

MOROCCO WITH AYLESFORD. FOR A WEEK, A MONTH OR A LIFETIME.

London is the greatest city in the world, except when it's cold, grey and, well, February-ish. Help is at hand. Morocco is just three hours in the air. Yet it seems a million miles away with its year-round balmy climate and its cocktail of Arab, Berber and sub-Saharan influences. The culture, the food, the sights, scents and sounds... it's all waiting for you now. This week. Or half-term, Easter... or, if you're looking to buy, for much longer. At Aylesford we have been working in Morocco for more than a generation, and here's just a selection of the best property to rent or buy. Just get in touch with Alicia Pasley Tyler.

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VILLA ALEXANDRA, NR. MARRAKECH



Sleeps up to 12

Built by a French colonel some 70 years ago, Villa Alexandra comprises The Main House (for 8 people) and also a Pavilion (for a further 4). The colonel clearly liked his privacy: the tranquil five-acre grounds are walled, and the pure mountain air is scented with orange trees, roses and citrus. At night, the front of the villa, its drive, fountain and palm trees are elegantly lit. There is also a private swimming pool and tennis court.

Inside, the house is an essay in sympathetic restoration; its full refurbishment used traditional materials and Tadelakt decorative plaster work along with Zeliges tiles, Diss and Bejmatt local bricks. You are also perfectly placed for forays to the medina of Marrakech (15mins), the valleys and Berber villages in the Atlas Mountains, or the beaches and fish restaurants of Essaouira.

From £7,500 (€8,650) per week, all inclusive

This price is for seven nights' luxurious accommodation and includes breakfast, lunch and dinner, staff (including a butler and excellent chef) and airport transfers (15 mins).

Full details:

<http://www.aylesford.com/property-details-page/7-bedroom-Villa-to-let/Villa-Alexandra-Marrakech-/INT120051>



MOGADOR, ESSAOUIRA

Bring your golf clubs - and indeed your Golf Club - because Mogador is a collection of three and five bedroom villas, available individually or all together. Each has its own pool and domestic staff, and is located in the Essaouira golfing resort with two 18-hole courses designed by Gary Player. There is also a state of the art driving range, two putting greens and training areas for your short game.

But golf is only half the story: Essaouira is one of the country's jewels and its surfing capital. This is Morocco at its most chic, with an array of fabulous shopping, boutiques, galleries, antiques and restaurants. The resort also features a kids' club, windsurfing, riding and much more.

Full details: <http://www.aylesford.com/property-details-page/3-bedroom-Villa-to-let/Luxury-Golf-Villas-/INT120026>

PRICE: £2,500 (€2,900) PER WEEK



VILLA MYRIAM, NR. MARRAKECH

Villa Myriam is an imposing villa that starts working its magic from the moment you arrive. Its fine views of the Atlas Mountains and a golf course restores its guests after even the most frazzled of weeks. Inside, this imposing villa has been finished in tasteful style with tadelakt, bejmat, woodwork and marble, and boasts a central fountain, a hammam and a roof terrace/barbecue. Naturally there is also a pool and satellite TV, and you're just 20 minutes from all the action in Marrakech. And make up a party: the villa's six en-suite bedrooms means there's plenty of luxurious room.

Full details: <http://www.aylesford.com/property-details-page/6-bedroom-Villa-to-let/Villa-Myriam-Marrakech-/INT130013>

PRICE: £6,500 (€7624.83) PER WEEK



DAR JASMIN, EL MAJAL, THE PALMERAIE, NR. MARRAKECH

This is a villa where everything can be arranged. From preparing meals (you have a resident cook), to all domestic issues (just leave it to the staff) to child care (babysitting can be arranged with pleasure). All of which leaves you free to relax, reach for a glass and enjoy this gorgeous villa with its 6 ensuite bedrooms and 3½ acres of private land. There's a pool and shared tennis court, and in the vicinity you have golf, camel & horse riding, and quad biking in the desert. You're also just 20 minutes from the medina and the sights, scents and sound of the real Marrakech.

Full details: <http://www.aylesford.com/property-details-page/6-bedroom-Villa-to-let/Dar-Jasmin-El-Majal-/INT130019>

PRICE FROM €6,000 (£5,005) PER WEEK



DAR MENEBHI, NR. MARRAKECH

The joy of an architect-designed villa is that it is specially created for its surroundings. Dar Menebhi is just such a property, aesthetically imposing and a lovely coming-together of space and grace. In addition to the five-bedroomed main house there are two guest houses, making it perfect for entertaining or indeed a business. There is also an option to buy a further two hectares by separate negotiation, making five in all. Just 20 minutes from the intoxicating cauldron of Marrakech, the villa is beautifully positioned at the foot of the Atlas Mountains. It also offers a swimming pool, Jacuzzi, hammam, tennis court, pergola and private terraces.

Full details: <http://www.aylesford.com/property-details-page/5-bedroom-Villa-for-sale/DAR-MENEBHI-Marrakech-/INT120053>

PRICE: €2,900.000 (£2,500.000)



SALADIN FARM, MARRAKECH

A sense of Moroccan authenticity, coupled with a very comfortable English charm, awaits you at Saladin Farm. First impressions set the tone for the house. Inside the gates, you are greeted by a drive bordered by scented white roses, and the exquisite view from the entrance hall is of a 55-metre ornamental canal, flowing into a pool with fountains. The Master Suite (one of four double bedroom suites) looks out over the Atlas Mountains. A guest cottage, swimming pool, orchards and landscaped gardens all add to the pervading air of grace and space. A further house, with its own grounds and pool, is also included in the sale.

Full details: Please contact Alex Peto on 0207 351 2383

PRICE: €6,000.000 (£5,200.000)



VILLA KOBBA, NR. MARRAKECH

The next owner of Villa Kobba will own a very pretty home near Marrakech - and, if they choose, a thriving business opportunity as well. The villa earns in the region of £40,000 a year in rentals, with its five en-suite bedrooms (three in the villa, two in a separate guest house). It offers gracious living at every turn. The master bedroom has a kobba ('dome') over the bed, and its balcony looks out on the Atlas Mountains; the dining terrace nestles amidst olive trees; and the grounds, set in a walled garden of about an acre, include a tiled heated swimming pool and a pool bar. There is also the option to buy the villa fully furnished.

Full details: <http://www.aylesford.com/property-details-page/5-bedroom-Villa-for-sale/Kobba-Villa-Marrakech-/CHE090437>

PRICE €715,000 (£595,000)