

## THE MOROCCAN HIGH ATLAS RANGES MOUNTAIN CROSS COUNTRY AND VALLEY RIDES



Nice 'n easy PRIVATE one day any day horse rides from the



# A DAY ON HORSEBACK IN REMOTE MOUNTAIN VALLEYS

OBTKT06m 6 HOURS RIDING

**KASBAH TAMADOT - TAGADIRT N' AÏT ALI - ID AÏSSA - MATATE - KASBAH TAMADOT.** Our Barb horses saddled, we set off



with our mountain guide and horse handler at around 9 in the morning towards the south from this beautiful hotel overlooking the steep, forested river valley of the Assif n'Aït Mizane for an half hour's gallop into the silence of one of the world's least spoiled mountain ranges, first down the valley to the Berber village of Tagadirt N'Aït Ali, nestling comfortably between the Adrars Ouardsrou (1525m), Al Bled (1778m) and the Aourirt n'Igouine (2187m) and then, from here, we ride on now for 1½ hours towards the south-west along well-trodden mule trails through the mountain pass of the Tizi n'Techt (2187m), dividing the mountains of the Aourirt n'Igouine and the Adrar Agouni (2486m). Once through the pass, having taken in the splendid panorama of mountains and High Atlas slopes fairly intensely cultivated with terraced plots of vegetables, corn and wheat and orchards of fruit trees we arrive half an hour later in the valley of the Assif n'Ouissedene and the village of Aït Ouougoute. From here, we continue on at a steady pace for a further half an hour through the foothills of this new valley passing through the villages of Taddert, Tahaliouine and Agouninane (1600m) keeping to the slopes of the Adrar Agouni, until we reach the village of Id Aïssa (Jesus), here to pause for our field picnic alongside a spring, or in the home of a Berber family. Once refreshed and our mounts watered, we set off back towards the north-east up past a land of grey, yellow, ochre and red soil to the mountain pass of Tizi Oudite (2219m), giving us a splendid vista of valleys and rivers, of the mighty Jbels Oukaïmeden, Aguelzim and Toubkal then down for half an hour between the Adrars Tifirt (2520m) and Tasserimoute (2408m) through woods of juniper, walnut and citron-wood to the Plateau of Matate (1700m) and the village of the same name. We'll make a short visit here of



the ancient copper mines before galloping for some 25 minutes down to the village of Aguerssiouâl in the Assif n'Aït Mizane Valley. After a stimulating ride, it is here we say goodbye to our horses and handler to join our vehicle taking us back towards the north and the Kasbah Tamadot, to relax after an exhilarating six-to-seven hours of contact with this region's natural splendour. **L.**

**OUR PRICES WILL INCLUDE:** Sure-footed Arabo-Berber 'Barb' horses; an experienced licensed bi-lingual mountain guide and horse handler throughout.. Insurance whilst on horseback, only if wearing a hard hat. A field picnic lunch. Field picnic lunch - fresh Moroccan salad, cheese, tinned tuna fish\*, mint tea, bread, fruit. \*If **vegetarian or vegan** please pre-advise. Medical and Accident Insurance.

**OUR PRICES WILL NOT INCLUDE:** Accommodation pre & post, nor transfers from/to Marrakech. SHOULD YOU NOT HAVE ALREADY BOOKED YOUR TRANSFERS TO/FROM AND ACCOMMODATION IN THE DELIGHTFUL KASBAH TAMADOT, WE SHALL BE DELIGHTED TO DO SO FOR YOU. Private transfer Aguerssiouâl-Kasbah Tamadot. Gratuities to horse handler and guide. Any expenditure of a personal nature. Bottled or gaseous water, nor anything not specifically mentioned in the itinerary.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED YOU BRING WITH YOU:** Day pack 'bum bag', applicable hats, gloves and trousers; insect repellent, sunscreen, sunglasses; nibbles, camera and filled water bottle, possibly some biros and sweets for the local mountain Berber children.

**One of the most famous Barb Horses, Roan Barbary, belonged to the English King Richard II at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.**

