



## It Destination: Riad Atlas Kasbah, Morocco

One of the highlights of my recent Moroccan trip was the unique authentic experience we've had on top of the mountain at Atlas Kasbah - the first echo-lodge in Agadir. A hidden jewel, Kasbah is your "it" place to learn about local traditions and experience local lifestyle, all in sustainable, natural environment.

The room in one of the towers (Kasbah is basically a fort) provided the most breathtaking view, and the food, cooked home style for every meal, was so flavorful that I was inspired to take Moroccan cooking class, taught by the gracious owner - Helene (she co-founded the place with her husband Hassan). The result - my very own Tajine - is in the photo below.

The place offers full list of activities, enough for a week stay - from pottery to hiking, hammam (Moroccan steam bath) to surfing, bird watching to Astronomy lessons. In fact, we could watch the cristal clear sky at one of the nights through a telescope, brought by professors from the local University. Seeing Jupiter shining through the enlarged lens, from the land of Africa was an experience I will never forget.

Another night Helene showed us traditional Moroccan fashion (photo of me wearing some of the pieces below), as well as Berber beauty secrets, including lots of products incorporating Argan oil, kohl (black eye make-up also used to protect the eyes), *ghassoul* (clay to wash the hair or skin), and even small clay pots imbued with poppies that serve as a lipstick.

I hope to return to Atlas Kasbah one day for an extended stay and a total "unplug" from our fast paced world. The place could also serve as the ultimate "It" wedding destination - with 8 traditionally decorated rooms and 3 large suites - it is perfectly built for intimate and unique celebrations. Check out <http://atlaskasbah.com/en> for more details.

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