

# Le Jardin des Biehn

[www.jardindesbiehn.com](http://www.jardindesbiehn.com)

# *Le Jardin des Biches*

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# Le Jardin des Biehn

## Map



## *Le Jardin des Biehn*



This garden is a secret part of the Mokri Palace. Long ago, it was a large orchard full of olives and citrus trees that sheltered a small summer palace. Around 1906, it was refurbished by Si Tayeb El Mokri who became Morocco's Finance Minister in 1912 and then Pacha of Casablanca from 1927 until his death in Fez in 1949.

Everyone in Fez talks of this legendary figure, and everyone has his own tale to tell. Tayeb was a powerful man, a great character who even struck coins with his image on them. He was also a man of refinement, a traveller, a pianist and a music lover. He was the first Moroccan to import a grand piano. With a passion for the modern, he installed in his palace a costly hydraulic system whereby he could hear his musicians in every room. His four wives themselves played the violin and the lute. He established our property around a much older garden pavilion and during the restoration we found some superb traces of it, including the hammam. The Pacha came here to rest, far from the constraints of his nearby palace, and here he gave «private audiences», as his many descendants have discretely mentioned.

## *Le Jardin des Biehn*



Le Jardin des Biehn is a haven of peace in the heart of the Fez medina, full of charm, simplicity, luxury and harmony.

We have chosen everything here with great care to ensure that your stay is relaxing and tasteful. There are nine suites and rooms with extraordinary decoration, a kitchen offering dishes fresh from the market and full of the flavours and colours of Morocco and the Mediterranean, a large Andalusian garden redolent with flowers, aromatic herbs, fruits and vegetables, a traditional Moroccan hammam alongside a massage room and spa, two living rooms for relaxing, a charming restaurant with a large roof terrace for breakfast, sipping a mint tea during the day or for an evening cocktail.

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### Garden



Michel Biehn dreamed of a garden that would be both modest yet marvellous, evoking the Orient and Paradise, as charming as a country meadow with its jumble of herbs and colourful flowers. It was to be arranged as an Andalusian garden, its quadrants divided by mosaic paths, with tinkling streams and singing fountains, as luxuriant as a tropical jungle but at the same time, as simple as a curate's garden. This would be a garden in which the heat of the sun would awaken the aromas of rosemary and vervaine, of geranium, rose and orange blossom. And after sunset the garden would breathe out the heavy perfume of night-blooming jasmine, gardenias and angel's trumpets. Morocco's earth and sun seemed to promise it all. It was also essential that the garden provide food, generously offering up ripe fruits and vigorous vegetables. Beneath its indolent palm trees the radishes peek up from the earth showing us something of their red underwear, the pomegranates burst on the tree and the velvety sage, peaches and almonds evoke plump cushions.

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Rows of leeks bordering masses of flowers, fresh lettuce leaves around cactus and succulents, the scarlet of tomatoes echoing hibiscus flowers: all of this would create magic as well as providing quantities of produce for the restaurant that would be harvested just before cooking.

And so the garden would offer us herbs, vegetables and fruit grown by Driss the gardener while Hicham the chef would be able to conjure up at the Fez Café a cuisine that is modern and light with elegant simplicity. It is a cuisine where you will find rosewater and saffron, aubergine and lamb, honey and apricot, pigeon and quince. Here is a reflection on the oriental art of living where pleasure was to be found in biting into a ripe fig, still warm from the sun, in delectably licking a finger dipped in a sauce redolent with honey, spices and rare herbs.

## Le Jardin des Biehn

### Rooms

Our air-conditioned rooms and suites offer a traditional touch of the Middle East and of Asia with an exotic flavour. They all have a free Wifi connection, mineral water, toiletries, a hair-dryer and some little almond biscuits. Some rooms have a private sitting room or a balcony with a view. The large patio and the smaller communal living rooms are all available for relaxation.

- **The Persian** is at garden level and is decorated with textiles from Persia and Central Asia. There is a superb Tibetan chest and a straw carpet. You will find the room tucked away behind a forest of palms, banana trees and acacias, like a jungle painted by Henri Rousseau.

Floor area 25 sqm with a 160x200cm double bed, separate bathroom and a shower in the room.

Heating, fan, minibar.

Standard room: €150 per night





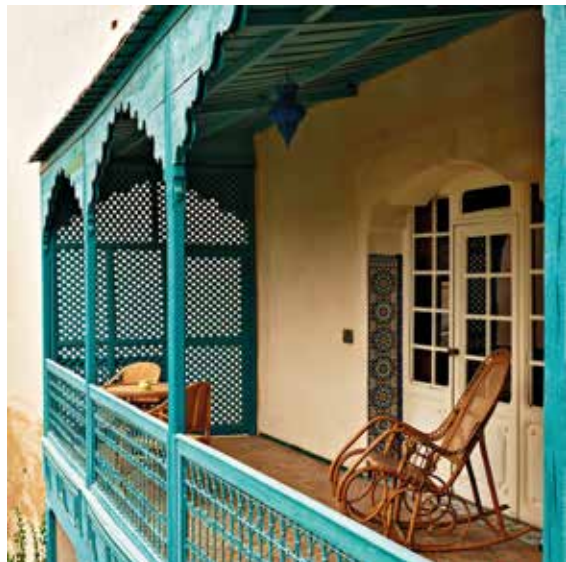
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- The Circassian Woman is a compact room full of whimsy where the tadelakt is pink and the window panes of every colour. On the walls are a photograph by Paul Biehn and ancient textiles from Pakistan. The wide balcony overlooks the fountain. The rattan rocking chair is perfect for a siesta.

On the first floor; floor area of 30 sqm with a 160x200cm double bed, a bathroom and a shower.

Air-conditioning/heating, minibar.

Standard room: €150 per night



## *Le Jardin des Biehn*

• **The Turk in Love** is a romantic room with an alcove, a 160x200cm double bed of burr wood, and a Syrian screen encrusted with mother-of-pearl, perfect for playing hide-and-seek. The bathroom is of ivory tadelakt.

On the first floor; floor area 30 sqm with a separate bathroom, a shower and a separate toilet.

Air-conditioning/heating, desk, minibar

Standard room: €150 per night



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- **The Favourite** is our most secret of rooms. It hides behind a small sitting room screened by mashrabiyya, where you can espy the garden without being seen. The walls are adorned with two sumptuous Yemeni robes and an Afghan hanging. There is furniture from Mongolia and Nuristan, as well as two twin beds of 90x200cm which can be made into a large double. The bathroom is of ivory tadelakt. Situated on the first floor; floor area of 35 sqm with a separate bathroom with shower. Air-conditioning/heating, desk, minibar.

Luxury room: €180 per night



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### Suites

- The Caliph is an enormous room whose windows open into the branches of the large trees in the garden. On the walls are splendid Uzbek and Moroccan textiles, two photographs by John Stewart and a rare Qajar mirror from the 18th century.

Situated on the first floor with an area of 55 sqm; two twin beds of 90 x 200cm which can be made into a large double, plus a third single bed of 90 x 200cm, a small sitting room and a large bathroom with a shower big enough for two.

Air-conditioning/heating, desk, Nespresso machine, kettle, minibar.

Junior suite: €250 per night



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• **The Oriental.** The bed is from a 'house of pleasure' in Canton, the red armoire is from Sichuan and the chairs belonged to concubines in a Peking palace. On the walls are the robes of Mandarins and more costumes from 18th century China. But the architecture is Moroccan: the window panes are of Iraqi coloured glass and the ancient floor mosaics are in black and white. This elegant suite comprises four rooms and opens onto the Andalusian garden and the river.

Situated on the first floor with an area of 65 sqm, there is a 180x200cm double bed as well as another bed of 120x200cm, bathroom, shower room for two.

Air-conditioning/heating, Nespresso machine, kettle, minibar.

Junior suite: €250 per night



## Le Jardin des Biehn

• **The African.** The blue of this house is the blue of the morning glory and plumbago that surround the little enclosed garden. Here you will be charmed by the arbour of vines where a fountain plays, the terrace in the clouds and the small fireplace for winter. Two Moroccan babouche-makers' workbenches serve as bedside tables. On the wall is a tobe from Nigeria, a Peul wedding hanging and photographs by Paul Biehn and Hans Sylvester.

The African is a suite of 72 sqm on two levels: on the first floor is a bedroom with a bed of 160x200cm, a large bathroom with shower and a terrace. On the ground floor is a small sitting room with another single bed of 100 x 200cm, a terrace with a fountain and a private garden.

Air-conditioning/heating, desk, Nespresso machine, kettle and minibar.

Junior suite: €250 per night



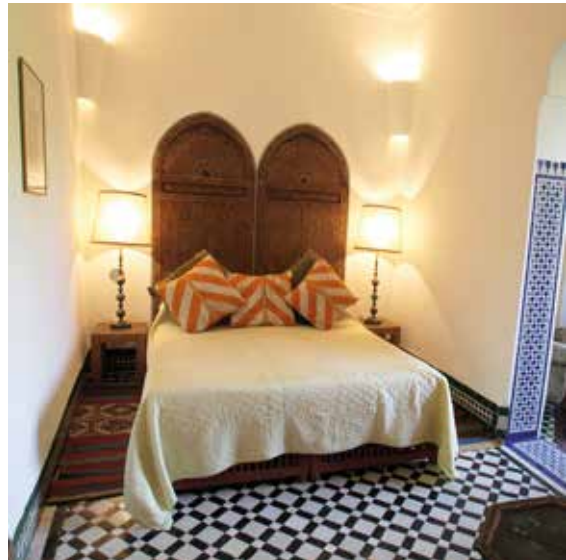
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- The **Sultanas** is a vast suite with a gallery giving onto the patio, a small winter sitting room with a fireplace and a wide, covered balcony that has magnificent views of the Merinid Tombs. On the walls are photographs by Henri Cartier Bresson and Bruno Suet, as well as a painting by Gérard Drouillet.

Situated on the 1st floor with an area of 90 sqm, there is a 160x200cm double bed and a small bathroom in red takelakt.

Air-conditioning/heating, desk, Nespresso machine, kettle, minibar.

Senior suite: €280 per night



## *Le Jardin des Biehn*

• **The Pacha.** Beneath a high skylight lies the most luxurious of our suites; a hundred years ago it was the bedroom of Si Tayeb El Mokri.

With a floor area of 120 sqm, this suite has a bedroom and two sitting rooms, with a canopied bed of 180 x 200cm, a huge bathroom with bathtub and shower, and a massage room with a hot pool and a cold pool.

Fan, desk, Nespresso machine, kettle, minibar.

Royal suite: €450 per night





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## Fez Café Restaurant

With 40 covers inside and 40 out, the Fez Café has an enormous roof terrace. Chef Hicham Moufid produces a flavourful menu with its roots and inspiration found in many traditions. He uses fresh local produce from the market and vegetables from the garden. Each day we offer simple, fresh dishes for lunch (fixed menu), and a range of recommendations from the chef for dinner that changes daily. The Fez Café is open every day from 8am for breakfast, lunch, teas and dinner.

Please ask at Reception about Christmas, New Year and musical evenings.





## Breakfast

- Mint tea, black tea or green tea
- Nespresso coffee or filter coffee
- Fresh fruit juice (orange or grapefruit)
- Platter of prepared fresh fruit
- Homemade Moroccan breads
- Homemade butter brioche
- Homemade chocolate croissants
- Eggs to order
- Black olives and olive oil
- Goat or sheep's milk yoghurt
- Local soft cheese and Vache Qui Rit
- Butter, jam, honey

MAD120 per person

By reservation only

Daily from 8am





## Lunch in the Garden (every day from noon)

### Entrées

Garden salad (crudités)	85
Grated carrot with garlic	65
Carpaccio from the market	95
Soup (cold or hot)	55

### Main Courses

Savoury tart	95
Chef's pasta	95
Seafood gratin	130
Dish of the day	160

### Desserts

Panacotta	65
Gratin of seasonal fruit	65
Chocolate tartlet	80
Dessert of the day	80





## Teatime

A little treat (please reserve 24 hours in advance)

- Mint tea or coffee (Nespresso or filter)
- Butter brioche
- Chocolate croissant
- Butter and jam

MAD110 per person

A perfect moment (please reserve 24 hours in advance)

- Mint tea or coffee (Nespresso or filter)
- Fresh orange juice
- Small sandwiches (cheese, tomato, egg)
- Bahtbot: local bread
- Butter, honey and jam

MAD150 per person

## Cooking Workshop

We offer cooking workshops that comprise a visit to the local market to shop for ingredients, a lesson with Chef Hicham Moufid and Michel Biehn, followed by eating the lunch you have prepared. Details at Reception.

MAD1 100 per person

## Large Tables

For tables of 10 people or more, we can propose various menus. The chef will tempt you with a wonderful array of dishes from Morocco and France.

Reservations required at least 24 hours in advance: please ask at Fez Café or at Reception.

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## The Moorish Bath



The Moorish bath is one of the most delightful bathing options. Ours is set in the ancient hammam of the Pacha, and has been carefully restored. The massage bed awaits you in the next room, beneath a domed ceiling pierced by tiny round windows with coloured panes. Luxuriate in a hot steam bath followed by a gommage scrub, massage and traditional body treatments within the magical ambience of this little Moroccan architectural jewel. We only use traditional, natural products: argan oil, black soap, ghassoul clay, rosewater and essential oils of orange blossom and jasmine.

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### Hamмам

This is the steam bath with the scent of lavender. For women, a natural, handmade Moroccan cream, a mixture of black olive pit soap and neutral henna, makes the skin very soft. For men, we have a fresh, toning black soap scented with mint. The gommage scrub is carried out with a 'keess' glove that makes the skin baby-soft. This is followed by a masque, handmade in the south of Morocco, from ghassoul clay and hibiscus flowers, a wonderful treatment for hair and body. The steam bath is followed by a shower, and finally we are delighted to offer you a mint tea.

45 minutes – MAD330

### Massage

Next to the hammam we have installed a spectacular massage room. Let us transport you to a magical universe, using a mélange of essential oils of orange, rosemary, cedar and pine in a massage blend of sweet almond and argan oils.

#### Relaxing massage

This massage encourages relaxation of the body and spirit, allowing you to forget everyday stress.

60 minutes – MAD500

30 minutes – MAD300

#### Lymphatic drainage massage

Manual lymphatic drainage is a gentle massage technique that stimulates the circulation of lymph and detoxifies the body.

60 minutes – MAD550

30 minutes – MAD330

#### Toning massage

This massage technique includes slightly more vigorous movements that activate the circulation of blood, relieve muscular tension and leave the body feeling strong and energized.

60 minutes – MAD600

30 minutes – MAD400

## Le Jardin Des Biehn

### Beauty Treatments

In the little Fassi salon, we offer a variety of treatments to bring harmony to the body and to revitalise the skin.

#### Manicure

Hand bath with emollients/scrub with peanut oil cream/massage with rose cream/nail care and varnish

45 min – MAD300

#### Pedicure

Foot bath with emollients/exfoliation of dead skin cells/scrub with peanut oil cream/massage with rose cream/nail care and varnish

45 min – MAD400

#### Hibiscus flower facial

The hibiscus flower was always used by Fassi women in the hammams of the harems.

Cleanse/scrub with rose cream/hibiscus flower masque/removal of impurities /steam cleanse/relaxation with rosewater.

60 min – MAD650

#### Epilation

For a gentle epilation, or just because you are a chocoholic, we use a chocolate wax.

Half legs	MAD90
Full legs	MAD160
Bikini line	MAD120
Brazilian wax	MAD200
Underarms	MAD80
Back	MAD200
Forearms	MAD90
Full arms	MAD160
Lip	MAD60
Eyebrows	MAD80
Chin	MAD80
Full face	MAD160
Full body (legs, bikini, underarm, lip and eyebrows)	MAD500



## *Le Jardin des Biehn*

### Boutique



A selection of Moroccan artisanal crafts: ceramics from Fez and Salé, basket ware, fabrics, babouche slippers and jewellery selected by Michel Biehn. A well-known collector of antique textiles and costumes, Michel Biehn presents here embroideries from Fez and Rabat, Uzbek chapans, nomad robes and Touareg djellabas, as well as other textiles of the ancient world. The designers from Fezfabrik come from all over the world but work with Fez artisans to produce rugs, bags, jewellery and accessories.

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## *Le Jardin des Biehn*

### Services and Information

We are located in the heart of the Fez medina, and here nothing is quite the same as anywhere else. We do everything possible to provide Wifi, air-conditioning, heated towel-rails, heating and electrical equipment to make your stay comfortable.

#### **Bed linen and towels**

For obvious ecological reasons, we prefer to change linen and towels every second day. If you would prefer a daily change, please ask at Reception.

#### **Library**

You will find a selection of books from our library in your room. It is very difficult to find books in Fez, so we would be grateful if you would not take them with you. Even better, if you have finished a book you brought with you, we would be delighted to add it to our library.

#### **Cooking Workshop**

Michel Biehn and the Fez Café chef Hicham Moufid are happy to spend a few hours with you sharing recipes and the culinary secrets of their kitchen. Please ask at Reception.

#### **Gratuities**

Tips are shared between all our employees. You will find a pretty piggy bank at Reception.

#### **Breakfast**

Breakfast is served from 8.00 to 10.30 in the Fez Café. If you would like to be served in your room or on your balcony, please let us know the night before.

#### **Patisserie**

Why not take some delicious Moroccan pastries home with you? Please ask at Reception.

## *Le Jardin des Biehn*

### **Laundry and dry cleaning**

We have a laundry service at your disposal. Please ask at Reception.

### **Excursions and Chef's picnics**

Take off for a day to explore the Fez region. A driver is at your disposal to take you to Volubilis and Meknes, Sefrou and Bhalil, Immouzzar de Kandjar, Ifrane and Azrou with its cedar forests.

If you like, we can pack the trunk of your car with a delicious picnic prepared by our Chef. Please ask at Reception.

### **Guided tour of the Medina**

We can provide you with a guide to help you discover the Arab world's largest medina. Please ask at Reception.

### **Sophrology and well-being**

Catherine Biehn is a Sophrologist and psychotherapist and has developed her own method of working with energy. She practiced in France for 15 years before relocating to Fez. Le Jardin is the ideal place to get away from stress and all its painful consequences. Here you can relax deeply and learn how to use your energy on a long-lasting basis. Catherine offers both private sessions and group training, in French.

For all information, please ask at Reception or contact Catherine directly at [catherine.biehn@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.biehn@gmail.com)

### **Cancellation policy**

In cases of cancellation or no show, the following fees will be charged:

- 21-15 days: 25% of the full amount
- 15-7 days: 50% of the full amount
- Less than 7 days: 75% of the full amount
- No show: 100% of the full amount

## *Le Jardin des Biehn*

### Our recommendations

Au Petit Bazar de Bon Accueil: antiquarian Si Mohamed Benabdejlil is most charming. He stocks jewellery, textiles, objets and furniture. 35 Talaâ Sghira, Fez Medina. Ph 05 35 63 37 64.

Le Coin Berbère: Mohammed Bouzidi is also an antique dealer. He and his brothers have furniture and architectural features, carpets and excellent Fez embroidery. 67 Talaâ Kebira, Fez Medina. Ph 05 35 63 69 46.

If you'd like the perfect pair of babouches made to measure, visit the first floor at the Fonduk Kaat Smen on Talaâ Kebira, Fez Medina.

You will find all kinds of Fassi embroidery behind St Francis of Assisi church, Avenue Mohamed Slaoui, Fez Ville Nouvelle.

Si Mohamed El Amrani is an excellent herbalist and has a spectacular apothecary shop in the medina called Le Coin de Henné. 22 Ain Allou, El Haddadine, Fez Medina.

The best argan oil as well as more than 30 different types of honey to taste can be found at the Honey Souk, in the first shop on the left as you go in. Hicham Nafis, Fonduk Kaat Smen, Talaâ Kebira, Fez Medina.

The American Language Center has a superb English-language bookshop, as well as a few books in French. 2 rue Ahmed Hiba, Fez Ville Nouvelle.

When you visit the tanneries, call in at the leather shop Chez Seddik, 6 Hay Lablida Chouara, Fez Medina. Ph 05 35 74 19 86.

Say it with flowers from the Central Market, Avenue Mohammed V, Fez Ville Nouvelle.

And of course, the shop at Le Jardin des Biehn has a fascinating range of antique textiles, embroidery and artisanal objets selected by Michel Biehn.

## *Le Jardin des Biehn*

### Restaurants in Fez

- **Excellent cuisine using market produce:**

Dar Roumana\* - 30 Derb El Amer, Zkak Roumane, Fez Medina. Chef Vincent and Vanessa Bonnin. Ph 06 60 29 04 04.

Restaurant 7 - 7 Zkak Rouan, Fez Medina. Tara and the chef in residence offer a menu that changes daily. Ph 06 94 27 78 49.

And of course, our own Fez Café ...

- **For traditional Moroccan cuisine:**

Dar Hatim\* - 19 Derb Ezaouia Fonduk Lihoudi, Fez Medina. A beautiful old house and good dining. Ph 06 66 52 53 23.

La Maison Bleue - Batha Square, Fez Medina. Set menu and music, good quality and old-fashioned charm.

Chez Rachid - Derb Serrajine, Bab Boujloud, Fez Medina. The best of these popular, reasonably-priced restaurants. Great for watching the passing parade of medina life.

- **For high quality Asian cuisine:**

Maison Moi Anan - Zkak El Ma, Fez Medina. Ph 05 35 63 57 13.

- **For a fun, relaxed atmosphere:**

Café Clock - 7 Derb El Magana, Talaâ Kebira, Fez Medina. Chez Mike. Great camel burgers. Ph 05 35 63 78 55.

Ruined Garden\* - Siaj, Sidi Ahmed Chaoui, Fez Medina. Chez Robert Johnstone. Inspired décor. Ph 06 49 19 14 10.

Le 44 - 44 Derb Bensalem, off Talaâ Kebira, Fez Medina. Chez Zara. Simple and pleasant. Ph 05 35 74 14 50.

Mezzanine - 17 Kasbat Chams, opposite the Jnan Sbil gardens. Chez Pippa. Drinks and tapas. Ph 06 11 07 83 36.

\* These restaurants will provide a free escort to and from dinner. Please ask when you make a reservation.

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# *Le Jardin des Biehn*



Paul Biehn, Photographe, Graphiste (© pages 5, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 30, 31)

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