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Moroccan Ras El Hanout

I have never tried such a flavour. Cuisine I cannot compare to anything – tastes I will never forget and I will never be able to describe. The secrets were not only the ingredients but the way they were all seasoned as well. Ras El Hanout which in Arabic means “head of the shop” states for a mixture of the best spices the seller has to offer, delicious but impossible to define. It is not only the showcase of delicious Moroccan food, it’s a metaphor of the whole country itself...

If I was asked to describe Morocco, I would use exactly these words – it is a mixture, something indefinable - colourful culture, inhomogeneous climate, uneven landscapes and last but not least – surprising people. This exchange greeted me with Casablanca and Rabat – the capital city where I had the possibility to expand new horizons of pulmonology in Hospital Sheikh Zaïd – modern cities, marvellous hospital and all people working there and surprisingly, not as hot as I had supposed – I had to even wear a sweatshirt in the evening! But our hosts provided us with a deeper insight into their homeland in order to left us with the right view about how diverse it is... Thanks to them, in the weekend I was amazed by hot, lively, never retiring and dazzling Marrakech – with Jemaa el-Fnaa (the most amazing square I have ever heard about) and all those snake charmers, dancing monkeys on the shoulders, performances lasting till the morning. On the other hand – the destination of our trip during the second weekend - Chefchaouen – the “blue city” in the mountains - tranquil, wrapped with beautiful valleys and waterfalls. In opposite to modern cities I have mentioned before – including Casablanca with The Hassan II Mosque and its minaret being the world’s tallest – I had the opportunity to visit Fez and Meknes with medina quarters seeming like they have not changed since their beginnings... I compared “The Paradise Valley” near Agadir on the South of the country, near Atlantic coast to Zagora – the part of Sahara I discover with Berberian camel train – I still regret I did not spotted the answer to Berberian riddle so I could take one of the camels with me 😊

And among all of these bewildering diversities and breathtaking places the most important were of course... people. Thanks to them I had the access to every corner of that impressive hospital, thanks to them I could taste all of those goodies including the most important: tea, tagine, couscous and harira of course, sugarcane juice, pigeons, opuntia’s fruits, or even camels! They were always there for me when I wanted to see something new or buy something in the souks – and believe me the art of bargaining is a masterpiece in their performance 😊 People there do never hurry, always have time and are never late – better remember it 😊 Thanks to them I decided to learn either French or Arabic – best: both of them.

I am sorry for such a long declamation but it is just impossible to make it shorter – I have still not mentioned about so many things (I am sorry for that) but... it may be better for You so You could discover them by Your own ...

Variety is the spice of life – check, maybe Yours is Moroccan Ras El Hanout ...