*Moroccan chorba soup (lightly spiced vegetable soup)*

*Warm, crispy goat's cheese brick, mixed lettuces, red onion confit, red wine vinaigrette*

*Mediterranean fish soup, rustic crouton, saffron aioli.*

### **Main Course**

*Beef tajine slowly cooked with finished artichoke hearts and baby broad beans*

*Fish marinated in charmola (Moroccan herb and spice rub) baked in papillote served with boulangere potatoes*

*Slow cooked lamb, potato cake, ratatouille, salsa*

*Spicy lentil fritters, crispy green beans, oven roasted tomatoes, minted yoghurt sauce*

### **Dessert**

*Crepes filled with fresh fruit*

*Bab Ourika flour-less chocolate cake, mascarpone cream.*

*Frozen amaretto parfait, medjool dates, espresso syrup, amaretti cookie.*

*Warm apple and quince tart, vanilla cream anglaise, quince ice cream.*

*Followed by Tea and Coffee*

Included in the price will be breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner on all days, except lunch on the day of arrival and departure. During dinner you will be served with an unlimited supply of good quality local wine. During bridge play, there will be bottled water available and tea and coffee in the break. Additional alcoholic and soft drinks will be available to buy from the bar.

### **Staff at The Kasbah**

What makes the Kasbah stand out is the army of delightful and hardworking staff, almost all recruited from the nearby villages, ensuring that service really is a priority. The friendly and efficient manager, Damien, makes sure that everything runs like clockwork.





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## Excursions and Activities

We plan to organise optional group excursions during your stay but you can also book many other activities or excursions through the hotel. We will contact you nearer the time with the exact details and prices. Here are a selection of trips and activities on offer:

### Day Trip to Marrakech

Just under an hour away, Marrakech is really worth a visit both for its historical sights and extensive shopping possibilities. Visit the peaceful Majorelle Gardens and Yves Saint Laurent Museum before lunch in an elegant Riad with views over the Koutoubia mosque. After lunch, join a 2-hour guided tour of the souk or head to one of the many luxury boutiques.



### Hands-on Cookery Class

Visit a beautiful organic farm in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains where you will have a guided tour of the gardens and learn how to cook an authentic Moroccan tagine, which you will then enjoy for lunch. Run by Amanda, manager of the Kasbah for many years, it will be a fun and fabulous experience.

### Visit to the High Atlas Village of Imlil

A 2-hour scenic drive passing isolated villages takes you to the village of Imlil, located at the foothill of Mount Toubkal, the highest peak in North Africa. Have a delicious traditional Berber lunch on the highest roof terrace of the village with stunning views down the mountain.

### Morning Trip to a Berber Market

Accompanied by the Kasbah's experienced English-speaking guide, you will go on a gentle walk to the large colourful Berber "Monday Market" at the nearby town of Thine Ourika.



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## Nectarome Gardens and Saffron Farm

Visit the cooperative organic Nectarome gardens which combine the wisdom of ancient Moroccan traditions with the knowledge of modern aromatherapy and phytotherapy. In the beautiful 'Paradis du Safran', wander around the luscious garden and learn everything there is to know about saffron.

## Setti Fatma and Waterfalls

These attractive waterfalls are about an hour's drive away in the Atlas mountains.



## Trekking

There are many tracks and trails leading directly from the Kasbah, but if you wish to head further afield, including the remote and unspoiled Salt National Park, we can organise this with the Kasbah's local guides. The Kasbah can prepare a picnic for you and you can even take your own mule.

## Camel-trekking, Horse and Donkey Riding

Leaving directly from the Kasbah, your camel can take you on a 2-hour trek through local villages and down to the river. The Kasbah has two friendly donkeys, and horse riding can be arranged through local stables.

## Golf

There are a number of golf courses within an hour's drive of the Kasbah including the Royal Golf Course.

## Hamman and Massage

There is a hamman offering hamman exfoliation with black beldi soap and argil and rose body wrap. Relaxing massages and facials can also be booked.



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## Accommodation

All 26 bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms and fantastic views of the Atlas mountains and Ourika Valley. The rooms are big, high-ceilinged spaces, simply decorated, with no TV or phone, just a comfortable bed with a high quality mattress and luxurious Egyptian cotton sheets.



You will find treasures snapped up at Marrakech's art deco bazaar: a leather 30s-style armchair, a writing desk with a handful of good novels, etchings of the flora of the Ourika valley, cream-coloured Beni Ourain rugs with soft lighting completing the restful ambience. Most rooms have open fires which complement under-floor heating, whilst thick pisé walls ensure there's no need for air-con, even during the summer.

Bathrooms are gorgeous too with walls of buff-coloured marble complementing bejmat tiled floors. They come with big tubs, heated towel rails, walk-in rain showers, a basketful of natural soaps, creams and gels and piles of large white fluffy towels, as well as bathrobes for the pool and hammam.



All the bedrooms are finished to a high standard and can be doubles (*king size beds*) or twins. The price difference reflects the size of the room or suite and additional features such as terrace, fireplace, bath, private pool etc. Some of the suites can have extra beds, though within the same living space.

**It is important to note that a number of the rooms are accessed by steep steps (there is no lift) or are in the garden and would not be suitable for guests with mobility difficulties. During the day and weather permitting, bridge takes place outside on the terrace, up stone steps with no hand rail.**

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## Ground Floor

The three suites on the ground floor have adjoining large terraces with chairs and sun loungers.

### Suite 1



View over the river valley from large, tall window. Spacious bathroom with bath and separate shower. Sitting area with sofa (*can be converted into extra single bed*). Terrace

### Suite 3



Amazing views of the National Park from bathroom with raised bath & separate shower. Large balcony. Fireplace. Terrace

### Suite 2



View down to valley from large, tall french window. Sofa area in entrance (*can be converted into extra single bed*). Bathroom with shower. Fireplace. Terrace.



## First Floor

### Deluxe Room 4



View across river valley from private balcony. Bath & separate shower. Fireplace.



### Suite 6



Stunning views of the National Park from spacious terrace. Dressing room. Vaulted bathroom with bath and shower. Fireplace.

### Deluxe Suite 5

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Largest room between the two towers. Very spacious with a sofa area (*can have extra beds*), walk-in dressing room leading to large vaulted bathroom with shower and bath. Outside sitting area. Fireplace

### Deluxe Room 7



Great views of the Park from the bed through two large windows. Shower and bath. Small terrace with chairs. Fireplace.

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We can supply additional details of rooms and bathrooms on request. The rooms are available from 2pm on the day of arrival, and need to be vacated by 12pm on the day of departure.

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## First Floor continued

### Deluxe Room 8



Stunning view of mountains and gardens. Shower over bathtub. Fireplace



### Standard Rooms 10 & 11



Views of the river valley, shower only.

### Deluxe Room 9



Looking out to garden and the river valley, dressing room, bath and outdoor shower on balcony. Narrow terrace. Fireplace.

### Suite 12



Amazing views to the National Park and separate shower from spacious raised bath. Study area leading to large terrace with sun chairs, with beautiful views to the valley. Alcove sofa area (*can be extra single bed*).

### Deluxe Room 13



Amazing views from bed through a large glass door leading to the spacious terrace and views of the National Park. Large bathroom with bath and shower.

## Second Floor

### Superior Rooms 14 & 15



Tower rooms with spectacular views from two aspects and large terrace area. Shower.



## Garden Rooms *(a short walk from the main building of the Kasbah, 100m-200m)*

### Suite 16



In the garden overlooking the river valley. Fireplace. Bathroom with concealed, but open entrance to bathroom, separated by curtain. Shower. French doors to garden.

### Suite 17



In the garden overlooking the river valley with terrace. Spacious with separate bedroom and sitting room area with fireplace (*has extra single bed*). Shower.

**Please note that there are many steps, trip hazards and uneven floors throughout the Kasbah, and guests must book at their own risk, particularly if they have mobility difficulties. Some of the bedrooms are in the garden (100-200m from the main building) which in some places is not very well lit at night, although a member of staff can accompany you back. Contact us for further details and photographs**

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## Garden Rooms continued



### Deluxe Suite 18

NT

In the garden facing south with wonderful views towards the valley. Shower. Fireplace. French doors leading to private terrace, attractive garden and heated plunge pool.

### Deluxe Suite 21

NT

At the far end of the garden overlooking the river and valley. Spacious sitting room area. Large bathroom with shower. Fireplace. French doors leading out to private terrace area and heated infinity plunge pool.

### Superior Room 22

◆

At the far end of the garden. Bathroom with shower. View west over kitchen gardens.



### Suite 27

♣

In the garden with fabulous views from a large private terrace to the south and west. Sitting room area. Shower. Fireplace.

### Standard Rooms 23 & 24

♣

At the far end of the garden overlooking the mountains. Shared bathroom with shower and separate bath. French doors leading out to a terrace. These rooms must be booked together and would be perfect for two friends preferring single occupancy bedrooms but happy to share a bathroom.

### Master Suites 25 & 26

♣





Situated at the far end of the garden, each room has its own en-suite bathroom with bath and separate shower. The bedrooms are separated by a large shared living room with glass roof and fireplace. Kitchen. Private heated infinity plunge pool and amazing views to the south and the whole valley. These rooms must be booked together and would be perfect for 4 friends sharing.



### Suite 28

♣

In the garden with stunning views from a large private terrace to the west. Shower. Fireplace. Second bedroom with own access to bathroom.

Prices Per Person					NT
Full Price ( <i>based on 2 sharing</i> )	£1830	£1890	£2040	£2140	£2290
With 10% loyalty discount ( <i>2 sharing</i> )	£1647	£1701	£1836	£1926	£2061
Single occupancy	£2090	£2150	£2400	£2500	£2650
Single occupancy with discount	£1881	£1935	£2160	£2250	£2385

### Loyalty Discount

We are offering a 10% 'loyalty' discount on the holiday price for guests who have already been on a StockenBridge holiday if booked before June 30th 2022. If you would like to share a room with a friend, even if they are new to Stockenbridge Breaks, the discount will apply to them too.

### How to Book...

To book your holiday, please fill out and submit the on-line booking form (contact us for the link or see the Kasbah holiday page of our website) together with the deposit of £250 per person by bank transfer or cheque - contact us or see website for payment details. Alternatively we can email or send a booking form to you to print out and fill in. The full payment will be due by November 30th 2022. See our website for our Terms and Conditions or we can email them to you.

### Payment

Please contact us for full payment details

Financial Protection Your money paid to us is fully protected against the insolvency of StockenBridge Breaks, in compliance with the Package Travel Regulations 1992. In this unlikely event, you will receive a full refund of your money.

For more details:

website: [www.stockenbridgebreaks.com](http://www.stockenbridgebreaks.com)

email: [claudia@stockenbridgebreaks.com](mailto:claudia@stockenbridgebreaks.com) or [zeb@stockenbridge.co.uk](mailto:zeb@stockenbridge.co.uk)

telephone: +44 7951 060092 (Zeb - UK) or +33 663999289 (Claudia - France)

**Stockens Limited** - Company number 8970204. Incorporated in England & Wales

Business Address: **Kemp House, 152-160 City Road, London, EC1V 2NX**

### Travel

Kasbah Bab Ourika is near the village of Tnine Ourika in the Ourika valley, in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, about 40km (*approximately 1hr's drive*) from Marrakech. Flights are to Marrakech airport and there are many airlines serving this airport, including British Airways, and Easyjet.

Included in the price of your holiday are transfers to and from Marrakech airport for selected flights or if you are a group of 6 or more. Otherwise we can order you a taxi from the airport (*approx 70€ each way for up to 4 passengers*). Please contact us for full travel details before you book.

