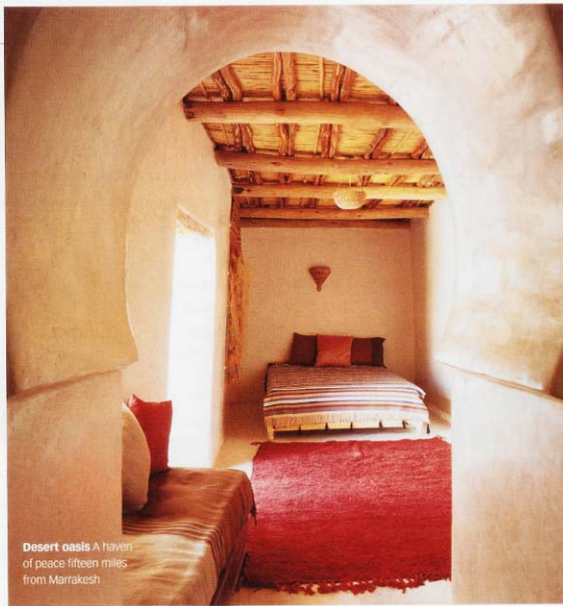


DIRECTORY

ENJOY A BLOW BEFORE YOU GO

Once, women had to set aside an entire morning for pre-holiday beautification. But a tranche of smart London salons has changed that, with one-hour "do-it-all's". At Neville (020 7235 3654), while a stylist blow-dries and conditions tresses in preparation for the beach, a firm-handed reflexologist will massage legs to reduce swelling, and a manicurist buff and colour finger- and toe-nails with scratch-resistant polish (£150). At the luxurious new Gleilly Green salon (020 7034 3060, www.gleillygreen.com), hair can be blow-dried, eyebrows threaded and toe-nails coloured simultaneously (from £62 an hour). And for those who haven't been as well organised, and are in need of last-minute beauty care at Heathrow, a Blink Brow Bar (020 7409 1948, www.blinkbar.com) has just opened at Terminal 5, offering super-fast brow-threading (£17), and an Elemis travellers' spa has opened in British Airways' T5 Club Class lounge (www.ba.com). The latter offers free facials to Club Class passengers: a blissful 15-minute treatment in which moisture-rich unguents are massaged into your skin while leather recliners gently tackle the knots in your back. Our tip? Get there early; BA treatments are on a first-come, first-served basis.



Desert oasis A haven of peace fifteen miles from Marrakesh

CASTLES IN THE SAND

Marrakesh-lovers should check out two magnificent Moorish properties which have opened just outside the city. Ezzahra, a palatial retreat which sleeps 14 in the Palmeraie (from £1,285pp for a week through Cazenove & Loyd; www.cazloyd.com); and Tigm, an austere beautiful former judge's house sleeping six in a village backed by the Atlas Mountains (from £110pp a night half-board, through The Best of Morocco; 01249 467168, www.realmorocco.com). Also new is the Naoura Barriere hotel, set in 22,000 square metres of gardens within the medina walls, with 26 private riads and a Fouquet's French restaurant (www.lhw.com/nyadsnaoura.com).

LITTLE PIECES OF AFRICA

The irrepressibly creative Anthony Russell and Liz Gilbert, owners of the slick Shompole safari lodge on the southern border of Kenya, have opened up a thoroughly tempting shop selling crafts and handmade jewellery designed by Gilbert and made by some of the 3,500 Maasai shareholders in the game lodge. The jewellery range is made up of hand-hewn rings and bracelets, mostly set in



ROCKS AND ROLL

Practical but beautiful jewellery cases are tricky to find, but Astley Clarke's Fiji jewellery roll fits all requirements. Made of soft leather, it has three zipped compartments and a soft roll for rings. £105 (www.astleyclarke.com).

