

# Ait Ben Haddou – Fum Zgid dunes (4 days and 3 nights)



## Day 1

After an early breakfast at Bab Zouina, the excursion begins by crossing the Atlas along the Oued Zat. The road winds at the foot of Berber villages in rammed earth surrounded by green terraces and majestic mountains. The colors of the landscape change at each contour until the arrival at the Tizi N Tichka pass (2'260 meters above sea level). The descent on the south side is done via Telouet, a former merchant stop for caravans located on the salt road towards Timbuktu, South of Morocco. After a lunch at the foot of the Glaoui palace and the visit of the palace (admire the zellij and woodwork of the princely living room of the ancient building that falls into ruins), the road continues to Aït Ben Haddou, an adobe Ksar inscribed in the world heritage list of the UNESCO. We dine and stay at Dar Hajja's house, a beautiful kasbah in the old village.

Route: 178 km, 4 hours' drive







#### Day 2

If you are an early riser, enjoy the sunrise from the terrace of your room. After a good breakfast, we head to the antique village of Aït Ben Haddou (continually restored) and possibly the tomb of the patron saint of the region, Sidi Ali Ben Ouamer, as well as the Jewish cemetery located east of the Kasbah. We continue the journey via Ouarzazate and visit the Oscar studios where the sets of many films are still on site, such as: Asterix, Obelix and Cleopatra, Gladiator, Babel, Prince of Persia, etc. After lunch, we drive through the Anti-Atlas Mountains, before coming down to the Draa Valley with its immense palm groves, and finally arriving to Zagora, the gateway to the desert. We dine and stay at the Kasbah Siroccon, with its beautiful swimming pool.

Route: 191 km, 3 hours' drive







### Day 3

The first part of the morning is dedicated to visiting the potters of Tamegroute and the old library (XVIIth century) which houses important religious and scientific manuscripts. We then take the road westward through a desert plateau, framed by two chains of the Anti-Atlas. We arrive at the bivouac on the top of Fum Zgid sand dunes, to enjoy a nomadic style lunch and a short walk in the desert. We take a moment of rejuvenation and meditation until sunset, a magical moment. We Dine under the light of a million stars, cradled by the deep silence of the night, this being the pinnacle of this circuit.

Route: 150km, 2 hours and 30 min drive and 20 min of sand road in the desert







## Day 4

Get up at dawn to gaze at the sun which points behind the dunes. After breakfast, we drive until the village of Fum Zgid, and take a right turn. We stop at Taznakht's Sunday souk, the capital of Berber carpets on the south face of the Atlas. We drive through the green valley of Tisselday and have lunch at the Tizi N Tichka before returning to Bab Zouina.

Route: 340 km, 5 hours and 30 min drive