



## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION SHEET**

*FITS MOROCCO 2019*

*A sober tourism for a sustainable development*

### **What intention for the FITS?**

The eighth International Forum Fair and Responsible Tourism and Sustainable Development will take place in Morocco on October 2019. The theme will be “Tourism of the oases and deserts, vector of sustainable development and climate change awareness”. It will more particularly concern the 25 Oasis countries of the planet, but representative people from all over the world will of course be able to take part if they wish to.

Unlike the other FITS, this eighth edition has a specific format. Actually, it is more a medium-term project than a specific event, a forum that will only last for a few days. The project FITS MOROCCO began on January 2019 and will go on at least until the end of 2021.

### **What steps?**

The FITS Morocco project has three steps. The first step (September 2018-September 2019) is a studying and animation stage that aims to set up a result (outcome) of the very worrying current situation of the oases, and to focus particularly but not only on oases and deserts tourism. This outcome should help to identify ways of action and make proposals to contribute to the safeguarding of the unique heritage of the oases.

The second step (October 2019) corresponds to the forum itself, high time for meetings and international exchanges. It will take place in Ouarzazate. It is during the forum that the participants will be able to discuss the ways of action and decide how they will try to implement them during the third step.

The third step that will last two years, (November 2019-December 2021) corresponds to the implementation of the actions themselves through many forms.

### **What format?**

The participatory study will be carried out in the 22 oases of the 11 oasis provinces of Morocco. But similar studies, even if they are less advanced, may be carried out in other interested areas or oasis countries.

The Ouarzazate forum will be preceded by “solidarity caravans”, sorts of travelling universities on the theme of fair and responsible tourism and sustainable development.

They will gather development practitioners, experts, tour operators, and representatives of the media. They will play an essential role in the media coverage of the situation of the oases. There will be two “big caravans”. One will start from Tataouine in Tunisia to join Timimoun in Algeria. The other one will leave from Atar in Mauritania to reach Ouarzazate across the Mauritanian and Moroccan oases. These caravans will leave 8 to 10 days before the FITS so that they reach Ouarzazate on October 21<sup>st</sup>, that is to say on the day before the beginning of the forum.

There will be 5 “small caravans”. Reserved for foreign guests, they will only last for three days and their route will be limited to the territory of the five provinces of Drâa Tafilalet area. They will also precede the forum.

The forum itself in Ouarzazate, will gather about 400 participants. It will include plenary lectures, thematic workshops, two cultural evenings, an exhibition-sale of artisanal and agricultural products from the oases and a film festival on fair and responsible tourism and sustainable development.

The period following the forum should be devoted to the concrete implementation of the actions recommended after the study and ratified during the forum.

### **How to register?**

If you are interested, you have to register to take part in the FITS. Doing your preliminary registration on the website [www.fits-tourismesolidaire.org](http://www.fits-tourismesolidaire.org) is compulsory. The pre-registrations will be opened until September 15<sup>th</sup> 2019. Beyond this date it will not be possible to register any longer. In order to participate in the forum, your pre-registration will have to be validated by the organization and you will have to pay for the registration fee, except for specific derogation, for example for Moroccans. Once your registration is ratified, you will receive a notification by email.

The number of places being limited, all interested person won't be able to take part in the forum. Only people most directly concerned by the subject of the alternative tourism and sustainable development will be accepted with a priority for participants from one of the 25 oasis countries.

### **Where will the FITS take place?**

The forum will take place in Ouarzazate, a city of 70 000 inhabitants, situated 200 km South East of Marrakech. Situated South of the Moroccan High Atlas Mountains, Ouarzazate is known as the gateway to Sahara. Its kasbah of Taourirt, sheltering a palace of the nineteenth century, offers a view of the rocky landscape of the surrounding area, which can be seen in several films. To the Northwest is the fortified red-earth city of Ait Ben Haddou.

To the East, there is the world's largest solar power station whereas the rocky gorges of the Toudra extend to the northeast. A road winds for 200 km southeast, across the luxuriant palm groves of the Drâa valley, in the direction of the desert.

Altitude : 1 151 m      Weather : 28 °C average in October

### **What dates of arrival and departure?**

The forum will start on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8.30am and will end on October 24<sup>th</sup> in the late afternoon. It will be preceded by the small solidarity caravans organized on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in the oases of the Drâa Tafilalet area. All the participants with the status of “foreign guests”, experts, practitioners, tour-operators, journalists, are invited to take part to one of these caravans (3 days) then to the forum (3 days).

The small caravans will leave from either Errachidia or Ouarzazate, according to the chosen caravan. So the participants will have to arrive at one or the other of these airports on Friday October 18<sup>th</sup>, during the day so that they are ready to leave with the caravan on October 19<sup>th</sup> in the morning. All the other participants, foreign or Moroccan, duly enrolled in FITS, must either arrive the day before the forum itself, on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> or present themselves the same morning to identify themselves and receive the forum file and badge that will allow them to access the various forum events and services.

Moroccan participants and certain foreign guests will leave from Ouarzazate at the end of the afternoon after the forum closes around 17:00. The other foreign guests will leave according to the international flights times from their destination airports.

### **How to go to and leave Ouarzazate?**

The cities of Ouarzazate and Errachidia have an airport. The other nearest international airports are situated in Marrakech 210 km away, and Agadir 375 km away. Shuttles chartered by the national Committee will provide the transport of the participants from these airports towards Ouarzazate and the different places of accommodation;

For the people arriving at Casablanca airport, the main Moroccan airport, the national Committee plans to negotiate a special Morocco Royal Air flight to Ouarzazate on October 21<sup>st</sup> late afternoon.

It will also be possible to go to Ouarzazate by private car or by bus. The committee is probably going to plan a bus from Marrakech or Agadir. The return trip will be ensured.

Specific information about this will be put on the site of the FITS later. The interested people will contact the Ouarzazate secretariat (see details at the end of the sheet). To limit the fees, it is also possible to organize car-sharing between the participants coming from the same areas of Morocco. If you are interested, either because you own a car or because you wish to use this opportunity, please contact the FITS secretariat in Ouarzazate.

The Organizing National Committee will support all local transportation (shuttles between the airports and the city of Ouarzazate, local trips in the area). Personal expenses incurred for travelling will not be paid back.

Those coming to the forum on their own, will be welcomed to the FITS secretariat in the hall of the Congress Centre of Ouarzazate from October 21<sup>st</sup> late afternoon or on the 22<sup>nd</sup> in the morning. The foreign participants of the solidarity caravans are expected in Ouarzazate back from all the caravans on October 21<sup>st</sup> late afternoon to join the convivial meeting which will allow people to get to know each other followed by a welcome dinner.

### What formalities to enter Morocco?

A valid passport is required to enter Morocco. A passport is also necessary to change money or fill in hotels police forms.

The visa is not necessary for the citizens of the European Union as well as for most African countries, but everyone should check this on-line or from the Moroccan embassy of the country of residence.

Those who need a visa can ask the FITS secretariat in Ouarzazate (see address at the end of the sheet) an invitation letter signed by the President of the Drâa-Tafilalet regional Council. Attention, those who have to go through France and get out of the airport, may need a French visa. They will have to check with the consular authorities of their country of residence.

### What about airfares?

The national company Morocco Royal Air will provide with most air travels. The Company serves many countries and these flights will be preferred. The national Committee has contacted two other companies: Air France and Air Arabia.

In October, fares coincide with low season. Moreover the national Committee arranges preferential rates for the FITS. Accurate information will be provided in due time, on-line.

### What about accommodation?

During the small caravans that precede the forum, accommodation and meals are organized by the Organizing National Committee in the city-stages. Therefore the participants and all the foreign guests needn't worry about that. For the forum itself, the city of Ouarzazate offers a large hotel capacity. However it is recommended to reserve soon. If you wish, The FITS secretariat in Ouarzazate can do it for you. You just have to ask by email.

Foreigners (experts, lecturers, tour-operators and journalists) who have the status of Guests and the officials, who also have the status of Guests, are taken in charge directly by the national Committee that will book rooms for them. So they don't have to worry about their accommodation.

It is possible to find accommodation in hotels of different categories, but also in hostels or guesthouses in private homes. See above a few guide- prices:

		<b>Night breakfast (€)</b>	<b>and half-board (€)</b>
<b>Hotel 4*</b>	Single	45	55
	Double	70	90
	Triple	85	105
<b>Hotel 3*</b>	Single	35	43
	Double	48	56

	Triple	75	83
<b>Hotel standing</b>	Single	between 19/29 €	between 31/46 €
	Double	between 36/41 €	between 43/63 €
	Triple	between 45/55 €	between 45/72 €
<b>Guestroom</b>	between 13 / 27€ per person		

It is also possible to find housing in one of the establishments situated outside the town where prices may be less high. The rural communes of Tarmikt 3 km away, Skoura 30 km away and Ait Zineb 40 km away, have hotels of average standing, guest-houses, hostels and gites. This accommodation may concern the participants, particularly the Moroccans who have a car because the national Committee will not be able to take these journeys in charge.

For more information you can visit the site Trivago on the Internet or contact the secretariat of the FITS Committee in Morocco.

### **What about catering (restoration)?**

Lunches of the three days of the forum, on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, will be taken in charge by the Organizing national Committee for all the participants registered at the forum. They will be served on site, as a buffet, under tents, in front of the Congress Centre of Ouarzazate.

Note: As the first day, on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, will welcome more participants, particularly inhabitants of the Drâa-Tafilalet area, only officially registered people will be covered for lunch.

The welcoming dinner organized by the Committee when the caravans are back on the evening of October 21<sup>st</sup>, will be reserved for foreign guests. The dinners of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> which will precede the cultural evenings, will also be served on site in order to avoid wasting time in transports to hotels.

### **Dress Code : what to wear?**

The city of Ouarzazate is situated in an arid zone. The average annual temperature there is 28°C but as the climate is continental; the weather may already be a little cold in October.

The managers of each caravan will give specific advice to participants once they have validated their application. But with regards to field -visits, please note that you must plan for appropriate clothing (walking shoes or sneakers, cap, sunglasses and so on...)

### **Which languages will be used?**

The main language of the forum will be French. During the forum itself, the plenary conferences and debates will be held in 4 languages with simultaneous translation into

French, English, Spanish and Arabic. It will not be possible to have a systematic translation for the workshops but some of them can be organized in a different language from French. It will be the same for caravans.

### **How to communicate?**

Mobile phones work perfectly well in Morocco. In the main Ouarzazate hotels, it is possible to access the wifi.

### **How to change or withdraw money?**

The exchange rate varies regularly. It is about 11 Moroccan Dirhams (DM) for 1 €.

It is possible to withdraw / change money on the arrival of Casablanca, Marrakech, Agadir or Ouarzazate airport, and / or to change it in bank agencies. There are ATMs (Automated Teller machines) in most cities.

The Foreign guests staying in the hotels chosen by the National Committee will also be able to change money at the reception desk. But they will also be able to pay their bill (extras) by credit card in euros or in dirhams.

### **What is the registration fee?**

Registration fee allowing to participate to all the activities (small caravan, lectures, workshops, visits, cultural evenings) and to get the documentation when you register, have been set up by the International Committee at 75€ per natural person and 150€ per legal entity.

The representatives of based- associations, on site, have only 25 € to pay.

The registration to the FITS will only be validated after receipt of this contribution by the association Touiza Solidarité Marseille.

By decision of the President of the Drâa-Tafilalet region, the Moroccans are exempted from registration fee.

Registration fees are to be paid by bank check in euros addressed to Association Touiza Solidarity 16 rue Beauvau 13001 – Marseille

Registration fees should be paid by bank check in euros addressed to:

Touiza Solidarité (FITS) 16 rue Beauvau 13001 – Marseille .Tel (33) 4 91 33 15 02.

For bank transfer:

**Relevé d'Identité Bancaire**

 CREDIT COOPERATIF

Cadre réservé au destinataire du relevé

Identification du compte pour une utilisation nationale						
42559	10000	08023583150	43			
c/Etabl.	c/guichet	n/compte	c/rib			
Domiciliation		BIC				
CREDIT COOPERATIF		CCOPFRPPXXX				
Identification du compte pour une utilisation internationale (IBAN)						
FR76	4255	9100	0008	0235	8315	043
Agence MARSEILLE PRADO			Intitulé du compte TOUIZA SOLIDARITE TOUIZA SLIDARITE/FITS MAROC 19			
214 - 216 AVENUE DU PRADO BP 266 13269 MARSEILLE CEDEX 8 TEL : 04.84.67.00.53			16 RUE BEAUVAU 13001 MARSEILLE			

### Who can you contact to more information?

The easiest way is to regularly visit the FITS website : [fits-tourismesolidaire.org](http://fits-tourismesolidaire.org)  
New information will be added regularly.

But you can also contact one of the two assistants, Natacha in France and Mohamed in Morocco

*Natacha Bernerd* (France)  
(33) 4 91 33 15 02  
[touiza.solidarite@wanadoo.fr](mailto:touiza.solidarite@wanadoo.fr)

*Mohamed Sabri* (Morocco)  
(212) 6 68 19 80 72  
[fits2019maroc@gmail.com](mailto:fits2019maroc@gmail.com)

**Information and registration: [fits-tourismesolidaire.org](http://fits-tourismesolidaire.org)**