



2020 – 2021

Artisanal immersion

Aïcha, ancient
pottery in the
Moroccan Pre-Rif.

Ard

Artisanal immersion

A truly unique experience of connection to self and ancient pottery. A shared journey where we walk together in the unfolding mystery of a new culture. It is by no means a retreat where everything is laid out for your comfort, but a walk together with an eye to uncover and breathe in the amazingness and beauty of difference as well as connection.

The structure of the week revolves around the **pottery workshop** instructed by Aïcha that is detailed below.

The rest of the day is open and intends to be very relaxed and focused on enjoying our time with the family and experiencing the stunning region. We find that integrating the spectacular environment, culture and land into our week makes the best afternoons; hiking or walking through the Rif Mountains, meeting other potters or artisans of the area, visiting the unique souk...



Accommodation



Double-occupancy accommodation at Aïcha's, a traditional house on top of Mount Sidi Masoud in the Rif Mountain Range, the most spectacular view of Al Wahda Dam.

Last night at a beautiful guesthouse (Dar) in Fez.



Meals

Homemade breakfast, lunch and dinner, except for the last dinner in Fez the final night.

Also, we will have the opportunity to spend time and learn how to make homemade bread and the tastiest traditional dishes of the area with Samira.



6 day
Pottery
workshop



The schedule is open, we can switch things around once we are there according to the progress and preferences of the group.

The classes will take place at Aïcha's workshop during the morning, after breakfast.



first,
second
and third
morning

Sitting on the floor on a sheepskin, we will dedicate the first, second and third morning to learn from Aïcha how to model the clay with our hands, with the only help of two flat discs made of clay to enable the rotation, and build the pieces according to the ancient techniques practised by the Female Rifian Potters.



fourth
and fifth
morning

Once the modeling is finished and the entire surface of the pot has been smoothed with a wooden spatula we are ready to start the burnishing on the fourth morning.

The burnishing is done by carefully rubbing the entire pot with a small limestone boulder to hide any defect and to tighten the surface.

On the fifth morning, we will apply coating to the pots with a soaked cloth preparing the surface of the pots to be decorated.



Our “brush” will be made from the tuft of hair from the back of a goat, and the natural pigments used to decorate our pieces from mixing both minerals and water.

That same evening, we will place our finished pottery on a bed of pine needles and firewood, we will then cover it with the natural fuel needed to cook our pieces from “cakes” made of cow dung, straw and olive pits.



sixth
morning

We will wake up early the sixth morning to prepare a fire and our workspace for a few hours until the fuel is consumed, leaving the coal to cool until the next day.



We will then depart to visit
Ourtzagh's country souk, held weekly
for an opportunity to get in contact
with local people as they go about
their daily business.



A personal favorite outing; accompanying Aïcha and her donkey to collect the special clay that she works with from her surroundings.

Dates

2020 sold out.

2021

April¹ 4th–11th

April² 11th–18th

May¹ 23rd–30th

May² 30th to June 6th

June 6th–13th

September¹ 12th–19th

September² 19th–26th

September³ 26th–October 3rd



Pricing + Payment

625 EUROS (can be paid in full, or in two separate installments including a 150 euros non-refundable deposit, part of the payment)

Cost includes

Accommodation

Meals

6 day Pottery workshop



Please contact us to book your spot, if you have any question or if you need additional information.

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