

# Dar Laarous

Region: Marrakech Sleeps: 8

## Overview

Sitting very pretty in the popular Riad Laarous area of Marrakech, Dar Laarous is a delightful riad with four bedrooms, charming living spaces, a gorgeous courtyard and a sunny roof terrace. It is a very old riad of refined, sophisticated Andalusian architectural style, which was restored under the guidance of the renowned architect Quentin Wilbaux, an expert in the exceptional renovation of riads in Marrakech's Medina in the late 1980s. Since then, it has subsequently been redesigned and refurbished by the current owners. Dar Laarous is extremely characterful and an oasis of calm. It is perfect for a spot of switch-off! The riad is ideal for groups of friends or families with older children. Due to the roof terrace, it is not particularly suitable for families with very young children.

Dar Laarous is built over three floors around a gorgeous courtyard. The night watchman's room is located by the entrance hall, which leads to the stairwell, opening up onto the courtyard, which is bordered by three galleries. The courtyard is a heavenly oasis sprinkled with towering palms, cacti, a fig tree and other gorgeous plants, as well as a delightful fountain which adds a soothing trickle to the ambience. Sitting off the courtyard are some lovely seating areas, a charming alfresco dining area and a third area with a vast bench and a number of seats. The riad kitchen sits beside the alfresco dining area. It is so beautiful looking out to the lush green courtyard from these pretty spaces. Away from the courtyard, the ground floor living room and winter dining room enjoy a characterful fireplace, bright colour splashes and an array of sofas and accent chairs. One of the riad's bedrooms is also situated on the ground floor, accessed directly from the courtyard. It is a beautiful room with a lavish king size bed, a dressing room and an ensuite bathroom with a bathtub.

The master bedroom suite, with its beautifully dressed double bed, is located on the first floor. It leads to the gallery overlooking the courtyard and its towering plants. This room enjoys a Douiria lounge with a working fireplace, comfy, stylish seating, a coffee table, a study alcove, a fabulous original ceiling and a Bluetooth speaker so that you can listen to your favourite tunes. Traditional Douiria lounges are becoming increasingly rare, with the space being taken up with extra bedrooms. Douirias were the central place for the master of the house to receive visitors from outside the family, so they were traditionally beautiful to give a good image of the owner. Another bedroom is located on this level, accessed from the open gallery. It is another delight with a comfy double bed, a private shower room, an office area and a private



terrace.

The final bedroom is found on the second floor, with direct access to the roof terrace. It has been designed in traditional Berber style and offers twin beds that are combined as a double bed, another fabulous ceiling and an ensuite bathroom. The bathrooms at Dar Laarous enjoy the beautiful traditional Moroccan plaster finish that you see so often with the showers, baths and sinks built into the rooms. They are beautiful.

## Facilities

Townhouse/Apartment • Ideal for Teens • Wi-Fi/Internet • Air-Con • Walk to Village • Walk to Restaurant • <1hr to Airport • Safety Deposit Box • All Bedrooms En-Suite • Ground Floor Bed & Bath • Fenced Grounds • Golf Nearby • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Historical Sites

# Interior & Grounds

## Ground Floor

- Ample living room with comfortable seating and access to the courtyard
- Dining room for 8 people and access to the courtyard
- Professional kitchen for staff use (guests are not allowed)
- Bedroom with king size bed (180 x 200 cm), dressing room, access to the courtyard and en-suite bathroom

## First Floor

- Bedroom with double bed (160 x 200 cm), air conditioning, dressing room, access to a private terrace and en-suite shower room
- Bedroom with double bed (160 x 200 cm), air conditioning, dressing room, access to a private terrace and en-suite shower room

## Top Floor

- Bedroom with two single beds (configurable into double bed), air conditioning, dressing room, access to a private terrace and en-suite shower room

## Exterior Grounds

- Ample terraced area
- Outdoor dining
- Covered terrace
- Garden furniture

## Additional Facilities

- Wi-Fi connection
- Air conditioning
- Safe deposit box
- Security system
- Music speaker



## Location & Local Information

Dar Laarous is nestled in the popular Riad Laarous area in the heart of the Medina of Marrakech. It is within easy walking distance of the bustling Jamaa el Fna Square and just a few minutes drive from the trendy Gueliz area, the beautiful, famous Jardins Majorelle and many other attractions. Golfers can easily reach the outstanding, prestigious Royal Palm golf course and the Royal Golf at Amelkis for a round of golf.

Marrakech is a bustling, intoxicating, colourful city of wonders that offers an inexhaustible source of surprises. It is Africa's Capital of Culture, where everything is on the move. Finding out all of its secrets would take forever, but you can visit a handful of attractions in a few days to get a taste of its noble past and its frenetic present. Colourful spices, glistening lamps, colourful carpets and leather in every shade imaginable are combined with rich, ancient architecture to capture your heart and soul. Its souks are loud, thrilling and very exciting. You can shop for sweets, clothing, leather, spices, soap, perfume, rugs, lighting, musical instruments and much more. All prices are negotiable, and bargaining is a social art. You will discover snake charmers, storytellers and potion sellers. Dining in the Medina is an adventure and will set your tastebuds tingling. Smoke rises from barbecues which are enjoyed along with Gnawa musicians, acrobats and fortune tellers. The famous Patisserie des Princes is perfect for sweet treats and ice cream afterwards. Many of the riads boast exquisite restaurants for fine dining experiences where you will enjoy creative, spice-laced modern Moroccan menus, many of which are on rooftops with fabulous views. Your friendly staff at the riad can recommend and book tables for you. The wonderful Riad Yima Tea Room is the home and personal gallery of Hassan Hajjaj, the Andy Warhol of Marrakech and is filled with upcycled pop art. It is fun and a great place to grab a classic cup of mint tea. The Medina's labyrinth of winding lanes and alleyways is best explored with a willingness to get lost and a sense of adventure. In 1985 the Medina was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Hammams were introduced to the city by the Romans and adapted to fit Islamic ablution rituals. Visitors enjoy wonderful hammam experiences at Hammam de la Rose, the Farnatchi Spa, the deluxe Royal Mansour and many other spas.

This Moroccan city-break favourite is also home to a glossy modern quarter, the Gueliz, which is just steps from the riad. Beyond Marrakech's ancient heart is this contemporary, manicured area full of funky cafes, chic shopping opportunities, upmarket restaurants and wonderful museums that are architectural statements. It is alive with artwork, with one of the most famous galleries being the Matisse Art Gallery, named after the 20th-century artist Henri Matisse. It draws some of the best artists from all over Morocco with inspirational exhibitions. You will also discover the Royal Tennis Club of



Marrakech with its nine courts plus a stadium court. The club is the oldest and largest tennis club in Marrakech and is often used for sporting events.

Marrakech enjoys an excellent collection of museums, including Maison de la Photographie, a three-storey riad-turned-gallery housing the vintage Moroccan photography collection of Patrick Menac'h and Marrakshi Hamid Mergani. Its rooftop cafe is one of the highest in Medina. The Musee Tiskiwin displays the history of Marrakech and the region in general. The Dar Si Said Museum is an exhibition of historic and contemporary Moroccan art, full of intricate Byzantine designs and colours. The Musee Boucharouite features stunning tapestries and another hidden rooftop cafe, while the Musee de Mouassine shows off the work of a local artist. The Music Museum is located in the Saadian quarter, built in the 16th and 17th centuries. The reception of the museum is a jewel of Arab-Andalusian architecture.

The Bahia Palace was built in the late 19th century and now forms the centre of the city's culture. It boasts incredible decor along with high, gilded ceilings, mosaics, stuccos, paintings and an enormous landscaped garden.

You can discover some of the city's history at the 16th-century Saadian Tombs, where the Sultan al-Mansour spared no expense in decorating his opulent mausoleum with imported Italian Carrara marble and a gilded honeycomb muqarnas ceiling. You will discover a large complex of lavish mausoleums and tombs. The once magnificent Bali Palace is now a monumental ruin with giant reflecting pools and breathtaking views of the city. The towering minaret of Koutoubia Mosque is constructed of red brick and sandstone and enjoys ornamental details. It stands proud as the symbol of Marrakech. Turquoise tiling, calligraphy, arches, fountains, and plasterwork make the mosque highly impressive.

The area around the city is sprinkled with magical gardens. Le Jardin Secret is one of Medina's largest and most important gardens, with a Persian garden full of tufted grasses and olive, pomegranate, fig and date trees and a second smaller garden offering exotic plants. An elaborate irrigation system weaves its way through the gardens, part of an ancient network that once distributed water from artesian wells and fed by the mountains. When fashion icon Yves St Laurent arrived in the city in 1964, he was overwhelmed by the city and its vivacity. He lived in the Jardin Majorelle with his partner, a lush garden painted with an intense shade of ultramarine blue. It is sprinkled with giant cacti, palms and bamboo groves. The Berber Museum is filled with Yves St Laurent's personal jewellery and fashion collection, and the Musee Yves St Laurent offers a stunning choreography presentation of the clothes in a dramatic black hall.

Once you have sampled the vibrancy and energy of the city, you can venture a few miles out to the cooler heights of the mountains. Northern Africa's highest

peak, Mount Toubkal, is just a short distance away, surrounded by the magnificent wonder of stunning mountains that are simply perfect for a hike. Within easy reach from the road, you will also find some of the best golf courses in Marrakech, including the Amelkis Championship Golf Course and the Marrakech Royal Golf Club. You will enjoy unforgettable day trips, visit traditional villages, taste delicious food, and enjoy the fabulous scenery and a mesmerising mix of Berber, Arabian and European cultural influences. Morocco is as diverse as it is beautiful.

## Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	<b>Marrakech Menara Airport (8 km)</b>
Nearest Train Station	<b>Riad Laarousse Bus Stop L2 (200 m)</b>
Nearest Town/City	<b>Marrakech (700 m)</b>
Nearest Restaurant	<b>Broc The Kasbah (300 m)</b>
Nearest Bar/Pub	<b>British Pub (3 km)</b>
Nearest Supermarket	<b>Carrefour (3 km)</b>
Nearest Golf	<b>Amelkis Golf Club (7 km)</b>
Sightseeing	<b>Majorelle Gardens (2 km)</b>

## What we love

- Dar Laarous is an ancient riad that has been beautifully renovated to offer characterful, comfortable accommodation
- Your cook at the riad will prepare delicious breakfasts for you and, for an extra charge, will prepare lunch or dinner
- This roof terrace enjoys superb views of the city
- The courtyard is stunning and brimming with seriously tall palms, a fig tree, other plants and a fountain which offers a soothing melody while relaxing in the many delightful sitting areas

## What you should know...

- Breakfast is included in the price of the riad, but you can also enjoy delicious lunches or dinners for an extra fee
- This riad is not ideal for very young children. There are many steps, and the roof terrace is not very well protected
- There is not a hammam or pool at Dar Laarous
- Please bear in mind that during Ramadan, the traditional month of fasting and purification, some restaurants and cafes close during the day and general business hours are reduced

# Terms & Conditions

- Security deposit: €750 charged to client's credit card by the owner before/upon arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.
- Arrival time: 3 pm
- Departure time: 12 pm
- Energy costs included?: Yes, included in rental price.
- Heating costs included?: Not available on this property.
- Linen & towels included?: Yes, included in rental price.
- Pool towels included?: No.
- End of stay cleaning included?: Yes. However, guests are required to leave the accommodation clean, tidy and in the same condition as on their arrival. Any extra cleaning, laundry, maintenance and/or garbage disposal required will be charged against the security deposit.
- Internet access?: Wi-Fi internet access included.
- Minimum stay: 3 nights during low season. All other durations on request.
- Changeover day: Flexible.
- Pets welcome?: Not allowed.
- Smoking Allowed?: Smoking & Vaping are not permitted.
- Pool heating charge?: Not available on this property.
- Tax: Tourist Taxes are not included in the rental price and are to be paid locally in cash on arrival (the correct total per person per night will be sent to you after booking confirmation).
- Insurance: Guests are required to be in possession of a valid insurance policy, which covers them for cancellations, personal belongings, personal liability and any accidental damage caused during their stay.
- Other Ts and Cs: Housekeeping and daily breakfast are included in the rental price.

The following services are available at extra cost to be paid directly to the owner by cash or bank transfer:

- A meal per day: starting from €20 per guest/day
- Half board: please enquire
- Other Ts and Cs: A non-refundable 40% deposit is required to confirm a booking at this property (or full payment if booking within 12 weeks of departure).