NORTH AFRICA

My wedding anniversary trip to Marrakesh — with my dad

A twist of events meant that Alice-Azania Jarvis had to take another man on a celebratory escape to Morocco

High up on the roof of an elegant riad, lit by the gentle glow of candlelight, the setting for my first meal on Moroccan soil could not be more idyllic — or romantic. In fact, it is exactly what I pictured when my husband, John, and I decided to spend our first wedding anniversary in Marrakesh.

There's only one thing missing. That husband I mentioned? He's still in London. Sitting opposite me, at the rose-petal-strewn table, is another man. A replacement, if you will — though not in that way. It's my father.

Let me explain. When I booked five nights in Morocco a few months ago it seemed the perfect anniversary getaway. John had long yearned to go and, after one look at images of colourful ceramics in its souks, I was convinced too.

In the weeks running up to the trip, as we researched restaurants and hammams, it assumed a sort of second-honeymoon status. Foreign travel had seemed unreliable when we married last autumn, so we celebrated with a pandemic-friendly week in Yorkshire. Morocco was to be the maxi-foil to our Covidy UK mini-moon.

Six more Marrakesh riads



Riad Elegancia

6. Riad Elegancia, Bab Doukkala

This adult-only property relaunched last year fresh from a restoration job that installed so much traditional woodwork the smell of fragrant cedarwood chases you down the hallways. The decor faithfully reflects what a true medina riad should look like, with vaulted plasterwork corridors, hand-hammered metal lanterns and a profusion of *zellij* tiling — and there are swanky new bathrooms, minibars and his and hers robes. The best bit is the Majorelle blue-accented roof terrace, with 360-degree views towards the Atlas Mountains, a long rooftop lap pool and — unusually for Marrakesh — a hot tub.

Details Room-only doubles from £120 (cenizaro.com)

Lorna Parkes

https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/my-wedding-anniversary-trip-to-marrakesh-with-my-dad-0l9rf2dnk