Palais Asmaa

Highlights	• Location on the edge of the Sahara Desert. • Kasbah-style hotel with traditional decor and styling. • Lush gardens with palm and citrus groves. • Swimming pool. • Choice of restaurants and cusines.
Situation	Zagora
Activities	Swimming; walking in the gardens; 4x4 desert excursions; camel rides; excursions to local towns and villages

Built in a tradtional style using authentic materials and techniques, Palais Asmaa is a true kasbah style hotel on the edge of the Moroccan desert. The imposing entrance with its grand wooden doors, tiles, mosaics and palm trees leads into the cool reception area where comfy chairs and sofas await. The hotel contains a wealth of traditonal decoration and styling, from intricate tile patterns, elaborate stuccowork, ornate mirrors to bright stained glass windows, rugs and textiles. The 74 rooms and 5 suites are similarly decorated in traditonal style. Rooms are spacious, with walls painted in warm colours and with modern comforts such as TV, phone, air conditioning, minibar and private balcony overlooking the gardens. All have ensuite bathrooms.

Outside are extensive grounds and gardens with numerous citrus trees and palm groves, colourful hibiscus and bougainvillea. The large swimming pool is the perfect place to cool off in the heat of the day. The wide pool terrace has sun loungers and parasols and there is a poolside restaurant and bar providing refreshment throughout the day. Breakfast is served here on the sunny terrace and is an abunbant buffet of fresh fruit, bread, pastries, yoghurt, cold meats and eggs accompanied by fruit juice, tea and coffee. There are several restaurants within the hotel offering a wide choice of cuisines. The main restaurant serves international fare while the atmospheric Moroccan restaurant, with its wooden beamed ceiling, giant marble pillars and brightly patterned textiles, specialises in local dishes. Meals are also served in the smaller 'Menzeh' restaurant and the Berber Tent. Romantic candlit dinners can be enjoyed around the pool, floodlit at night, and swaying palm trees. The cosy lounge bar is opulently decorated and is the place to unwind with a pre or post dinner drink and chat to fellow guests.

The hotel organises excursions to local Berber villages and towns such as Tamegroute. 4x4 vehcile trips and camel rides in the Sahara Desert are also available and overnight stays in the desert can be arranged. The large sand dunes at Tinfou are a popular destination. Alternatively guests can spend restful days in and around the hotel, enjoying the beautiful gardens, palm groves and fountains at their lesiure.

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