

# Spain-Morocco

## Olives in the Mediterranean Study Tour 2007

The October/November 2007 tour will focus on the production, processing and marketing of olives in two of the most fascinating countries on the planet. Both Spain and Morocco have a long and rich history of olive production. With the guiding assistance of local production specialists, we will also make sure we experience the sights, sounds, traditions and people of these culturally diverse and fascinating nations.

The itinerary route puts us well and truly into the heart of olive country. A Greenmount Travel farm study tour in August 2006 travelled a similar route to this olive itinerary. As a result, areas of particular interest for olive producers have been identified and excellent accommodation and restaurants, general interest visits and local guiding services have been included.

We will be finalising many of the olive production, processing and other technical visits in coming months, but the areas, towns and villages where they will occur are pointed out in this initial itinerary as are the tour dates and route, duration and cost. The olive groves and processing facilities we will visit – and the farmers, researchers, processors and other industry personnel we meet – will be of the highest calibre. We ensure on our tours that we put you in personal touch with the best industry people available.

To ensure maximum comfort for the group, throughout the tour we will be using the best hotels and restaurants on offer and passenger numbers will be limited. Both countries are famous for the quality of their traditional dishes and array of amazing tastes – our test-driven restaurant and hotel selections alone will ensure an unforgettable tour. And where suitable, we will be using the highest quality paradors (Spain) and riads (Morocco) – magnificent traditional town houses and palaces appointed with 21st century luxuries.

Over 15 years of conducting specialist group tours, Greenmount Travel has earned a very good reputation for running tours with a difference. Many passengers on our tours have travelled with us before (some, at last count, up to eight-time veterans) – so we have a pretty good feel for how these tours should, and do, work.

### Tour flexibility

Flexibility is also a hallmark of our tours. For example, if you would like to extend your trip before the main group arrives, or stay on to do your own thing – or even duck off midtour for a few days – we will do our best to accommodate you. And if you have the chance to book a flight with frequent flyer points, go for your life, we will deduct the flight cost from your tour price. We can also help you arrange any intended 'add-ons' to ensure they not only mesh nicely with the main tour – they are offered at very competitive prices.

### Tour inclusions

- All international and internal flights (economy class), taxes and airport charges (we can also offer a range of business class options);
- First class accommodation (including paradors, riads, luxury tents in the Sahara etc) with full buffet breakfast;
- Farm/grove and other technical visits;
- Most lunch and evening meals are included and will be of the highest standard (see draft itinerary) – Included meals will be designed to showcase the best of the regional food and wines – Other meals will be left 'free' to sample some of the great restaurants at your leisure;
- Wine, cheese and olive oil tastings;
- Local and Greenmount Travel guides/translators, private first class charter coach, park and site entries, transfers, etc

### Costs and bookings

The cost of the 19 day tour including all airfares, first class accommodation, guides and most meals cannot be finalised until the Oct–Nov 2007 international airfares are confirmed. But we estimate the cost will be in the range of **\$10,900 to \$11,500** per person. See other side for initial itinerary details.

**For more information or any questions contact:**

**Greenmount Travel: Lloyd O'Connell, Dave Dowling or Judy Watters – Ph (07) 4659 3555**

**Corporate and Leisure Events: Debbie Vaughan – Ph (07) 3892 3665**



# Olives in the Mediterranean Study Tour 2007

Please note flights are based on 2006 Emirates scheduling. October 2007 schedule not yet released but is expected to be similar to 2006.

Late evening of Saturday October 27, 2007 depart various Australia origins for Dubai (some flights via Singapore) flying Emirates.

**Day 1: Sunday Oct 28 (meals on plane and then lunch in Dubai)**

Arrive Dubai, early morning. Brief Dubai tour, then free time to rest up. Overnight in Dubai.

**Day 2: Mon Oct 29 (B, L, D)**

Morning flight to Casablanca. (This is an 8.5 hr flight arriving 12.25 pm). Early check-in to our famous Casablanca hotel for a light lunch and a well-earned rest. Casablanca is the most cosmopolitan of Morocco's cities. A highlight is the magnificent Hassan II Mosque, Morocco's tallest structure. A brief city tour later in the afternoon to get your bearings, followed by a sumptuous traditional Moroccan dinner.

Overnight: Casablanca – Le Royal Mansour.

**Day 3: Tues Oct 30 (B, L)**

Morning departure by charter coach for Marrakech. Lunchtime meeting with Moroccan olive farmers and officials then depart for local olive grove inspections. The city's souks are famous for their dazzling variety of spices and Berber carpets and the fine quality leatherwork. At dusk we head to the Djemaa el-Fna, a huge square in the Marrakech Medina and one of the world's greatest spectacles with food stalls, herbalists, acrobats, snake-charmers, dancers and street performers.

Overnight Marrakech – Riad Les Jardins de la Medina.

**Day 4: Wed Oct 31 (B, L)**

More tours and olive technical visits, cooperatives etc around Marrakech before a free afternoon.

Overnight Marrakech – Riad Les Jardins de la Medina.

**Day 5: Thu Nov 1 (B, L, D)**

We board our coach and head southeast towards Ouarzazate. We travel through the High Atlas Mountains and through the Tizi-n-Tichka pass. Continue on through desert villages, with their old kasbahs and oases, before lunch at Ait Ben Haddou, one of Morocco's best preserved kasbahs. Scenes from Lawrence Of Arabia and Gladiator were shot here. Arrive in Ouarzazate by mid-afternoon for an inspection of local olive groves and a visit to the local olive cooperative.

Overnight Ouarzazate – Berber Palace.

**Day 6: Fri Nov 2 (B, L, D)**

We board our charter coach and head east into the magnificent Dades Valley, a long oasis dotted with ancient olive groves stretching toward the Sahara. Arrive in Erfoud by mid-afternoon – a Foreign Legion outpost from French colonial times – before transferring to 4WDs and travel south to Merzouga, to witness a magical Saharan sunset. Champagne in the desert before dinner and our luxury bivouac accommodation amongst the Saharan dunes.

Overnight Merzouga – Dix Bivouac.

**Day 7: Sat Nov 3 (B, L, D)**

Awaken to a desert sunrise before we re-join our charter coach at Erfoud. We travel north across the magnificent Middle Atlas Mountains, and the rich farming country around Azrou and Ifrane and onto Fes, the spiritual and cultural centre of Morocco.

Overnight Fes – Hotel Jnan.

**Day 8: Sun Nov 4 (B, L)**

Olive technical visits in the morning then a tour of the city after lunch. The medina of old Fes is one of the largest 'living' medieval cities in the world. This is an incredible maze of over 9000 twisting alleys, blind turns and hidden souqs. We enlist some local guides to ensure a full roll-call that night.

Overnight Fes – Hotel Jnan.

**Day 9: Mon Nov 5 (B, L)**

Today we travel onto Rabat, the capital of Morocco. Olive grove and research station visits before arriving in Rabat in time for lunch and a brief city tour.

Overnight Rabat – La Tour Hassan.

**Day 10: Tue Nov 6 (B, L)**

Depart by charter coach for the hustling, bustling sea port of Tangier – the gateway to Europe. On the way we pass through some of Morocco's most productive farmlands. Arrive in time for a brief tour of the city of Tangier.

Overnight Tangier – Hotel Movempick.

**Day 11: Wed Nov 7 (B, L, D)**

In the morning we board our fast ferry for Spain, docking at Algeciras, and cleverly avoiding the Rock of Gibraltar on the way. Travel to Ronda with a city tour on arrival.

Overnight Ronda – Parador de Ronda.

**Day 12: Thu Nov 8 (B, L)**

Leisurely morning drive east into the unforgettable Andalucian countryside. This is the start of a discovery of the magnificent regional sights, agriculture, villages and cuisine. Olive oil is produced in huge quantities in Andalucia and forms the basis of the cuisine. The region is also renowned for exquisite game dishes. We enjoy an olive grove visit on our way to historic Granada, in the foothills of the snow-capped Sierra Nevada. Granada was the last stronghold of the Moors in Spain. Tour of Old Granada with free time to explore this beautiful town.

Overnight Granada – AC Santa Paula.

**Day 13: Fri Nov 9 (B, L)**

This morning we visit Allambra Palace and Generalife – a stunning collection of buildings and gardens and once the political capital of the Muslim west. We then depart for Jaen – the olive capital of Spain, if not the world. Lunch with local olive growers in Jaen's Moorish old town with its narrow cobblestone streets hugging the mountainside. Visit to a local cooperative before traveling onto Ubeda.

Overnight Ubeda.

**Day 14: Sat Nov 10 (B, L)**

Ubeda is a major service centre for the olive industry. We will visit local machinery manufacturers and olive input suppliers.

Overnight Ubeda.

**Day 15: Sun Nov 11 (B, L)**

Farm visits on the way to Cordoba. One of the most fascinating cities in Andalucia, Cordoba is also the provincial capital and abounds with architectural and artistic riches. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Cordoba retains much of its historical splendour which, 10 centuries ago, placed it as one of the greatest cities in the world.

Overnight Cordoba – Parador de Cordoba.

**Day 16: Mon Nov 12 (B, L)**

This morning we board our coach and continue west to Sevilla. Arrive in time for lunch in this beautiful and romantic city – home of Carmen and Don Giovanni – before a city tour. Tonight we are entertained by traditional Flamenco dancing.

Overnight Seville – Hotel Melia Colon.

**Day 17: Tue Nov 13 (B)**

This morning we meet with olive industry officials then some free time to enjoy the delights of Seville. You can visit the Alcazar or some of the other fine buildings or maybe indulge in a bit of shopping.

Overnight Seville – Hotel Melia Colon.

**Day 18: Wed Nov 14 (B, L)**

This morning we board our fast train for Madrid. Lunch in Madrid with Austrade officials. Then an afternoon tour of the main city sights including the Prado.

Overnight Madrid – Westin Palace.

**Day 19: Thu Nov 15 (B)**

A free day in Madrid. Another option today is to do a half day tour of beautiful Toledo, one hour south of Madrid. Catch an evening flight to Dubai, via either Paris or Rome. If interested, you have the option of staying on in Spain or visiting other European destinations before returning home.

To express your interest in the OLIVE tour to Spain/Morocco in Oct-Nov 07, please complete this form and fax to Greenmount Travel on **07 4638 4520** or if you prefer, phone 07 4659 3555 or Email: [travel@greenmountpress.com.au](mailto:travel@greenmountpress.com.au). Also visit [www.greenmounttravel.com.au](http://www.greenmounttravel.com.au) for the latest updates. Please register my interest in the 07 Olive Study Tour:

Name:..... Address:.....

Phone:..... Fax:..... Email:.....