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Entertainment / Travel

# Even for The Man Who Knew Too Much, Marrakech remains a glorious mystery

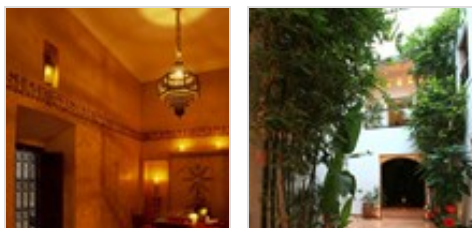
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By [Charlie Burton](#) | 18 June 14

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## Open Gallery

Marrakech is the nearest faraway place. From the snake charmers in Jamaa El Fna square to the hustling traders in the souks, it seems more removed from London than should be possible with a three-hour flight. That is, apart from the high standard of the luxury hotels (if you know where to find them). The best is [Dar Les Cigognes](#), a former 17<sup>th</sup> century merchant's house right in the heart of the historic medina. Here's a walkthrough...

**Reserve the:** Orientalist Suite. There are 11 rooms to pick from; this one is both affordable and seriously impressive. Behind its castle-like wooden doors lie a traditional living space with its own fireplace,



Moroccan-style bathroom and a bedroom fit for Humphrey Bogart.

**On the first evening:** Head for a pre-prandial spa. If you have sunburn avoid the hamam and opt instead for a massage in the chapel-like treatment room. They use homemade products based on local Argon oil.

**For dinner:** The riad is renowned for its cooking - it even has its own cookbook (*Tanjia Marrakchia: Culinary Adventures At Dar Les Cigognes*). We recommend putting in your orders early, so staff can collect food from the local markets. Eat in the tree-lined internal courtyards, designed by architect Charles Boccara.

**At breakfast time:** Head to the roof terrace, which overflows with flowers and is widely considered to be the prettiest in the city. Work your way through local or continental plates while the storks land on the royal palace opposite (Cigognes is French for "storks").

**What to see nearby?** When it's time to head out, the hotel can arrange tours. But we'd recommend either taking a taxi to Jardin Majorelle (the gardens owned by Yves Saint-Laurent) or walking to the opulent

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Bahia Palace.

*Rooms from £166 (low season). 108  
Rue De Berima, Marrakech  
(medina), Morocco.*

[Lescigognes.com](http://Lescigognes.com)

*British Airways flies to Marrakech  
return from Gatwick from £104.*

[ba.com](http://ba.com)

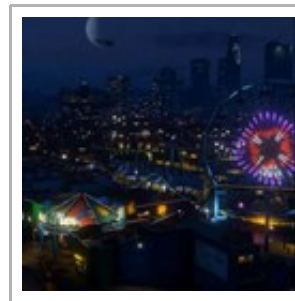


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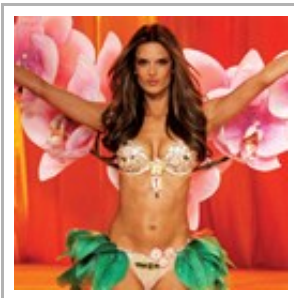
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