



RIAD mur akush
MARRAKECH

Welcome to Riad Mur Akush!

Connect with us!

Instagram: @riadmurakush

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/riadmurakushmarrakech>

Thank you for booking to stay with us. Here is a short guide that we have put together to help you make the most of your stay in Riad Mur Akush and Marrakech. You will find information about the riad and also some recommendations or suggestions based on our own experience, that we think you may enjoy. We have not included any suggestions on “sights” as we will discuss this when you are here.

Our *riad* is a traditional “medina” house with 6 guest rooms, 2 terraces, a courtyard and a large salon. We have a very capable team that will take care of you and will be happy to help you with anything you need. Feel free to ask questions, we can book restaurants, hammams or other activities for you. Have a chat with us and pick our brains on anything. Any problems or requests? Please let us know!

Rooms:

Each room has a reversible air-conditioning unit which cools or heats your room depending on your requirements. If you need help setting it, please let us know.

We also provide special waterproof heaters for the bathrooms, which can be found in your room. For the rooms with a fireplace, please let us know if you would like this lit and we would be happy to do this for you. All rooms have a safe, hair dryer and luxurious toiletries.

We also offer extra blankets and pillows for you and if there is anything else you will need, let us know.

Meals at Riad Mur Akush:



Breakfast:

Breakfast is included in your room rate and can be enjoyed whenever you want (we serve breakfast from 7am - 11am), anywhere you like - the courtyard, the terrace, the dining room or your room.

If you are checking out earlier than 7am, please speak to us, as we will be

happy to make alternative arrangements.

Dinner (or lunch) at Riad Mur Akush:



You can enjoy a relaxing evening “staying in” and one of our cooks will prepare your meal especially for you. We ask that you book dinner a couple of days in advance, especially if you are booking for your first evening here (which we really recommend), to make sure we get it right for you.

We take into account any preferences, dislikes, allergies or dietary requirements and we are happy to cater for vegetarian/vegan guests.

Once you are here at the riad, you can simply book for dinner the night before, or that morning at the very latest.

As we purchase the ingredients fresh from the morning market and base our dishes on what is fresh that day, the list below is an indication of what we can prepare for you.

Each meal is prepared for a minimum of 2 people at a time and our kitchen limits us to two different types of main courses per night.

SAMPLE MENU

1st course - (one of the options below)

Moroccan salads

(a selection of cooked vegetables cooked with spices)

Homemade Soup or Harira

Main course

(one of these options, depending on market availability and seasonality)

Chicken tajine or couscous

(with almonds and/or dates, olives, preserved lemons)

Chicken kebabs

Fish tajine

Lamb tajine or couscous

(with prunes or with vegetables)

Beef tajine/couscous

Moroccan Meatballs

(with tomato and eggs)

Vegetable and potato tajine (V)

Peppers couscous or tajine (V)

Seven Vegetable Couscous (V)

To finish...

Fruit or dessert with coffee or tea.

A bottle of mineral water is included with your meal.
Wine is also available, but needs to be ordered in advance.

Airport collection:

We can arrange for our driver to wait there for you with a “Riad Mur Akush” sign and drive you to the riad. The cost for this service is 15 euros for up to 4 guests (there is a 10 euros “night supplement” for collections between 9pm - 6am).

Larger groups can be accommodated with a larger car, please send us the number of guests for a quote.

We highly recommend that you book this service, to make sure you arrive at the riad as quickly and safely as possible.

Some information about your airport arrival:

On arrival to the Marrakech airport, you will go through passport control (this sometimes takes longer than expected but the driver will wait for you) then get your bags from the luggage carousels (here you can make a couple of purchases from the duty free shops in that area) and finally leave the hall after you pass through the baggage security spot. You then reach the main airport area (look up, the lights and structure are amazing) and head out of the airport doors to the fresh air.

This is where the driver will be waiting. Please take a moment to find him as it can get very busy and he may not be visible straight away.

Train station and bus station collection are also available for you at 10 euros per collection for up to 4 guests (there is a 5 euros “night supplement” for collections between 9pm - 6am).

Larger groups are also accommodated, please contact us for details.

WIFI in Riad Mur Akush:

We offer free fiber optic internet for our guests and have 2 networks:

RiadMurAkush (for the ground and 1st floor)

Password: lovely marrakech

RiadMurAkush1 (for the 2nd floor and terraces)

Password: lovely marrakech

Tipping in Marrakech:

A lot of our guests ask us about tipping and what is expected, so I have included some information here. This is a personal matter but since tipping is a way of life in Morocco (local people tip as well), I hope the suggestions below will be helpful.

Restaurants: Normally a 5-10% tip is expected on restaurants, but some of them now include a 10% tip in the bill (Maison Arabe near us do this too), so please check this before tipping.

Taxis: If your driver has used the meter, then tip to the closer 10-20 Dhr. If you have agreed with him a price in advance, then there is no need for a tip.

Drivers on day trips: Depending on how happy you were with your driver you can leave anything between 50-100 Dhr for a day trip, or more for a large group. The drivers are paid a set salary by the car company, so anything extra is much appreciated.

Tipping people who show you “the way”: Ideally one does not want to get lost in the medina, but it can happen. If you find yourself being “shown the way”, by someone who asks for money, then 20-30 Dhrs is more than enough for their services- they will probably ask for 100Dhr, pretend they are angry, say that you insult them and a lot of other theatrics... simply ignore them.

It is a good idea to keep some change with you for situations like these. Please do not give money to children.

Tipping the team at **Riad Mur Akush:** If you had a great stay with us and would like to leave a tip for our team, thank you!

We have a “tip box” on the reception desk where you can leave a “team” tip, which is then shared equally by everyone that works at the riad at the end of each month.

Everyone really appreciates it.

WHERE TO EAT

(there are hundreds of good restaurants in Marrakech. This is only a small list of the ones that we like and it is by no means exhaustive)

Restaurants within walking distance to Riad Mur Akush:

La Maison Arabe (Around 3-4 minutes walk from our riad)–
1, Derb Assehbe - Bab Doukkala. Tél: 00212 5 24 38 70 10
www.lamaisonarabe.com

Our neighbouring riad with a great restaurant, a more casual outdoors snack area, an atmospheric piano bar.

They serve alcohol.

They add a 10% service charge on all their food and drink.

Dar Moha (Around 5 minutes from our riad).

81 rue Dar el Bacha, Medina. Tel: 00 212 524 386 400

www.darmoha.ma

The former home of designer Pierre Balmain, now it is one of the finest restaurants in the Medina. Book in advance for weekends.

They serve alcohol.

The Moorish (kitchen and coffee) (Around 15 minutes from our riad)

166 rue Mouassine - Medina (a few meters after Le Jardin Secret)

This is our “sister” enterprise!

www.themoorishmarrakech.com

A new, fresh and cool space right in the middle of the souks that offers fusion food (mediterranean and moroccan) and great ice coffee and cakes among other things. Great value and great service too.

Well worth a visit for coffee, lunch or dinner (no alcohol).

Ma Maison (around 7 minutes from our riad)

64 Arset Aouzal, Bab Doukkala. Tel: 00212 64 90 71 498

www.mamaisonmarrakech.com

Italian food with great surroundings and reasonable prices. They offer alcohol.

Café Arabe (Around 15 minutes from our riad.)

184 rue Mouassine, Medina. Tel: 00 212 524 42 97 28

www.cafearabe.com

A great coffee shop in the old town, it serves Italian and Moroccan food. They serve alcoholic drinks, try their terrace for a nightcap.

Le Trou au Mur (Around 15 minutes from our riad)

39 Derb el Farnatchi· Medina. Tel: 00212 524 38 49 00

<https://letrouaumur.com>

This is the restaurant of Riad Farnatchi, offering good moroccan food with a modern twist. They are open for lunch and dinner and serve alcoholic drinks.

Terrace Des Epices (Around 10 minutes from our riad)

15 Souk Cherifia, Medina.

www.terrassedeseepices.com

The Terrace offers laidback seating in open-sided booths, good music and views. The menu is a good all day Franco-Moroccan dining menu. Service can be a bit hit and miss.

Le Studio (20 minutes walk from our riad - or by car in 5 minutes, 30

Dhr cost)- 87 Boulevard Moulay Rachid, Gueliz.

Tel: 00212 5244-337004

<http://www.lestudiomarrakech.com>

A great place for steak and fish dishes. Does not look much from the outside but trust us! Reasonable prices and top notch meals, very near the November 16 square at the new town. Really busy after 9pm. They serve alcohol.

Café 16 (15 minutes from our riad, in the new town direction) –

Place du 16 Novembre, Gueliz. Tel: 00212 524 33 96 70

<https://www.16cafe.com/>

This café is situated in one of the most popular areas of the new town. It serves snacks and coffees, and the best desserts you will have in Marrakech. Its handmade ice creams are worth having too!

Other recommended restaurants accessible by car:

The Amal Moroccan Restaurant-

Rue Allal Ben Ahmed et Rue Ibn Sina, Guéliz. Tel: 00212 524 446896

<https://amalrestaurant.wordpress.com>

Lunch only from 12-4pm.

Dinner by special appointment for a minimum of 10 guests.

This is a non-profit association that trains disadvantaged women in restaurant skills. Their food is fresh and well priced. They also offer cooking classes. Booking is advised, especially on Fridays.

Dar Yacout –

79 rue Sidi Ahmed Soussi, Bab Doukkala, Medina.

Tel: 00 212 524 38 29 29

<http://www.daryacout.com/>

The building is a madcap mansion with flowering columns, candy striping, fireplaces in the bathrooms and a yellow crenellated rooftop terrace on which drinks are served prior to dining. Numerous dishes but one is not expected to eat everything. Some evenings there is live music and entertainment.

Libzar-

28, rue Moulay Ali, Gueliz. Tel: 00212 524 420402

<http://www.libzar.com/>

A lovely restaurant in the new town (Gueliz), that offers moroccan dishes in a modern way. They open for lunch and dinner.

Grand Café de la Poste –

Corner of Boulevard el-Mansour Eddahbi and Avenue Imam Malik, Marrakech (00 212 524 433 038; www.grandcafedelaposte.com).

The decor at the 1920s Grand Café reminds colonial Morocco. In the early evening, it's popular for an aperitif. You can also enjoy Jazz bands on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month at around 8pm, with dinner. The atmosphere and food are great. but the service, not always. They serve alcohol.

Le Comptoir Darna.

Avenue Echouhada, Hivernage (around 25 minutes walk or 5 minutes by taxi - 30 Dhr) Tel: 00212 524 437 702

www.comptoirdarna.com

Le Comptoir is a legend in Marrakech, but not necessarily for the food (which is also very good). The decoration of this restaurant is amazing and the mind tends to wander from the food to the floor around 10.30pm, when lithe belly dancers descend the big staircase to cavort around the tables for around 30 minutes. Alcoholic drinks are served here.

Le Fondouk –

55 Souk Hal Fassi, Kat Bennahid. Tel: 00212 524 378 190

www.fondouk.com

This is one of the chicest restaurants, with a dark, moody decor that invites you to lounge on cushions pondering the relative merits of a *croquant de chocolat noir*, *coulis de fraises* or *glaces de pistache*. The food is Moroccan with excursions into French and Italian cuisine.

Cafe Clock -

224 Derb Chtouka, Kasbah, Medina. Tel: 00212 524 378367

<https://www.cafeclock.com/>

Great for coffee or lunch and snacks, this is a cultural cafe with lots of different events, from storytelling, to yoga and mini concerts.

Le Tobsil -

22 Derb Moulay Abdallah ben Hezzaïen, Medina. Tel: 00212 524 44 40 52

Superb quality. If you want to try dining in a lovely atmosphere with good Gnawa music and well prepared food then book ahead as they only have 12 tables.

POOL CLUBS

Naoura Barrere (Super close to us, an urban hotel with pool)

<https://www.hotelsbarriere.com/fr/marrakech/le-naoura.html>

Extremely handy for our Riad Mur Akush, this is a very nice hotel with a beautiful pool, only 5 minutes walk from us. The pool day access costs 400 Dhr (not including lunch).

Beldi Country Club (<http://beldicountryclub.com/>)

Some 6 km out of the city the Beldi combines natural olive grove and rose gardens with traditional rural design, a beautiful pool where lunch is served and an enticing spa and hammam. Their day pass costs 400 Dhr and includes access to the pool and a 2 course lunch.

Palais Namaskar (<https://www.palaisnamaskar.com/>)

Around 15 km out of Marrakech, this is a wonderful place to spend a day but the pool. It offers luxurious surroundings, lush gardens and a selection of pools! Their Pool Day Pass costs 600 Dhr per person and includes the use of the pool, a welcome cocktail on arrival and a 2 course lunch.

Jnane Tamsna (<http://www.jnane.com/jnane-tamsna>)

This is a wonderful exclusive hotel with amazing gardens, located in the area of Palmeraie only 15-20 minutes drive from Marrakech. They have a great pool that is open to visitors, but please contact them first to confirm your visit. Their service is not always good, so please keep it in mind. They also serve a simple lunch.

Nikki Beach

Out in the Palmeraie some 5 km from the city centre Nikki Beach presents itself as *the* hip place to be. With resident DJ, 3 pools and a chic designer look, it is great for dancing into the early hours (they promote themselves as a “day party”). Alcoholic drinks are served here. Access to the pool costs 350 Dhr (no lunch is included).

OTHER ACTIVITIES



Hot Air Balloon flights (Sept – June) – A wonderful experience that will stay with you forever. The day starts early in the morning around 5am (to make sure that the conditions are perfect) and finishes with breakfast at a berber house and a short camel ride. You will be collected by the riad and driven back at noon. Cost: 190 Euros per person.

Cooking classes: A great day out, learning the tricks of the trade. Most classes involve a market visit for the ingredients as well as a meal at the end.

1 - Souk cuisine <http://www.soukcuisine.com/> (60 Euros per person, includes a meal)

2 - Maison arabe <http://www.lamaisonarabe.com/> (600 Dhr/ 55 Euros per person depending on numbers, includes a meal)

3 - L'atelier Faim d'Epices <http://faimdepices.com/> (550 dHR/ 55 Euros per person). They are based a little outside Marrakech but they collect you from your riad. This is a full day event (from 9am-5pm).

4 – The Amal Restaurant

<http://amalnonprofit.org/cooking-baking-classes/>

They offer cooking classes from 9am-1.30pm and baking classes from 2pm-4pm

Booking in advance is required. The cost for each class is 350 Dhr/ 32 Euros for adults and 200 Dhr/18 Euros for children under 10.

Food tours:

We really like <https://marrakechfoodtours.com/> who offer a variety of tours and you can book with them online.

A Visit to the Hammam (traditional Moroccan bath/spa)-

Marrakech spas/hammams seem to have perfected the art of pampering! There is a large number of hammam/spas in Marrakech and some of the best ones are near us. Booking in advance is highly recommended and we are happy to do this for you before you arrive. The establishments we recommend are:



The Heritage Spa -

<http://heritagespamarrakech.com>

A really lovely hammam/spa located only 5 minutes walk from our riad. It has great treatments (including its Heritage romance treatment, for couples) and its service is also fantastic.

Les Bains de Alzahara -

<http://lesbainsdeazahara.net>

This is the nearest hammam to our riad, right at the entrance to our derb. It offers good treatments in nice surroundings.

Hammam de la Rose -

<http://www.hammamdelarose.com>

This is another very nice hammam, only 8 minutes walk from our riad and opposite Dar el Bacha. Very polite and good service.

WHAT TO DO WITH KIDS:

L'Oliveraie de Marigha – <http://www.oliveraie-de-marigha.com/>

Located in the middle of a large olive grove (an hour out of Marrakech), with a large swimming pool, this is a relaxing place where you can spend a full day, swimming, having lunch or drinks and generally relax in its peaceful space.

Cost for the use of the pool: 150 Dhr adults and 100 Dhr children under 12.

Lunch 170-200 Dhr which includes free entry to the swimming pool.

Open all year around from 10am-11pm.

Terres d'Amanar - <http://www.terresdamanar.com/>-

A large adventure park with something for all ages, they have specialised activities for kids from 4 years old and offer a variety of experiences for adults too. It is 35 km outside Marrakech on the road to Asni. The rates depend on the activities that will be chosen, but it works out at around 300 Dhr per person.

We can arrange transport for you if you wish.

Oasiria Waterpark – (<http://www.oasiriamarrakech.com/interne.html>)

This is the biggest and most popular water park in Marrakech with a multitude of activities for adults and children alike. They have a shuttle bus that can drive you there for free, collecting from Jemaa El Fna at the Koutoubia Mosque Car Parking (From April to August: 9:30, 10:15, 11:00, 11:45, 13:30, 14:15, 15:00) . Entry prices vary depending on season, age and how long you will stay, from 5-18 Euros.

Anima Garden - <https://www.anima-garden.com/experience/>

This is the garden created by artist Andre Heller and is located around 30 kilometers out of Marrakech. They offer a free shuttle service from Marrakech but must book in advance on-line. A large garden full of surprises for children and adults alike. Entrance fee is 120 Dhr for adults. 60 Dhr for teenagers and free for under 12s.

WHAT TO DO WHEN IT RAINS

Yes, it sometimes rains in Marrakech, especially in the winter months so here are a few ideas of what to do during that time:

- **Stay “in”**. The lounge is a really welcoming place when it rains, borrow a book from our little library and curl up on the sofa - or meet the other guests and play a game of cards or domino. The patio is also a great place to spend some time as we have an electric roof that protects us from the heaviest of rains.
- Visit a hammam**, a great way to spend a few hours being pampered
- Borrow an umbrella from the front desk and brave the markets. Most of the **souks** are covered and you will get great bargains as the shopkeepers will not have so many customers that day.
- Have a **cooking class**.
- Visit one of the large **shopping centers** or supermarkets (we are happy to assist).
- Visit some of the **museums** of Marrakech.

DAY TRIPS -

Do not book with another company before you speak with us!

Private trips with good quality transport. Our rates include the driver and petrol. These prices are for 2 people travelling in the car together (speak to us if you would like the rates for more guests).

Atlas mountains (village of Imlil) – Drive time 1.5 hours each way. Visit this authentic Berber village, have lunch in one of its restaurants, maybe go for a short trek. Many interesting photo opportunities on the way and ability to stop in one of various co-operatives/shops on the way.

Cost for 2 guests: 90 Euros

Ourika Valley (with the 7 waterfalls) – Drive time: 1.5 hour each way. You do not need to visit all waterfalls, but the first 1-2 are easy to get to and you do not need a guide for them. Reaching the higher waterfalls is a bit more physically demanding and you will probably need a guide (will cost around 20 Euros extra for 2-3 hours – you negotiate a price with the guide, locally). Great scenery and photo opportunities on the way.

Cost for 2 guests: 90 Euros

Ourika Valley (organic farm visit) – Drive time: 1.5 hour each way

This is a day trip that you can tailor to you. We will visit an organic farm near Ourika who offer cooking classes, lunch and /or an afternoon by the pool. You can also have a short guided trek around the area to stretch your legs. The price for this depends on the amount of people and which of the above you would like to experience (all of them?). One thing is for sure, this is a very special place and offers the chance to experience a different side of Morocco. Please contact us for details.

Ouzoud Waterfalls - Drive time: 3 hours each way. A lovely trip to one of the most striking waterfalls in Morocco. A network of waterfalls that

cascade into one, offering the chance to see it from the bottom and the top through a series of treks, it is surrounded by a fragile ecosystem that is currently under protection from local environmental bodies.

Cost for 2 guests: 125 Euros

Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou - Drive time: around 4 hours each way. Visit the world famous Kasbah, protected by UNESCO and featured in many well known movies. This is a long drive but certainly worth it! If you can start early enough and the conditions are good, you may be able to add Telouet in your itinerary (it adds 2 hours to the day), and see the deserted Palace of Glaoui.

Cost for 2 guests: 170 Euros

Essaouira – Drive time: 3 hours each way. Visit this coastal town and see a different side of Morocco. It has a real sea-side feel to it and great seafood restaurants. The beach is great for walks and you can get camel rides there are well. Ideal for wind-surfing, Essaouira is known as a “wind-city” with some of the best “waves” around!

Cost for 2 guests: 120 Euros

Other transport option for Essaouira is to go by bus (the fare is 80 Dhr around 8 Euros each way – no return tickets available but you can get them on arrival from the Essaouira bus station) – :

Marrakech to Essaouira daily: 7.45, 9.00, 10.45, 12.00, 14.45, 16.45, 19.00

Essaouira to Marrakech daily: 6.30, 09.30, 11.15, 12.45, 14.30, 15.30, 17.00, 18.00

An add-on to your Essaouira trip can be arranged, if you would like to visit and have lunch in the Val D’Argan vineyard.

<https://www.valdargan.com/>

They offer a quick tour of the winery and give you the option of lunch with their selection of wines, for 330 Dhr per person (they have NO vegetarian options). An interesting stop over on the way to Essaouira, please check the reviews and their website to see if this is for you.

LONGER TRIPS

Morocco desert trips – 2 nights/3 days (sample itinerary):

Day 1 - Depart Marrakech, cross the **Tizi-n-Tichka** pass and head towards the famous **Kasbah of Ait Benhaddou** and **Ouarzazate**. The day finishes in the **Dades Valley** where you stay overnight in a well chosen hotel (dinner included).

Day 2 – Continue the trip to the **Dades Gorge**, the **Todra Gorge** and reach **Merzouga**, where you get introduced to the camels that will take you to the Nomad Desert camp in **Erg Chebbi** (this is a 2 hour ride – if you prefer to take a 4x4 car instead, this can be arranged at a small extra cost, locally). You will be welcomed by the Nomads, have dinner under the stars and be entertained by the drums.

Day 3 – Leaving just before sunrise, you will ride the camels back to **Marzouga** where you start your return journey over the Atlas mountains. You will reach Marrakech in the evening (dinner not included).

The cost of this trip depends on the number of people in the car, but an example of the cost is below (price includes the car, driver, petrol, accommodation, breakfast and dinner (no lunch or drinks are included in this price)). These rates are for medium season and are an indication only.

Cost for 2 guests: 620 Euros for a standard trip and 790 Euros for a premium trip.

Cost for 4 guests: 820 Euros for a standard trip and 1150 Euros for a premium trip.

Our premium trips offer better quality accommodation and a private tent in the desert.

We are happy to organise any trip you have in mind so feel free to talk to us about what other options there are. Mohamed, the riad manager, has been a country guide for over 30 years now and he has vast experience and knowledge of all corners of Morocco, with the contacts to go, ensuring that we can offer you great value trips of the best possible quality.

Souvenir purchases at the riad

Following requests from our guests, we are now stocking a small number of “Les Sens De Marrakech” products, the same as we use in our bathrooms. We sell them 20% cheaper than you would buy them in their shop, as we do not charge for VAT.

Review Riad Mur Akush

Have you heard of the saying:

***‘If you are satisfied, tell others and
if you are not, tell us’***

We want to make sure that you have an excellent 5 star stay in Riad Mur Akush.

So if anything is not as you would expect or how you want, please tell us.

We normally take action very quickly so if something is bothering you (from pillows to light bulbs), please let us know and we will do our best to address any issue.

We aim to offer you a wonderful experience, so if you had a great stay with us, please tell the world and leave a review for us in

www.tripadvisor.co.uk



Announcing our
2019 CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE.
We couldn't have done it without you!

or any other review sites that you use.

As we are a very small independent business, we rely on your reviews extensively, so it will be much appreciated.

Have a wonderful stay in the magical city of Marrakech!

Maria, Mohamed, Evan and the team