

Holidays with Heart

La Maison Anglaise: Authentic Moroccan Holidays

Sustainably Managed - Green Key Certified



Our new focus—Holidays with Heart

Since January 2013, we have been developing themed group holidays at La Maison Anglaise and have been very heartened by the response. These holidays allow participants to practise their chosen specialism in the warmth of a Moroccan setting, often establishing a special bond with both other members of the group and our lovely staff. Just as important is the bond that they develop with Morocco, its culture, local projects and people. The expansiveness of this experience gives a precious injection of energy and understanding



which inspires many to maintain their connection with Morocco, either by making donations or purchases of local produce; or by returning as guests or volunteers.

Themes currently include Yoga, Singing, Dancing, Art, Meditation, Photography, Wildlife, Walking and even Clowning and Storytelling. [Read More](#) New ideas for group themes are always welcome.

New Activities & Offerings

- Visits to [Claudio Bravo's](#) fabulous home, museum and gardens, which the staff and I think are comparable to famous places in Marrakech and to [Dar Al Hossoun](#), one of the finest gardens in the Mediterranean Basin.
- Options to **horse and camel ride** north of Agadir on a little-known beach or Claudio Bravo horse riding
- **3 new treks** deeper into the High Atlas but just as quick to get to thanks to a new road that's opened
- **2 new trips** in the Anti-Atlas Mountains
- **Visits** to new charitable partners e.g. Moroccan Children's Trust who support street children in myriad ways, the Taroudant Rotary Club's organic herb and spice shop—the first in Morocco; and Dar Sihmad
- New Gnawa band who inspire even non-dancers to dance and whose history is fascinating.



Developments within Community Projects:

Embroidery has now been introduced into Dounia's villages as an extension of a literacy scheme for women and we have found a new market via Abigail's Drapery in Lewes. Abi has 30 years' experience in ethical textiles and first knew us through our mutual interests in the field. The Bee Orchard is growing well, with its first fruits now gathered, and one of the neighbours has decided to follow suit so leading by example rather than preaching seems to be working. Our latest project idea is Birds and Bats in Buildings, aiming to promote birdlife in the town through education and habitat creation because new building finishes are posing a threat to nesting and roosting sites.

Safety We are pleased but not surprised to see that Morocco has been picked out as [one of the few countries in the Muslim and developing world regarded as low risk](#)

We have made a few changes at the guest house: most recently we've installed pop-up plugs in the showers to ensure that the bathrooms always smell nice; we have Eco-camel energy-saving showerheads in all bathrooms (they feel great as well as saving water).

Regular visitors Angela Lockwood and Stephanie Rose did a superb fundraising effort which has now resulted in repairs to the roof badly damaged in freak storms last year. The family have now been able to return home.

Recognition

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded the **Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence** and that we are now one of only two places in Taroudant to have **Green Key Certification**. Voted Top 10 in the World: Lonely Planet Eco Stays 2014

Staff News

Children of the staff are all growing into little people who are as delightful as their parents. They all enjoyed getting together to learn a bit about our green credentials followed by an outing to an oasis, a picnic and some games. We are pleased to have recently welcomed to our office in Wales Christine who has 7 years' experience of working with us in the past who will be helping Jane administer the holidays and help to create time for us to produce things like this. The last newsletter was some years ago!



Transport News

Vehicles: New award-winning Ford Torneo Custom with 3-point seatbelts and headrests on all seats.

New driver: Rachid joined us in autumn 2013 and is proving a real asset, with strong interests in singing, dancing and the bee orchard and having fun with clients with our other driver, his friend Little Said. The latter continues to develop and can now converse in English about almost anything in his good-humoured way. His impromptu musical contributions are much appreciated.

Facebook and Trip Advisor

We finally entered these "other worlds" a couple of years ago and find Facebook is a useful way of keeping in touch. If you would be kind enough to contribute to our [Trip Advisor](#) - although our ratings are excellent, we don't have enough reviews yet to keep us near the no. 2 position we had until recently. You might also like to "like" and "share" our Facebook pages for [the Guest House](#) and the [Busy Bee Centre](#). Thank you very much for reading this and we hope to see you soon.



Warm Wishes,

Jane, Christine and the Moroccan team- the 2 Latifas, the 2 Saids, Dounia, Nordine, Fatima and Rachid

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Voted Top 10 in the World: Lonely Planet Eco Stays 2014, Vege News Vegetarian Holidays 2005
Responsible Tourism Trophy for Community Project Work 2009

As you have previously enquired about or booked a holiday at La Maison Anglaise we hope that our newsletters are of interest to you. Perhaps you'd be kind enough to forward this email to any friends that you think may be interested. If you do not wish to receive these newsletters please take the opportunity to unsubscribe by replying to this email with the word *Unsubscribe* in the title.

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