

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH MOROCCO?

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Just what does the "Kingdom Of A Thousand Kingdoms" have that makes people praise it so highly and use words like "incredible" and "amazing" that you're certain it can't be THAT good. Northern Africa and the Middle East are filled with places that are both!

- Morocco has *kafars*, kasbahs within kasbahs, but EGYPT has the pyramids!
- Morocco has some Greco-Roman ruins, but nothing like Ephesus in TURKEY or the originals in GREECE.
- Morocco has ancient Christian, Muslim and Jewish holy places, but they pale in comparison to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem or The Galilee where Jesus lived and preached.
- Morocco is a land of mountainous beauty, but if you live in COLORADO not even the Low, Middle and High Atlas Mountains taken together are enough in themselves to make you head for the airport.

The pull of Morocco isn't found in any one physical thing that's bigger or better than any place else. What this country has more than any other place I've visited is that the country is EXOTIC AS ALL GET OUT! It is multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-colorful. You know you're not in Kansas anymore as soon as you step off an easy Royal Air Maroc non-stop from Kennedy. Wherever you go your eyes, ears, nose, skin and heart take in Maximum Strength EXOTIC.

It's in the kasbahs, the walled portion of cities. It's in the souks, the winding marketplaces that date back to and take you back to the 12th Century. It's in the dueling calls to prayer echoing in the night from mountain village to mountain village. And for sure, it doesn't get much more exotic than a pre-dawn camel ride to see the sun come up over the Sahara.

It is impossible to talk about travel to the region without talking safety. I know you've already had the thought so let me address it directly. There are some dangerous parts of the journey that are hard to avoid. You will likely have to take I-25 to get to the airport.

Honestly, I feel safer in the middle of Marrakech than I do in some parts of almost any U.S. city. Do I feel I need to tell people I'm from Canada because they automatically hate Americans? No way! The Moroccans really like us and are very proud to have been one of the very first countries to recognize the United States! The Kingdom has been around a long time and today is an evolving constitutional monarchy with a young king carrying on the progressive changes his father and grandfather started.

Of course, your experience there, or any place you travel to, depends greatly on how well your trip is planned and if a travel professional like Jane Folsom has put it together to meet and exceed your own expectations. I hope these pictures help raise your expectations...enjoy them, then go enjoy The Kingdom Of Morocco.

