



# The Heaven and the Hassle: Morocco in the Picture

*A Greenman*

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## **The Heaven and the Hassle: Morocco in the Picture** A Greenman

A photographic travelogue detailing four months in Marrakesh, Imlil in the Atlas Mountains, Essaouira on the West coast and Merzouga, in the Erg Chebbi Sahara Desert.

'A. Greenman' writes mostly about long term budget travel. This book of 40,000 words, with 35 High-Definition photos, captures some of the 'Heaven and the Hassle' of this North African delight, whilst recording Greenman's own personal journey.

Although this is not a guide book, it does contain useful information about his experiences in Morocco, including details about budget food, accommodation and independent excursions. Here are some excerpts from the book:

### IN THE DESERT

"Each of us on the desert tour have our own camel to ride. Strictly speaking, they are called Dromedaries, as they only have one hump and camels have two. It is a bit of a bumpy ride, but all the same, pleasurable. What strikes me about the journey is the 'nothingness' of it all, the absence of anything but our presence, the sand and the sky. And indeed they are striking, most of all, the difference between the blue of the sky and the varying colours of the sand. From yellows to oranges and browns to reds. Moving through the shallow valleys of the dunes, one peers up over the faces of the dunes, directly into the majesty of the sky. And regal it does become, as one gently bounces on the back of the dromedaries, midst the quietness and perfection of this landscape.'

### ON THE WAY TO THE COAST OF ESSAOUIRA FROM MARRAKESH

"From time to time the countryside becomes thick in lush greenness. Farm workers tend to animals and slowly bend to gather crops by hand. There is no sense of strain or rush in their actions and I think of the stark difference from Marrakesh. Surely I must explore this country more, with its simple settlements of Berber tents and shepherds. My eyes have been opened by that which I have seen in the city, yet I do not wish to blind them."

### IN IMLIL

"I pass an overbearing shop owner and he tries to entice me in.

"Oh come on, just a little look, not spend too much money!"

I try a tactic to repel him.

"Can you give me some money please?" I ask.

It seems to catch him off guard.

"Do you not have much?" he asks, with a slightly saddened expression.

"No, not much," I say.

"How much would you like?" he asks.

"10 Dirhams," I say.

The man goes to his till and takes out some coins. I do not feel sorry for him, his shop is filled to the brim with goods and he is dressed very smartly. I believe he is wealthier than I.

“Here, I have nine,” he says in an apparently genuine gesture.

I immediately look around his shop to see if there is anything I would like to spend it on. My eyes skirt past the many craft items and textiles, of no use to me on my travels, onto a small shelf displaying household goods. There is something very useful there, toilet roll. It seems that often the bathrooms here do not always have it and so I ask him how much it is.

“6 Dirhams for one,” about half a Euro. They are also half size and seem overpriced.

“I will give you 9 Dirhams for 2,” I propose.

“Okay,” he says.

I pay and leave, smiling all the way up the road. Perhaps I can try this again.”

A. Greenman is the author of more than twenty books, including: 'I Travel Light - The Man Who Walked Out of the World',

'How to Take a Gap Life'

'The Practical Guide to Wwoofing'

Originally from England, he writes about travel, spirituality and nature. As well as writing, his interests are Humanity, Wood, Cycling, Smiling and Wandering in the Wild. He has journeyed for more than a decade around the world, exchanging skills of carpentry, teaching, farm-work and repairing bicycles on his journeys.

The BBC said of him:

“You are the person inside all of us that we wish we could let out from time to time. Possibly the most spontaneous traveller I have ever met!” BBC Radio Berkshire, Sarah Walker, ta

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